

On The Fly

September 2013 Volume 23, Issue 9

Prez Sez

By Tom Gadacz, President, Suncoast Fly Fishers

to get a shirt embroidered with the SFF logo in the fall.



SFF Membership Renewal. This is the month to renew your membership. Last month the benefits of membership were listed. Please fill out a member data sheet so we have your current information. The membership application is on page 2.

SFF Shoot Out. If you missed last month's meeting you need to plan to attend the next shoot out. I was concerned that this might be too competitive and not well received by members who are learning to fly cast. Just the opposite! Robert Fischer did a great job describing target casting. Different types of targets at varying distances with a time limit on each event. This is a great way to improve your casting skills regardless of your skill level. Whether you are trying to put the fly in a small cup or distance casting at a target, you're developing a skill to catch fish. You set your own goals and advance as you hit the target. You can do this on your own. All you need is your rod, reel, line and a 5' leader with a piece of yarn or twist of a pipe cleaner, two stakes and a watch. Crisscross two stakes for a target and measure off 20', 30, 40', and 50'. You must get the leader (only) between the stakes. The line does not count as a score. Once you make the 20' mark move to the next. Repeat. Set your watch and see how far you get after 2 minutes total of casting. It's great fun and you compete against yourself.

HURRY! IFFF Fly Fishing Fair. Last chance to register for the meeting in West Yellowstone, MT. The meeting is September 24-28. Go to <http://fedflyfishers.org/FlyFishingFair.aspx>

PHWFF. Outing September 28 at Ft. DeSoto. Volunteer sign-up at the meeting. More on page 5.

FL Council IFFF Expo. The Florida Council IFFF is having its Expo October 18-19 this year at Crystal River. It will be a great meeting and if we get a table or two of 8, the banquet cost is reduced. If you are interested in going there will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting or send me an e-mail at thomasgadacz@yahoo.com. To register, view the program and other information see pages 4 and 5.

Tom

Also in this issue of On The Fly

NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

On The Fly

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SFF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name* _____ Date _____
Address* _____
City* _____ State* _____ Zip* _____
Telephone* (____) _____
E-Mail _____

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) for new and renewing members. Categories (select one):

- ___ Regular Membership 1 year - \$15
- ___ Family Membership 1 year (includes Member, Spouse and children under 18) - \$25
- ___ Business Membership 1 year (includes monthly business card newsletter ad) - \$100

If a current member of FFF, enter your FFF number _____.

Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF). This is only for new members and is in addition to SFF

membership. If you are a current member of FFF, please enter your FFF number (above). SFF is a charter club of FFF, and membership in SFF requires membership in FFF. **Current members pay annual dues directly to FFF.** Select one category only if a **new member**:

- ___ Individual 1 year - \$35
- ___ Individual 3 years - \$85
- ___ Family 1 year - \$45
- ___ Family 3 years - \$100
- ___ Senior (age 65 or over; provide date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) ___/___/___ 1 year - \$25
- ___ Youth (under 18; provide date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) ___/___/___ 1 year - \$15

Total amount due \$ _____. Please make check payable to **Suncoast Fly Fishers** and bring it along with completed application to next meeting or mail to

**Suncoast Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 40821
St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821**

Amount received \$ _____. Date received ___/___/____. SFF Treasurer _____

*This information is shown on the Membership List which is distributed to members only and is not used for commercial purposes. If you do not desire this information disclosed to members, please so indicate. Your e-mail address is not given to other members. The monthly newsletter, "On the Fly," is only distributed electronically. If you do not provide an e-mail address, you can obtain the newsletter from our web site (<http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com>).

We are

Suncoast Fly

Fishers



Aims and Purposes

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) are dedicated to sharing their total fly-fishing experiences and to developing interest in fly-fishing in both fresh and salt water. We promote and teach both fly-fishing and related subjects of fly-tying, rod building, fly-casting and knot tying. Through collaboration, fellowship, conservation and sportsmanship, we help members become more skilled, have more fun, and be more productive in the sport. SFF supports the conservation of natural resources, boating safety and fishing regulations. Membership in SFF is open to all people.

SFF Club Calendar

- Sept. 19 meeting, **Walter Fuller Park**, featuring Ryan Dilkey, Eckerd College Search and Rescue
- September 21, Sunshine Skyway outing. See Reviews and Previews for details
- September 24-28 – Int'l Fly fishing Fair, West Yellowstone, Montana
- Sept. 28 – Project Healing Waters fly-fishing, Fort De Soto Park
- October 18 and 19 – Florida Fly-Fishing Expo, The Plantation, Crystal River
- Saturday, Oct. 19, Marine Quest, Florida Marine Research Inst., St. Petersburg
- March 29, 4-8 pm, Hog Roast and Silent Auction, Treasure Island City Auditorium

Monthly Meetings

Suncoast Fly Fishers meet the third Thursday of each month (except December) at Walter Fuller Park, 7891 26 Avenue N. St. Petersburg, FL 33710

- 6:00 – 7:00 pm –Fly tying
- 7:00—8:00 pm – Meeting and program



Suncoast Fly Fishers

P. O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821
<http://suncoastflyfishers.com/>

Club Officers

President: Tom Gadacz 727-360-8030
Vice President: Kirk Burton, 727- 631-3033
Secretary: Ken Hofmeister 725-521-1637
Treasurer: Paul Sequeira

Board of Directors

Mark Craig – Pat Damico - Myron Hansen
David Putnam - Alan Sewell
Tom Trukenbrod – Karen Warfel

Committees

Volunteers welcome. Please speak to any director.

Casting Skills – Pat Damico, Dayle Mazzarella

FFF Liason—Pat Damico

Fly Tying – Myron Hansen

Membership – Paul Sequeira

Webmaster – Woody Miller

Hog Roast – Karen and Rick Warfel

Outings – Alan Sewell

Outing lunches – Richard Oldenski, Mark Hays

Project Healing Waters – John Craig, Terry

Kirkpatrick

Raffles – Dave Barson

Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing – Kirk Burton,

Tom Gadacz, Ken Hofmeister, Richard Oldenski

Programs: Board of directors

Newsletter/Publicity – Bill AuCoin

2013 Florida Fly Fishing Expo Pre-Registration Form

October 18 and 19, 2013

Programs and Schedules can be found at www.fff-florida.org

Plantation on Crystal River, 9301 W. Fort Island Trail, Crystal River, FL 34429 *

www.plantationoncrystalriver.com

Please print neatly and fill in all data Make check payable to: FFF Florida Council

Name: _____

Other family members (as you wish them to appear on their name tags):

Address: _____

City: State: Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

	Qty	Price	Amount Due
Registration Fee	___	\$10.00 ea	\$ _____
Saturday Evening Banquet - An Evening with Chico	___	\$35.00 ea	\$ _____
Club Table for Saturday Evening Banquet (8 seats)	___	\$225.00 ea	\$ _____

Fly Fishing with Chico and Flip

___ Friday 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. ___ Saturday 10:30 to noon ___ \$20.00 ea \$ _____

Saturday Youth Program Ages 10-18 - (limit 14 students)

Equipment Set Up, Outdoor Safety, Fly Tying and Casting ___ \$5.00 ea \$ _____

Thursday Continuing Education for Casting Instructors (Max 20 students)

\$25.00 for FFF Certified Instructors \$75.00 for Non Certified individuals ___ \$25/\$75 \$ _____

FLY TYING WORKSHOPS

Nick Davis-Blending Materials in Crab Patterns (limit 12 students) \$5.00 material fee

Friday 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. Saturday 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. \$5.00 ea ___ \$5.00 \$ _____

Don Reed-All About Fur and Feathers (limit 12 students) \$5.00 material fee

___ Friday 10 to 11 a.m. ___ Saturday 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. ___ \$5.00 ea \$ _____

Mel Simpson-Tying Tarpon Flies (limit 6 students)

___ Friday 11:00 to noon ___ Saturday 3 to 4 p.m. ___ No fee \$ _____ 0.00

Craig Smothers-Different Baits/Shapes EP Primer (limit 10 students) \$5.00 fee

___ Friday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. ___ Saturday 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. ___ \$5.00 ea \$ _____

\$25.00/\$75.00

Pre-Purchase Raffle Tickets - 1 set equals 25 tickets at \$20 per set ___ \$20/set \$ _____

Friday Night Social - donations to offset costs welcome ___ Will attend \$ _____

Donation to Florida Council Conservation Fund \$ _____

Total amount Due

\$ _____

Mail completed registration form and your check to:

Tracie Maler (tmaler@tampabay.rr.com)

Florida Fly Fishing Expo 3073 Gulf Winds Circle

Hernando Beach, FL 34607

Your registration packet will be available at the registration desk at the Fly Fishing Expo

News 'n Notes

Come to the Florida Fly Fishing Expo at **The Plantation on the Crystal River
Just \$10 for two days. Kids under 16 with an adult get in free
Saturday October 18 – Sunday October 19**

Join the Southeast's top fly fishing professionals – casting instructors, fly tiers, and guides -- and learn to catch fish on a fly in the Sunshine State. The Florida Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) presents the Fourth Annual Florida Fly Fishing Expo Friday and Saturday, Oct. 18-19, 2013 at The Plantation on Crystal River, Florida.

The 2013 Florida Fly Fishing Expo offers clinics, workshops and programs on saltwater and freshwater fly fishing, all from top fly-fishing experts, writers, authors, fly-casting instructors, charter captains, and fly tiers. Most programs, clinics and workshops are free.

This is a family-friendly event; bring the kids and their friends. The Expo also offers instruction specifically for kids and teens. Admission is \$10 for two full days. And kids 16 and younger get in free when accompanied by an adult. Plan to reserve a table for 8 for the banquet and get a discount. There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting for tables of eight.

For more information visit www.fff-florida.org and <http://www.plantationoncrystalriver.com>

Florida Fly-Fishing Expo Sponsors

Swann's Fly Shop - Dade City; Jim Harters Online Fly Shop; Bonefish Tarpon Trust, Martin Carranza - Chime Lodge Argentina/Nervous Waters Travel; Bill Jacksons Raz Reid - Sage, RIO, Redington, Tibor, Fishpond; Bob Wilkinson Fly Fishing. James Buice - Nautilus, Scott, Howler Bros., Airflo; Cortland Line Company. Guy Tillotson - TFO, Galvan, Royal Wulff, Teeny, Rainey's The Fly Shop of Miami, Ben Austin - Hardy, True Flies clothing, Scientific Anglers, Ross; South Fork Rod Co.. Dave Chouinard – Simms, Lamson Waterworks; Citrus County Chronicle, Renzetti Fly Tying Vises and Tools; Suncoast Rod Crafters Club

VOLUNTEER FOR PROJECT HEALING WATERS: Alan Sewell will circulate a volunteer sign-up sheet at the September meeting for the Ft. DeSoto Bay Pines VA event scheduled for September 28. We expect about 20 vets for kayaking, fishing, and lunch. We will provide PHWFF rods, along with IFFF rods and SFF rods.

Fall Fly Fishing Challenge – October 26

Our friends at Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers and the Sarasota Chapter of Coastal Conservation Association have organized the ninth annual "Fall Fly Fishing Challenge" Oct. 26, 2013. Entry fee is \$50 and includes an awards BBQ. Info at www.ccaflorida.org or www.mangrovecoastflyfishers.com



The Florida Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers
Presents
**Florida's 2013
Fly Fishing Expo**
Featuring
Chico Fernandez & Flip Pallot



The Plantation on Crystal River
Friday & Saturday, Oct. 18 & 19, 2013
\$10 for BOTH DAYS (Kids Under 16 FREE)

- See The Latest Fly Tackle & Gear
- Clinics & Workshops with IFFF Certified Casting Instructors
- Fly Tying Demos & Workshops w/ Top Professional Fly Tiers
- Daily Free Programs & Seminars w/ National Fly Fishing Experts & World Class Speakers
- Raffles, Silent Auctions, Live Auctions & Much More. Join Us!

More Info? Go to www.fff-florida.org

News 'n Notes

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kevin McCreary -- I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome to the club. All my life I've had a passion for fly-fishing that probably goes beyond normal. As a boy, I grew up on the banks of the Little Juniata River in Pennsylvania, where I fished for my sanity. My passion to be on the water has never waned. I'm blessed to now own Firefly Lodge in Mineral Bluff GA, a fly-fishing and corporate retreat for anglers. I still find myself fishing for my sanity. Maybe I don't want to admit that I'm just plain nuts!" Kevin McCreary... www.fireflyfishinglodge.com

Captain Tom Reckenwald is a Tampa Bay native. Born in St. Petersburg, Florida, he was one of the lucky few who was surrounded by water all his life. He caught his first fish when he was 4 years old on the Peace River. He was canoe camping with his parents, when one morning he woke up, got his fishing gear, and walked down to the river alone. His first fish was a sight-fished largemouth bass caught on a black twisty tail. Tom graduated from the University of South Florida College of Business with a double major in finance and international economics. He now is a full time high school teacher and guides out of the Tampa Bay Area and Chassahowitzka.



Deb Brooks -- For me it is all about the men and women soldiers and veterans. I've fished for 30 years with great passion. The trigger for me is being in service to those soldiers and veterans who gave so much to secure our countries precious freedoms no matter what conflict or war. I tend to be very blunt and sometimes dogged about helping in the process of contributing to these men and women's rehabilitation. It takes time to build trusting relationships and I have a lot of time. Please take look at our website www.projecthealingwaterstampa.org



Tying Bench

Sili Leg Shrimp--Tied by Alan Sewell

This fly is the best pattern I have ever fished on flats, docks or surf. It is 100 percent weedless. It looks and swims like a shrimp. Tie it with white materials for docklight fishing.

Materials

Hook: Mustad C71S SS circle streamer hook (2XH/1XL) size 2

Thread: Tan or white

Eyes: Lead or bead chain

Legs Brown or white "Sili Legs"

Body Ice Fur, Rusty Orangutan or white.
Pearl chenille, rootbeer or white

Tail Flash, copper or white

Hackle Feather, grizzly or white longneck feather



Tying Sequence



1. Attach eyes on top of hook
2. Tie on four strands of Sili Legs doubled at rear of hook
3. Tie on several strands of flash doubled at rear of hook
4. Tie on ice fur and move around the hook shank
5. Tie on feather at the tip
6. Tie on chenille and palmer it to the front of the eyes. Tie off
7. Palmer the feather over the chenille to the front of the eyes.

Trim excess

8. Wrap thread to make a small head

9. Glue the head wrap. I prefer Super Glue



Alan Sewell's Fishing Reviews & Previews



August 17, 2013. - SFF held the August outing at Fort De Soto Park. Fishing was inside the park waters. The outing prizes were for the longest ladyfish and longest flounder. The flounder was not caught, but Mark Craig caught the longest ladyfish, which beat his yearly tournament ladyfish record. The outing turned out to be another FFF (fun, fish, food) day. Good food was provided by Richard Oldenski. Maybe he will provide us with the recipe for the carrot salad he prepared. Lots of fish were caught; even mackerel and snapper ate the fly.

September 21, 2013. - Our September outing will be fishing the lower half of Tampa Bay, from Gandy Blvd. to Fort De Soto Park. Fish east, west, north or south from the Gandy area. Fish in any area in the three counties. Use boats, kayaks or canoes, Fish bridges piers or docks. Or park and wade fish. Our monthly prize will be for the longest trout. Lunch will be served at the Blackthorn Memorial at the North I-275 Rest Area on the Skyway. Lunch will be served at 11:30 am. This area is also a really good place to wade. Both sides of the Sunshine Skyway have great grass beds and potholes. Hope to see you there.

September 28, 2013. - Bay Pines Veterans Health Center needs volunteers to assist with a fishing outing at Fort De Soto Park. The outing will be held at the Arrowhead Picnic area. Our Club helped last year and it was a great success. The VA will bring all the Vets and food and drinks, and fishing rods. They need us to bring our kayaks and our club fly rods. Last year we had 11 kayaks and the Vets had a great day fishing and paddling. This is a special event for the Vets, something we can do every day. Please come to this event. It will make you happy. Sign up sheets will be at the meeting, or call Terry, John, or Alan.

October 12, 2013. - Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament. This tournament will be held on the Hillsborough River and hosted by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.

2013-2014 FISHING TOURNAMENT UPDATE				
<i>Suncoast Fly Fishers tournament standings</i>				
<u>Species</u>	<u>Angler</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Bass	George Haseltine	19"	Lake Walsingham	April 16
Sunfish	Mark Hays	8"		
Trout	Mark Craig	22"	Tampa Bay	
Redfish	Mark Hays	23.5"	Tampa Bay	July 20-21
Snook	OPEN			
Ladyfish	Mark Craig	23"	Fort De Soto Park	August 17

MARINATED CARROT SALAD

By Richard Oldenski

Our thanks to Richard Oldenski for supplying this recipe for his very popular Marinated Carrot Salad, a huge hit at the August outing at Fort De Soto Park.

Ingredients

- 3 -bs. carrots
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 green pepper cut in thin strips
- 1 can tomato soup
- 1-cup sugar
- 1/2-cup salad oil
- 3/4-cup vinegar
- 1-tsp. salt
- 1-tsp. black pepper

Wash and scrape the carrots, and cut them into bite size slices. Boil the carrots until they are tender but not mushy. Drain the carrots and combine them with the diced onion and green pepper slices in a large bowl. Combine the remaining ingredients in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Immediately remove the boiling mixture from the stove, stir, and pour over the vegetables. Mix well, cover and refrigerate overnight. This recipe will make 25 to 30 servings, depending on who comes to the outing.

Bob Morrison: Docklight Snooking



Here's a picture one of several snook that Bob Morrison caught recently on a mullet fly while fishing lighted docks northeast of downtown St. Pete. This one was 23-inches.



The Eyes Have It - Big holographic eyes dominate Bob Morrison's docklight flies. His go-to fly is Layne (Smitty) Smith's Deadhead Minnow..



Morrison's snook attacked this fly.

Robert Fischer: Getting Ready for “The Big Gun”

Every year the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club invites surrounding clubs to a fly-casting skills competition testing accuracy and distance from a variety of casting stations.

They call it “The Big Gun.” This year it’s Nov. 17 at Picnic Island Park at the very south end of Westshore Blvd. The event starts at 9:30. Just bring yourself and your skills. You can bring a rod or use a club rod. Lunch is free and it’s all for fun.



Robert Fischer set up and directed the target casting events. This is the “V” target. At The Big Gun you have two minutes to land your 5-foot leader inside the V from 20, 30, 40 and 50 feet.



The Big Gun features five accuracy tests including a tight loop contest, V-target accuracy contest, tight loop hula-hoop contest, the infamous Hanson Cup contest, and a long distance shootout. (If you can shoot 100-feet you get invited to go up against the big guys in the finals. So be ready to shoot 130 feet of line and backing.)

At the August meeting of Suncoast Fly Fishers we set up two of those skill events so members could experience what the competitions would be like. And members got to experience the disappointment of trying to land a hook-less fly in the infamous Hanson Cup, named after SFF’s patron saint, Carl Hanson, who said “any damn fool can land a fly in a coffee cup from 20 feet.” Yeah, right.

<<<<Left, the very friendly Hanson Cup... from 6-inches.

>>>>>Right, targeting the infamous Hanson Cup from 20 feet. Aaarrggghh.



Tom Jones shoots at the big V.



Capt. Tom Reckenwald: Chattahoochee Tailwaters

What -- Rainbow trout and native brown trout. Size - 14 inches.

Where--Chattahoochee River tailwater below Buford dam. Variable rain storms. Changing river conditions.

How -- 4-wt and 5-wt rods casting wooly buggers and hopper indicator patters, with size 20 nymph droppers.

When—August 6-8, 2013

Notes—I finished my trip fishing with Chris Scalley of *River Through Atlanta Guide Service*. What a classy guy. We fished



Tom Reckenwald and one of many browns and rainbows he caught.



Reckenwald and Scalley fished with 4 and 5 weight rods and line.

the water just below

Buford Dam. It had to be my best freshwater trout day ever.

Chris worked with me on drifting and mending, and immediately put me on some ice rainbow trout. Then he guided me to my first brown trout ever. <http://riverthroughatlanta.com/> He told me early in the day that some guys fish the river the entire year and don't catch a brown trout. I honestly lost count how many I hooked today thanks to Chris. The day only got better as I landed lots of rainbows and native browns on dry flies, nymphs, and streamers.



Chattahoochee tailwater rainbow trout

The area we fished was beautiful, and very unique. The water was 47 degrees in the middle of the summer. The air and water temperature difference created a mist on the water, with pockets of cold air! It would be 85 degrees one minute, then the mist would roll through and the temp would drop 10 degrees for a minute or two, and warm up again.

Capt. Tom Reckenwald

Rick and Karen Warfel: North Carolina in the Summer

Karen and I were in North Carolina the last week of July and the beginning of August for some trout fishing. We fished the Nantahala River and Fires Creek near Murphy and on the Indian Reservation in Cherokee.

The stretch of the Nantahala that we fished is a hatchery-supported river. In late July and early August the water temperatures in this river are on the edge of being too warm to maintain a trout population but we did manage to catch a few small rainbows on nymphs.

The upper reaches of Fires Creek is a wild trout fishery. We followed the paved road along the creek until it narrowed to a one-lane dirt road that wound up the mountain. At the highest accessible point is a remote camping area with access to the creek where we both caught several rainbows. The fish were small but it was fun to be able to catch wild trout near the southern end of their range.

We also fished on the Indian Reservation in Cherokee where we kept to the trophy waters that are catch and release only and reserved for fly fishermen. We both caught several nice trout in the 12" – 14" range. Karen caught the biggest fish of the trip, a beautiful 17 ½" rainbow on a green squirmy wormie inchworm pattern.

Rick Warfel



Karen Warfel with a 17-1/2 inch wild rainbow caught on the fly-fishing only section of the Indian Reservation in Cherokee, NC

Pat Damico: Two Big Reasons to Grin



Grin #1: Fishing with his granddaughter on a Pennsylvania farm pond



Grin #2: Landing a cutthroat in the Montana mountains.

Andy Constantinou: Carp Fishing in England



Andy didn't catch this carp. His friend Bob did. But Andy's iPhone camera was on the scene, of course, to memorialize this 21-pounder caught at "my fishery" in England.



Damico: Fly Casting Clinic

Practice for Casting Events

By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor

Casting tip #45

We will make good use of the other hula-hoop or hoops from your dollar store purchase. Stand in one spot and place a hula-hoop or hoops at varying distances because wind will also be a factor if present. The more vertically you hold the rod and also if placed in front of you, your eye can sight down the rod to the target. Using a bright practice fly, false cast with good loop formation using the hoop rim closest to you as the target. Deliver the fly and see where it lands. If it hits close to the rim, great. If it lands in the center of the hoop, your rod stop and drop may have been the cause. Moving the rod more to the side or more horizontally, which is often needed in fly casting, will have an impact on where the fly lands. Practice different positions. In the wind, the usual horizontal casting plane may have to be tilted resulting in a high back cast and low forward

cast. Your initial casts should be short adding distance as accuracy improves.

Pat Damico, MCI, St. Pete Beach

Morrison: How - To

1. Some people say that the best time to fish is whenever you can. That said, I'm told that the best time for snook right now is at sunrise with an incoming tide, just after it starts to come up from the low. Try it with that big-headed, big-eyed mullet fly that works so well.
2. As the morning sun rises higher and the shallows grow warmer, fish, especially sea trout, will move toward deeper water, seeking somewhat cooler water that they like. They will also be less likely to be seen by eagles and ospreys in water over two feet deep with a weed bottom. How do they know?
3. When wading in the shallows, move slowly and quietly. Use a wading staff to probe ahead for sting rays and to ward off those eleven-foot crocodiles. On bright days fish can be especially spooky, so take it easy.
4. Fish thoroughly. Fish a complete half-circle ahead of you, placing casts just a few feet from each other, so that every fish gets at least one chance to see your fly. Check local depth charts to find drop-offs, and concentrate on them. Finally, watch what the birds are doing, since they can see much better than we can.

Go get 'em, and good luck.

Bob Morrison

Mazzarella: Fly Casting Instruction

The Five Essentials of Catching Fish

By Dayle Mazzarella, IFFF Certified Casting Instructor



is

Part 1: Where are the fish

I'm stealing part of the title of this article from Bill and Jay Gammel's "Five Essentials of Fly Casting". If you haven't read it, you should. It is a good way to begin understanding the principles behind casting a fly rod and line.

In my view, there are five main components of catching fish with a fly rod:

1. Where are the Fish?
2. What are the Fish Eating?
3. How Should We Present the Fly?
4. How Should We Set the Hook?
5. How Do We Fight and Land a Fish? Anywhere, any place, any type of fish,

If you want to be optimally successful, all five are essential. Over the next several months, we will discuss each of the five, beginning with:

Where are the fish?

In many environments 90% of the fish hold in less than 10% of the water. For example, in large lakes, oceans, and other large still waters, fish will hold at certain depths during different times of the year. If we are 10 feet off, too low or too high, we'll catch no fish.

Depending on species, time of year, insect hatches, water flow and temperatures, we will find lots of trout in riffles and sometimes absolutely no trout will be in the riffles.

Obviously, if we are fishing where there are no fish it's a little tough to catch fish! If we want to catch fish, we need to learn where they are!

Next month we will discuss the second essential : What are the Fish Eating?

Dayle Mazzarella, MCI

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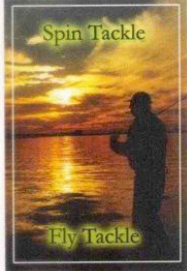


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David Putnam: Fly Fisher Reflections



And the best kayak for a fly fisher is....

Boatshow!

A pre-show newspaper quote from the sales mangler at MarineMax says it all: "Boating is a lot of fun."

Q: What percentage of kayak fishermen have owned powerboats? A: Very high.

Q: How much depreciation can I expect on my new outboard powerboat? A: 25% the day you buy it, 10% per year on the remaining balance each year for five years. That's if it's in excellent condition, never been bottom-painted, runs like a dream.

Oh, well, you'll get a great deal on the package-- the boat/motor/trailer combination. The dealer will include all the new fishing tackle in the bill of sale as "accessories" as a sweetener if you buy at the boat show. Throw it all in the bank loan, what the heck!

There's plenty of room in your driveway, so you won't have on-going dockage or storage fees, no bottom painting. Heck with the neighbors. They're just jealous.

Trust me on this: they'll be smiling in a few years, when they spot the flat trailer tire and notice the fading gelcoat and the big scratch where the anchor slammed into the hull that day in the storm offshore a few years ago, when your wife got seasick and swore she'd never get in the effing boat again as long as she lives. She remembers peeing in a bucket while she vomited. She'll come around? Sure she will. The personal family boat value-to-payment ratio changed that day, like it inevitably does on depreciating assets, just faster. It's now *your* boat and you've got 96 payments to go. You'd lose your behind *if* you could find a buyer. She's now "sick and tired" of having the boat in the driveway? Sounds like year two, joy of powerboat ownership, and you still have gas to buy.

Kayaking is different, far less expensive to begin with. Experienced fly fishing kayakers know to purchase a tandem sit-in kayak for its versatility so Mom or a friend can come along sometimes, and the bow seat can be taken out and the rear seat moved forward for a single fisherman, creating room for a couple of already-strung fly rods, maybe a cooler/fish box and a tackle bag, rain gear, bilge pump, life jacket...just like a powerboat. (Kayak companies don't push the tandems, a natural way to reduce overall sales.) Sit-ins are faster--no holes through the bottom to create drag-- and when winter comes, you can stay dry, maybe use it for duck hunting. We take our two small dogs along on short trips, and our grandson when he's in town. Mine's camo-colored, a 14.5 foot Native Watercraft, the Ultimate model with a rudder.

continued on next page>>>>>>>>

Continued....David Putnam: Fly Fisher Reflections

The best accessory for your kayak is....wait for it.

(A member of the Suncoast Fly Fishermen club and I pulled two guys in their late fifties out of the water two months ago when their tandem sit-on-top capsized in calm water at Pinellas Point. They're not safer than sit-in boats, not easier to enter and exit.)

Ever tried a sit-on kayak without a rudder on a windy day? If the wind is quartering, just off the direction you want to paddle, it can be impossible to make headway. You can only paddle on one side to steer, and it's tough going. Add an adverse tide and you're in trouble. For fly fishermen, who find that most kayaks turn into the wind when paddling stops, creating into-the-wind casting problems, a rudder makes it much more fun.

Fly fishermen also know to avoid line-catching gizmos and devices like rod holders and electronic machines you often see in "fishing kayaks." Imagine trying to cast a fly with a couple of spinning rods sticking up behind you. Even a bow line snaking over the deck is sure to catch your fly, right? You can't reach forward and get it loose from your seat. Want to risk climbing forward?

How about all that "storage" area behind the paddler in a sit-on-top kayak? Nah, you can't get to it without doing a circus act. Old guys, forget it. Gotta get to a beach and climb out for access. Where *can* you put extra items?

Any kayak is easy to store. I have two that rest under a tree on two sawhorses.

The best kayaking accessory is a pickup truck, to make loading easier, or an SUV long enough to hold most of it inside, carefully roped and bungeed in place. Putting the thing on top can be done solo, but it's a paint-scratcher if you drop it, a real toe pounder, and woe be unto the kayaker who carries it right side up and it fills with rain water.

No perfect world, but being outdoors fly-fishing in a kayak is as close to nature and fish as you can get. It's good exercise and far less expensive than powerboating.



Best accessory for your kayak

Fly Over

Bill AuCoin: Fly Fishing, Once Over (very) Lightly

THANK YOU FLORIDA SPORTSMAN EXPO – Suncoast Fly Fishers thanks Florida Sportsman Expo and Florida Sportsman magazine for providing free space so our club could teach young anglers how to tie a fly. And thanks to our volunteer fly tyers – Alan Sewell, Ken Doty, Don Manning, Layne Smith, Tom Gadacz, Ken Hofmeister and Capt. Dan Bumgarner.

MAYBE A CARP OUTING? Carp fishing is getting to be kind of a big deal. Now there's a book on the subject -- [Orvis Guide to Fly Fishing for Carp](#).

DAVID PUTNAM HAS A TOWEE DRIFTBOAT. It works in the 'glades. It works on the Hillborough River. It works on Tampa Bay. What's not to like? ([Midcurrent](#))

UH OH. They want to take our lifetime warranty away. I once broke a TFO rod that belonged to my neighbor. Fortunately it had a lifetime warranty. So we shipped it back with a \$25 check. TFO replaced it with an even better fly rod. Maybe it's just me but I say any brand that discontinues its lifetime warranty could be losing a big sales advantage. ([Angling Trade](#))

TAKE A GANDER AT THIS. Gander Mountain will open its first store in Tampa Bay this fall. It's close to the Pinellas-Hillsborough line near Oldsmar. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

OH SAY CAN YOU SEE? Onos Polarized Performance Sunglasses, one of our Hog Roast auction donors, has put some of its popular \$100 models on sale for less than \$60. ([ONOS](#))

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH – In Colorado recently, I met up with an old school friend who lives in Littleton, near Denver. I hadn't seen Von Franzen in 50+ years after we both left our hometown of Mobile to make our ways in the world. It turns out he's also an avid fly fisher. While in the area I had hoped to attend a meeting of his club, High Plains Drifters, but I couldn't make it. In any case, we agreed that our two clubs should start collaborating for mutual benefit. One possibility is if you visit the Denver area he'll see if one of his members is available to take you fly-fishing. And we'll ask our members to do the same for High Plains Drifters who visit the St. Pete-Clearwater area. Here's the website for the [High Plains Drifters](#).

CONNECTING LEADER TO BRAIDED LINE -- The slim beauty does the job. Watch this. ([Animatedknots](#))

WELL, DUH. -- If you put it on your lawn it goes into the bay. Tampa Bay Estuary Program has been on top of this issue for some years now and the reports keep getting better. More than 9,000 acres of new sea grasses have been established since 1988 and the snook population is up since a freeze on its harvest in 2010. ([Sarasota Herald Tribune](#))

WHEN YOU HAVE TOO MUCH GEAR? Q. How much fishing equipment can a man accumulate before his wife throws him out? Answer at [Kilroy's Fishing Humor](#))

WEIRD TRICK FOR FLY FISHERS. Here's how you can outfish your friends with this one weird trick. Click [here](#). Weird, huh?

