

On The Fly

February 2014 Volume 24, Issue 2

Prez Sez

By Tom Gadacz, President, Suncoast Fly Fishers



Commitment to Fly Fishing and Giving Back

2013 was another great year for Suncoast Fly Fishers. Our core mission is to fly fish and improve our casting, tying, and catching skills while having fun. The camaraderie is what makes it enjoyable and what brings us together.

Well, this past year was one of very remarkable accomplishments. We had great programs and outings at fresh and salt-water locations. Very talented and IFFF Master Certified Casting Instructors put on two casting clinics. SFF members were at six major local and national fly fishing events. Some of these events included our Annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction, the Florida Council IFFF Expo, the IFFF Fly Fishing Fair, and the Renzetti Fly Fishing and Rod Building Fair.

There were two PHWFF events supported by you one at the Bradenton Yacht Club and the other at Ft. DeSoto. We had two fishing outings with other clubs the Carl Hanson Fishing Tournament on the Hillsborough River and the Don Coleman Classic at Ft. DeSoto.

Our outreach (giving back) programs were excellent. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) was going strong not only at the Bay
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On The Fly

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Continued...Prez Sez

By Tom Gadacz, President, Suncoast Fly Fishers



Pines Veterans Medical Center but also at the Bradenton Yacht Club. Twelve SFF members volunteered 1,403 hours in PHWFF programs, which included some 22 rods built by veterans.

Five volunteers contributed 45 hours to teach 100 youths at the E. G. Simmons Fish Camp. A \$2,550 grant from Fish Florida supported the youth programs. Marine Quest was staffed with 5 volunteers to teach youths fly tying. We even gave back to ourselves and shared flies through the Fly Box Exchange at our meetings.

I wish to thank everyone for his or her participation in these activities. Sharing your fly fishing knowledge and your commitment to continue to improve your fly fishing experience is what makes our club great. There will be more details in our review of 2013 on the web site. Let's make 2014 even better!

The Florida Fly Fishing Experience

We have our monthly outings at nearby fresh and salt waters. In March we have our extra trip to the Everglades. Additional trips are being planned for other areas in Florida.

The Florida Council IFFF began a program to have a Florida club sponsor a fly fishing weekend. The Mid Coast Fly Fishers in New Smyrna held an outing on the St. John's River and Mosquito Lagoon. President Dennis O'Brien and Bob Belisle invited the members of 19 Florida fly fishing clubs. Members of five clubs took advantage of the offer including Ken Hofmeister and me. Our target was SHAD, a relative of the herring! The rain and wind tried to discourage us but when you schedule an out of town trip, you fish. We did and caught a SHAD, a stripper and a catfish.

The best part was meeting the other fly fishers who shared their flies and fishing spots over two great dinners – BBQ ribs on Friday and filet mignon on Saturday.

Lars Lutton guided us on Saturday, the day we did get a shad. Bill Sherer outlined kayaking areas for redfish in Mosquito Lagoon. By the time we left we felt like we knew the area. We hope there will be more trips sponsored throughout Florida so we can take advantage of all the waters in our state.

Tom

PS: Reserve your seating for the Hog Roast now.

Reserve your seating for the 2014 Hog Roast and Silent Auction at the February meeting or mail your check today.

This is a must event for every SFF member. This is our featured club event of the year. It helps us raise funds for many of the activities throughout the year.

When: March 29, 2014 Saturday

Where: City of Treasure Island Auditorium, 120 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, FL

Time: 4:00 to 8:00 PM

Cost: \$20 please make your reservation early. You may bring guests also for \$20/person. Teenagers : \$10.00. Sign up at the meeting or mail your reservations

Special event: Jeff Klinkenberg, author and reporter, will be our featured speaker. Jeff writes about people that make Florida unique. Program speakers for the past year have been invited to share some of their fishing secrets.

Menu: BBQ pulled pork, ribs, and chicken with sides of BBQ beans, corn on the cob, yellow rice and green beans with redskin potatoes. Sonny's is catering the event. BYOB

Door Prize: Fly rod (10 wt.) built by Alan Sewell with a Lamson reel and line. Members only are eligible for the door prize and a ticket is included in the price of the event.

TFO Fly Rod, Reel, and Line Raffle: A TFO Mangrove Series, Flip Pallot 9' 7wt. with a TFO BVK reel and line. Tickets are \$5 or 5 for \$20 and raffle is open to everyone.

Silent Auction: An opportunity to get a half-day guided trip by guys who know the fishing spots, trophy flies tied by our best tyers for fish in our area, rods, reels, fishing equipment, art and a host of other items. Some of the items are TFO Lefty Kreh Professional Series 5 and 8 wt. rods. The silent auction is open to all attendees.

Bucket Raffle: Fishing items and packages with a value up to \$35 will be in buckets and raffled off during the course of the event. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 12 for \$10.00. The bucket raffle is open to all attendees.

Awards: Presentation of trophies for the President's Vision/Values Award and to members with a biggest fish in several categories.

Tickets will be available at the February and March meetings. Please purchase your ticket early or contact us to confirm your attendance so we can provide the caterer with an estimate of attendees.

If you cannot attend either meeting you may mail your reservation(s) and check to:

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

News 'n Notes

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS -- NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Suncoast Fly Fishers

Your SFF nominating committee (Ken Hofmeister, Rick Warfel, Kirk Burton, Richard Oldenski, and Mark Hays) recommends the following candidates for SFF Board of Directors and Officer positions.

President: Kirk Burton

Vice President: Tom Trukenbrod

Treasurer: Karen Warfel

Dick Miekka, Dan Bumgarner, John Craig, Alan Sewell, Jeff Heer, and George Haseltine are recommended candidates for Board of Directors.

(Five board positions are open and members will be asked to vote for five of these six candidates.)

This slate of candidates will be presented at the February membership meeting.

"Further nominations will be accepted from the floor at that meeting, following which the nominations will be closed. . . Voting will take place at the March membership meeting and will be by secret written ballot in case of contested offices or directorships. The nominating committee will control the balloting process and count the ballots. The elected officers and directors will assume their duties at the close of the March membership meeting." SFF By-laws, Article III Officers and Directors, Section 4, Elections."

Ken Hofmeister, Chairperson, SFF Nominating Committee

Capt. Pat Damico: Ties flies and leads topic brainstorm discussion at the February meeting



February meeting's spotlight is on Capt. Pat Damico who will tie flies (ant and beetle patterns) and also manage a member discussion about the best meeting topics for the coming months. Here's how Pat characterizes it: "*Most of us joined our club to improve and share our knowledge about fly fishing, fly tying, casting, etc. When I first joined the club, I did a presentation where all the members had an opportunity to suggest topics. I wrote them down on an easel and we prioritized them. I then acted as a facilitator getting information from different members, keeping them on track and concise on the topic and finally summarizing the response before moving to the next item. It should be fun and informative.*"

News 'n Notes

Capt. Rodney Smith is our March meeting presenter

He's a charter captain, a fly fishing aficionado, magazine publisher (Coastal Angler), author of several books, CEO of Little Pond Publishing), a native Floridian and conservationist, and he'll be sharing some of his fishing tales at the March meeting. He'll be signing books after the meeting: *Catching Made Easy* and *Enjoying Life on the Indian River Lagoon*



Myron Hansen calls for flies to auction at the Hog Roast

"Attention Fly Tyers -- We need your flies for the silent auction at our upcoming hog roast. The member tied flies are some of the most popular auction items each year. Tie six or twelve flies and bring them to Tom Gadacz or Kirk Burton at the February or March meeting. Thank you in advance. We look forward to your creations and trying them in our local waters." *Myron Hansen*

Thanks for the discount coupon, Flint Creek Outfitters.

If you were at the January meeting you may have received a coupon from our new corporate member worth \$20 for any purchase of \$50 or more. Visit their new store in Tampa at 1502 N. Westshore Blvd.

Gyotaku

This is not what you yell into the speaker at Taco Bell. **Gy-o-taku** is something else, a traditional method of Japanese fish printing to record catches. (Alas, IGFA does not accept it as proof of a new fly rod record.) Anyway, SFFer Tom Jones will teach you how to do it. His class is April 5 from 9 am to 1 pm in the conference room at Performance Plumbing. See Tom at the February meeting.

Florida Fly Expo, Oct. 9-12 2014. Put it on your calendar



The Plantation Inn, Crystal River, Florida

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers



Aims and Purposes

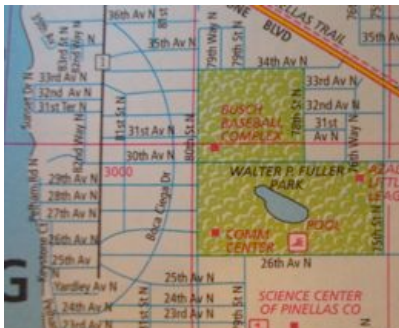
Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) are dedicated to sharing their total fly-fishing experiences and to developing interest in fly-fishing in both fresh and salt water. We promote and teach both fly-fishing and related subjects of fly-tying, rod building, fly-casting and knot tying. Through collaboration, fellowship, 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.

SFF Club Calendar

- February 20 meeting. Fly tyer and presenter: Capt. Pat Damico. Fly Swap: frog patterns. **SFF Logo Shirts** – Bring a clean fishing shirt to the February or March meeting and have a SFF logo embroidered on it. Just \$10.00/shirt.
- February 22 outing – Walsingham Lake
- March 20 meeting. Capt. Rodney Smith. Savvy angler, conservationist, magazine and book publisher, and book author will tell us what he has learned about catching more fish all over the state of Florida.
- March 22 outing—Fred Howard Park
- March 29, 4-8 pm, Hog Roast and Silent Auction, Treasure Island City Auditorium. Jeff Klinkenberg author and feature writer for the Tampa Bay Times is keynote speaker. Purchase tickets for you and your guests at the meeting or mail a check to Suncoast Fly Fishers, PO Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743
- April 19 outing—Downtown St. Pete waterfront

Monthly Meetings

Third Thursday of each month (except December) in the community center at Walter Fuller Park, 7891 26 Avenue N. St. Petersburg. Fly tying 6 to 7 pm. Meeting and program 7 to 8 pm.



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 Sequira

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 Sequira
Webmaster – OPEN
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

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR SFF MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all SFF members who have renewed their memberships for 2014. However, if you haven't renewed yet, please take the time to print and complete the renewal form below and bring it to the January 16, 2014 meeting with your cash or check or mail it to the address below. I will be pleased to receive your dues and record you as another happy and paid up member of Florida's finest and friendliest fly fishing club.

Paul Sequeira, Treasurer

**TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2013-2014
PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND BRING IT TO THE
MEETING OR MAIL IT IN (P.O. BOX ADDRESS BELOW).**

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL APPLICATION

Name* _____ Date _____

Address* _____

City* _____ State* _____ Zip* _____

Telephone* (____) _____ E-Mail _____

*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. The monthly newsletter, "On the Fly," is only distributed electronically. You may also obtain a copy from our web site:

www.suncoastflyfishers.com

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) membership categories (select one):

- ___ Regular Membership 1 year - \$15 (*September 2013-14*)
- ___ Family Membership 1 year (includes Member, Spouse and children under 18) - \$25
- ___ Business Membership 1 year (includes monthly business card newsletter ad) - \$100

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

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

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

Member in the Spotlight: PAUL SEQUIRA

Hometown(s): New Bedford, Massachusetts. Huntington, L.I., NY



When did you join the Suncoast Fly Fishers: 1992

What is your favorite gamefish to catch on a fly and why? Hard to say. In fresh water it would definitely be brook trout. Simply because they are one of the most beautiful creatures in nature and you fish for them in beautiful places. Also because they are native to New England, my birthplace. In salt water it would probably be striped bass. I have chased stripers for a good deal of my adult life (until I moved to Florida) first as a surf fisherman with conventional gear and later with a fly rod. This is an exciting game fish to fish for; it is most productive at night until the autumn when you can find them in the daytime. However, I suspect you are more interested in Florida species. It would be hard to pick just one. Locally I am happy with

fishing for spotted seatrout, redfish and snook; or really, whatever comes along. In South Florida I really enjoy fishing for bonefish. They are all exciting. In fresh water, I love fishing for bream and the exotics in the Everglades canals.

What are your top three places to fish? Locally it would be Ft. DeSoto, the Skyway and Emerson Point. Otherwise the Florida Keys

What are your go-to fly rod and reel? Saltwater - Sage XP 890-4 with a Redington GD 9/10 reel & SA GPX WF8F line. Freshwater - Loomis GL3 3 piece 8 weight rod with a Scientific Angler System 5 reel & SA WF5F line.

How and when did you get introduced to fly-fishing? I got my first fly rod in 1952 as a birthday gift from my brother upon his return from a tour in Korea. It was a three-piece eight-foot Heddon bamboo rod, which sadly I no longer own. At the time, I used it mostly for bream fishing in local farm ponds, sometimes with bait rather than flies. At that time, I knew very little about fly fishing and I didn't know anyone that could teach me. In those days I was more into surf fishing. I got interested in trout fishing in the late sixties and became thoroughly taken with the fly rod. A few years later I discovered that a fly fishing mail order shop (Fireside Angler, sadly, long since gone) was located close to my home on Long Island. I became friendly with the shop personnel who taught me how to tie flies for both fresh water and salt water and a lot about fly fishing.

Why do you like fly fishing compared with conventional tackle? The challenges associated with fly fishing -- casting, learning to read a trout stream, tying flies etc. thoroughly intrigued me. Having been an avid reader all my life, I was further intrigued with the volumes of books written about trout and salmon fishing and to a lesser degree, salt water fly fishing. Living in the North East, I got to meet and associate with quite a few of the people who contributed to and were a part of the history of fly fishing. I had grown up using conventional revolving spool casting tackle and I would still enjoy that kind of fishing if I had the opportunity to do it. Years ago, as I became more proficient with fly fishing, it soon became the most satisfying way to fish to me.

Do you tie flies? What kind of flies do you like to tie? Yes, fly tying is a big part of the pleasure and satisfaction I get from fly fishing. I tie flies primarily because it gives me so much pleasure. When I was learning to tie, I was associated with many really talented fly tyers. I was inspired by their tying skills and it became a major goal of mine to equal their skills. I tied for several hours nearly every night after work to achieve a level that I thought was at the very least equivalent to the tyers I admired most. I even tied commercially for a while just to get more tying experience. Personally I enjoy tying both fresh water and salt water flies. I prefer to tie traditional and contemporary patterns using natural materials. Tying classic brook trout and landlocked salmon wet flies, streamers and bucktails is a particular pleasant pastime for me.

Member in the Spotlight: LAYNE SMITH

Nicknames: Smitty, Spiderman, and @#\$%^&*! (The last one was my wife's submission. A term of endearment, no doubt.)

Hometown(s): Now - St. Petersburg. Way back when - Strattanville, PA

When did you join Suncoast Fly Fishers? Charter Member

What is your favorite gamefish to catch on a fly, and why? I love the thrill of fighting an over the limit snook or redfish, but when it comes to pure joy of fishing, nothing can beat the serenity of sitting back in my Gheenoe and leisurely lofting a crystal beetle to my "secret" pocket holding monster bluegill. Ah-h-h-h-h.



What are your top three places to fly fish? I like to fish ANYWHERE ! ... But the three top places I'd LIKE to fish are Ireland, New Zealand and somewhere where nobody has fly fished before.

What are your go-to fly rod and fly reel? It depends on the target fish. I wouldn't take a 3-weight for tarpon (That's like bringing a knife to a gunfight) ... That aside, I must say I've really been enjoying my Cabela's TQR rod with a Wind River reel.

How and when did you get introduced to fly-fishing? My Grandfather was an ardent fly tyer and fisherman from way back. I've enjoyed watching and participating ever since.

Why do you like fly-fishing compared to fishing with conventional tackle? The relaxed pace and the beauty of a nice tight loop, and fooling a wary adversary with something I created ... Although, I do prospect sometimes with traditional gear ... when found, I change to the fly rod

Do you tie flies? What flies do you like to tie? Yes, I tie ... What do I like to tie? ... With me it's more like what DON'T I like to tie. I like to tie anything and everything that is out there as well as create my own variations.



Smitty's Crab Fly. Tie one on. You could give the other one to somebody who wears a cocktail dress. Then you could both tie one on.

Bill AuCoin: Blackthorn Memorial Club Outing

Photos by Tom Gadacz and Bill AuCoin
 Suncoast Fly Fishers kicked off the new year Jan. 18 with the traditional Blackthorn outing at the Blackthorn Memorial at the I-275 Sunshine Skyway Rest Area. This rest area (and our outing) honors 23 U. S. Coast Guardsman who died in 1980 when their 183-foot seagoing buoy tender, the USCG Cutter *Blackthorn*, collided with an oil tanker and sank just two miles away in the Tampa Bay ship's channel.

Our SFF outing on Saturday, January 18, gave us a morning for fishing but it was warmed by a wonderful lunch – Alan’s chili – which fueled club camaraderie and lots of great fishing stories. There was at least one

uncommon catch a baby barracuda – that David Putnam caught in Frenchman’s Creek not far from the Maximo Park boat ramp.

Bill



Is the chili ready, Alan? Ken Doty, Joe Dail, Tom Truckenbrod and Alan Sewell need fuel on this cold January day. Brrrrrrr.



That's Alan Sewell serving up his award-winning chili to David Putnam. Robert Fischer waits his turn.



David Putnam and – that's right – a little 'cuda in caught in Frenchman's creek not far from the Maximo Park boat ramp.



Refill your coffee? Bob McIntyre, Mark Hays, Robert Fischer, Richard Oldenski. Georae Haseltine

Bill AuCoin: Trash 'n' Treasures Meeting: January 16

Photos by Tom Gadacz and Bill AuCoin

Oh what a night. Members brought in all the gear and other things they don't use anymore and auctioneer Alan Sewell fast-talked the bidders and pretty much cleared the tables of used fishing gear, resulting in a terrific pot of currency, \$700+, for the Suncoast Fly Fisher bank account. The money will be used to buy food and soft drinks for meetings and outings for the rest of the year. Oh good, more brownies. Way to go, fly fishers.

Bill



Alan did what Alan does, evoking lots of laughter and loot. The cap (below, middle) was not for sale.



Don Manning got Ken Hofmeister's trolling motor for \$55. It only works in reverse. Fixable, right?



Richard Oldenski got what he wanted. So did Smitty, below, Al Pitcher flies!



Members ponder the pitch and get ready to raise the bid....or not. Photo by Tom Gadacz



Tom Gadacz: Touring FWC's Port Manatee Research Site

January 10 was our annual outing date with Gina Russo and FWC's Stock Enhancement Research facility at Port Manatee on the eastern shore of Tampa Bay just north of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. We saw everything from tiny fish eggs and fingerlings to brood stock redfish.



Our host and guide was FWC's Gina Russo, outreach coordinator for the Port Manatee lab.

Our host and guide was FWC's Gina Russo. After an initial introduction Gina reviewed all the activities of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the Stock Enhancement Research facility and the Sport Fish Restoration program.

Melissa Broderick, the Aquatic Health Specialist, dissected a fish to explain where diseases occur in fish. She is responsible for monitoring the quality and health of the hatchery reared fish in the tanks and ponds.

Bret Blackburn, a biologist at the hatchery, explained the tagging process and how fish can be tracked not only by their DNA but also by visible external tags, internal microchips and transmitters showing their

location and data on the environment. The 17 SFF members received some great insights about maintaining a healthy stock of fish in case a species gets severely threatened by human or natural causes.

Continued on next page>>>

Continued ... Suncoast Fly Fishers See Port Manatee Research



Melissa Broderick, the Aquatic Health Specialist, dissected a fish for Suncoast Fly Fishers.

FWC's marine hatchery is dedicated to understanding the relationship of a healthy fish population in the environment and the factors that affect this balance.

A great deal of research is done at the facility and in collaboration with neighboring marine research facilities. The goal is to develop an additional tool to help manage Florida's native fish populations.

Redfish Research

Currently, the FWC marine hatchery is focusing on intensively rearing red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*) in recirculating aquaculture systems versus the traditional extensive or pond culture.

There were plenty of handouts about the FWC programs, stock enhancement, fishing regulations, conservation, lionfish plus many others to fill a plastic bag.

After the inside tour we went to some of the ponds. There are 12 one-acre ponds and 6 quarter-acre ponds. Ray Cianci and Gina fed some brood stock redfish and were generally successful until the gulls swooped down for a noon lunch.

We then had lunch and fished the detention pond. There were many long and short casts. A few snook were caught but no monsters. About three o'clock we had enough casting practice on a beautiful, sunny, and windless day so what more could you ask for?



Betty and Steve Massey casting in the detention pond

Continued

Continued ... Suncoast Fly Fishers Visit Port Manatee



George Hazeltine wets a line in one of FWC's stock retention ponds at the research facility

This was great fun and we learned a lot about fish biology and how both the commercial and sport fishers can influence our marine fisheries.

Tom

FWC Mission: Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.

Scientific data drives management decisions for fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.

Diverse wildlife resources and people benefit from studies about Florida's delicate and complex ecosystems and the impact humans have on them.

Quality hunting, fishing and outdoor recreational opportunities continue, due to management of fish, wildlife and habitats.

Trained and sworn officers enforce rules that protect fish and wildlife and keep Florida's waterways safe for millions of boaters.

In the event of natural and other disasters, officers also cooperate with local, state and federal partners, using the agency's specialized equipment and extensive knowledge about Florida's aquatic and upland environments.

Responsible recreation and stewardship of the state's natural resources become a reality. Through the FWC's communications with a variety of audiences, the agency:

Provides information about human-wildlife interactions; conservation; fish and wildlife habitats; protected species; and hunting, fishing, boating and outdoor recreational opportunities.

Conducts safety training and classes for hunters and boaters.

Teaches classes in outdoor recreational activities, such as bird-watching, fishing and hunting.

Coordinates programs, such as Kids' Fishing Clinics, specifically for people who traditionally have not participated in outdoor activities.

Ken Hofmeister: Mid Coast Fly Fishers Invitational

" Y'ALL COME"

"Y'All come fish with us" said Dennis O'Brien, president of mid-Coast Fly Fishers in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. Well . . . That's not an exact quote from this retired New York City cop. But he did invite every IFFF club in Florida to join in the Shad outing February 7-8 in New Smyrna. He promised BBQ ribs and grilled filets for dinner Friday and Saturday. A clean, quiet, and affordable motel (Best Western) was arranged for the group.



That's Suncoast Fly Fisher Tom Gadacz with a shad, one of the few caught. He had a good guide, Lars Lutton, aka the "Shadmaster."



New Smyrna Fly Fishers and their IFFF-club guests from around the state go over a chart of Mosquito Lagoon. The weather forecast was not promising. Rain? On a weekend in February?

Dennis and Bob Belisle of Mid-Coast Fly Fishers sent out lots of communications, including optional boat and kayak launch sites and where to meet. Flies were recommended.

Tom Gadacz and I tied a few flies, borrowed a couple, and headed East. These Mid-Coast guys were outstanding hosts and impressive fly fishers; but, they were not meteorologists. It rained and poured and got cooler. Fly fishers are characters and they are known to be persistent and tenacious when it comes to pursuing a new quarry (Shad in this case). So, we fished in the rain Friday afternoon and Tom landed a very nice Striped Bass ... but no shad.

We met the crowd at the Fraternal Order of police lodge for dinner and shared details about the day. Dinner was great -- bodacious ribs. What impressed us most was the friendliness of this fly fishing fellowship.

Continued...Mid-Coast Fly Fishers Invitational

They offered tips as they pointed to a chart of Mosquito Lagoon. A couple of these fellows said to take one of their flies on Saturday. Lars tied some that night for us to use Saturday. Dennis asked: "Who needs somebody to fish with?" Tom raised his hand and Lars Lutton said to meet him at the C. S. Lee kayak launch at 9. He was there with his fish finder – that would be Missy the dog. We fished in the rain again. Even Missy wore a rain coat! Tom got a shad, I caught a catfish, and we called it a day after about three and a half hours. Little did we know that Lars (AKA "Shadmaster") had won first place in the Fly Division in the 2011 St. John's shad/crappie derby. They are apparently more humble on the Space Coast

Saturday dinner was outstanding and the interchange among fly fishers was instructive and



Striped bass too -- Suncoast Fly Fisher President Tom Gadacz.

inspirational. Face it: fly fishers are a special breed of cat. They are hard to herd, but they do interesting things together. We found passion for the sport, enthusiasm for Project Healing Waters, and interest in educating people about fly fishing. We also were inspired anew to expand this sort of networking among Florida (and other states) IFFF clubs. Bill Sherer (Muskie guide in summer, Space Coast guide in winter) shared some priceless stories and insights. Seems Flip Pallot taught him a few

things over twenty years ago about fishing in Florida. It was a great way to expand our circle of fishing buddies, enrich our knowledge of the sport, and be grateful we are in such a fellowship.

Ken

IFFF Florida Council Fly Fishing Links

[Florida Council, International Federation of Fly Fishers](#)

[Florida Council, IFFF, Facebook](#)

[Backcountry Fly Fishing Association of Brevard](#)

[Backcountry Fly -Fishing Association of Orlando](#)

[Panhandle Flyfishers](#)

[Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club](#)

[Florida Big Bend Flyfishers](#)

[Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers](#)

[Mid-Coast Fly Fishers](#)

[Stuart Flyrodders](#)

[Suncoast Fly Fishers](#)

[Sunshine City Anglers](#)

[Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers](#)

[Backcountry Fly Fishers of Naples, Florida](#)

[Tri-County Fly Fishers](#)

[Fly Fishers of NW Florida](#)

[Charlotte Harbor Fly Fishers](#)

Tying Bench – The Adams Shrimp

Tied by John Adams

Though he lives in the Jacksonville area, John Adams is an active member of St. Pete's Suncoast Fly Fishers club and from time to time fishes with Ken Hofmeister and other SFF members. Having caught many fish with The Adams Shrimp, Hofmeister recommended that we feature this successful pattern in the Tying Bench. (Editor)

One of the first salt water fly patters I ever tied has proven to be the basis for my go-to fly box. It has been successful in catching all types of saltwater and freshwater fish from bones in Abaco to salmon in Alaska, trout in Montana, smallmouth bass in Canada, and bream and black bass in Florida. The first time I fished it was for reds one fall in a small feeder creek of the St. Johns. I found a school of reds on a large oyster bed and caught 21 reds before moving on. Since then, I have made many modifications in hook size and material combinations. The fly is a great fly for beginning fly tyers to tie and then go out and fish with success.



Materials

The best feature of this fly is that you can mix and match materials to make its color and size match the profile of the bait the fish you are casting to or what they are feeding on. (John Adams)

Hook—Mustad 3407 or 34001

Thread—210 flat waxed Match color to chenille color.

Body—Chenille; I select a sparkle type chenille that will match the size of hook selected.

Tail--Crystal Flash---Select any color you want. Black or Root beer works good

Eyes—Barbell or bead chain eyes to match the size of the fly and the desired sink rate.

Legs—rubber legs, any color or design



Tie eyes and flash at hook bend

Tying Sequence

Step 1. Tie in a base wrap of thread

Step 2. Tie in eyes and crystal flash at the bend of the hook

Step 3. Tie in rubber legs in front of the eyes to allow more tail action

Step 4. Tie in chenille in front of the eyes then wrap forward and secure at the hook eye

Step 5. Whip finish and glue

Step 6. Weed guard optional: Cut 2 pieces of 50# mono and tie them in just behind the eye then secure them in place with a drop of UV Glue.



Wrap chenille back to front;

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip # 50



By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor

Check your line

When meeting one of my students for a casting lesson, I always ask them to bring their own equipment. Many times the problem they are having is related to a line that does not match their rod, or their style of casting. I have laid out lines from the same manufacture marked identically that we checked with a micrometer every 5 feet and found gross errors. Lines can also be improperly labeled with weight and taper errors. I have seen more than a few weight forward lines on a reel backwards. If interested in a new rod, ask the dealer to let you cast it with a couple different shop reels and lines, or bring your own before finalizing the deal.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

Jeff Klinkenberg will speak at our 11th annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction. City of Treasure Island Auditorium. March 29. 4 - 8 pm



Jeff Klinkenberg and a natural Florida friend

Got your tickets for the Hog Roast? No? Then get them at the February or March meeting or mail your check in soon.

The emcee is our own Woody Miller.

Our featured speaker is Mr. Natural Florida, Jeff Klinkenberg, who writes the *Real Florida* column for the Tampa Bay Times.

Klinkenberg is the author of three best selling books: *Pilgrim in the Land of Alligators*, *Seasons of Real Florida*, and *Dispatches from the Land of Flowers*.

You'll have opportunities to bid for and/or buy autographed copies.

Author Carl Hiaason is quoted, "If Jeff Klinkenberg isn't careful, he might give journalism a good name."

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Master, is it a sin to use a spinning rod?

I met a guy recently who is only a spin fisherman, but who comes to tie flies with us. When he encounters a pattern that he would like to fish he ties that pattern on a jig head of 1/4 ounce and goes fishing. Now, Alan Sewell thinks that it's a good idea to save time when scouting for feeding fish by using a spinning outfit to cover a lot of water quickly, and switching to fly tackle once you have found those fish. I agree. So, in accordance with my new friend's idea, I am tying some "Jig Flies" in various patterns and will be experimenting with them shortly. With most baitfish currently out of the shallows, I'll be stressing shrimp and crab patterns initially. I'll keep you posted as to my results. I tied a jig head Tarpon Toad recently, and it's beautiful if I do say so myself. Walmart has a wedge-shaped-head jig in several colors in the same package, from a company named Ocean Logic. These look more natural than those round ball-shaped jigs. Try them. To jazz up the jig heads, you can paint them with Sally Hansen You Know What, stick on some holographic eyes, and finish with epoxy if desired. A final coat of Sally's will help cover any residual stickiness on the surface of the epoxy.



How to floss your teeth tying bobbin.

If your tying bobbin should develop a buildup of wax from dubbing wax or pre-waxed thread, try cleaning the inside of the tube with some large-diameter, unwaxed dental floss. Work the floss back and forth to clean the tube. Also, you can increase cleaning ability by wetting the floss with lighter fluid, which is an effective mild solvent and degreaser.

Don't throw away that bathroom mat.

Scraps of synthetic carpet yarn such as Antron can be useful, inexpensive, and rugged fly tying material. Cut off any adhesive on the yarn and pick the fibers apart. They can be used as is or blended with other materials to obtain the color or texture you desire. This tip came from Jim Weaver, former President of The Croton Watershed Chapter of Trout Unlimited in New York, rest his soul.

Go get 'em, and good luck!

Bob

Mazzarella: Fly Casting and Fly-Fishing Instruction

The Five Essentials of Catching Fish: Part 5

By Dayle Mazzarella, IFFF Certified Casting Instructor

In my view there are five main components of catching fish with a fly rod. Anywhere, any place, any type of fish, if you want to be optimally successful, all five are essential.

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?**



THE FIVE ESSENTIALS OF CATCHING FISH - PART 5

How do we fight and land a fish?

I've seen lots of fish lost after everything else was done correctly! Let's discuss the river mentioned previously. In that environment we need to get out of the water ASAP and we need to *move*! Sometimes we need to cross the river to keep the fish away from willow roots. If the fish goes that way, we need to really move downstream. We need to put the line at right angles to the fish, which involves knowing where our rod belongs.

Another example, when dock fishing for snook in Florida, we always have someone on the trolling motor to spin the boat. Any help we can get to keep that fish from the pilings is appreciated!

At what angle and direction should the rod be pointed? How much pressure can we apply? A lot of this is experience and actual fishing practice. If we want to land more fish, we need to learn how to fight them!

Conclusion

Too often we blame other factors when we fail to catch fish, when in fact the fault is ours. As someone once said... **"When we miss the bulls eye, the fault doesn't lie with the target".**

Dayle

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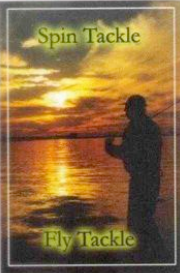


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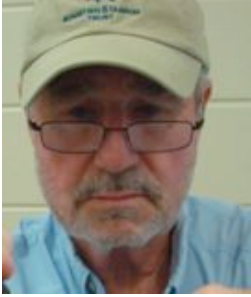
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Al Pitcher: Just Thinking



You can't go home again

In his poignant novel "You Can't Go Home Again" Thomas Wolfe's protagonist George Webber realizes "You can't go back home to your family, back home to your childhood...back home to a young man's dreams of glory and of fame...back home to places in the country, back home to the old forms and systems of things which once seemed everlasting but which are changing all the time...." The same can be said about our fishing and the places we fish; or can it?

As a teenager, in the mid to late 1950's, I fished the Indian River, the Banana River, and the surf on our east coast. The fishing was fabulous, and the fishing pressure was virtually non-existent. On many subsequent visits to this area the fishing was just never the same. Hard as I tried, I couldn't bring back that magical feel from the 1950's.

In the mid to late 1970's my family and I fished the inshore and offshore waters of the Tampa Bay area. We had some unforgettable times. Our fishing in the Gulf involved not only the rod and reel, but diving and spearfishing. We visited the Florida Keys for many family vacations; the memories are wonderful and still talked about at family gatherings. But, once again, subsequent outings over the years still did not generate the magic of those trips of the 1970's.

I recently visited Koch's farm pond, which I wrote about, this fall. The pond is still there; my magical memories are still fresh after all these years; however, the pond is not the same. It is surrounded by three "McMansions" with well-manicured lawns and all the trappings of success, at least success as defined by some people.

What I have come to realize is that we may not be able to bring back the magic of years past or as protagonist George Webber realizes he couldn't really return to the home and surroundings as he knew them. But what we can do is realize that magic is being generated every time we have the opportunity to fish with a friend, a grandchild, or other family members. Every time we share our sport with someone is a special time. Maybe the magic is not the same as years past, but it is magic none the less. Again, it is just me thinking.

David Putnam: Fly Fisher Reflections



The Mushroom Dance

Pompano fishing recently with a very experienced friend, we anchored and tossed flies and jigs into "holes" known to hold pompano. I learned a few things.

He doesn't use an anchor chain, which I have done all my boating life, to let the catenary curve of the anchor rode help set the anchor. He doesn't want the noise. Instead, in his 20-foot skiff, he has a small laundry basket and 50 feet of 3/8 nylon line tied off the bow to a mushroom anchor.

Quiet is good, so as a guest you're encouraged to stay in your area of the boat, seated or standing. We fished three anglers, with him in the stern seat. He was able to cast to the area directly to his right and work his fly or lure along the bottom with the current in a wide arc to his right--down-tide--covering a broader area than the other two. The man in the middle had a narrower casting window, not wanting to over-cast the bow and stern anglers, and the man in the bow had to be careful not to catch the middle angler or his line if he tried to broaden his casting arc by casting up-tide along the anchor line. Stern man "covers" more water; his piece of the pie is larger.

If the guy in the bow starts getting more strikes than the guy in the stern, the stern angler can be effectively shut out. He can't reach over the other two anglers' lines and allow his lure to bounce down-tide in front of them.

If the man in the stern begins to catch fish and the others don't-- he anchored the boat knowing precisely where the fish "hold"--he's sure to begin telling stories...his biggest fish of all time, etc. He may offer suggestions to you... the speed of your retrieve, your hat. You may be asked to count the fish in the box. He's lost track.

If, for some unknown reason, the bow angler starts catching more fish than the captain in the stern, what does he do? Simple. He asks the bow man to shorten the anchor rode, which pulls the stern up-tide into the hot spot. (Implying that a small shift will improve fishing for everyone.) He always lets out all the anchor line and anchors up-tide of his known hot spot, then uses his motor to drag the anchor down-tide until he's positioned perfectly, having tested the up-tide area before the other two anglers, leaving them the area he's already fished. See why he uses the mushroom?

Bill AuCoin Flyfisher Flyover

Real World Reel Test -- George Anderson's Yellowstone Angler had its annual shootout testing 25 eight-weight reels on bonefish, permit and redfish. FYI...some mid-priced reels ranked near the top. ([Yellowstone Angler](#))

Flat screen TV's are fishing equipment? This is definitely not your father's ice-shanty. Paywall alert. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

Good news. Manatees make babies. Yes. And maybe we're learning how to count manatees better. But, I'm wondering, is it time for us to start thinking about someday putting them on the menu? *Okay, okay. Just teasing.* ([WTSP.com](#))

Salt flats fly fishing primer by Frank Sargeant. I really liked this part:

You'll wade with the sun at your back and wear Polarized glasses to cut surface glare. With a bit of patience, you'll eventually begin to pick out the bottom clumps that are fish from those that are grass. It's much like stalk-hunting deer; take a step or two, then stop and scan everything within range before you think about taking the next step.

And Frank adds another slice of excellent advice for fly fisher wannabes...join Suncoast Fly Fishers. Yep. ([Tampa Tribune](#))

SHARK! Florida earns the world title for unprovoked shark attacks. Volusia County was first with seven shark attacks. Good news for us, though: there were no shark attacks reported in the counties surrounding our Tampa Bay area flats (Pinellas-Hillsborough-Manatee counties) so my advice is keep on wade fishing. If a shark gets too close, slap the water with your rod tip. That'll scare it off. *He said, hopefully.* ([Orlando Sentinel](#))

On February 28 set your alarm for midnight and go dock light fishing. Snook season reopens March 1 on Florida's West Coast. The slot is 28 to 32 inches measuring from the mouth to the tip of the squeezed-together tail with the fish on its side. (You know how to squeeze the tail to measure it correctly, don't you?) ([Lakeland Ledger](#))

Ready for 20-pound black drum on a fly? Capt. Sergio Atanes doesn't mention fly tackle here but March is when the spawning black drum school up on the Tampa Bay flats so thick, as Sergio puts it, "the sandy bottom turns brown." ([Florida Marine Times](#))

Ready to tie some IGFA tarpon leaders? Our own Capt. Pat Damico has a web page devoted to the subject. ([Captpat.com](#)) Or you can buy ready-to-go leaders from this trusty ally ([Orvis](#)). And, if you do get a tarpon to the boat this spring/summer make sure you swab the cheeks for its DNA and send it to FWC's TarponGenetics research. ([myfwc.com](#))

Once again there's a national TV ad that makes the fly fisher look like a boob. This time it's a **Southwest Airline's TV ad** depicting an actor making all kinds of fly-fishing mistakes. ([Field & Stream](#)) Not only that, but there's a web article I found about how the company that makes that TV ad takes special care to get everything in its commercials "just right." Oh, then making the fly fisher look foolish was intentional? ([BlogSouthwest](#))

Who knew? Big Mouth Billy Bass on a wall is a crime-fighting tool. ([CBS-Minnesota](#))

