

On The Fly

January 2014 Volume 24, Issue 1

Prez Sez

By Tom Gadacz, President, Suncoast Fly Fishers



A Fly Fishing New Year's Resolution

Last January the resolution was to share your fly fishing enthusiasm and knowledge with others. This is part of Don Coleman's philosophy of what do you have but can give to others without losing? Your **knowledge**. Don practiced what he believed. So continue this resolution over to 2014. In addition add a resolution to get out and fish more often. We live in a fly fishing paradise. Some of my favorite spots include Fort DeSoto, Pinellas Point, and

the Hillsborough River. Your board of directors continues to plan some great outings and I would like to encourage many more of you to participate. We have fished some scenic spots and always had a great time even when the catching was not so good. The reason most of us fly fish is for enjoyment, camaraderie, and the challenge of catching a fish on the fly. Get out and practice those casting skills you learned at the casting clinics. Share the where, when, and how. What a great combination of resolutions – share your knowledge and get out have fun – FLY FISH MORE in 2014.

Don Coleman Classic

We had great time at the Don Coleman Classic and many members joined us from the Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers and Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Don contributed much to fly fishing in this area and authored "Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod." That we did and had a great event! Thanks to Alan Sewell who made his two kinds of chili (red and white bean) assisted by Dave Barson. Also thanks to those who brought side dishes and snacks. We had great weather and tried a new shelter (#11) at Ft. DeSoto Park.

Trash and Treasures

This month's meeting will feature our auction for items donated by members. Bring those items in your fly fishing closet you wish to pass on to another member. Our skilled fly tiers can provide some great treasures of their favorite flies. If you received any "replacement" fly fishing gear as a holiday present, bring your "old" tried but functional gear. Alan Sewell is our auctioneer so be prepared for a memorable event.

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

On The Fly

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Continued...Prez Sez

Elections in March

This March we will have elections for 2 officer positions (president and vice president) and 3 board positions. The board has selected five members for the Nominating Committee: Kirk Burton, Mark Hays, Ken Hofmeister, Richard Oldenski, and Rick Warfel. They will present a slate of nominees at the February meeting and election will occur at the March meeting. If you are interested in serving as an officer or on the board, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members.

WEBMASTER WANTED

Anyone with computer skills and interested in helping keep our web site up to date, please contact me. Our web site is a critical part of SFF and portrays the image of our club to the public. It will not be an overwhelming job but will require posting monthly newsletters and announcements. Most of the material that requires posting is already written but needs listing on the web site.

Tom

News 'n Notes

Do not throw away any gear. If it's still usable, bring it to the **January Trash-n-Treasures** meeting and let auctioneer Alan Sewell get the most bucks for the bang. It's for good causes—you and me. Proceeds pay for the table fare at our monthly outing picnics.

On this night, you can be a hog. We're talking about our club's annual fund-raiser 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 now at the meeting or mail a check. Use the form on the next page.

Can you say **Gyotaku**? Tom Jones will help you say it...and do it. The class is scheduled April 5 from 9 am to 1 pm at Performance Plumbing's conference room. Wikipedia describes it as a traditional method of Japanese fish printing used once, perhaps, to record catches, now it has become an artform of its own. Sign up at the next meeting.

Florida Fly Expo Oct. 9-12 2014. Put it on your calendar. This major event sponsored by the Florida Council of the IFFF and the Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers will be held again at The Plantation In in Crystal River. You need to make it this year because after this one the Florida Fly Expo will start moving around the state to be convenient to fly fishers in other sections of our state. More info here. <http://fedflyfishers.org/Councils/Florida.aspx>

If you like your meeting location you can keep your meeting location. Walter Fuller, whoever you are, we like your park and meeting rooms. So, Suncoast Fly Fishers has signed the contract to continue our monthly meetings at Walter Fuller Park, 891 26 Avenue N. St. Petersburg. Fly tying 6 to 7 pm. Meeting and program 7 to 8 pm.

Welcome Flint Coast Outfitters. We have a new corporate member. Flint Creek Outfitters has opened a store in Tampa at 1502 N. Westshore Blvd. Flint Creek Outfitters also have stores in Ocala and in Riverview.

Project Healing Waters: Alan Sewell reports that we have five rod builders this year. FYI, volunteers will be needed for the April fishing expedition out of Bradenton Yacht Club.

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

- January 16 meeting. Our annual Trash 'n' Treasures meeting. Bring working gear to sell. Also bring money to buy things. This funds food and drink at outings and meetings. Myron Hansen will pass around a sign up sheet for exchanging three freshwater flies at the February meeting.
- January 18 Outing – Blackthorn Memorial at I-275 rest area.
- February 20 meeting. John Springer retired from the railroad in 2012 and is moving all about the country so he can fish as many trout streams as he can. He is a member of the Housatonic Fly fishing Association (motto: there's no tonic like the Housatonic.). Springer is coming at the invitation of our guy Dave Barson who knows and has fished with Springer on the Housatonic River in Connecticut. Fly Box Exchange.
- March 20 meeting. **Capt. Rodney Smith**, Savvy angler, conservationist, magazine publisher, and book author (**Enjoying Life on the Indian River Lagoon Coast**) will tell us what he has learned about catching more fish – here, there, and everywhere.
- 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 now at the meeting or mail a check. Use the form on the next page.

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.



Who Wrote This?

"Responsibilities diminish in equal proportion to distance in the rear view mirror."

11th ANNUAL HOG ROAST & SILENT AUCTION

This is a must event for every SFF member. This is our featured club event of 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: \$20.00 please make your reservation early. You may bring guests also for \$20/person.

Teens 13-19 \$10.00
12 y/o and under free

Please purchase your tickets early so we can provide the caterer with an estimate of attendees.

Sign up at the meeting or make out your check to **Suncoast Fly Fishers** and mail to:

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

Attach this form to your check

Reservations for 11th SFF Annual Hog Roast & Silent Auction

Name: _____

Number of adult tickets _____ @ \$20.00/person Total \$_____

Number of teen tickets _____ @ \$10.00/teen Total \$_____

Final Total.....\$_____

Who Wrote This?

"Learning the Latin names for all the aquatic bugs allows one to piss and moan in a dead language over poor fishing."

(answer on last page)

Suncoast Fly Fishers

*Event and Silent
Auction
\$200*



11th Annual

Hog Roast and Silent Auction

Saturday, March 29, 2014 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Join us for a good ole fashion pig pickin

Choice of three entries with all the fixins

At our comfortable indoor location

The Treasure Island Auditorium

120 100th Avenue

Treasure Island, Florida

Tickets \$20.00 per person, \$10.00 per child 12 & under

Make your reservations at the

SFF January, February or March Club Meeting or call:

Tom Gadacz 727-360-8030 or Paul Sequeira 727-543-7653

Or email thomasgadacz@yahoo.com

Alan Sewell's Fishing Reviews & Previews



December 14, 2013 - Don Coleman Memorial and Chili Feast. This outing was our annual memorial gathering to celebrate our past member and great fly fishing friend, Don Coleman. Don was a great teacher of fly-fishing and tying techniques. His fishing articles are still great reading for new and old fly fishers. Suncoast, Tampa Bay, and Mangrove Bay fly fishers attended this outing on a great day for fishing. It was probably the best day to fish in the USA. Over 50 fishermen attended, and many fish were caught.

After the lying was over, we had our Chili Eating Contest. I think we all won this event.

January 18, 2014 - This outing will be our last saltwater event to beat the 2013 - 2014 yearly tournament standings. All of Tampa Bay is open for fishing. Wade, kayak, or boat anywhere. Lunch will be served at the Blackthorn Memorial on the Skyway. This is a really good place to wade or paddle. Lunch will be served at 12 noon. Monthly prize will be for the longest flounder.

February 22, 2014 - Walsingham Park Lake. This will be the last freshwater outing to beat the 2013 - 2014 yearly tournament standings.

2013-2014 Fishing Tournament Standings

<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	Rick Warfel	17.5"	Fort De Soto Park	August

NOTE: All fish entered in the yearly contest must be caught at the club outing, in the zone defined, and must be at least the legal size set by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC).

Alan

Who Wrote This?

"Is a man who's too busy to go fishing a success?"

(answer on last page)

Member in the Spotlight: Charlie Most

Hometown: Chelsea, Oklahoma

When did you join Suncoast Fly Fishers: 2004.
What is your favorite gamefish to catch on a fly, and why?

Fresh water trout -- rainbows, cutthroats, browns and eastern brook trout. Any fish can be a challenge, but these lend themselves to problem solving including the right fly at the right time, a carefully calculated presentation of that fly, and then landing fish on delicate tackle. The venue where fish are usually found is a major factor with the clear, cold water and scenic hills and mountains where these waters flow.

A close second is smallmouth bass in the streams of Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia. They deserve their German name of forellen-barsh which translates to trout-bass.

What are your top three places to fish?

The Nature Conservancy's Silver Creek Preserve in south-central Idaho for rainbow trout, the Shenandoah River in Virginia for smallmouth bass, and Shenandoah National Park for brook trout.

What are your go-to fly rod and fly reel?

I decide which rod by the nature of the place I'm fishing. For those Silver Creek rainbows, I use an 8 ½ foot 5 weight I made from a Loomis GLX blank and a Ryall reel. For the Shenandoah River smallmouth bass, I use a 9-½ foot, 7-weight built on a Loomis GL-3 blank (I wet waded this river, sometimes up to my shoulders, on hot summer days and the long rod was great for reaching good cover). I used a larger Ryall reel for this. The little brook trout creeks in Shenandoah National Park almost always have an over-head canopy that limits casting with a long rod. For that I use a 5 ft, "half weight" built on a Temple Fork blank and a Hardy Golden flyweight reel and 2-weight line.

How and when did you get interested in fly-fishing?

I spent my teen years with my mother in a small apartment on the main street of Chelsea. My father worked on military construction sites in neighboring states and my two brothers were serving in the South Pacific—one in the Marine Corps and the other in the Army Air Corps. There was a barber shop just across the street and I would read the outdoor magazines there. The idea of fly -fishing fascinated me. An elderly man in our town had a combination hobby/job refurbishing bamboo rods and I used to go to his house and watch him. Then one night I won \$80 in the town's movie house cash drawing. The first thing I did was run to McHenry's house to pay \$20 for one of those bamboo rods. That was in 1944 and I still have that old rod and the Ocean City Plymouth fly reel for it.

I had a night job at Sun Valley, Idaho for two years between high school and college, and I either skied or fished almost every day. In the spring of 1950 I became an Idaho registered fishing guide there and did that kind of "work" for two additional summers after starting college. That's one reason I listed Silver Creek as my favorite water.



Charlie Most with a Montana western-slope Rock Creek cutthroat caught in 2004.

Continued

Continued ... Member in the Spotlight: Charlie Most

Why do you prefer fly fishing to fishing with spinning or casting gear?

Good question! I worked in Idaho for two years and for four summers after high school. Most of my fishing there was fly fishing but when the spinning craze started right after WW II, I bought a spinning outfit. I am sure it was the first spinning outfit sold in Idaho because no one in the sports store knew what I was talking about. They did order one and I used it some for trolling in Sun Valley Lake. I got into bait-casting later and liked that a lot. My choices tend to fit the situation although if the fish I'm after can be caught on a fly in water that is suitable for fly-casting, that's what I use. There is artistry in fly-fishing and in fly-tying.

Do you tie flies? What flies do you like to tie?

I get a lot of pleasure in tying any fly but I suppose I like tying flies for mountain trout --dry flies, soft hackle wets, nymphs and midges -- more than any others.



Charlie Most plays a rainbow on Idaho's Silver Creek then called Sun Valley Ranch when the Union Pacific railroad owned Sun Valley Resort.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: This member profile is just one of many we'll be running in On The Fly. All members new and old are invited to email us their answers to these questions]

Who Wrote This?

"In case you haven't noticed, there really are some enormous and enormously fragile egos in fishing. The reasons for that are potentially too sad to get into, but I can tell you that having a big ego is like owning one of those huge dogs that crap on the floor and eat the couch if they don't get constant attention. I mean, it's just fishing and the best the big non-angling world can say about any of us is that we're harmless."

(answer on last page)

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 Sequira, 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 _____

Don Coleman Classic at Fort De Soto Park

The December end-of-the-year outing of the Suncoast Fly Fishers was a well-attended and fitting tribute to one our club's standout members, Don Coleman, who died April 5, 2006. Members of Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and Sarasota's Mangrove Bay Fly Fishing Club joined us for fishing the waters surrounding Fort De Soto Park and a wonderful lunch in Shelter 11 featuring red and white versions of Alan Sewell's chili, beef and turkey. Now, a word about the fishing. Slow.



Robert Fischer caught a succession of smallish speckled trout fishing a Bunces Pass drop-off near fort De Soto Park's Arrowhead picnic area.



Joe Dail, ready to chow down



*Alan's chili helped make this another successful outing honoring our former club member Don Coleman, author of *Fishing the Saltwater Flats*.*



This snowy egret was ready to chow down, too, but, as it was with the fly-fishers, catching was a tad slow.

Andy Constantinou: Bonefish, Bass, Tilapia and ... a Turtle?



Andy with one of many bonefish caught in November at Mexico's Costa De Cocas Resort.

Andy writes...

"I spent a very enjoyable bonefish week at Costa de Coca Fly Fishing Resort. Many fish were caught. We had a great week. I'm going there again in April and we're looking for more anglers to join us? It will cost about \$4,000 including food, drinks and gratuities plus flights from Tampa (about \$500)."

Here's a link to the website of the Costa de Cocas fly-fishing and scuba diving resort

Back in the states, Andy caught a five-pound bass (alas, no photo), a ¾-lb tilapia caught on a blob fly in a l large pond, and a turtle. Yes, a turtle.



Andy's blob fly tilapia from a neighborhood pond



Blob fly. Image and tying instructions courtesy of at Diptera.co.uk

Tom Jones: Trout. Permit. And a Manatee Show



Tom Jones and Norm Sande went fishing in Tampa Bay in late December and caught seven keeper trout, bunches of ladyfish, and a couple of smallish permit. But the main attraction of this expedition was the show of curiosity put on by the local manatees. Tom writes, "It was a hoot!" When one manatee decided to investigate the trolling motor Norm made sure the propeller wasn't spinning.



Pat Damico and Layne Smith Test Some New Flies



Capt. Pat Damico, success with new flies

Pat Damico writes, "Layne "Smitty" Smith and I spent a windy morning field testing some of our flies. We caught a variety of mackerel, jacks, trout and ladyfish. It was a great morning."

Pat

Layne (Smitty) Smith shared this note he wrote Pa after their successful outing.

"Hey Pat ... Smitty here to say thanks again for the great time on the water ... I learned a lot (now if I can just retain it) ... Hope I didn't put you out too much ...

Just goes to show fly fishing is a PROACTIVE sport ... You get away from it you get rusty quickly ... You couldn't tell by my performance yesterday, but I used to be a pretty good caster ... I could at one time shoot a whole fly line ... Now I'm lucky to shoot forty feet (if that) ... Guess I gotta' get back to practicing!!! In the meantime, Here is a photo for the newsletter ... Smitty! P.S. Thanks again ... You have no idea how good it did my heart and soul to get back out on the water again ... THANK YOU !

Smitty

Richard Oldenski: Recipe of the Month

Richard's Easy Asian Cole Slaw

3 bags of precut angel hair cabbage for slaw.

1 tablespoon sesame seeds or caraway seeds.

Ken's Steak House "Asian Sesame with Ginger and Soy" salad dressing.

Instructions: Place the angel hair cabbage in a large bowl. Stir in the sesame or caraway seeds. Toss in just enough of the Asian sesame dressing to lightly coat the cabbage. WARNING: too much dressing will make the coleslaw soggy. Serve at room temperature.

Who Wrote This?

"I'll say one thing in favor of waiting for your sinking fly line to slowly work its way to the desired depth; it gives you time to look at the scenery."

(answer on last page)

Tying Bench – Sandy Moret’s Cracked Crab As Tied by Layne (Smitty) Smith



Moret’s Cracked Crab Fly is a very effective permit fly and bonefish fly in the lower Florida Keys. It is a good choice for both permit and bonefish when fly fishing on the lighter bottomed flats.

Materials:

Hook: Gamakatsu SC 15 or Tiemco 811S 1 to 1/0
Thread: Chartreuse Flatwaxed Nylon
Tail: Splayed Grizzly Hackles (or Ginger Hackles)
Mouth: Pearl Estaz
Eyes: Mono Eyes or large plastic bead chain
Body: EP Fibers Tied Merkin Style (Baboon Style)
Weight: Lead dumbbell
Weedguard: 20# Fluorocarbon

Tying Sequence:

Step 1: Tie in base wrap of chartreuse thread.

Step 2: Tie in hackles (splayed so they curve out).

Step 3: Tie in 3 or 4 wraps of Estaz (making sure to stroke back after each wrap)

Step 4: Tie in plastic bead chain eyes with figure of eight wraps.

Step 5: Tie in small sections of EP fibers Merkin style (about 4 or 5 sections should do).

Step 6: Tie in lead dumbbell eyes again with figure of eight wraps.

Step 7: Tie in weedguard in “V” shaped position to protect hook point; then whip finish.

Step 9: Trim EP fibers using lead eyes and plastic bead chain as a guide (fibers should be narrower at lead eyes and wider at plastic eyes to create a crab body shape).

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip # 49



By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor

Join a fishing club

These casting tips originate in Newsletters from Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and Suncoast Fly Fishers Club so in a way I may be preaching to the choir. However, I often get comments from many others that read them, usually online. Recently TBFFC had a fly-fishing outing on a large saltwater retention pond containing snook, redfish and baby tarpon. About 15 eager fly casters lined the shore to cast flies under rather windy conditions. My biggest thrill for the day was to watch our fellow members all making long casts with tight loops, double hauling and showing very professional line handling techniques. Many accumulated this knowledge by taking advantage of casting clinics given by club members as well as outside instructors frequently invited by our club. There are 19 International Federation of Fly Fishers Clubs in Florida easily located on their website. Join one near you to add to your enjoyment of this great sport.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

Who Wrote This?

"Fishing trips involve certain rituals, not the least of which is packing. For easy local jaunts, I have it down now to where I can be out the door, fully armed, in no more than five minutes, starting from a dead stop. I have a mantra that I recite 'rodreelvestwaderscamera' and I never forget anything."

(answer on last page)

Mazzarella: Fly Casting and Fly-Fishing Instruction

The Five Essentials of Catching Fish: Part 4

By Dayle Mazzarella, IFFF Certified Casting Instructor

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.



4 How to set the hook.

Let's go back to the previous story involving my friend and my two clients. It should be noted that I used the word 'hooked' and not 'landed'. My friend landed nine of his eleven fish. My clients landed one of their five fish. We were using 5x tippets with size 18 nymphs and the fish are big, burly, explosive 18" — 21" rainbows that simply explode on being hooked. How do we protect weaker tippets? How do we set the hook?

Another example is tarpon fishing. A straight, very violent strip set is essential. Even then the hook might not penetrate. Without it we have no chance! My guiding record on the river mentioned above is 18 straight break-offs! (The incorrect equipment, too stiff a rod tip had something to do with it, but the two clients wanted to use their rods. Lesson learned — take the guide's advice!)

Learning to make the correct set is a big part of success in many fishing situations. If we set too soon, too late, or too hard or too soft, we may not hook the fish or we will break the fish off on the hook set. If we want to catch more fish, we need to learn to set the hook properly!

Dayle Mazzarella, MCI

Who Wrote This?

"We like to see nature as this perfect, perpetual motion machine that just hums along forever, neat, tidy, and dignified, but on a day in, day out basis it's a messy and violent business."

(answer on last page)

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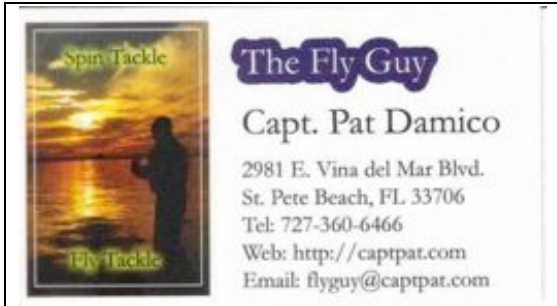
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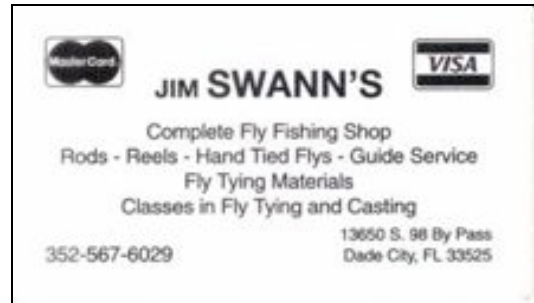
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Al Pitcher: Just Thinking



How Many Is Enough?

I recently had a fellow fly-fisher ask me, what at the time I thought to be a rather silly question or maybe, to be more politically correct, just a strange question: “just how many fly rods and reels/lines do you need”? That question got me thinking; how many is enough?

So, how many fly rods and reel/lines do I really own? I wasn't sure; I know I had a lot with each one having a specific purpose; at least that is what I tell my wife every time she ask “why do you need so many fly rods and reels.” So, I sorted and inventoried my fly rods and reels. I own fourteen fly rods, fifteen fly reels and line along with four spare spools and line. Now that may seem like a lot of fly-fishing equipment to some people, but I can assure you there was a very good reason for each and every purchase. Also, those reasons made sense to me at the time of purchase and maybe they still do; I will have to think about that.

So, to continue this exercise, I reviewed each piece of equipment and began thinking about why I had still had it. What purpose is it serving? The fact is that my fly fishing equipment was purchased at various times along the path of “enlightenment” in this magical sport called fly fishing. My equipment can be broken down into really good (defined strictly by my pocket book), average, and the “price was just right.”

When I got back into fly fishing, some fifteen years ago, I started with two very good rods (both two piece) and just average reels and very good line. Along the way, I have matched the original rods with really good reels and some extra spools. My next progression was the purchase of four piece rods for travelling. However, I then realized I didn't necessarily have the correct reel to rod match up with the four piece rods; nor did I have some rods, say 10wts for specific fishing conditions. So, I continue to work on the balance of my equipment. And that is where I currently find myself; the cycle continues.

Now I know that I can only use one or two rods at a time, but I do like switching out the rod, reel, and line combos much like a golfer likes to use different drivers, wedges, and putters. Also, different seasons require different lines hence extra spools. This little exercise has made me realize that my inventory of equipment is currently heavy on 8wts; light on really good reels, and short on 6 and 7wts. Oh, did I say I currently don't own an 11 wt or 12 wt for tarpon?

Fly Over

Bill AuCoin: Fly-Fishing Once Over Lightly

Commercial fishers won't take NO for an answer.

In 1994 Floridians voted to change the state constitution to restrict gill and cast net sizes in nearshore waters. But North Florida commercials keep petitioning friendly judges for relief. Here's the latest. ([Miami Herald](#))

Is it time to oppose NMFS for their pro-longliner policies? Oh yeah. The time is now. Amendment 7

would reward commercial longliners with more bluefin tuna because, well, they've been taking more than they should have anyway. Here's what's happening. And why you care. ([Norm Schultz Blog, Soundings Trade Only Today](#))



The Law of Unintended Consequences. So we were told that ethanol would be a good thing, that the U.S. could become energy independent. Now we know it's harmful to outboard motors. And that our autos get poorer gas mileage. And food costs more. And if the land, rivers, animals and fishes could complain, they would be screaming. Ethanol subsidies are just another opportunity for the many to cough up money for a few farmers. And it's a prime opportunity for the Law of Unintended Consequences to [show its ugly side.](#) ([The Daily Iberian](#))

Remember, always pinch the barb down. Graphic (very) video at the link. Consider yourself warned. ([Field and Stream](#))

Fiberglass rods are back on the fly fishing scene. If you're in the softer-is-better camp you'll be interested in this. ([Streamside Orvis](#))

Would you rather fly fish with a primevalist or a professor?

Ken Hofmeister emailed the link to this interesting Battle-of-the-Bards challenge featuring outtakes from the works of Ted Leeson and Harry Middleton. Actually, I don't think either would want me along when they fish. Also, Ken is asking, is *primevalist* even a word? ([Midcurrent](#))

Or would you rather fly fish with Dave Barry? Reread this oldie but goodie, Fear of Fly-Casting. I'd go fishing with Dave Barry. Once. ([Miami Herald](#))

Or would you rather fly fish with John Gierach? I would. He's the author we've quoted at the bottom of some of the previous pages Thanks to Al Pitcher for seeding this idea and to al and Mark Hays for contributing their favorite *Gierach Gems* from [Death, Taxes, and Leaky Waders](#), [At the Grave of the Unknown Fisherman](#), [Sex, Death, and Fly Fishing](#), and [Trout Bum](#) ([Midcurrent](#))