

On The Fly

July/August 2014 Volume 24, Issue 7/8



At the June meeting Captain Ethan Kiburz talks tarpon on the fly and what you need -- reel-rod-leader-flies. He's had a good year so far. Page 8.



That's Nick Colantonio. They call him "The Comatose Angler." He promises to be awake when he speaks to us at the August meeting. Page 5 (Oh right, the July meeting? Tie flies. Eat

pizza. Also, eat pizza.



This young lady showed the boys how to fly cast. See "Ladies First" on p13 and read about the youth fly casting sessions at E. G. Simmons Park. P 15

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

On The Fly

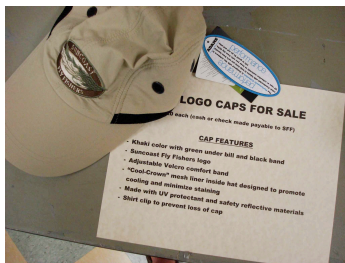
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News 'n' Notes

July 17 meeting: Tie-A-Thon. Free pizza. Fly Box Exchange -- Bring your vise and materials and tie flies. Eat free pizza. And, just in time for the docklight outing, Myron Hansen's fly tiers will each tie three flies that catch snook under the lights and they'll swap them at the July meeting.

SFF Logo Hats going, going, and almost gone -- They ordered 50 hats and they all went on sale at the June meeting. Now there are only a few left. It's a first class hat with a dark green under-bill to block reflection from the water's surface and to help you see into the water. Bring a \$20 bill or a check to Suncoast Fly Fishers to the July meeting .See Karen Warfel.



These are first class fishing hats.

- Khaki color with green under bill and black Band
- Suncoast Fly Fishers logo
- Adjustable Velcro comfort band
- "Cool-Crown" mesh liner inside hat designed to promote cooling and minimize staining
- Made with UV protectant and safety reflective materials
- Shirt clip to prevent loss of hat

Only five Flint Creek Outfitters raffle envelopes are left -- If you invested \$15 in one of those sealed envelopes at the June meeting it was a darn good investment because each one was packed with at least \$15 worth of fly fisher goodies. And it was a super-duper investment for some (your

editor included) because some of those envelopes also contained a gift certificate good for \$25 worth of merchandise at Flint Creek Outfitters on Westshore Blvd in Tampa. Treasurer Karen Warfel has reported that there are five bags remaining and each has fly tying materials worth at least \$25. One of them also contains a \$25 gift certificate you can redeem at Flint Creek Outfitters. See Karen at the July meeting. Just \$15. It is a deal.



At the June meeting Deborah Brooks, Project Healing Waters Deep South Project Leader, presented Suncoast Fly Fishers Tom Jones (l) and John Craig (r) with certificates of appreciation from Project Healing Waters for serving as volunteer captains and observers in the recent PHW Fly Fishing Tournament for veterans.

Strategic Planning -- Tom Trukenbrod will chair the Strategic Planning Committee. Members are George Haseltine, John Craig, Myron Hansen and Richard Oldenski.

Thank you, Plano Molding -- Plano Molding has donated 50 medium fly boxes to the Suncoast Fly Fishers to help us continue to do the good work that we do, like helping veterans and teaching kids to fly fish. Twenty will be raffled at our monthly meetings. Another 15 will be auctioned at the Hog Roast in the silent auction and another 15 will be part of the Hog Roast bucket raffle.

News 'n' Notes

Membership Renewal

SFF membership renewals for the 2014 – 2015 period are due in September. If you joined in the three months prior to September 2013 (June, July or August) or if you have already paid for 2014 – 2015 then you do not need to renew. Those wanting to renew early should see Karen Warfel at the July or August meetings.

There are many benefits of membership in SFF which are emphasized as follows:

- Each month you will receive the highly acclaimed SFF newsletter, *On the Fly*.
- We have monthly (except for December) membership meetings with informative programs about fly fishing and related topics.
- We have monthly outings which include lunch and they are held at great fresh and saltwater venues like Ft. De Soto Park, Walsingham Park, Pinellas Point, Skyway Bridge I-275 Rest Area and Hillsborough River. We have extra trips to the Everglades and St. Johns River. And there are special events such as the Trash and Treasures Auction and additional bargains at the Annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction.
- You have access to fly casting instruction before some of the membership meetings and well organized casting clinics staffed by IFFF certified casting instructors, some of whom are certified master fly casting instructors.
- Like to tie flies? Then watch some of the best tie their favorite flies before most membership meetings in addition to participating in periodic fly tying workshops. Also participate in bimonthly fly box exchanges organized by Myron Hansen.
- Interested in outreach programs? Then join in with the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) at the Bay Pines Veterans Administration Medical Center and help our service men and women tie flies, build rods and go fly fishing. Talk to Terry Kirkpatrick and John Craig about the details. Our members also teach young people to tie flies at Marine Quest, the open house held in the fall at the big Florida Fish and Wildlife Research complex in downtown St. Pete.
- We are in our second year of participating in a program with summer youth fishing camps. SFF members are teaching fly casting to a number of youths nine to 14 years old.

All of the above and much more for only \$15 a year! Renew at the meeting or send a check for \$15 (individual membership) or \$25 (family membership) and the membership renewal form on the next page of this issue.

SFF Club Calendar

- July 17 meeting. Eat free pizza. Tie or watch others tie. Yuk it up.
- July 18, and August 4 -- Suncoast Fly Fishers have already taught two classes at the E.G. Simmons Youth Fishing Camp. Volunteers are needed.
- July 19 -- Docklight outing. See Alan's Reviews and Previews in this issue for details.
- August 6-8. IFFF Fly Fishing Fair in Livingston, Montana
- August 21 -- August meeting. Our presenter is Nick Colantonio. See the Ready-Set-Go Profile on Nick in this issue.
- August 23. August outing at the Sunshine Skyway I-275. You can fish either side of I-275. Lunch at the Blackthorn Memorial rest area.
- September 13-14, Florida Sportsman Outdoors Expo, Florida Fairgrounds in Tampa.
- October 10-11 Florida Fly Fishing Expo, The Plantation Inn on Crystal River. Volunteer.

Florida Fly Fishing Expo -- World renowned fly fishing experts Bob Clouser of Pennsylvania and Wanda Taylor of Georgia will be special guest instructors at the Florida Fly Fishing Expo Oct. 10-11, 2014 Expo at The Plantation on Crystal River. Visit the IFFF-FL website www.iff-florida.org for up to date information and to pre-register online.



SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) for new and renewing members. Membership 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>

Meet Our August Meeting Speaker

"The Comatose Angler" -- Nick Colantonio

Following a tour of duty in the Navy and a 35-year career in chemical engineering, Nick retired to pursue redfish, snook and trout on the flats of Tampa Bay. Fish populations are safe.



Nick Colantonio, aka "The Comatose Angler" because of slow reaction times, is our August meeting speaker. From the looks of it, slow reaction to a fish strike is a good thing.

Nick is known as THE Comatose Angler in Florida, Alaska, and Ireland. The moniker was bestowed on him by a fellow fly club member in recognition of his notoriously slow hook set. A guide in Clare County, Ireland commented "Nick, your reaction times are brutal". Today an award at Alaska's Goodnews River Lodge is presented in honor of The Comatose Angler.

In December, 2013, Nick participated in the inaugural IRL Paddle Adventure - paddling his 17-foot Grumman canoe the length of the Indian River Lagoon, from New Smyrna Beach to Jupiter - -a distance of over 150 miles. The trip was organized as a fund-raiser for the Marine Resources Council, with the intention of highlighting the beauty of the lagoon system and the very real problems that threaten its viability.

Nick will discuss the 19-day adventure and the lessons he learned on his first ever canoe camping trip. Lacking any fast twitch muscle fiber, he has ridden drag on cattle drives in North Dakota.

"I thought I would paddle the sweep canoe. Turns out I was not the Sweeper, but the Sweepee".

When not casting and retrieving, Nick devotes his time to the study of the Great Highland Pipes of Scotland and visiting a hospital and senior centers with his registered therapy dog, Sadie.

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers

Suncoast Fly Fishers

P. O. Box 40821
St Petersburg, FL 33743-0821
www.suncoastflyfishers.org

Club Officers

Pres: Kirk Burton, 727-631-3033
Vice Pres: Tom Trukenbrod
Sec: Ken Hofmeister, 727-521-1637
Treas: Karen Warfel

Board of Directors

Dick Miekka - Dan Bumgarner - John
Craig - Alan Sewell - George
Haseltine-David Putnam. Pat Damico.

Committees

Volunteers welcome. Please speak to
any director.
Casting Skills -- Pat Damico, MCI;
Dayle Mazzarella, MCI
IFFF Liaison - Pat Damico
Fly Tying -- Myron Hansen
Membership -- Karen Warfel
Webmaster - Dick Miekka
Hog Roast 2015- OPEN
Club Outings and Lunches -- Alan
Sewell, Richard Oldenski, Mark Hays
Project Healing Waters -- John Craig,
Terry Kirkpatrick
Raffles -- Dave Barson
Programs -- Board of directors
Newsletter, publicity -- Bill AuCoin

Aims and Purposes

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) is a non-profit 501(C) 3 organization and a charter member of the International Federation of Fly fishers.

Suncoast Fly Fishers 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.

Monthly Meetings are the third Thursday of each month except December from 6 to 8 pm, Walter Fuller Park Recreation Center, 7981 26th Ave N., St. Pete



<http://suncoastflyfishers.com/meetings.html>

The Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. (SFF) is an organization of fishing enthusiasts who love fishing with the fly rod. We welcome all people of all ages with similar interests; regardless of their fly fishing skill level. We enthusiastically teach those that wish to learn or improve their fly casting, fly tying and related fly fishing skills. SFF meets monthly where we talk fly fishing, tie flies and most months feature a speaker with a program highlighting local fly fishing opportunities. SFF is a non profit 501(C)3 organization.

SFF is a charter member of the [International Federation of Fly Fishers \(IFFF\)](#). SFF is a member of the [Florida Council of IFFF](#)

Contact Us: By U.S. mail: Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40821, St Petersburg, FL 33743-0821

Alan Sewell's Club Outing Reviews & Previews



June 21, 2014 - Our last outing was the annual *Fish & Float* on the Hillsborough River. The weather this time turned out to be perfect, and the river was at its best for floating. No one got lost until the next day. This outings prize was for the longest total length of best bass and bream. Adam was in the Keys and Mark Craig could not come through with a winner, so that left it up to our female anglers to show their stuff. Annie Hays thought she had won with a 11-inch bass and a 8-inch bream; total 19 inches. Then Karen Warfel came in with a 14-inch bass and 7-inch bream, for 21 inches, to take home the prize. This was another F.F.F.F. event (Fun, Friends, Fish and Food). Just what Suncoast Fly Fishers is about.

July 19 - 20, 2014 - Nighttime Fly Fishing. This July outing will be our annual night fishing adventure. Fishing is allowed anywhere in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. Time will be from 10 pm on the 19th to 6 am on the 20th. Dock lights, passes, seawalls, bridges, and the beaches are all holding fish. The prize for this outing will be for the longest snook. Call Alan, after noon on the 20th with your results: 470-4570.

August 23, 2014. Skyway Bridge Flats Fishing. You can fish lower Tampa Bay on either side of I-275. Then meet for lunch at the Blackthorn Memorial Rest Area.

2014 - 2015 Outing Tournament Catches

Largest Bass - Karen Warfel - 14-inches

Largest Sunfish- Annie Hays - 8-inches

Largest Ladyfish - David Putnam - 21-1/2 inches

Largest Speckled Trout-Open

Largest Redfish-Open

Largest fish of other species - Adam Hays. Peacock Bass

Note: All fish entered in the yearly contest must be caught at a club outing, in the zone defined, and must be at least the legal size set by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission

Alan

(Editor's note: And speaking of docklight fishing: Flint Creek Outfitters is organizing a docklight team tournament on September 27 starting with a captains meeting at 6 pm at the store at 1502 Westshore Blvd. Weigh-in is at noon on September 28 at the store. See Ethan Kiburz at the meeting or call him at the store for all the details.)

Capt. Ethan Kiburz: Insights for Tarpon on a Fly



Ethan's tarpon reel -- Orvis Mirage LA VII Shallow model which has a sealed 16-carbon disk drag that is "awesome." His rod is a 12 weight Orvis Helios 2.

Contact info
Capt. Ethan Kiburz
727-278-4707
ethankiburz@gmail.com
Tampabaynativefishingcharter.com

Captain Ethan Kiburz was our June meeting speaker and he was telling us what a huge tarpon season it has been.

He said that just about every morning he has been quietly maneuvering his flats boat to the clear Gulf waters just outside the swim markers at Caladesi and Honeymoon Island State Parks. He gets his client squared away on the casting deck. He climbs up on his poling platform. The rising sun helps Ethan see into the clear water. There's one. There's another. A few hours later when they return to the launching ramp he has seen maybe a thousand tarpon. Yeah.

Where is the easy part. Where is anywhere along the 35 miles of Gulf beach from Tarpon Key to Mullet Key or maybe Anna Maria Island. You don't need to go to Boca Grande, you know. There are more tarpon in the St. Petersburg-Clearwater area and all those tarpon anglers aren't right on top of each other.

The HOW is tougher. Equipment must be tough, too.

Boatside Lifting Power

Use a 12 weight rod. Oh, sure, you can fight 'em on 10 and 11 weight rods but you'll have trouble pulling a tarpon close enough for the guide to grab the leader. And to put the most pressure on a tarpon, do not hold the rod up high. Keep it pointed at the horizon and then you get to use the backbone of the rod to put on the most pressure. Keep the rod low to the water so you can always be ready to do the down and dirty on the stubborn ones. Tarpon don't like to get near boats, you know.



Seaducers Galore -- And you can't buy any. Ethan ties them for Ethan. He tied some more at the June meeting.



Purple is his go-to color. And if that ain't working, Ethan switches to tan. Then yellow. He ties it on a 1/0 Gamakatsu SL 12 J hook.

Continued...Capt. Ethan Kiburz: Tarpon Insights



Our June speaker, Ethan Kiburz (L.) and Trent Comer, proprietor of Flint Creek Outfitters. When he's not guiding, Ethan manages the fly fishing department at the Tampa store, 1502 Westshore.

His leader is not your father's leader. It's two seven-foot lengths of 50-pound fluorocarbon joined by a double uni-knot. Ethan said he's not worried about losing his fly line to a line-spooling tarpon because the leader knot or the knot to the fly will break before the leader line. Casts aren't long; 50-feet is about right. He often tells clients to throw for a longer cast so they can pull back on the shooting line so the long leader lays out straight.

He starts tarpon fishing in May. The water temperatures are not as warm as they will be so often tarpon are deeper. But by June and especially July they are quite comfortable in 4-6 feet of water. He continues to fish through August. June is best.

In all cases he goes with floating line. In the early part of the season when the water's cold he'll use floating line with a sink tip. When the water warms he prefers the line to float all the way to the leader. "If you need to fish a little deeper you can let the sinking Fluorocarbon take the fly down deeper if you need it deeper," he said. He likes Orvis Hydro floating line with a blue color that he can see looking down but, hopefully, the tarpon can't see looking up.

And these...

- To get their attention make the fly breathe with short tick strips. Then when you've got their attention, turn on their predator instinct with a mix of shorter and longer strips.
- If the tarpon tries to come up for air. Don't let it. Pull it down.
- If the tarpon goes right, pull left and down. If it goes left, pull right and down.
- Watch the fly, not the fish.



Ethan Kiburz' seaducers get admiring glances from Adam Hays, Bill Hays, Mark Hays and George Haseltine.



Capt. Dan Bumgarner examines Ethan Kiburz' tarpon reel and leader. Kiburz uses two seven-foot stretches of 50-lb fluorocarbon joined with a double uni-knot.

Joe Corr: Garage Sale Jackpot Gift

I thought this might be interesting for the next issue.

My neighbour Susan returned from scouring local garage sales last week and gave me a box of fishing paraphernalia. The contents of a large cardboard box cost her the princely sum of \$6.

She knew I fly fished but really had little clue what she was buying other than the fact she felt the weight of this Dyna-King vise and instinctively knew it had value. Also included were a homemade rod building kit and about 40 spools of threads. This has to be the bargain of the year, maybe our members have similar stories.



Joe Corr's neighbor hit the fly fisher jackpot at a garage sale, paying \$6 for this Dyna-King vise, a rod building kit, and 40 or so spools of thread. She gave it all to Joe. Now we can call him Jackpot Joe.

Joe

Bill AuCoin: Permit or Pompano?

Is it a pompano or a permit? I caught it on a bendback pattern wade fishing Tampa Bay with Steve Putbrese in late June.



It attacked my fly and ran circles around me, typical of fishes in the jack family. It even greyhounded a couple of times.

When I caught it I thought it was a permit. Heck, I wanted it to be a permit. Now, I suspect it's a pompano. Anybody know for sure?

It bit a fly I tied that was a variation of Layne Smith's *Summer's Tide* which he taught at his West Coast Slam Workshop a couple of years ago. I added a tweak at the top: Sili Legs. Don't tell Smitty.

Bill

Ken Hofmeister: Ladies First



Karen Warfel won the Hillsborough River outing with a two fish 21-inch total That's counting a 14 inch bass and a 7-inch bluegill. Yes, she did show Alan Sewell pictures and attest to taking the SFF oath to tell the truth. *Annie Hays* finished second with an 11-inch bass and an 8-inch bluegill.

Surely this was because the old SFF codgers were well-mannered gentlemen who were raised to "let ladies go first." That also would explain why Annie Hays won an IFFF sponsored youth competition a couple of years ago -- complete with a free week's trip to Montana where she

improved her fly fishing skills.

Visiting with Ken Doty, I commented on some beautiful flies on a table in a case. "Did you tie those?" I asked. "No, *Siobhan Archard* tied those. They are too pretty to fish." OK, so the ladies can tie "first class flies" as well.



Some of the beautiful flies tied by SFF member Siobhan Archard



Future fly casting champ at E. G. Simmons Summer Youth Camp shows the boys what casting a fly is supposed to look like.

But then at E. G.

Simmons Youth Camp

several of us SFF volunteers were teaching fly casting to 40 kids at a time. There was a bit of horsing around--until this young lady stepped up to the line and nailed the targets! Note the focus (in contrast to the young males in that group).

And then there is the rod building skill. Alan Sewell taught rod-building through PHWFF at Bay Pines VA to several vets. Seems that one vet, Patricia, listened well, worked hard, and won an all-expenses paid guided week-long fly fishing trip to Colorado. Maybe the vets

gave deference to women, huh?

Continued>>>

Continued...Ken Hofmeister: Ladies First



Capt. Rachel Nobbe-Cato put veteran Al Mitchell on this handsome snook at the PHW event in June.

At the PHWFF Bradenton Yacht Club outing for vets, guides, and volunteers it was a female guide, *Captain Rachel Nobbe-Cato* who successfully led vet Al Mitchell and volunteer Richard Oldenski to catch snook up to 26 inches. (On the same morning, SFF outing fellows had a good lunch and griped about the wind and the fish not hitting that day.)

Just in case you are feeling a bit intimidated, remember that *Wanda Taylor* (IFFF Certified Master Caster) will be at the IFFF Expo in October to further your education. In addition to speaking, she's also doing special sessions for women--so they can keep going first in our outings and tournaments

For a bit of historical perspective, it is noted that *Dame Juliana Berners*, the prioress of the Benedictine nunnery of Sopwell, near St. Albans, wrote in 1496 how to build a rod (staffe) with butt section made from a piece of green "hasyll, willowe, or ashe." Tip on this 15-foot rod was to be made

from Hazel, "black thornn, crab tree . . . or juniper." She tried to "match the hatch" and developed a set of twelve fly patterns, one for each month of the year. (Angler's Club of New York has a set of these flies

Editor's note: A current photo of Dame Juliana Berners was not available.

mounted on parchment). She started an economic revolution with that. (*Larry Koller, Treasury of Angling, pp. 14-16.*)



Wanda Taylor, MCI, will lead just-for-women fly casting sessions at the Florida fly Fishing Expo at Crystal River's Plantation Inn in October.

Finally, there is my granddaughter *Ada* (inspiration and tier of the Ada Potato fly). After hearing stories about the Ada Potato fly at our SFF Hog Roast, she turned to me and said: "I'm famous!"

Ken

Suncoast Fly Fishers Teach Kids How to Cast a Fly

By Tom Gadacz, Suncoast Fly Fisher and president, Florida Council IFFF

Suncoast Fly Fishers are teaching fly casting to youth from nine to 14 years of age at E. G. Simmons Fishing Camp, Ruskin, Florida. This is a report of the first two sessions -- June 23 and July 1. The next two are July 18 and August 4. With practice, boys and girls graduate from PVC practice pipes and paint brush drills to real fly rods.

Camp Director Dave Ramirez and his staff organized the kids and helped with managing the group. The kids had plenty of energy and several had some experience with fly casting. We had many more girls this year than we had last year.

Suncoast Fly Fishers demonstrated casting but most of the time we worked by giving them suggestions and occasionally had them practice the cast with the PVC pipe. It was a good transition from the pipes and paint brushes to the short Form rods. The 8'6" rods were good size for even the shortest kid.

Even though we shortened the leader to four-feet there were many "wind knots" even in the fly line. Most of them could hit the targets and modified their cast to increase the chances of hitting the target. The older group showed a greater interest in fly casting and several remained after the session for additional casting. Many had questions about fly fishing and sources for fly fishing equipment.



Ken Hofmeister gives some personal fly casting tips to new fly fishers



Suncoast Fly Fishers prepare rods and teaching gear for a new session. Volunteers, l-r: Ken Hofmeister, Tom Gadacz, Trom Truckenbrod, Bob Morrison and Rick Warfel (not shown, Don Manning)

Sharing our fly fishing enthusiasm was great fun and so rewarding experience we hardly felt the 90 degree sun. (Splashing each other during the water and paint brush drill also helped.)

This activity was support by a grant from Fish Florida.

Suncoast Fly Fishers members: Ken Hofmeister, Don Manning, Bob Morrison, Tom Trukenbrod, Rick Warfel and Tom Gadacz

Camp Attendees: First session: 36 youth, 9-10 years old . Second session: 40 youths, 11-14 years old.

Continued...Our Club Teaches Kids How to Cast a Fly



Rick Warfel works with two boys at the E. G. Simmons fly fishing camp



The casting course has 10 stations 10-feet apart. Targets (Hula hoops and kitchen pots) are 20 and 30 feet away.



Camp Director Dave Ramiriz (L) with Suncoast Fly Fishers Rick Warfel and Don Manning

Set up: Casting course 100' X 30', 10 stations 10' apart. Targets = 33" diameter hula hoops, 14" and 24" diameter pot dishes, and 4'V stakes.. Targets at 20'and 30'

Instruction

- Discussed differences between spin casting and fly casting.
- Explained and demonstrated casting stroke
- Demonstrated stroke and practiced with 0.5" diameter 2 foot length PVC pipe Called out forward cast "splash the paint" and back cast "pick up the phone"
- Practiced splashing water with a paint brush. Great suggestion by Dayle Mazzarella and see "On the Fly" March, 2014.
- Divided into two groups and paired up.
- Assigned casting lanes to each pair.
- Demonstrated and practiced with Form rods (50" rods with no reel; line shortened to 20 feet).
- Demonstrated and practiced with 8' 6" rods and reels (shortened leader to 4').
- Target practice to pot dishes, hula hoops and V stakes.
- Each youth received SFF Youth Fly Casting certificate.

Tom

Member in the Spotlight

Robert Fischer, Founding Member



Robert Fischer with a huge rainbow runner, possibly a world record, that he caught wade-fishing in the Abacos.

Hometown: Tampa

When did you join Suncoast Fly Fishers? I was a founding member along with Rick Redd, Jim Stewart, Jack O'Connell and others.

What is your favorite game fish to catch on a fly, and why? Bonefish – They live in a beautiful environment, they have to be stalked carefully and they make very strong runs. Dolphin – They are the most beautiful fish you can catch, they are all sight fished, they jump a lot, fight hard and they are great to eat. Plus sometimes they can be dumb as a bunch of rocks.

What are your top three places to fly fish?

1. North Andros Island- the Joulter Cays – you can have a religious experience here- I thought I had died and gone to heaven.
2. Marathon Key- this is the gateway to great dolphin fishing, plus tarpon, bonefish, barracuda and yellowtails. Been going there for 20 years.
3. Exumas, Bahamas- the Peace and Plenty Lodge holds many wonderful memories for me. It's probably

the best place for your first bonefish trip. Lots of willing small fish in paradise.

What is your go-to fly rod and reel? A 7-weight Loomis GLX and Scientific Angler's System II reel handle about 90% of my inshore fishing. But I recently threw the Sage Method rod and it could become my favorite, I was very impressed.

How and when did you get introduced to fly fishing? As a kid I read Outdoor Life magazine and watched Curt Gowdy on TV's "Flying Fisherman" show about 1958. So I saved up money from cutting grass and bought an Eagle Claw rod from Montgomery Wards. I used it to catch snappers and jacks from the sea walls in Miami and bass and blue gills in the St. Johns River in Jacksonville.

Why do you like fly fishing compared to fishing with conventional tackle? It's more aesthetic and artistic. There is more to fishing than just racking up body counts.

Do you tie flies? What flies do you like to tie? Yes. I like the spoon fly, Clousers tied like Gotchas, Leigh West's Green and Gold and of course the Golden Eye Shrimp.

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip # 55



By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor

Many new fly fishing enthusiasts have had their first success trout fishing with a floating strike indicator and a weighted nymph or 2 on the end of their tippet. If in a drift boat, they can lower the "rig" into the water and watch the "bobber" for some hesitation indicating a take. The guide will maneuver the boat allowing the offering to be in the most fishy locations and often will call out, "Lift or strike," and the sport will raise the rod tip and yell, "Fish on!" True, this is a very effective form of fly fishing not even requiring a cast for success.

If wading, a cast is made upstream with a very short line. This is more of a lob to position the rig so that the offerings drift without drag close to the bottom. After the "cast" the rod is held almost vertically keeping the fly line off the water to assist in eliminating drag, following the

indicator downstream, referred to as, "high sticking." If this has been your introduction to fly fishing it will not prepare you for 98% of what fly fishing is all about. Time for lessons!

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

A Salute to Suncoast Fly Fisher Guides and Casting Instructors

Nick Angelo	813-230-8473	http://shallowwaterflyfishing.com/	Tampa Bay
Dan Bumgarner	727-526-7565	http://www.tampabaycharterfishing.com/	Tampa Bay
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Casting Instructors			
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Dayle Mazzarella	760-703-0118	www.flyfishingwesternwyoming	Tampa Bay, Wyoming
Leigh West	813-971-8697	west123@tampabay.rr.com	Tampa Bay

Mazzarella: Grass Drill # 5: Feeding Line Drill

By Dayle Mazzarella, Master Casting Instructor

GOALS: Pick up 25-ft of line and feed to 45-ft. of line.
(Use Pick Up and Lay Down Drill to start.)

Principles: No slack, straight line rod tip path, constant acceleration, pause or timing, arc and stroke match line length.

STEP 1 : Place yarn at 25-ft. Rod tip down. Line straight. 20-ft. of line stripped off the reel and coiled on the ground.

STEP 2 : Execute pick up and false cast a few times, keeping your line hand on the line.

STEP 3: After a forward cast and stop, let the line go with your line hand.

STEP 4 : After a few feet of line has moved through your guides, clamp down on the line again. By now the line should be straight in front.

STEP 5: Now it's time to start your back cast. When first learning, you can take a few more casts before again feeding line on the forward stroke. Continue until all line is off the ground.

Trouble shooting:

1. Line does not shoot, or dies in a pile on the forward cast.

- a) The line was released too early
- b) Not enough power on the forward cast.
- c) Back cast did not straighten before forward cast was initiated (too much slack).
- d) Line was released too late.

STEP 6 : Work at feeding more line with fewer false casts.

STEP 7: Work at feeding line on forward and back casts.

Want a Challenge?

Step 8 : Starting with your fly at 25-ft see how much line you can shoot in three false casts.

NOTE: Feeding and shooting line efficiently is a prerequisite to "Quick Casting" to moving fish. It also allows the angler to spend more time with the fly in the water. (Not a whole lot of fish in the air!) It also prevents fatigue and helps to reduce spooking fish.

Bob Morrison: How-To



Are purple flies the next big thing?

Are purple flies becoming a big thing? Several people seem to like them, including two tying instructors that I know of, plus our speaker last month. This could be a good thing. I like Smitty's purple Tarpon Toad in smaller sizes for inshore fishing. Try some purple, and let me know what happens.

Flies that swim on their side

Here's an idea. Wounded or impaired baitfish tend to lose their equilibrium and lie on their sides while they struggle to right themselves. This behavior attracts the attention of predator fish. So, I am tying some patterns with the eyes on the bottom and on the top to simulate a baitfish on its side, with one eye looking downward, the other eye upward. Testing these flies should be fun. I'll let you know of my success, or the lack of it.

Summer drum

I hear that black drum are feeding on blue crabs around the bridge pilings and under the bridges in upper Tampa Bay. Maybe it's time to get out those crab patterns that we put away last spring. Then too, smaller blacks are supposed to be pretty fair eating. Blacks' size limit is 14 to 24 inches, limit 5 per day, and one fish may be over 24 inches.

Find sea trout in deeper water

Sea trout are moving into four- to six-foot water depths in search of temperatures that are cooler than the nearly ninety degrees that they are finding at the surface. Try a sinking line as well as some weighted flies to get to these fish. The sinking line should help you to make a smoother and more realistic retrieve.

What if a tarpon hits your snook fly?

Inshore predator fish are currently hunting shrimp and baitfish in the surf along the beaches. Work the passes on outgoing tides anytime, and on incoming tides in the morning, the earlier the better. Heavier leader tippets up to 50-pound test are in order, what with some good-sized tarpon patrolling the beaches as well the smaller fish.

Roll cast your way out of dock snag trouble

Docklight fishing at night is improving, but you need to be very, very quiet in your approach. Fish in these confined and shallow areas are very sensitive to any bumping noises that you might make in your boat, as well as loud voices. Finally, if you get a fly stuck on a dock, try a roll cast, which just might dislodge the fly by reversing the direction of the hook to twist it free. It worked for me.

Sneak up on 'em, and good luck!

Bob

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Al Pitcher: Just Thinking



The Day I Walked on Water

I have chased various species of fish in the Bahamas and all around the United States. I have enjoyed the hunt and capture from deep offshore to skinny water flats. However, I no longer wade-fish for them. Why, you might ask.

A very well respected member of our club recently provided me with my third and final reason why I don't wade-fish. Now, admittedly he wasn't wading, but fully immersed like, as he put it, "John the Baptist in the River" while swimming with his grandchildren and Homosassa River manatees. Because of a few cuts on his arm he came down with a serious case of MERSA. As the result he spent some time in some very expensive accommodations at St. Anthony Hospital. Worse yet, he was prohibited from fishing and missed the annual Everglades trip.

My second reason for not wade-fishing is my fear of drowning. I am an excellent swimmer. I was a life guard in high school and swam swimming from age eight until eighteen. I have participated in deep water wreck diving and spear fishing tournaments both in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic. But, on two separate occasions while wade-fishing, I became encumbered in a muck bottom such that I was not sure I would make it back to my craft or to the shore.

My first and foremost reason for not wade-fishing is I value my limbs. I was wade fishing a pond in Crystal River years ago. In order to reach a spot where I had lost a large bass the evening before, I had to push through a thick mat of water hyacinth and duck weed and step over several downed trees. Then....

Then, I stepped up and over a log onto the back of a very large creature that did not appreciate me using it as a casting platform. The gator moved slowly at first and then shot forward through the sunken trees and thick weeds. My next recollection was standing on the shore. I'm pretty sure I walked on water to get there.

David Putnam Fly Fisher Reflections



Fishing Tales

I was talking with a friend about a man in my fly fishing club who told me a story about a big fish he caught on a size six fly. Lots of jumps, ran off a bunch of line. Difficult to land, but he'd done it before. Outside the club they would call that a lie.

As I was telling the story my friend was smiling. He understood.

Before I could finish he came in enthusiastically with, "I know a guy like that, lies all the time. Can't believe a word he says. He told me the other day..."

I said, "Let me finish. You don't understand. This guy lies every..." Without hesitating a nano-second he came right over my story with, "Amazing, isn't it? This guy of mine lies about his heartbeat. He was fishing last week and he told me he..."

Still wanting to finish, I said quickly, fighting back, "Right, a lot of guys do, but in the club we try not to lie to each other."

That stopped him. He said, "Really? I know a couple of your members. Do they know the rules? One of your guys won't let you finish before he tops your lie. Very inconsiderate liar. He should at least let you finish before blasting you out of the water. I told him I'd caught some nice largemouths over at Lake Okeechobee, but as I was about to tell him the size and location he interrupted with a smile, said, "Good. I've been catching some snook in the 20-pound range down at Chokoloskee. Buddy of mine in Delray got a 26 pound wahoo on fly last week."

He flattened my Okeechobee lie like a bicycle tire...hisssssss.

What's the point of that kind of aggressive counter-lie? It isn't sportsmanlike.

Sometimes you just can't get no respect; know what I mean? It's sad. First storyteller in the club doesn't have a chance.

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Another notch for the CCA -- and a smack down for commercial netters and their lower court judge. Florida's First District Court of Appeal rules for CCA. The commercials may take the case to the Florida Supreme Court. I don't think that will do any good. Hey, the Florida net ban is in the Florida constitution passed by 72 percent of voters in 1994. It's all over but the shouting. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

Bass avoid lures. Who knew? This study showed that bass learned to dislike the lipless crankbait and the soft stickbait. Funny, I've learned to dislike them, too.

Anyway, I wish this study had included poppers, gurglers, and streamers, and you know, one can extrapolate. ([Waterworks, Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences](#))

Our May meeting speaker is a star. Remember FWC's Craig Baker who spoke at our May meeting? The Florida Guides Association has awarded Baker its *Trained Eyes Coastwatchers Office of the Year Award*. Baker's good work continues. In June he helped save the life of a man who flipped his rented PWC and was being carried out to sea in the strong currents of Johns Pass. ([FGA](#))

Catch it. Swab for DNA. Revive it. Release it. It's the right thing to do. But if you had a \$50 tarpon tag wouldn't you be tempted to take this piebald tarpon to the taxidermist? I'm just saying. ([Sportfishing](#))

Manatees aren't endangered, only threatened? With populations increasing so much maybe they'll let us run our boats at normal speeds on Crystal River again. Did you know the Florida Fly Fishing Expo is in Crystal River in October. Hmmm? ([Fort Myers News-Press](#))

It's snook catching (not snook keeping) season. Linesiders love the water at 85 degrees. Pods are foraging for minnows in the trough line just feet from where green Gulf waters meet white sand. Capt. Pat Damico offers some how-to, where-to. ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

Hey, Federal Fisheries wants to hear from you and me. NMFS is asking us for input for a National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy. I think they're serious about this and it's a good thing. Unfortunately, this is what probably will happen: The commercial fishing sector will get teed off. Their lobbyists will knock on congressional doors. Then the whole enterprise will get squashed. Oh, sorry; I meant to say postponed. Postponed, like, forever. ([NMFS](#))

Sex. So did you hear the one about the time the native trout met a non-native trout at a Montana bar and then one thing led to another? Oh my, the Be Very Afraid Global Warmers never stop wagging their fingers. I rather enjoyed the comments. ([WUWT](#))