

# On The Fly

March 2014 Volume 24, Issue 3

## Prez Sez

By Tom Gadacz, President, Suncoast Fly Fishers



### Time Flies When You're Having Fun- 4 Years

It has been absolutely great to serve as your President for 4 years and I am very thankful for all the progress we have made. Ken Hofmeister set an excellent example during his terms as President and set forth

high standards for our club with having fun, learning, sharing and continuous improvement. It is very important to have these aims and purposes at the forefront of our organization. It is what we are all about. Every new SFF member gets a welcome e-mail from me which includes our Vision and Values statement and our by-laws. Our Aim and Purposes are in every edition of "On the Fly." Strong leadership of the officers is critical as is keeping the membership informed of the board's activities and maintaining transparency of all financial records. The members who participate in many of our activities and share their experiences give our club the reputation of being the friendliest and the best of any fly fishing club. It is to all of you that I give my THANKS.

Carl Hanson had a saying that characterizes our club. "The only thing you have that you can give away and still keep is your knowledge." If you need

*Continued>>>*

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## On The Fly

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## Continued...Prez Sez

*By Tom Gadacz, President, Suncoast Fly Fishers*

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to be reminded of what that sharing is all about attend the meetings and outings and read Don Coleman's book "Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod."

### **So What is Left?**

A few parting thoughts. First, have a great time fly fishing and share your adventures. I know you have a favorite fishing hole but only you know when the fish will be there.

- Have fun by attending the meetings and outings and read the newsletter "On the Fly." The events will keep you involved and the newsletter informed. All for \$15 per year.
- Maintain your support for and membership in SFF and IFFF. They are the glue that makes fly fishing the sport we enjoy and are organizations dedicated to fly fishing. If you don't know what the IFFF has done for you and us you have not read my *Prez Sez* for the last years.
- Volunteer for outreach programs such as Project Healing Water Fly Fishing and the summer youth casting program.
- Support your officers and board members and even become one.
- Fly fishing activities include conservation, preservation, restoration and education. Also be courteous to others on the water.

### **Important reminders**

- Renew your SFF membership and keep your IFFF membership current.
- **Attend the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction March 29. Get your tickets at the meeting or mail in your reservation and check. Guest speaker is Jeff Klinkenberg and Sonny's BBQ is serving the food.**
- SFF Everglades trip April 25-27.
- Attend the IFFF Fly Fishing Fair August 7-9 in Livingston, MT.
- Attend the Florida Council Expo October 10-11 at the Plantation in Crystal River, FL.

## *Tom*

### **A salute to our outgoing president**

As Tom Gadacz led his last SFF board meeting as president, I reflected upon what had been accomplished during his watch. It is no accident that we are the largest fly fishing club in the state. We have a superb infrastructure that features an award-winning newsletter, transparent financial processes, and an ever-improving Internet presence. Our cooperation with other organizations and clubs is impressive. The list of achievements from Marine Quest to PHWFF, from summer camps to shows, is awesome. Tom has been relentless in pursuing excellence. And, he is still smiling and enjoying our passion—fly fishing. Tom has taught us much about "how to herd cats." Thank you, Tom!

*Ken Hofmeister, chairman of the nominating committee*

**Reserve your seating for the 2014 Hog Roast and Silent Auction. Mail your check today or pay at the March meeting.**

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. 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:** Sonny's BBQ is serving pulled pork, mixed ribs, and chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, macaroni and cheese cornbread, garlic bread, banana pudding, sweet and unsweetened tea, lemonade, water. BYO Beer and wine.

**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 each or 12 for \$10. 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 March meeting. 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 the March meeting you may mail your reservation(s) and check to: Suncoast Fly Fishers, PO Box 40821. St. Petersburg, FL 40821**

# Suncoast Fly Fishers

*Beer and Wine  
Allowed  
BYOB*



## 11th Annual

### Hog Roast and Silent Auction

**Saturday, March 29, 2014 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm**

**Join us for a good ole fashion pig pickin**

**Pulled Pork, Ribs & Chicken with all the fixins**

**Jeff Klinkenberg Featured Speaker**

**The Treasure Island Auditorium**

**120 108th Avenue**

**Treasure Island, Florida**

**Tickets \$20.00 per person, \$10.00 per child 13 & under**

Make your reservations at the

SFF February or March Club Meeting or call:

Tom Gadacz 727-360-8030 or Paul Sequira 727-343-7653

Or email [thomasgadacz@yahoo.com](mailto:thomasgadacz@yahoo.com)

## **Ready-Set-Go: Hog Roast Auction Preview**

### Chairs Rick and Karen Warfel unveil silent auction items

Hog Roast co-chairs Rick and Karen Warfel remind everybody coming to the Hog Roast that this annual fundraiser supports countless SFF worthy causes throughout the year including teaching fly-fishing to young anglers at summer camps and at Marine Quest, the annual open house at the Florida Marine Research Institute in St. Petersburg. Our club is a national leader with Project Healing Waters, the inspirational recovery program for returning veterans.

#### **DOOR PRIZE – Custom 10-weight outfit**

SFF members only are eligible for the door prize and a ticket is included in the price of the event. Members' tickets will be entered in the door prize drawing for a custom made Alan Sewell 10-weight signature rod—complete with Professional Series Flip Pallot WF-10-F line and a Lamson Konic 4 Reel II. The rod has a graphite composite blank; Hopkins and Holloway guides with oversized strippers including silicon carbide inserts and hard-chromed black snakes; hand-formed grips with burned cork rings; heavy anodized saltwater reel seat with butt rest; and a cloth rod bag. Alan has offered to inscribe the winner's name on the rod. The winner will be announced at 5:30 p.m.



*Lamson Konic 4 II reel and 10-wt line*

#### **\$5 RAFFLE – TFO 7-weight outfit**

A \$5 raffle ticket (or 5 tickets for \$20) could land you a high-end TFO Mangrove Series Flip Pallot 7-weight, 4-piece rod—complete with BVK large arbor reel and case and Royal Wulff Triangle Taper high performance fly line. Winner will be announced at 7:45 pm.

#### **BUCKET RAFFLES**

Ten buckets will feature lots of goodies and fantastic values. Tickets are \$1.00 each or \$10 for twelve. Buckets include knives, books, fly tying tools, fly tying materials, tippet materials, discount coupons, lures and more. Bucket and silent auction winners will be announced throughout the evening.

#### **SILENT AUCTION ITEMS**

Silent auction tables will feature a fine array of tackle and equipment that every fly fisher must have. Some of the featured items include:

- TFO 5-weight and 8-weight, Lefty Kreh Professional Series rods
- White River Classic 4-weight, 2-piece rod, 8' 6"
- Vintage Renzetti fly tying vise
- Flies from SFF premier tiers
- Books
- Alpen Optics waterproof spotting scope with tripod
  - Carbon Marine LineAir casting mat
  - GoPro Hero 3 waterproof camera outfit
  - Discount coupons
  - Guide trips from some of our favorite guides
  - Casting lessons from some of our favorite instructors
  - And much more .....



*Alpen Optics  
Spotting Scope  
and tripod*



*TFO Lefty Kreh Professional  
Series*

## News 'n Notes

### Capt. Rodney Smith -- March meeting fly tier and speaker

Rodney is a native Floridian, a charter captain, a fly fishing aficionado, conservationist, magazine publisher (Coastal Angler), book author, and CEO of Little Pond Publishing.

Rodney will speak to Suncoast Fly Fishers about catching and loving life on the Indian River Lagoon.

He'll be driving over from Florida's East Coast and hopes to arrive in time to tie some of his favorite flies, too. After the meeting, he'll autograph books that he has authored.



### **We vote for our new officers and directors at the March meeting**

Your SFF nominating committee (Ken Hofmeister, Rick Warfel, Kirk Burton, Richard Oldenski, and Mark Hays) commends outgoing president Tom Gadacz for his terms of service and many accomplishments.

The committee will distribute and count ballots for new officers and board members and they will begin their terms of service at the end of the March meeting. Members will elect five of the six candidates for directors and unopposed officers.

The committee recommends the following candidates for SFF Board of Directors and Officer positions.

**President: Kirk Burton**

**Vice President: Tom Trukenbrod**

**Treasurer: Karen Warfel**

Members will vote for five of these six recommended candidates for the board of directors

**Dick Miekka, Dan Bumgarner, John Craig, Alan Sewell, Jeff Heer, and George Haseltine**

*Ken Hofmeister, Chairperson, SFF Nominating Committee*

## News 'n Notes

### **Jeff Klinkenberg is the keynote speaker at our 11<sup>th</sup> annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction. City of Treasure Island Auditorium. March 29. 4 - 8 pm**



Author Jeff Klinkenberg is our Hog Roast headliner

Got your tickets for the Hog Roast? No? Then get them at the March meeting or mail your check now!

Our own Woody Miller will emcee this one.

Our featured speaker is 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*.

**Hog Roast tickets** – The March 20th meeting is the last opportunity to buy tickets for the Hog Roast and Silent Auction. Tickets may be purchased through the mail.

#### **Tie some flies for the Hog Roast Silent Auction**

“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*

**Website**--Dick Miekka will be our temporary webmaster with help from Tom Anderson, who hosts our website.

**Project Healing Waters Veterans Flats Expedition** -- May 17 from 9 am to 1 pm at Bradenton Yacht Club with 30 boats. The Suncoast Fly Fishers May outing will be held from nearby Emerson Point Preserve in Manatee County to facilitate support by our club's volunteers.

**Thank you, Fish Florida** – President Tom Gadacz thanked Fish Florida for its \$2,500 grant to our club and for fly fishing equipment to teach young people how to fly cast and tie flies. His 2013 activities report with photos noted that the club had purchased fly rods and reels with line and rod cases, Form practice rods, plus equipment for teaching young people at E. G. Simmons Park in Ruskin, Marine Quest in St. Petersburg, Fort DeSoto Park in Tierra Verde, and other venues.

Tom received the following generous acknowledgement:

*Thank you for the follow up. I love the photos and am really glad your club is out there making a difference in the lives of these children. I would love to go back in time and say “thank you” to all those people who shaped me in positive ways, but I didn’t know it at the moment. That’s what the Suncoast Fly Fishers is doing with all those children. Wonderfully done! Lara Kramer, Fish Florida*

## News 'n Notes

### Welcome New Members

Jim and Marie Shipley, N. Redington Beach  
Tommy Sivert, St. Petersburg  
Kevin Kelly, Rockaway Beach, New York  
Jimmie O'Dell Carroll, Gate City, Virginia  
Annie Hays (returning member), Saint Leo University  
Matt Munz, St. Petersburg



*New member  
Matt Munz*

*Matt writes, "I am a Florida native currently living in South St. Pete. The first time I fly fished was for cutthroat trout in Colorado about 10 years ago, and then never again until about 2 years ago when I got introduced to saltwater fly fishing. I'm still a novice but I'm having fun and trying to learn new things every day."*

*(New members: Introduce yourselves to fellow club members. Let us know about your interest in fly fishing, how long you've been a fly fisher and how you got introduced to the sport. Email Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin@verizon.net. Send a picture, too!)*

### Got a clean shirt and \$10?

Bring both to the March meeting and you can get the SFF logo embroidered on the chest.

### Gyotaku with Tom Jones, April 5.

Gyotaku is a traditional method of Japanese fish printing. 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 in St. Pete. See Tom at the March meeting to save a seat.

## Save the Date: Florida Fly Expo, Oct. 10-11 2014.



*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**

- 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 and especially his home waters of the Indian River Lagoon.
- March 22 outing—Fred Howard Park, Tarpon Springs
- 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, Urban Outing—Downtown St. Pete waterfront
- April 25-27-- Everglades canal weekend. HQ is La Quinta Inn, Fort Lauderdale.

**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

## **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.



# 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 March 20, 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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

## What has the Florida Council, IFFF, done for us lately? Well, actually, a lot.

*By Ken Hofmeister*

March 8, the Florida Council, IFFF Board met in Crystal River. Tom Gadacz, president, chaired this productive meeting.

It was encouraging to see the board approve a \$1,000 Youth Award to fund transportation to the Bighorn Youth Fly Fishing Camp for a Florida youth accepted into this program. The award will be known as the "Florida Council, IFFF, Skip Mackey Youth Award." We remember how SFF's own Annie Hays came back from this experience excited, educated, and equipped to be an even more proficient fly fisher.

Eleven new members were added to the Board of Directors giving many fly fishing clubs in Florida representation on the Council. In addition, Ken Hofmeister was elected Secretary of the FL Council. Attendees from Suncoast included Kirk Burton, George Haseltine, Tom, and me.



*Tom Gadacz, president of the Florida Council of the IFFF, chaired the March 8 meeting to build on recent successes throughout the state, to get Florida fly clubs more involved, and to generate even more attendance at the Florida Fly Expo in Crystal River in October.*

Pat Damico agreed to be "point person" in fostering casting clinics around the state, utilizing IFFF certified casting instructors to improve casting skills of members in some nineteen clubs. You'll remember that he and his fellow certified instructors helped many SFF members to cast better, further, with more accuracy over several years of such workshops.

Suncoast Fly Fishers, along with other Florida clubs, were invited to fish for shad by Reid Martin, Backcountry Fly Fishers. We've talked about it--now we are invited to camp and fish for those shad with our friends from around the state.

Finally, Tom Logan detailed an EXPO (October 10-11, 2014) plan that will be a benefit to all SFF members wanting to learn or acquire anything related to fly fishing. Last EXPO had 150 more participants than the previous one, and you can be sure this one will be even more attractive. Plan to attend the FL Council Expo October 10-11 at the Plantation in Crystal River.

I came away more appreciative of our fellowship of fly fishers, and the network of folks engaged in our sport around the state.

*Ken*

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## Alan Sewell's Fishing Reviews & Previews



**February 22, 2014**--Our last outing was held at Walsingham Lake County Park. This was the last outing in our 2013 - 2014 Tournament. The largest bass for the year, caught by George Haseltine, stayed the same, although he did catch the largest bass for this outing. The sunfish record was broken for the tournament by Siobhan Archard, who caught a 10-inch sunfish.

This was a very uncertain weather day. It started out with no wind with fog so thick that you could not see the shore. The fog cleared when it started to rain. Everyone was wet, but one member was really soaked. I am sure you will see pictures in this issue somewhere. Our members saved him, but not before many pictures were taken. Lunch was really good and all who attended had a great time.

**March 19, 2014**--This month's outing will be held at Fred Howard Park in Tarpon Springs. Lunch will be served at shelter #7. This park has good wading and kayak access. Boats can be launched at Anclote Park. The prize will be for the largest trout.

**April 19, 2014**--Urban outing in downtown St. Petersburg.

**April 25 - 27, 2014**--Everglades canal fishing. La Quinta Inn Sunrise has rooms for Suncoast Fly Fishers at \$76.50 per night. Call Gladys at 954-846-1200 for reservations.

**May 17, 2014**--Emerson Point Preserve, Manatee County

### **2013 - 2014 Tournament Results**

Largest Bass - George Haseltine

Largest Sunfish - Siobhan Archard

Largest Trout - Mark Craig

Largest Redfish - Mark Hays

Largest Ladyfish - Rick Warfel

**NOTE: 2014-2015 tournament starts with the March 2014 outing. 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*



*Tom Trukenbrod was thoroughly immersed in the Walsingham Lake outing. More info next page.*

## Ken Hofmeister: Good Samaritan

My take on it is that the "Good Samaritan" helped the unfortunate fellow in the ditch because he himself had been in the ditch. I've certainly capsized a canoe before. And most of us have flipped a kayak, fallen out of a boat, launched with the drain plug out, or managed to stall an outboard at an inopportune time.

We go beyond empathy and feel some sympathy when we see bad stuff happen to good people. Isn't it great that we can help each other? Aren't we glad that hooks and boats come out?

Within our SFF club, we generally laugh a bit with the victim; however, there is always the reminder to be vigilant. Truk was wearing his personal flotation device. He was not alone. Nor was he in any sort of "perfect storm."

We can all brush up on our water safety plans and anticipate a worst-case scenario --when least expected. My checklist is getting a bit more attention these days.

*Ken*



**Unplanned swim** -- Tom Trukenbrod samples February's cold waters in Walsingham Lake in Largo. Truk writes, "I became complacent trying to retrieve a fly caught on a lily pad, reached too far and slid off the kayak. Lesson re-learned. Just home from getting a new cell phone. Ugly."



*Ken Hofmeister tows Truk and his kayak to the Walsingham Lake shoreline.*

## Paul Sequira: Everglades Canal Primer

*[Ready for the Everglades Canal outing in April? We are pleased to reprint an article that Suncoast Fly Fisher Paul Sequira wrote for On The Fly last year. Thanks, Paul]*

If you've heard about SFF's annual special club trip to fish the Everglades and never joined in on this event, you probably have a few questions. After all, "The Everglades" covers a lot of acreage in south Florida so just what are we talking about? At previous club meetings, many questions were asked and much excellent information was offered. I'll review some of those questions and provide information that I think will be helpful to those who have never fished there.

**Where do we fish in the Everglades?** The canals right along Alligator Alley (I-75) in the general vicinity (about 5 miles west of the tollbooth) of the intersection with Route 27. This is known as the Miami Canal system. As you are traveling east on Alligator Alley you will see pull-offs from the highway with parking lots and boat ramps on both the north and south sides of the roadway. They are located near mile markers 31, 32, 38 and 41. Also, there are three boat ramps along Rt 27 (north of I-75) giving you access to these north/south-running canals. This is known as the New River Canal system. Somewhat further north on Rt 27 is another excellent fairly new canal access called Holey Land with plenty of parking and a first class boat ramp.

Go to Google Earth to view these locations. A listing of boat ramp locations along with GPS coordinates can be found at the website "Inshore Boat Ramps in SE Florida, Broward County" <http://www.inshore.com/br-brwd.html> The ramps we are interested in are the last three entries in the list.



Everglades Holiday Park has excellent access to a large canal system (the New River Canal - South system) and is located off Rt 27 (about 5 miles south of I-75) on Griffin Road (the first traffic light you come to on Rt 27). There are boats with outboard motors available for rent here. Go to

<http://www.evergladesholidaypark.com/> for more information and excellent directions and map.

**Where do you stay?** A convenient and comfortable place to stay is the LaQuinta Inn Sunrise Sawgrass Mills, 13651 N.W. Second St, Sunrise, FL 33325 tel. 954-846-1200. Directions and map at

<http://go.reservediscounthotels.com/hotel/propertydetails/134566/MAPS?isHRN=true&cid=265820>

Also, campsites are available at Everglades Holiday Park tel. 954-434-8111, see link in preceding paragraph for directions and map. Both of these locations are a reasonable drive from all of the fishing spots listed above.

*Continued>>>*

## **Continued...Paul Sequira: Everglades Canal Primer**

**Can you wade fish in the Glades?** The short answer is no. Although the water depth in the canals varies depending upon rainfall and how much water is being released into them, the average depth is said to be approximately 18' to 20'. Also, there are many very large alligators that claim residence in the canals and everything swimming there can be of great interest to them.

**What kind of boat is needed?** Canoes, Gheenoes and boats under 18' are excellent choices. Because of the large alligators resident in the canals, kayaks may not be a good choice. Due to the condition and size of some of the boat ramps, boats in excess of 18' may not be the best choice for the canals. An electric trolling motor in addition to your outboard motor is very helpful. Jon boats with outboard motors can be rented at Everglades Holiday Park; however, these boats cannot be removed from this canal system. This is not a handicap, I have hooked my largest bass to date in this canal, and there are also peacock bass in this canal system.

**What size fly rod is recommended?** Any 4 or 5 weight fly rod in whatever length you are comfortable with will work. Long casts are not necessary when fishing the canals. In most of them, if you run your boat down the middle, you can easily cast to either side of the canal. If you enjoy throwing larger poppers, a 6 weight rod is helpful.

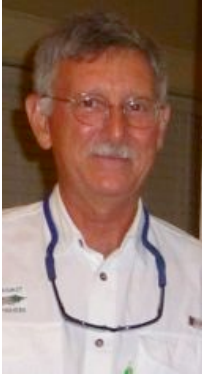
**What flies are recommended?** Everyone has their favorite flies for bream and bass fishing; but if I could have only one fly to fish the Glades, it would be a white foam spider or beetle tied on #8 or #10 hooks. Many flies work, in fact I don't know of any fly that doesn't work in the Glades. I like to fish top water and in addition to the foam spiders and beetles, I really enjoy fishing poppers in white or yellow colors, on #6, #8 or #10 hooks. However, the fish don't seem to have a color preference; I know that chartreuse and fluorescent pink poppers also work very well. The determining factor seems to be whatever color you can see best. I have also found small Clousers to be very productive when you find schools of bass chasing small minnows. You'll often find this situation around little creek-like runoffs into the canals. I like the Little Brown River Clouser but I'm sure other colors such as gray/white etc would work just as well. I have had success with weighted nymphs such as Jim's Bead Head Nymph and Bully's Bluegill Spider. Most of the flies mentioned here are described in the fly tying section of SFF's website [www.suncoastflyfishers.com](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com)

**What kind of fish can I expect to catch in the Everglades?** Bluegills, redear sunfish, spotted sunfish, warmouths etc, large mouth bass, peacock bass, bowfin, Florida gar, Oscars, and Mayan cichlids are the fish most commonly caught. A few years ago, we experienced a couple of record breaking cold winters for Florida and this has had a bad affect on some of the exotics, but the fishing there is normally so good, you will still catch a lot of fish and have a terrific time. For an incredible list of fish commonly found in Everglades waters go to <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/SouthFlorida/everglades.html>

**There you have it, all the information you need to fish the Everglades canals, even if it is your first trip there. Barring anymore bad weather, I feel safe in saying that fishing in the Everglades will be an opportunity for you to catch more fish in any one days fishing than you have ever experienced before. Also, you will have a terrific time with your SFF friends with lots of good stories to tell when you return.**

*Paul*

## Member in the Spotlight: MARK HAYS



**Hometown:** Gulfport

**When did you join Suncoast Fly Fishers?** 1993

**What is your favorite gamefish to catch on a fly, and why?** Snook

**What are your top three places to fly fish?** Pinellas Point. Everglades. St. George Island.

**What are your go-to fly rod and fly reel?** Loomis GLX 8-weight. Lamson Reels. All 20 years old.

**How and when did you get introduced to fly fishing?** When I met Carl Hanson in 1969

**Why do you like fly fishing compared to fishing with conventional tackle?** It's more hands-on and I like to make most of my tackle.

**Do you tie flies? What flies do you like to tie?** Anything larger than #14, salt or fresh. Natural materials best.

## Member in the Spotlight: KEN DOTY



**Hometown:** St. Pete

**When did you join Suncoast Fly Fishers?** About 1993

**What is your favorite gamefish to catch on a fly, and why?** Bluegill. Most don't fish for them and don't realize how good they to eat.

**What are your top three places to fly fish?** Tampa Bay. Manatee Reservoir. Myakka State Park

**How and when did you get introduced to fly fishing?** 1965

**Why do you like fly fishing compared to fishing with conventional tackle?** I still use both, but mostly enjoy fly fishing

**Do you tie flies? What flies do you like to tie?** Ones that catch fish

### Correction

In the February issue we spotlighted member Paul Sequira and dropped some words, accidentally making it look like Paul went bream fishing with an 8-weight rod loaded with 5-weight line. Not likely, huh? Here's how the text should have read. We've underlined the text that was missing in the February issue.

**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 4 weight rod with a Scientific Angler System 5 reel & SA WF5F line.



Reports: Good Days and  
Try to Stay Dry Days



**Try to stay dry day** -- Ken Doty has it figured out, obviously. Photo by Siobhan Archard



**Good day** -- Spanish mackerel and bluefish in the foreground. David Putnam is the proud predator with the smile. Ken Hofmeister photo.



**Good day** -- Al Pitcher with a sizeable Spanish mackerel caught near Venetian Isles. Photo by Ken Hofmeister.



**Good day**—David Putnam with one of many Withlacoochee River stumpknockers he caught. (Photo tip: you can make a small, fish look really big if you hold it right in front of the camera). Bill AuCoin photo.

## Ken Hofmeister: Catch, Filet and Release

My esteemed fishing friend, Al Pitcher, talks and writes about conservation in this issue. (*Just Thinking*, page 27)

Al practices "catch and release" in an admirable fashion. Occasionally, he gives me feedback on how to better release fish for an improved survival rate.



*Alex Pitcher, 9, visiting from Texas, on a ladyfish expedition off of Venetian Isles with Granddad Al*

We took Al's nine-year old grandson Alex fishing for ladyfish one recent morning. In 45 minutes we caught 15 ladyfish. This young Texan was impressed and inspired. He was "hooked."



*Ladyfish on the line—Alex Pitcher catching ladyfish, one right after another, sustenance for nearby egrets and a great blue heron...and fodder for this article.*

These ladyfish could have been donated to member Tom Jones for his famous "Ladyfish Soup" recipe. However, we weren't in the mood for that delicacy on this day. Instead, we released some of these ladyfish into the beaks of an egret, a golden-slipped snowy white egret, and a great blue heron. Naturally, that required some work with a filet knife. Thus, it was *catch, filet, and release*.

See, even ardent conservationists can be swayed.

*Ken*

---

Bill AuCoin: Haiku Salute to the Ladyfish

*Amazing ladies  
talk to us on the fly line.  
Don't ever give up*



Drawing courtesy of the  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
*Ladyfish, also known as Ten  
Pounders and Skipjacks*

## Bill AuCoin: Brainstorming with Capt. Pat Damico

*We're not naming names or anything but some Suncoast Fly Fishers revealed at the February meeting that they shower with their fly rods.*

In the fly fishing world, Capt. Pat Damico has been there, done that. Throw him a question. Anything. Like, how do you care for your rod and reels?

Well, don't store them in the garage. Keep them in the AC, in low-humidity. After use, especially saltwater use, spray your reels with water. You can even use a non-detergent soap like Ivory. Detergents will remove reel oil and protective coatings on fly lines. From time to time take them apart, clean and lubricate them. Rod care? Use a little candle wax (just a little) on the clean ferrules. Wipe the rod down with a rag coated with a little Pledge. That's right, Pledge for furniture, and polish with a rag.

A member raised his hand and mentioned showering with his rod and reel. It's okay to do that, Pat said.

Maintenance was just one of the topics that Pat covered from the front of the February meeting room with a Magic Marker and a fresh roll of easel paper. He invited members to share their tips and offered some of his own. Here's the once-over-lightly version:

Poor distance? Don't do the double-haul until you can make the basic fly cast correctly. Lefty said the double-haul just throws your mistakes farther.

Spey rod? Why would you want a 15-foot rod on a flats boat? It is good for surf-casting.

More distance? If your line doesn't match your rod you may go up or down one weight. Often, contrary to current wisdom, the secret to more distance is to drop down one line weight. A heavier fly casts better shorter distances with a heavier or bulkier fly line because the rod loads faster.

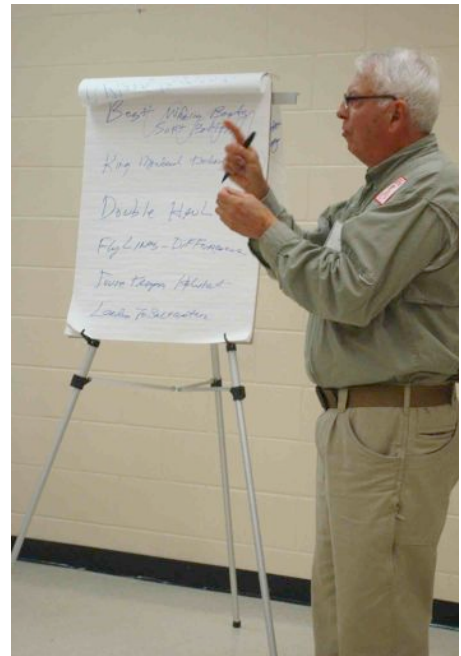
### **Tip-toe through the muck**

Wade fishing? Don't stand in the mangrove muck for long or you'll sink deeper. Rick Warfel said he tip-toes through the muck. Bob Morrison uses a neoprene wading staff, similar to a ski pole. Plastic bear paw snow shoes are said to work well over soft bottoms.

Leaders: Tie up some in advance of your trip. The butt section of your leader should have the same flexibility as the end of your fly line. Damico said he likes to use the same brand of monofilament so the entire leader bends at the same rate and transfers energy smoothly. Pat builds his leaders using this formula: 4-feet of 40#, 2-feet of 30#, 2-feet of 20#, then the Mason bite tippet or fluorocarbon tippet.

When, where? Fish anytime you can go fishing. If the moon is full, fish often feed all night making daytime trips unproductive. When the birds are sleeping and inactive, fishing is usually poor. When the tide is low you may see tailing redfish. Redfish are often mixed with mullet. So cast your fly into schools of mullet.

*Bill*



*At the February meeting Capt. Pat Damico organized topics and invited members to share their fly-fishing tips and added some of his own.*

## Smile, You're on Candid Camera

Random snaps at the February meeting



**Good luck socks?** One of our members actually wore these. He shall remain nameless. OK, his initials are DP.



**Tying bench** -- Before leading the brainstormer, Capt. Pat Damico tied ants and beetles. Beetle steps on p 22.



**Everybody's a winner** -- After every meeting Raffle Meister Dave Barson takes in fistfuls of one-dollar bills and raffles off flies and fly tying materials and more. At the March meeting you can buy a \$5 chance to win a 5-weight rod made by Alan Sewell. Every dollar goes to a good cause, the Suncoast Fly Fishers.



**Watch out Everglades** -- Outings Chairman Alan Sewell described the club's April expedition to fish the Everglades Canals for bass, bluegill, snook, and cyclids. Also, don't feed the alligators.

# First Florida IFFF Weekend Invitational

By Tom Gadacz and Ken Hofmeister, Suncoast Fly Fishers



Tom Gadacz, President of the Florida Council IFFF, with a St. Johns River shad.

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 hosted the first of these Invitational outings on the St. John's River and Mosquito Lagoon Feb. 7-8.

President Dennis O'Brien and Bob Belisle invited members of 19 Florida fly fishing clubs. Notices of the event were sent to the presidents of all Florida fly fishing clubs. Those who contacted Dennis or Bob were sent detailed directions of some great fishing spots as well as arranging for guides and a group dinner on both nights.

Bill Craig, a fly-tier from Mid Coast, sent out his favorite shad fly pattern. We tried his and several other patterns. Members of five clubs (Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers, Mid Coast Fly Fishers, Treasure Coast Stuart Flyrodders, Suncoast Fly Fishers, and First Coast Fly Fishers) took advantage of the offer, including the authors and photographers of this article.

Our target was SHAD, a relative of the herring. Rain and wind tried to discourage us but when you schedule an out of town trip, you fish. We fished. And we caught a SHAD, a striped bass, and a catfish.

The best part was meeting the other fly fishers who shared their flies and fishing spots over two great dinners – Friday BBQ ribs and Saturday filet mignon. Lars Lutton guided us on Saturday, the day we did catch a shad. Bill Sherer outlined kayaking areas for redfish in Mosquito Lagoon and gave us some of his flies for redfish.

Sunday was sunny, windy but there was no rain. Ken and I kayaked for redfish at Beacon 42 Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge. We encountered mullet on the leeward side of the islands but could not entice a redfish to bite. By the time we left we felt like we knew the area well.

We hope there will be more trips sponsored throughout Florida so we can take advantage of all the waters in our state.

THIS JUST IN: from Lars – 3 days later one of his friends fished the same spot we did and caught 22 shad. I guess it is better to fish when the weather is nice.



It's never too cold to go fishing in Florida. Is it? Ken Hofmeister (l) and guide Lars Lutton prove their mettle. Below, popular shad flies.

Tom & Ken



## Tying Bench – The Beetle Tied by Pat Damico

The beetle works well for anything that eats terrestrials. I like to fish them close to shore especially under trees, old bridges or even in open water. Sometime delivering it with a splash will draw fish to the fly. This pattern can be modified to make brown, chartreuse or any other beetle variation you prefer.

### Materials:

2x long dry fly hook (12-16)

Black thread

Black, and orange 2 mm closed cell foam

Peacock herl

Black crystal flash



### Tying Sequence

1. Wrap black thread back to beginning of bend of hook
2. Cut length of black cell foam from sheet desired width to match hook size, keep it long
3. Cut little point at end of strip and secure to top of hook, wrapping back to hook bend
4. Tie in 2 butt ends of peacock heel at back of hook and wrap thread forward close to hook eye.
5. Wrap peacock herl strands forward and tie off near hook eye
6. Pull foam forward and wrap thread over foam a couple times; add a few wraps between foam and hook eye. Using hook eye as a guide, cut off excess foam leaving the beetle's head
7. Place small strip of orange foam on top of tie in point and wrap a couple times to secure "hot spot," needed to see black fly on the water, cut off excess orange foam
8. Turn over fly and tie in 3 strands of black crystal flash by bending over thread, ends will point rearward and will be trimmed to form legs.
9. Make a few wraps between foam and hook point and whip finish. Coat thread tie off point with head cement.

*Pat*

## Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip # 51



*By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor*

### **What causes a wavy layout of my fly line?**

Unless you are trying to intentionally put slack in a fly line to avoid drag, a straight layout of the line from the rod tip to the fly is desirable, especially in saltwater fly fishing. Shock waves can be introduced into the rod which will then be transferred to the fly line. Often when delivering our final cast we give it that extra power which destroys the perfect loops and smooth straight line displayed in our false casts. Carefully avoiding the overpowering of the delivery cast will correct this problem.

*Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach*

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## **Florida Fly Fishing Clubs in the **Florida Council** of the 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

# Mazzarella: Practice fly casting with a paintbrush. (Or a swimming pool noodle!)

*By Dayle Mazzarella, Master Casting Instructor*

**GOAL:** Throw water off the brush so that it flies parallel to the ground for at least 6 to 8 feet. No water should land on the forearm!

**CASTING PRINCIPLES:** Constant and smooth acceleration to a sudden stop.

**SET UP:** 1 paintbrush, 1 bowl with water, 1 - 2.5 foot noodle.

## STEPS

**1:** Find a grip you like. (Thumb pushing, forefinger pushing, the V between forefinger and thumb pushing)

**2:** Dip the brush in the water bowl.

**3:** With a straight wrist, bring your hand up to about eye level and off to the side. (If a stick was sticking out of your ear, it would be pointing right at your hand.)

**4:** Check to see that the paintbrush is sticking almost straight up. (12:30 on a clock)

**5:** Now slightly cock your wrist back so the paintbrush is pointing to 1 o'clock or a little more.

**6:** Without bending your wrist, bring your hand and forearm forward as you smoothly accelerate.

**7:** Just as you get to the end of your stroke, rotate your wrist sharply forward

**8:** STOP - HARD, at about 10 o'clock.

## Trouble Shooting :

Water lands on your forearm behind your hand. You started too fast. Start more slowly.

Water goes off the brush parallel to the ground, but doesn't go very far. Develop more speed and/or stop more sharply.

Water goes off the brush but at an angle towards the ground. Stop at 10 o'clock!

## **BACKSTROKE!** More unnatural, so really work at this one!

Step 1 - Put water on the brush.

Step 2 - Lift your hand to head high.

Step 3 - Cock your wrist forward just a bit.

Step 4 - Bring your hand and forearm forward into the same position where you stopped on the forward cast.

Step 5 - Smoothly accelerate backward without moving your wrist.

Step 6 - As your hand approaches your ear, sharply rotate your wrist.

Step 7 - STOP -HARD at 1 o'clock!

**NOODLE DRILL** Repeat above with a noodle! (A noodle is a pool toy you can buy at Walmart for under \$5)





## Bob Morrison: How-To

*Bob says it is important that we protect the slimy effluvium*



### **About that slimy effluvium**

I am becoming increasingly convinced that a good pair of protective gloves are a "must" when handling and releasing fish. Many fish have sharp teeth, fin spines, gill covers, and gill rays that can cut you while you are extracting your hook. Some of the work gloves from the hardware stores or discount houses can work well, and can cost less than fly shop gloves. Furthermore, gloves protect the fish's coat of *slimy effluvium*, the purpose of which is to protect its skin from infection as well as to permit the fish to reduce drag as it swims. A dry hand can scald away the slime, allowing infection to find its way to the skin, which ain't good.

### **Sharpen your Sharpie**

I notice that at times a Sharpie marker makes a stripe on a fly that is too wide or a dot that is too large. Bruce Evensen suggested that I use a razor blade to sharpen the point of the marker, forming a "blade" similar to that of a blade screwdriver, to get a smaller marking point. I tried it, and it worked perfectly for making small dots and narrow stripes, as on shrimp patterns.

### **Go fishing with duct tape**

To comfortably check your waders for leaks, wear them when the water is warm, not cold. Then, when you take the waders off, mark the spots on the waders corresponding to the wet spots on your clothing, and patch them when they are dry. Later, when the water is cold, you won't be freezing from cold-water leaks. Also, keep some duct tape handy for emergency patching.

### **Male aggressiveness, again**

If you are bugged by short strikers, such as nibbling sea trout, tie on a trailer hook a few inches behind the fly, and give them a surprise. This little strategy also works well up north and out west on stream trout, some of which will grab a streamer or bug by the tail. Then, too, aggressive male stream trout will chase a streamer and snap at the tail, trying to prevent it from raiding their nests and eating the eggs during spawning. Give them a surprise, too.

Go get 'em, and good luck.

*Bob*

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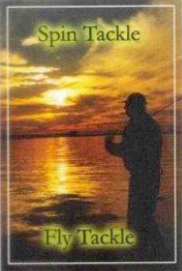


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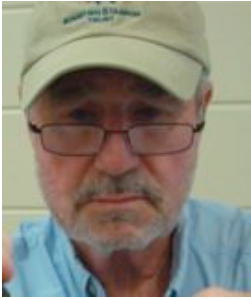
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## Al Pitcher: Just Thinking



### Catch-and-Release. Really?

I have been thinking lately about catch-and-release. Does it really enhance the resource?

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) web site - [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com) - provides a few statistics: "In 2011, Florida's recreational anglers took approximately 24 million fishing trips and caught roughly 121 million marine fishes, 74 million of which were released." It goes on to say that with Florida's dramatic increase in population and tourism it is

important that we practice catch-and-release thus ensuring a healthy fish population for you and future anglers.

Catch and release is only one fish protection tool. Fish populations are protected through a variety of methods including slot limits, bag limits, closed seasons, and research.

Through research and **stock enhancement**, the FWC successfully breeds and rears red drum, snook, conchs and scallops for release back into their natural environment.

But that's the FWC. What can we do to be good angling citizens? First and foremost we need to adhere to all marine fishery laws. But, also, know how to release that fish so it lives to fight another day:

- Match your fly rod to the fish to land it quickly and minimize stress.
- Use barbless hooks or at least pinch the barbs.
- Never hold a fish by its jaw, gills or eyes. Use a de-hooking tool.
- If a net is necessary, use a knotless, rubber-coated landing net .
- Use hooks that will rust out to increase survival rates of fish.
- Before releasing hold it in the water horizontally. It will take off after a brief rest.
- Practice CPR-Catch, Photo, and Release.

But, does catch-and-release really work? Just check out these statistics:

Bonefish: Florida researchers repeatedly caught bonefish held in a large pond in the Florida Keys and found that 96% survived capture.

Snook: Angler-caught snook held in large net-pens throughout Florida had a 98% survival rate.

Spotted seatrout: Speckled trout caught in Tampa Bay had a 95% survival rate.

Redfish: Survival rates range from 84% in Georgia waters to 96% in Texas waters.

I'm convinced. Catch-and-release really enhances the resource. Really!

Join me in helping to preserve our beautiful Florida marine resources for future fly fishers. Again, it is just me thinking.

## David Putnam: Fly Fisher Reflections



### Memory Flies

*Flies bring back memories. Some good. Some bad*

I came across the flies of Tim Borski when I lived in Key West. To me all his flies look fishy. I tied two of his Bonefish Sliders one summer night, feeling that they'd catch a wary bonefish. The next morning, wading alone in the Mud Keys, a large single fish suddenly appeared, heading my way, out about 60 feet in ten inches of crystal-clear water. I crouched, made my first cast with the Slider. The fly landed two feet ahead of the fish, which raced to crush it. Fish on, a drag-testing run or two, then to-hand, maybe six pounds of silvery ghost fish. How can you beat that?

Del Brown is famous for his crab fly, the Merkin. It's an interesting, easy tie. I've thrown it in reasonable proximity to maybe five permit in good water conditions. No interest. At least a dozen bonefish have turned their snouts up at it, in various sizes. I watched one day in the Marquesas as my son cast the fly repeatedly to a slow-feeding school of permit. They never spooked. Finally, he gave up, exasperated. I had faith in that fly. Could be that Brown caught all his fish in the Yucatan, where it's far easier than in the Keys. I *begged* that fly to work.

Fishing from the beach one calm summer morning in Vero Beach, I hooked a 100 lb.-plus tarpon on a Polar Fiber Minnow with large eyes, which is my favorite snook fly. Line and backing melted off the reel with the fish jumping for fun a few times. With the Arbor Knot in sight I tightened down and broke the line, to the awe of a small crowd of early morning walkers. My dachshund and I sat in shallow water for a while and thought about that one. What, three hundred yards in a couple of minutes? My, my, wasn't that fine!

On a bonefish trip to Sandy Point in the Abacos many years ago I tied a tail on a fly--one of those curly-tail plastic gizmos-- onto the back of a size six hook wrapped in chenille up to barbell eyes. Everyone in the group ended up fishing it. We'd never seen entire schools of bones turn and run to attack a fly. Sometimes they nibbled the tail off, but the idea was to see 'em turn for it, strip it fast and make 'em chase it, then let it sit. An amazing, exciting fly.

We all have memory flies and patterns we enjoy tying and fishing. Part of the fun of tying is remembering a fly's successes and its personality in the water and the various aspects of "the tie" as you sit down to create one, as you search through your tying materials. All you need is one good cast and a memorable "take" from a good fish to cement it in your mind. Why keep flies that didn't work? Anyone want some Merkins?





## Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover

**Snook-Reds-Gator Trout.** March is THE month we've been waiting for. Read all about it. Also, this issue has easy to look at pictures. ([Coastal Angler Magazine](#))

**Supreme Apalachicola River Woes.** The Apalachicola Bay fishery has collapsed and the State of Florida blames Georgia. Florida's lawsuit contends that Georgia for decades has been taking way more than its share of water from the Apalachicola-

Chattahoochee-Flint rivers basin. Now, in a new motion to its ongoing lawsuit, Florida is calling for intervention by the U.S. Supreme Court. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

**Tampa Bay water clarity is best in 40 years.** In 1975 only lower Tampa Bay got the green stamp of approval for water clarity. Today, thanks to projects managed by the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and others the entire bay—upper, lower, middle and Hillsborough Bay—gets the green water clarity designation. Take a look at this fascinating chart showing the improvement over time. ([Tampa Bay Estuary Program](#))

**Common wisdom may be wrong.** They told us that how we stop the fly rod shapes the fly cast. Turns out it's not that simple. Read writer Mac Brown's article, Loops 101, in the Spring 2014 issue of [The Loop, The Journal of Fly Casting Professionals](#), now available to all IFFF members, not just the pros. Well, we're the ones who need the help, right? ([The Loop](#))

**Do fishery laws short-change saltwater anglers?** – Yes, yes, says Johnny Morris of Bass Pro Shops. Absolutely, says Scott Deal of Maverick Boats. These two industry leaders have teamed up to present a new vision to legislators and regulators so saltwater anglers can get their fair share of fish. Will they hear us? Watch; participate! ([Bass Pro Shops](#))

**Go fly fishing around the country.** The International Fly Fishing Federation posts our newsletter and other club newsletters on the ClubWire page on its website. It's a good way to take a quick fly fishing tour (in your mind) around the country. ([IFFF](#))

**Damsels in distress sounds better than dragonflies in distress.** Still, eye-riveting. ([Orvis](#))

**This is not good news.** *Fly Fishing in Salt Waters Magazine* is no more. ([Palm Coast Data](#))

**This isn't good news, either.** ([Florida Fly Fishing...Only Florida. Only Fly Fishing](#))

**Fly rod disasters.** This sad-and-funny report has a silver lining. If you've got a heart-breaking I-broke-my-fly rod story I think they'd like to hear from you. And the good news is *Florida Sportsman* magazine continues with its superb fly fishing coverage online. ([Florida Sportsman](#))

**So, why do high-end fly reels cost so much?** This is not a new question but many still wonder why. Is it because they're that much better? Is it because if the price tag is high we think then it must be better? Or, maybe we are defined by the equipment we use? Or is it really because fly fishers are willing to pay more? Read the comments. ([Field & Stream](#))

**Everglades crocodile removed.** This is a criminal matter. But, whodunnit? Authorities want to know. Let's hope this is the one and only croc in the glades. But, and I'm just wondering, if a crocodile fights a Burmese python, which one wins? ([The Fishing Wire](#))