

On The Fly

November 2014 Volume 24, Issue 11



Jeff Janacek caught the biggest bass and the most sunfish so once again the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club wins the Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament on the Hillsborough River. Aaarrrrggggghhh. Page 12



Andy Constantinou's go-to fly looks like a dog food pellet. It catches carp, most certainly, but guess what else? Tilapia. Bass. This could

change America as we know it. Page 14.



Hold on. Ken Hofmeister has been targeting bluefish, ladyfish and mackerel in the bay with a 6-weight. They're on the Bayshore flats drop-off near Venetian Isles.

Page 19-

Also in this issue of On The Fly

NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

On The Fly

November 2014 Volume 24, Issue 11

- News 'n' Notes 2
- Alan Sewell: Review-Previews 5
- George Haseltine: In the Spotlight 6
- Tying Bench: Smitty's Flig 'n' Jig 7-8
- Tying Bench: Paul's Snook Fly 9
- Capt. Ron Whiteley's Insights 11
- Gadacz: Carl Hanson Memorial 12
- Constantinou: Dog Biscuit Fly 14
- Hofmeister: First Liar loses 15
- Gadacz: PHWFF at Fort De Soto 16
- Ron Kelley: Alaska Salmon Quest 17
- Hofmeister: I've got the blues 19
- Gadacz: B&T Trust Symposium 20
- Pat Damico: Casting Clinic 21
- Mazzarella: Grass Drill #8 22
- Maximo Mark Casting Clinic 23
- Bob Morrison: How - To 24
- Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover 27

News 'n' Notes

November Meeting, Thursday, November 20, 6-8 pm.

Capt. Pat Damico is our November meeting presenter. The title of his presentation is "*A Smooth Transition from Fresh to Saltwater, or Salt to Freshwater Fly Fishing*" Are you new to either? Want to bone up on redfish, bonefish, tarpon; how does it differ from freshwater trout? Capt. Pat is your guy. Capt. Pat is a professional saltwater guide who guides mostly the Tampa Bay area. He is an IFFF Master Casting Instructor who has been fly fishing and fly tying since he was 10 years old. He is an author, moderator, speaker and a Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Area Coordinator for six years. Pat fly fishes South America, Bahamas, Caribbean, Mexico, Canada, east coast and mid-west. Contact Capt. Pat at www.captpat.com or pat4jaws@hotmail.com



IMPORTANT NOTE: Pat is donating a "FREE" TFO Mini Magnum 8 ft fly rod at meeting. Put what you learn to the test. All who attend will get a ticket. Drawing after Pat's presentation. The 8-foot Mini Magnum combines S-

Glass and high-modulus carbon fiber for exceptional lifting power and castability. Think snook under docks. Think bass in the lily pads.

November fly tiers -- Alan Sewell ties the tube fly

November fly exchange -- Myron Hansen's fly swappers are bringing three crab or shrimp patterns for use at Saturday's outing at Cypress Point

Also, put these events on your calendar

- Saturday, December 20 -- Annual Don Coleman Classic at Fort De Soto Park with lunch at the Gulf Pier Pavilion adjacent to the Fort parking lot. Suncoast Fly Fishers have invited members of all area fly clubs in Tampa, Sarasota and elsewhere to join us at this event to remember Don Coleman, who contributed much to fly fishing in this area. Don was the author of "Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod" a publication that is given to each new member of the club.
- Thursday, January 15 meeting -- Trash and Treasures Auction. Bring the gear you no longer use and let auctioneer Alan Sewell peddle it to somebody who will use it. It's for the club.
- Saturday, December 6, Maximo Park in St. Petersburg-- Free Fly Casting Instruction from 8 am to noon, then lunch, followed by practice drills. This fly casting workshop will be led by IFFF Certified Master Casting Instructors and It's free to SFF/IFFF members; \$35.00 for others. See page 23 for the detailed schedule
- Saturday, February 28, Hog Roast, Treasure Island Auditorium.



It's not too late...Suncoast Fly Fisher Logo Shirts

Want to put the club logo on your favorite fishing shirt? Just bring a favorite shirt (and a crisp \$10 bill) to the November meeting.



SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

_____ for new and renewing members. Membership categories (select one):

____ 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). _____

Suncoast Fly Fishers

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

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

<http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com>

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers

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 - Karen and Rick Warfel
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 8:30 pm, Walter Fuller Park Recreation Center, 7981 26th Ave N., St. Pete



Directions to our meeting at Walter Fuller Park..

From 22nd Avenue N turn North on 72nd St. N. Turn left (South) on 26th Avenue N. Then turn right into the recreation center parking lot.

<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



Saturday, October 18, 2014 - Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament

This outing was held on the Hillsborough River with SFF and Tampa Fly Club members together fishing and honoring our past guru, Carl Hanson. Many stories were told about our friend Carl and his influence in most of our fly fishing success. Carl loved fresh water fishing so we also have a tournament with this outing. The rules are simple: largest bass and most sunfish. This tournament is held with each club fishing against the other club. Most sunfish were caught by a TBFFC member, which means they get the trophy for this year. Our club member, Ken Hofmeister, thought that he had caught the largest bass, but found out that the last TBFFC member had a bass that was 1/16 inch longer. The weather was perfect with warm temps and smooth water. Another great outing with fish, fun, friends and food.

Saturday, November 22, 2014 - Cypress Point Park, Tampa Florida

Our November outing will be held at Cypress Point on the east side of Tampa Bay. This park is located north of the Howard Frankland Bridge. There are vast areas to wade fish, and there is a kayak launch site in the park. Boat ramps are at the Courtney Campbell or Gandy Bridge area. Lunch will be at Cypress Point Park shelter.

Saturday, December 20, 2014 - Fishing and Eating at Fort De Soto Park

This is our annual Don Coleman Classic and Chili eating festival. All clubs in our area are invited to attend and fish and eat chili. Chili will be provided, but members are asked to bring any side dishes that they want to share. We meet at noon in the Gulf Pier Pavilion adjacent to the Fort parking lot.

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 Snook -- Alan Sewell -- 38 inches
Largest Speckled Trout-Open
Largest Redfish-Ken Doty -- 23-inches
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

Member in the Spotlight

George Haseltine: Member in the Spotlight



Hometown: St Petersburg

When did you join Suncoast Fly Fishers? About 3 years ago.

What is your favorite game fish to catch on a fly, and why? Ever since I was a kid I have loved largemouth bass. They hit a popper hard, leap out of the water and they are just plain beautiful.

What are your top three places to fly fish?

1. Everglades Canals.
2. Chassahowitzka River
3. Flats near the Skyway, St Pete.

What is your go-to fly rod and reel? My very first rod I ever owned, and favorite, is a 5-weight built by Paul Sequira. I got it at my first SFF auction for \$100. The reel is a Pflueger 1792AK Medalis I bought from Mark Hays.

How and when did you get introduced to fly fishing? I saw my first fly rod at about 5 years old. It belonged to my grandfather. I never saw him or anyone else use it. Fly fishing was a mystery to me. It was 60 years later before I held my first fly rod. Mark Hays invited me to an SFF meeting. At the first meeting, I knew this is what I wanted to do. It was totally new and still mysterious to me. At my first Pat Damico casting clinic, I ruined a rod loaned to me by Mark Hays by gripping the cork too tight and peeling it off the rod. But, I will be eternally grateful for one very generous, understanding and patient instructor named Alan Sewell who took the time to get me started right and has mentored me ever since. Thanks, Alan.

Why do you like fly fishing compared to fishing with conventional tackle? Being mechanically inclined, with a machinist's background, I have always admired the precision of movement. I love the precision of fly fishing. I am caught up in the wonderment of it; the artistry of the hand movement; the fly line as it is drawn back and then moved forward to gracefully deliver a practically weightless fly to the water, I want to know the harmony of mind, spirit, body and rod, all working together during the entire presentation. I hope I never get to the point where I have attended enough Pat Damico and Dayle Mazarella casting clinics, IFFF Expos, and Smitty's fly tying classes. I will seek to keep the wonderment alive by listening to those of you who know so much more than I do and are willing to share your knowledge and experience. I'm still in the beginning stage. I love to use a frog colored or white popper for bass. Recently, Ken Doty introduced me to bluegills on a fly and man! do I love catching them on small spiders. When I wade the flats I like to use the Clouser Minnow to catch speckled trout. I just returned from the IFFF Expo at Crystal River where I saw Bob Clouser tie a few. What a great experience.

Tying Bench – Flig-n-Jig Fly

Tied by Layne Smith



This is my fly version of the “Pig ‘n Jig” used by bass angler’s when fishing heavy cover. Tying it with the longer tail, as it hits the bottom, the foam tag on the tail sways enticingly! If on the other hand, you are after saltwater species, use the short-tailed version for redfish and the like ... just swim it! The use of this

particular hook style allows for better hook-ups since it swims hook point up. Good luck, whichever style you use

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 34184D 60-degree bend jig hook size 1/0 to size 2

Thread: Danville flat-waxed nylon, choice of color to match

Head: Large brass or tungsten cone

Weight: .025 lead wire

Tail tag: Paddle-shaped foam strip

Tail: Medium Ultra Chenille (Vernille) in choice of color

Body: Estaz, color to match or contrast

Collar: Strip of “unseparated” rubber leg material *

Cement: Sally Hansen Hard as Nails (SHHAS) or your favorite head cement

* NOTE: Rubber leg material comes in 1”-wide strips. Cut strip about 3” long and then divide strip in half lengthwise. That ½” should be enough. Wrap fully around fly before separating to make a full skirt.

Tying Sequence

1: Measure and cut length of vernille tail you will be using (long tail 5-6”/bass ... short tail 3-4” for reds) and then prepare tail assembly by tying the foam strip on to one end of the vernille ... whip finish and cut thread. Set aside until step 6.

2: Wrap a dam of thread on the hook shank just behind the eye of the hook at the 60-degree bend and cut (this will stop the cone from sliding over the bend).

3: Mash down the hook barb to allow cone to slide onto hook. Slide cone on (pointed end first) up to thread dam.

Continued....

Tying Bench – Layne Smith's Flig-n-Jig Fly



Smitty's Flig 'n Jig Fly. Use the long tail version for largemouth bass and the short tail version for redfish.

4: Wrap approximately 15 wraps of .025 lead wire tightly around hook shank. Push wraps forward into cavity of cone (this will center cone and solidify head).

5: Reattach thread and overwrap lead.

6. Measure tail to desired length (about 5½" from hook eye to tip of tail for long version and about 3½" from hook eye to tip of tail for short version) and tie in just behind lead wraps. Advance thread toward cone (leave about 1/8" gap behind cone) and then palmer excess vernille over lead wraps to the 1/8" gap. Tie off

and cut away any excess vernille. Back-wrap thread to the original tail tie in point.

7: Tie in Estaz and overwrap vernille and lead to the gap left between body and head. Tie off and cut away excess Estaz.

8: Place strip of "unseparated" leg material on top of fly at the 1/8" gap so that 2" lays back over body and 1" lays over cone head. Pinch leg material so it wraps completely around fly and tie in with about 6 to 8 tight thread wraps.

9: At this time, separate legs on back 2/3rds only (when done, loose legs should completely encompass hook shank).



Smitty at the tying bench

10: Now fold back remaining 1/3rd and tie off (thread wraps should fall between leg material and cone disappearing behind cone head). Whip finish and cut thread.

11: Separate last bunch of leg material as you did the first. These should also encompass hook shank as the first set did, though slightly shorter.

Step 12: Coat thread wraps on tail and the dam in front of cone with SHHAN... and GO FISHING !!!

Tying Bench – Paul's Snook Fly

Tied by Paul Sequira

Paul's snook fly is inspired by two famous patterns -- Lefty Kreh's Deceiver and Jack Gartside's Soft Hackle Deceiver. Paul's secret difference? Marabou.



This is my favorite snook fly. I developed it for sight fishing for snook from the beach or casting around the mangroves. Two iconic patterns were the inspiration for this streamer, Lefty Kreh's Deceiver and Jack Gartside's Soft Hackle Deceiver. Both of those patterns have been go-to patterns for me for years. Although a Lefty's Deceiver or even a D.T. Special work well, they are very slim profile flies and I wanted a fuller pattern that would also produce some movement on the retrieve. Marabou does that but Jack Gartside's Softhackle Deceiver only replaced

Lefty's bucktail collar with a couple of wraps of marabou, still a very slim profile. The streamer I have developed provides a full body profile by filling the hook shank with wraps of marabou. It is simple to tie once you get the knack of palmering marabou without mashing down the hackle of preceding wraps. My instructions describe the fly using marabou and saddle hackle, which is my favorite version. However, this fly can also be tied using nothing but bunny strips or all synthetic materials; substituting a suitable synthetic hair for the tail and synthetic body hackle. Each manufacturer has a proprietary name for these materials and there are too many to identify here.

Materials

Hook: Mustad 3407 or equivalent sizes 2 – 1/0

Thread: white flat waxed nylon, red to finish head

Tail: white saddle or neck hackle

Body: white marabou

Body Accent: Any feather with long fibers I often use another color marabou or mallard flank (to pay homage to Jack Gartside)

Flash: Pearl Fire Fly or Slinky Fiber or your favorite very thin flash material

Tying Instructions

1. Mash the barb down and secure the hook in the vise hook point down. Attach the thread with a jam knot and take even wraps down towards the start of the hook bend.

2. Select 4 equal sized hackles, even up the tips and make two pairs (two feathers each) with the curved sides facing inward. Remove the fibers at the butt of the hackles and clip to size. For a # 1 hook, the tail should be approximately 2 +/- inches long and the total fly should be 3 to 3½ inches long. Place the hackle butts on top of the hook at the start of the bend and secure them with several tight wraps of thread. Wrap the bare hackle stems with tightly spaced wraps to a little less than ¼" from the hook eye to provide an even underbody and then return the thread to the tie in point. Clip and discard the excess hackle stems.

continued....

Tying Bench – Paul's Snook Fly



3. Select a marabou feather and strip off all the fluffy fibers from the butt end. Stripping these fibers also removes some of the stem material; this will make it easier to palmer the marabou. Tie this feather in by the butt where your thread is waiting for you. (You returned it there in step #2 didn't you?) Take a few tight wraps, clip off the excess bare stems and wrap the thread forward a few turns.

4. Here is the hard part, hold the tip of the marabou feather with the fingers of your right hand (if you are right handed). Pull the feather straight up and with your other hand stroke the marabou fibers back, actually folding the fibers and start wrapping the marabou forward, placing each wrap directly in front of the previous wrap for about four wraps. Do not over wrap previous wraps. While you are doing this, you must stroke the fibers back towards the tail. Tie off the marabou feather, clip and discard the excess. Take a couple of half hitches here.

5. Select about 4 or 5 pieces of Fiber Fly, fold them over your thread at the halfway point and secure them to the hook. Take a couple of thread wraps to secure the flash material and separate them equally to each side of the hook. The flash material should extend to about the end of the tail. Clip the excess flash material and discard. The ends should be uneven lengths.

6. Repeat steps #2 and #3 with a second marabou feather (or even a 3rd if needed) until you have covered the hook shank leaving approximately ¼" of hook shank bare. Select an accent feather and secure it to the hook directly in front of the marabou body and palmer it taking only a couple of wraps.

7. Tie off the white thread and tie on the red thread. Put a drop of head cement on the thread wraps and then wrap a nice bullet shaped head with the red thread. Secure with a whip finish and coat with several coats of head cement. Comb the marabou fibers towards the tail with a fine toothed comb to neaten it up.

Note: When fishing with this fly, remember that dry marabou floats very well so soak the fly before you make your first cast. Marabou is a rather delicate material; for this reason this fly is not recommended for bluefish, mackerel or ladyfish unless you like to tie a lot of them.



Capt. Ron Whiteley

Capt. Ron Whiteley: How to catch more fish

Capt. Ron Whiteley of Punta Gorda has fly fished all over the world -- He has notched a 350-lb Marlin on a fly rod - and he has paid his dues all over our coast catching all the gamefishes worth chasing inshore and offshore.

He cued an FWC video titled "The Science of Fishing" then shared some of his personal insights he has earned with a fly rod in his hand.

Here are some of the key takeaways:

1. Fish don't waste energy. They'll eat when they're hungry. But they get to decide when they're hungry.
2. Fish see flies, of course, but make it easy on them by throwing flies with contrasting light/dark materials and colors that stand out against the underwater background.
3. Fish feel vibrations from your swimming fly. In fact sound travels 5 times faster underwater. (Warning: don't make the wrong kind of noise.)
4. With good eyes and vibration detection (a la lateral lines) fish effectively have 360 degree vision even in dingy water.
5. If you cast into a feeding frenzy let your fly SINK. The bigger fish are down there. They like to gobble up defenseless minnows and imitations.
6. Know your quarry. Use the Internet to determine fish behavior and habitats.
7. Fish in the rain. Rain masks sounds that make fish nervous.
8. After the spawn, game fish want to get their energy back. Put the fly right on front of their face. Fish deeper, slower



Three SFF Presidents -- Cliff Nigh, Ken Hofmeister and Kirk Burton. Counting the photor, Tom Gadacz, plus Alan Sewell five SFF presidents attended the October meeting.



Along came a spider -- As usual Smitty pulled in fly tying admirers to watch how he builds a bluegill spider for fishing the Carl Hanson Memorial on the Hillsborough.

Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament

Photos by Tom Gadacz

For the second year in a row the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club has out fished Suncoast Fly Fishers during the annual Carl Hanson Memorial Outing. Indeed, last year's winner, Jeff Janacek, claimed both awards for the TBFFC for catching the largest bass and the most sunfish.



Jeff Janacek (l) of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club caught the biggest fish, a 15-inch bass, and accepts the framed artwork of tournament namesake Carl Hanson presented here by Tom Gadacz, president of the Florida Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers. Below Gadacz awards Janacek the trophy for catching the most sunfish.



Outings chairman and chef supreme Alan Sewell puts out another tasty spread. Lasagna.



Suncoast Fly Fishers George Haseltine, Mark Hays and Ken Hofmeister compare their morning catches on the Hillsborough.

Continued....Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament



Sunfish sampler, caught by Tom Gadacz



Adam Hays works a pocket while his dad Bill Hays keeps the Gheenoe in position.



How to be in two places at the same time. George Haseltine, top and bottom



These wild creatures appear well fed. From left to right, Tom Jones, John Craig, Richard Oldenski, and Alan Sewell



While the lasagna cooks. Jeff Janacek of the TBFFC (l) and Suncoast Fly Fisher Don Manning compare their experiences.

Andy Constantinou: Cheers for the Dog Biscuit Fly

The Dog Biscuit Fly is not just for carp any more. Just ask the largemouth bass. And tilapia. And the turtles. In October and November Andy Constantinou made the case several times.

"Using the dog biscuit method I caught the tilapia and the bass from a lake in our community. The third take was a turtle which broke my Orvis rod. I contacted Orvis and they're sending me a new one," said Andy.



The dog biscuit fly (bottom) looks very much like, yeah, dog food.



Another largemouth bass on a dog biscuit fly



Largemouth bass on a dog biscuit fly

Andy



Andy and a carp caught on a dog biscuit fly



Tilapia on a dog biscuit fly

Ken Hofmeister: First Liar Doesn't Have a Chance

"...when competition rears its ugly head."

Suncoast Fly Fishers are known for being a friendly, laid-back group of folks who simply enjoy fellowship, food, and fly-fishing. There are a few exceptions. Normally nice people get a bit aggressive around noon--especially if that is when lunch is served at outings. Then, it is more like "Every man for himself."

Another exception is when competition rears its ugly head. Normally honest and trustworthy people suddenly shift personae and become shady and suspicious characters.

All of a sudden, "Size matters." People with successful careers behind them become obsessed with proving themselves again. Like little kids on the playground, they scuffle for vantage points and claim the high ground.

Suncoast Fly Fishers have taken a ceremonial pledge to "tell the truth" somewhere in our past traditions. A wag responded to this revelation by saying: "Well then, it's time to re-administer that pledge."

SFF has also stipulated that we can claim whatever we wish in competition for the outing prize--so long as we had a witness from SFF that had taken the pledge. Even that was not enough when on one outing my witness was suspected of collusion--and he was a retired judge who was entrusted with our finances!

So, we now have cell phones and rulers. Technology is at hand to help us resolve this dilemma. On a recent outing, for example, the winner beat a 12-inch fish by 1/8 of an inch. Rulers are in fact the rule.



Don't forget to "pinch the tail" when you measure the length of a fish. Also, use a fixed, flat ruler.

On a subsequent trip to the Hillsborough River, I happened to catch a 14 and 1/16 inch bass. Unfortunately, it was not on outing day and there were no witnesses. I did use a flexible ruler and an I-phone camera to record my catch and fortify my integrity. Alas, much to my chagrin, I found that even that was not enough. Researching the FWC 2014 Freshwater Regulations, I found that I had measured the fish incorrectly. Instead of a flexible ruler, I needed to use a fixed flat ruler and "pinch the tail" as I measured from the lip to the tail. (This is one time when it is OK to "pinch tail") So, I took that bass back out and measured her appropriately and accurately (See photo)

Bottom line? "The first liar doesn't have a chance" and there will likely be appeals and challenges no matter what process we follow.

Tom Gadacz: A Big Day with Vets at Fort De Soto Park

Suncoast Fly Fishers enjoy a day with Project Healing Waters veterans from Bay Pines VA Hospital in St. Petersburg.

October 29 was a sunny and pleasant day and to be with 14 veterans was a special day, most especially for Suncoast Fly Fishers who helped with this **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF)** outing at Fort De Soto Park at the mouth of Tampa Bay.



On hand to assist from Bay Pines VA Health Care System were John Craig, Tom Gadacz, Ken Hofmeister, Terry Kirkpatrick, Richard Oldenski, Ted Rich, and Alan Sewell of Suncoast Fly Fishers, a Charter Club of the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF).

Peter Jonsson, a VA staff member and recreation specialist, arranged for these veterans and members of their families to have a great day in the sun and waters of the Gulf of Mexico. There was plenty of fly fishing, kayaking, and fly casting plus a great lunch.



Tom



Alan Sewell (l) and John Craig were on the scene to help out and wet a line from time to time. Above, that's Alan helping a vet understand the basics of the fly cast.

Ron Kelley: Silver Salmon Adventure



This story begins on the afternoon of September 12, 2014 when five eager fishermen from across the country met in Seattle, Washington. The group consisted of anglers from Montana, Minnesota, Hawaii and New Hampshire. Our final

destination was to be the Tsiu River located in southeast Alaska, south of Cordova and north of Yakutat.

Early the following morning we left Seattle behind and continued our journey north to Alaska with our first scheduled stop being Juneau only to be told that it was socked in and we would not be able to land. After flying around the area for an hour the pilot announced that we were going to Sitka to refuel returning to Juneau when the weather cleared. Leaving Juneau about three hours late we headed for Yakutat where we were picked up and flown to **Orvis-endorsed Dierick's Tsiu River Lodge**. The last 120 mile leg of our journey would be aboard a De Havilland "Otter" flying at low altitudes along the coast line because of the heavy rain and fog.



Ron Kelley fishing for silver salmon in Alaska's Tsiu River in September.

Heavy rains earlier in September created higher water conditions than were normal for this time of year. Our pilot landed the plane on a dirt strip that was covered with two to three inches of water. When leaving the plane one member of our party who had been sitting in the co-pilots seat indicated that we had been traveling at 130 mph with a 50 mph tailwind.

Immediately after storing our gear and changing clothes we were met by Terry, who would be our guide for the next six days. Terry turned out to be a retired army ranger who always had a story to tell as well as being very knowledgeable about the river and its various fisheries. We were told the Alaskan Fish and Game Department estimates that the Tsiu gets a fall run of silver salmon of approximately 125,000 fish.

-continued-

Continued...Tsiu River Silver Salmon Adventure

The main river is between five and six miles long with several tributaries along its route. The commercial fishery on the river had been shut down prior to our arrival due to high water. The aircraft necessary to fly the fish to market were not able to land as everything was flooded.

Armed with this information we headed to the river to fish the last few hours of daylight. It wasn't long before every member of the party had been hooked up several times. Weather conditions continued to be a challenge as the fog was very thick and the wind strong enough to drive the rain horizontally. In the days following we were fortunate enough to find fresh fish that had recently entered the river to begin their spawning ritual. Rain, fog and wind seemed to be the order of the day each and every day. Two days the forecast was for wind gusts of up to 45 mph making for some difficult casting conditions. The lucky thing for all of us was that the temperatures rose to approximately 50 degrees each day by mid- afternoon. The bottom line was if you could get your fly in the water you could catch fish. When the wind calmed a dry "pink polywog " became the fly of choice; otherwise we used egg sucking leeches, chartreuse and white Clousers, starlight leeches, and chartreuse flies with lots of glitter. Sizes 2 and 4 were best.

Saturday morning was our last opportunity to fish before heading home. The weather made a dramatic turn-around revealing blue skies and sunshine for the first time since our arrival . Mother nature put on a display of mountains, snow-capped peaks and glaciers that was breathtaking. With the improved weather we could take a few pictures of the spectacular surroundings.



To those who have not experienced this sort of fishing I must admit if I hadn't been there the following would hardly be believable. I will conservatively estimate that the five of us caught between 350 and 450 silver salmon averaging 8 to 15 lbs. At the end of each day all five anglers were commenting about the tenderness of their casting arm and shoulder.

In conclusion, I must say that between the five of us we broke three rods due to the weather and callous mistakes in landing this scrappy sport fish. Truly the sort of trip that dreams are made of and fish tales spawned.

Ken Hofmeister: I've Got the Blues



Ken with one of his bluefish. His go to rod/reel? Cabela's 6-weight Wind River outfit.

Bluefish, ladyfish and Smacks give Hofmeister and his 5- and 6-weight rods an early November workout on the Bayshore flats

Suncoast Fly Fisher Ken Hofmeister reported a strong case of the blues in early November. Pictures of several 20-inch bluefish attest to that. Ken also caught lots of ladyfish and several Spanish mackerel (and he lost a few macks slicing off his 40-pound test leader.)

Where? In Tampa Bay.

Exactly where? Ken caught them on the drop-off from the sandbar that marks the Bayshore Drive flats between Venetian Isles and Snell Isle. The water is crystal clear and for every hook up you'll see another swipe-and-miss. Oh, yeah!



Tom Gadacz: Tarpon & Bonefish Trust Symposium

Every three years the BTT holds a symposium at the **International Game Fish Association (IGFA) Hall of Fame and Museum** in Dania Beach, Florida. Since joining the BTT I've learned much about the science of fisheries and its importance in conservation and preservation of all fish for our and future generations.

Aaron Adams, who has presented several programs at SFF, is director of operations at BTT. He and his staff have made many scientific contributions to Florida fisheries.

The Symposium was November 7-8, 2014. Thirty-four scientific papers were presented plus many panel discussions. The Symposium brought together world-class experts to discuss issues in fisheries management. Topics included energy expenditure of bonefish -- What can ice baths and treadmills tell us about bonefish -- and tracking of highly migratory tarpon using satellite telemetry.

In addition there were fly tiers (Enrico Puglisi, Joe Mahler, and many others) in the lobby and several fly casting sessions (Joe Gonzalez, Todd Fuller, Steve Huff, and C. A. Richardson) on the lawn. Pat Ford had a photography session on Saturday.



Lee Wulff sculpture at the IGFA Hall of Fame

The Friday evening reception was held in conjunction with a fishing art and film festival. The film festival consisted of some very professional fishing trips and some less polished and incredibly funny fishing exploits. This was a great hit at the Symposium.

Saturday evening was the banquet and auction in the Fishing Hall of Fame, an impressive room with huge fish overhead and names and records on a floor plate beneath each fish.

Mark your calendar for October 2-3, 2015 because the IFFF Florida Council is planning to have its Expo at the IGFA next year.

Tom



*IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum in Dania Beach, site of the annual **Bonefish & Tarpon Trust Symposium.***



Steve Huff casting clinic

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip # 59



By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor

Practice Suggestions

During our recent IFFF Expo in Crystal River, we had an area set up to help anyone with casting issues, from beginner to advanced. A universal problem was most participants were using an excessive amount of energy (power) to accomplish their cast. After watching them, my first instructions were usually to shorten the line, pinch it against the grip and then place the line hand in a pants pocket. All casts begin with a simple pick up and lay down cast. It should be performed with good form and nice small front and back loops. Do this with a short length of line, 30 feet from reel to fly. When satisfied, add a foot of line and continue casting and false casting. Do it as slowly as possible. Adding line in small increments requires minimal changes in

the essentials needed to cast well and will build confidence.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

A note about the *Big Gun Shootout*

Everyone who attended the Big Gun Shootout had a chance to learn from our fantastic participants. There were constant discussions about how to improve casting skills. Distance, accuracy, loop size, backcast, casting in all wind directions, line and rod selection were just some of the topics. All skill levels were represented. This year we had a very good showing of young fly fishers. I'm sure they enjoyed the experience as much as we did having them and hope their numbers will increase in the future. Bring a young friend to the next club meeting.

Pat

Dayle Mazzarella, MCI: Grass Drill # 8:

TIM RAJEFF ROD BEND DRILL

Goal: Understand the progression from “tip” casting to full rod bend casting.

Principles: 1) All things being equal, the more line one has in the air, the more bend there will be in the rod, which will require a wider arc to maintain a straight line path of the rod tip. 2) The less the rod bend, the faster the timing of the casting stroke. 3) The more line used, or the more force applied, the “deeper” into the rod the bend will occur.

Step 1: Without a line, hold your rod in the vertical position and make very short, abrupt strokes. Move your rod tip 6” only! You should see your tip move back and forth from the tip to a foot or two down. There should be little movement in the bottom third of the rod.

Step 2: Make larger strokes (maybe 3’ total stroke length) still employing a series of abrupt stops. You should now see bend down into the middle of the rod. You will also need to use more force.

Step 3: Make really long strokes with lots of force and acceleration and see how your rod bends all the way down toward the butt.

How is this useful?

For very short casts or when starting with just a little line, like after you take your fly off the hook keeper, you need to “tip” cast with very little “draaaag....” As you lengthen the line you need to increase the amount of “draaaag....” as well as force.

In other words, for a very short amount of line try to make mostly the rod tip move back and forth. You will not need much draaaag!

As the line increases in length, increase the draaaag.... part of the stroke by moving your hand a farther distance parallel to the ground. Also, add more force.

The “draaaag....” is called “translation” in caster vocabulary and the “pop” is called “rotation”.

Translation is the distance your hand travels *parallel to the ground* during the casting stroke.

Rotation is the amount your wrist rotates through during the casting stroke.

Want a Challenge?

Place a line on your rod and strip out 35 ft. on the ground. Start with only the leader and a few feet of line out of your tip top guide. Wiggle line out by holding your rod horizontal to the ground and wiggling your tip back and forth as you feed line. See how long it takes to wiggle out the 35 ft.

Start false casting with only a few feet of line out of your tip top and see how many strokes it takes to get all 35 feet out!

Free Fly Casting Clinic. Maximo Park December 6

Saturday, Dec 6 -- Maximo Park Casting Clinic hosted by Suncoast Fly Fishers

Improve your fly casting with three IFFF Master Casting Instructors -- Dayle Mazzarella, Pat Damico, and John Hand -- plus Leigh West and Steve Parker, TBFFC expert instructors and casters.

It's free for IFFF members. Or join IFFF for \$35 (seniors \$25).

Where:

Maximo Park, next to O'Neill's Marina in St. Petersburg, just off exit 17 on I-275.

When:

8 am - 8:30 Check-in. We will have some equipment for those need it. A 6-wt. to 8- wt.rod with a 7 to 8 foot leader is recommended. We will have leader material, yarn, name tags, etc. We will familiarize participants with the format, layout, schedule, and other details.

8:30 (Prompt) Basic casting principles and execution. This portion is designed to help beginners learn to make basic casts and understand the principles involved. In addition, more experienced casters will learn how to teach friends and family. A handout of the principles and drills will be provided. Even experienced casters will find this portion helpful in reviewing the basics which in turn will help prepare for the more advanced casts later in the day.

DRILLS: Grass Drill, Pick-Up and Lay-Down, False Casting, Break, Feeding Line, Roll Cast, Roll Cast to Pick Up and Feed. Each drill will have an advanced challenge for those pushing their limits.

11:05 BREAK

11:15 Split into Groups

- Introduction to the IFFF Casting Instructor Program - Quick Casting
- Basic Double-Haul
- Advanced Distance Casting
- Accuracy and Mending

12:00 LUNCH provided by Suncoast Fly Fishers

12:45pm Repeat 11:15am Groups 1:30 BREAK

1:45 Fun Casting Drills - 4 Stations

Bob Morrison: How-To

Duct Tape is Your Friend



Oyster bed gobies. Black drum and sheepshead are hunting over the oyster beds about now, looking for gobies, those little striped baitfish that are picking off the tiny dark crabs that are crawling all over the oysters' shells to feed on the algae that grows there. Use a cockroach deceiver pattern fly with grizzly hackle tail feathers, which is a good imitation of a goby.

Scent your shrimp. Try scented shrimp patterns, fished on the bottom, for redfish this month. Reds in shallow water are very spooky, so go quietly and use lightweight flies that don't make a splash when they hit the water. Plan your casts so that you can retrieve the fly away from the fish, which is natural, rather than toward them, which ain't natural.

Hot Spots. Check the Weedon Island area and the flats on the north side of the west end of the Gandy Bridge at 4th Street for the Big Three this month. I hear there is activity there, as well as at Snug Harbor on the nearby south side of Gandy. Docklighting can also pay off, especially for snook. Finally, mackerel should be hunting over the artificial reef between Gandy and the Howard Frankland bridge, as well as over the other artificial reefs in the bay.

Duct tape is your friend. As the water cools you will be needing those waders, so check them for leaks. Patch them as necessary, and take a small roll of duct tape with you when you go, for those unexpected leaky emergencies.

Go get 'em and good luck!

Bob

Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers

Guy Tillotson
President
Phone: (904) 347-3138
Email: guy@grandslamgroup.com

GRAND SLAM GROUP, LLC
Sales & Marketing
www.GrandSlamGroup.com

3806 Guilford Rd. #6 Naples, FL 34112

© Paula Cannon 1996

Firefly FISHING LODGE & RETREAT, LLC



- ✓ Rustic lodging at 90-acre mountain, creek & river paradise
- ✓ Guided fly fishing/drift boat packages
- ✓ Customized family tours & activities

1414 Robert Miller Lane Mineral Bluff, GA 30559
706-374-4489 • fireflylodge@tds.net • fireflyfishinglodge.com

Flint Creek
Outfitters
Est. 1965 Florida
www.FlintCreekOutfitters.com

1502 N. Westshore Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33609
813 681 1888
store@flintcreekoutfitters.com

Spin Tackle

The Fly Guy

Capt. Pat Damico

2981 E. Vina del Mar Blvd.
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
Tel: 727-360-6466
Web: <http://captpat.com>
Email: flyguy@captpat.com

Fly Tackle

GOODYEAR • TOYO • COOPER • MICHELIN

BOB LEE'S
Since 1947
TIRE COMPANY

TODD MURRIAN 727-822-3981
www.bobleetire.com
1631 - 4th STREET NORTH • ST. PETERSBURG, FL. 33704

FLY FISHING **Star Valley Outfitters**

- Lessons
- Casting
- Fly Tying
- Fishing Trips



Dayle Mazzarella
(760) 703-0118
email: emailmazz@yahoo.com



Metalfab Inc
ARCHITECTURAL METAL SPECIALISTS
WWW-METAL-FAB INC.COM

Tampa Bay
On The Fly

Fly Fishing and Tying
Equipment, Instruction, and Adventures

4203 W El Prado Blvd
Tampa FL 33629
Phone 813.443.0660
Fax 813.443.0662

Enver Hysni
Cell 727.504.4062
info@tbotf.com www.tampabayonthefly.com

Put your business card ad in our newsletter. Just \$100 (or auction items) for 12 monthly issues.
Contact Karen Warfel,
kmwarfel@yahoo.com

Tampa Bay Charter Fishing
with
Capt. Dan Bumgarner
aboard
"Teacher's Pet"



Ph. 727-526-7565 Cell 727-422-9163
USCG Licensed

Dollar for Dollar
Alpen is your Best Optics Buy!

Alpen Optics – Winner of **7 Outdoor Life**
“Great Buy” Awards. *More than any other optics company – EVER!*



877-987-8370
alpenoptics.com

Call ALPEN. use code word “Flv” to receive FREE kevlight & catalog.

Carbon Marine





Carbon fibers and space-age epoxies create the lightest fishing accessories.
813-928-9887
carbonmarine.com

Canoe Outpost-Peace River, Inc.
Beth Alibro
Office Manager, Group Coordinator



800-268-0083 or 863-494-1215
863-494-4391 fax
2816 NW County Rd. 661
Areada, FL 34266
www.canoeoutpost.com - peacepaddler@canoeoutpost.com



JIM SWANN'S 

Complete Fly Fishing Shop
Rods - Reels - Hand Tied Flies - Guide Service
Fly Tying Materials
Classes in Fly Tying and Casting

352-567-6029 13650 S. 98 By Pass
Dade City, FL 33525



Bill Jackson Inc.
Shop For Adventure

SPECIALISTS IN:
BACKPACKING
CAMPING
FISHING
GUN SHOP
IN-LINE SKATING
KAYAKING
METAL DETECTING
SCUBA DIVING
SNOW SKIING
STANDUP PADDLE BOARDS

9501 U.S. 19 North, Pinellas Park, FL 33782
Phone: (727) 576-4189
www.billjackson.com




SaltFlies
Custom Built Saltwater Flies

CRAIG SMOTHERS PHONE: (941) 266-5209
5526 SHADY BROOK TR. EMAIL: SALTFLYS@GMAIL.COM
SARASOTA, FL. 34243 WEBSITE: WWW.SALTFLYS.COM

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Seven degrees of separation, or something. Who do Ernest Hemingway, Ted Williams and Harry Truman have in common? Stu Apte, that's who. The saltwater fly fishing pioneer and IGFA record holder has written a new book -- [My Life in Fishing](#) -- that tells about his 40 year friendship with Williams, a funny afternoon with Bess and Harry Truman, and an afternoon of downing mojitos with Hemingway aboard *Pilar*. ([Amazon](#))

Successful fly-fishers follow these 13 rules. I really need to work on #2. That, and I think I've been bending my bendback hook up too far. ([Deneki](#))

Coming to Tampa Bay, too? University of Florida Sea Grant Program is hosting meetings of anglers who fish Charlotte Harbor and Sarasota Bay, looking for grass roots anglers to tell them the good and the not so good about fishing in those estuaries. It will help researchers and managers in future studies. ([Herald Tribune](#))

Hey, people, there are some good deals on gear. Right now you can get an Albright GP reel for \$30. Decisions, decisions. Okay, I'm going with the GP. In fact, I've been going with the GP. I now own four plus a spare spool. If you want an entire outfit, Ken Hofmeister has been bragging about Cabela's 6-weight Wind River rod-reel-line discounted to \$80. ([Albright GP Blowout](#), [Cabela's](#))

Ladies, start your engines. Gentlemen, too. Joan Wulff demonstrates the double-haul. ([Midcurrent](#))

Bookmark this site. Every Friday Orvis' Phil Monahan posts some of the best fly fishing videos out there. ([Orvis](#))

How to cast weighted flies. A shorter leader does the trick. Bob Clouser covered all this at the Florida Fly Expo at The Plantation in Crystal River. Suncoast Fly Fisher Chris O'Byrne covers the subject well in this article. ([Florida Sportsman](#))

Holiday Gift. You'll like this Plano fly box. It's sized right for your chest pocket and the rounded corners make it easy to slide in or slide out. If you don't win one at our club's monthly meeting raffle, then just buy one. No, buy two, one for your buddy and one for you. ([Amazon](#))

Manatees are moving to warmer water. But the journey is dangerous. Cold fronts are arriving now. I went fishing one recent afternoon and the Tampa Bay water temp was 72. The front arrived over night. The next morning the water temp had dropped to 68. Manatees are on their way to warmer water. They are not the smartest animals on the planet so watch out for them. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

Bill