

On The Fly

April 2015 Volume 25, Issue 4



At the March meeting Russ Hampton tied big water streamers then prepped members on the where-to and how-to for fishing the

Everglades Canal April 24-25.
Page 3



Our March outing in lower Tampa Bay was great fun. Buffet picnic lunch was served at one of the pavilions adjacent to the Blackthorn Memorial at the I-275 rest area on the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. JJ Jekielek caught the biggest trout. Page 4.



The April club outing on Saturday April 18 is from Emerson Point Preserve on Snead Island west of Palmetto. More on page 8

Ken Hofmeister and Tom Gadacz are just back from the fly fishing the waters around Everglades National Park and the Ten Thousand Islands out of Everglades City -- aka Snook City -- with Capt. Bill Faulkner. Page 12.



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NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

On The Fly

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News 'n' Notes

Congratulations to our new club officers and board members and thanks for contributing your time and efforts to our club

- New Officers: Dick Miekka, Secretary. Karen Warfel, Treasurer
- New Board Members: Tom Gadacz, Rick Warfel, Jeff Heer

Thursday, April 16 club meeting

Fly Tier and Speaker:

- Bruce Evensen from Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure will tie saltwater flies and talk about blind casting while wading and kayaking in saltwater. Bruce catches big fish on the Tampa Bay flats.

Fly Swap:

- Bring your three biggest and best flies. See Myron Hansen's instructions below.

Saturday, April 18 Club Outing

Emerson Point or Cypress Point.

April 24-26 Special Outing: Everglades Canals

Rooms are reserved in a block at La Quinta Sunrise in Sunrise, Florida near Fort Lauderdale under Alan Sewell's name. To secure the special rate (\$78) make your reservations with your own credit card. Phone 954-846-1200, extension #6.

Thursday, May 21 Club Meeting

Fly tier: Ted Hagaman ties the "Beer Can" Fly

Speaker: Walt Durkin, Alaska DIY fly fishing

Saturday, May 23, Club Outing

- Hillsborough River with lunch at Trout Creek Park.



Layne Smith(r) was thrilled when his winning ticket was pulled from the membership survey raffle bucket. VP Tom Trukenbrod presented Smitty with the outfit -- TFO Pro Rod/Lamson Liquid Reel/Rio fly line.

Myron Hansen: Fly Swap

Here is another opportunity for you to be creative. Take a look back and then take a look forward. What fly pattern did you catch your largest freshwater fish on or which one did you catch your largest fish of a species on (ex., bluegill, bass, etc.)? "Swappers" can look forward to using these flies in the Everglades or during another freshwater outing. It is suggested that members turn in with their flies a description of the giant fish they originally caught on this pattern.

Flies will be turned in at the beginning of the meeting and exchanged for a ticket with your name on it. Your ticket will be placed in our drawing. After all flies have been collected and displayed and after the evening program, tickets will be drawn. When your name is called you can come forward to select any three individual flies. Tickets will be drawn and names called until all participants have collected their flies.

Myron

Russ Hampton: Where and How to Fish Everglades Canals

If you're going on the special outing to fish the Everglades canals April 24-26 then absorb this info from an Everglades addict



Russ Hampton tied streamers at the March meeting. Instructions for tying his Everglades big bass gurgler are on page .

Russ Hampton of Clermont is not a guide but you'd be lucky to fish the Everglades canals with him during the club outing April 24-26. (Hey, got room in your boat? Call and ask if he'll join you: 352-408-2896.)

Russ was our featured speaker at the March meeting and gave us his slide show tutorial on the where and how. It was an updated version of his presentation to Suncoast Fly Fishers at our May 2008 meeting.

First things first: Feeding gators is a no-no. Really. Please don't. They're stupid animals and look like they'll take a bite out of your kayak if you're not careful.

Second things second: It's safer not to fish these canals in a kayak.

If you're going for big black bass do what Russ does: use a 9-weight and throw a big white weed-guarded gurgler. Sometimes paradise is a little lake-like opening in the skinny canal. You throw that gurgler way back in the field of lily pads and skitter it across the pads. Then, wham. And again, wham.

Maybe that bass will manage to hook itself in the process. Either way, your heart will be in your throat.

If you'd rather catch 100 of whatever species then throw a 6-weight with a smaller gurgler or spider fly. Depending on which canal you're fishing you can land little bass, bluegills, spotted tilapia, Mayan cichlids, oscars (also known as "bluegills on steroids") and maybe even a peacock bass. They're coming back.

Google Earth is your advance research gold mine. So is the MYFWC.com hunting website. That is not a typo. Hunting. Not fishing. For some reason the hunting site shows more boat ramps. Go figure. For a free booklet with maps of all of the canals phone the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) 561-686-8800, and ask for the "Facilities and Infrastructure Location Index."



Everglades Canal sampler. Some of Hampton's favorite canal areas are in the southern zone, places like Snapper Creek (C-2), Aerojet, L28/L29 canals, Holey Land Wildlife Management Area, Everglades Plane Memorial at Holiday Park Recreation Area (L67A/67C), Tamiami (C-4) with access to Blue Lagoon Lake near the Miami airport.

Candid Camera at the March meeting



Russ Hampton showed members some of his streamlined techniques for thing streamers.



"Those flies sure smell good. Is that bucktail?," asked this attendee, a guest of Toni Fernstrom



One of Russ' streamers. By the way, Russ recently returned from Mexico where, he reports, he caught 20 sailfish on a fly.



Dave Barson gets ready to raffle off goodies at the close of the March meeting.



Smitty's imaginative bluegill tube fly. He will show us how to tie in a future Tying Bench. No feathers, no fur. Just rubber tubing from a kiddy toy and a hook.



Charlie Most shows off a new fly he tied for the fly swap, a fly with some trophy catches in its resume.



Bob Morrison posed for a new picture for his How-To column How about this one?



Thomas Jefferson also attended the March meeting. He was hiding in a glass jar on the raffle table.

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers

Suncoast Fly Fishers

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

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Vice Pres: Tom Trukenbrod
Secretary: Dick Miekka
Treasurer: Karen Warfel

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Dan Bumgarner - John Craig --
George Haseltine- - Tom Gadacz -
Ken Hofmeister - Jeff Heer - Rick
Warfel

Committees

*Volunteers needed Please speak to
any officer or director at the meeting*
Casting Skills -- Pat Damico, MCI, and
Dayle Mazarella, 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 -- Open
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

Tom Trukenbrod: Suncoast Fly Fisher Outings



Saturday February 21, 2015 - Walsingham Park

We had a good turnout for our Walsingham Lake outing. (And no one decided to take a swim like I did last year.)

The fishing was moderately good --Hey, Larry Morse caught a 15" bass! -- and the weather could not have been better. Lunch was great with sausages and a fine variety of desserts (compliments of Mary Ann Carmichael.)

Cliff Nigh, the third President of SFF, and Terry Kirkpatrick, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) leader, compared their bamboo fly rods. They both build some handsome bamboo rods. Well, what do know, but pretty soon they were casting and before long many members at the outing were slinging line on bamboo, too. Ron Kelley and Rick Warfel threw some nice loops.

Saturday, March 21, 2015: Tampa Bay within sight of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge

The March outing instruction was to fish within sight of the Skyway Bridge. It was a beautiful day and the predicted sea fog stayed out in the gulf. A lot of territory was covered north and south of the bridge by our large group of fisher-people wading, kayaking and boating with many species of fish caught. The tournament fish was the largest trout. It was a close contest with a large number of trout caught. The longest trout was 17 3/4 inches caught by "JJ" John Jekielek. Another great outing with fun, food, fish, and friends.

Saturday, April 18 2015: Emerson Point Preserve on Snead Island west of Palmetto

Emerson Point forms the south shore of Terra Ceia Bay and the north shore of the Manatee River. Fish by boat, canoe, kayak, canoe or just park and wade fish from the shoreline of this remarkable water at the mouth of Tampa Bay. Lunch is at noon at Point Pavilion #2.

The address is 5801 17th St. W., Palmetto. By auto exit Highway 41 on 10th Street West. Head westerly to Emerson Point and follow the signs to the preserve. For more information about how to get there and where to launch go to mymanatee.org.

2015-2016 Outing Tournament Updates

Species	Length	Angler	Outing
Largest Bass -	15-inches	Larry Morse	February: Walsingham Park
Largest Seatrout	17.75-inches	JJ Jekielek	March: Blackthorn Memorial
Largest Sunfish	Open		
Largest Ladyfish	Open		
Largest Snook	Open		
Largest Redfish	Open		
Largest, other	Open		

Note: All fish entered in the yearly contest must be the targeted fish caught at a club outing, in the zone defined, and must be at least the minimum length as set by Florida law. It goes without saying that the fish must have been caught with a fly on a fly rod. Measure the fish with a ruler and, if possible, shoot a picture. Report the catch to the outing chairman at the picnic lunch for that outing.



March Outing: Lower Tampa Bay Lunch at the I-275 Blackthorn Memorial Rest Area

JJ Jekielek earns the gift certificate for the biggest speckled trout

Instructions for the March outing were to fish within sight of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. Trout was the target but ladyfish, again, seemed to want all the attention. Still, John "JJ" Jekielek took the prize for the biggest speckled trout, 17 3/4-inch.



Bob Burkard fights a redfish. Burkard and Bill AuCoin wade-fished from the rest area on the Manatee County of the Sunshine Skyway bridge and caught redfish, speckled trout, jacks and a flounder.



The well-attended buffet lunch was served at one of the picnic pavilions adjacent to the Blackthorn Memorial at the I275 rest area.



Mark Craig (right) and his guest Ed Holmes arrived at the Blackthorn Memorial by boat.

Ken Hofmeister: Fishing Everglades National Park and Ten Thousand Islands.

Photos by Ken Hofmeister and Tom Gadacz



Ken with one of many snook landed on the fly.

Here I am, living the dream of chasing huge tarpon in the midst of a mangrove paradise on a picture perfect day, with fine people and good health.

Moving across one of the most magnificent and unique ecosystems in the world (not even the Army Corps of Engineers could destroy it--yet) I am one blessed person. Covering hundred miles of this water wonderland, I have checked off yet another "bucket list" "to-do" item. "Living the dream" -- they would say. So what's the problem? As usual--me!

Mixed in with sheer elation and awe at the beauty surrounding me, and the wildlife impressing me, I experience petty feelings unworthy of such a day. The usual stuff of life--even though I did catch nice snook, I did not catch a tarpon. Oh well.

Thanks for manatee sunning, dolphin playing, raccoon swimming, 15 ft. sawfish beside boat, snook landed, laid-up tarpon. (We saw them--they saw us.), 100 miles of magnificent mangrove wilderness, awesome marine life, egrets in flight, glorious day, ...and tarpon perspective



Ken poses next to a "historical" Everglades site. Peter Matthiessen wrote about this place and the man who lived there in Killing Mister Watson.



Ken Hofmeister (r) with Capt. Bill Faulkner who guided Ken and Tom Gadacz out of Everglades City.

Larry Morse: St. Vrain Creek Colorado Trout Report

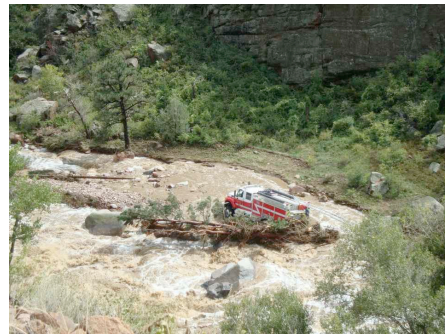


I caught this brown on a blue Dunn dry on the outside edge of a pool on a bend.

I had the recent opportunity to travel to Lyons, Colorado to visit my daughter and meet my granddaughter for the first time. That was a wonderful experience but also presented an opportunity to do some small stream trout fishing with my son-in-law, Jim Kearns.

They live in the North St. Vrain Creek canyon upstream from Lyons. If you remember the floods in Colorado a year ago last September, this creek was blasted away and reshaped by the torrent of water that came down the canyon. The stream channel

had to be rebuilt with excavators and bulldozers. We fished the creek one morning and each caught several six to eight inch browns on dry flies and Jim had caught a 13-inch brown a couple of days before I arrived.



Re-channeling the St. Vrain

The fishery in the stream still has a long way to recover but the progress it has made in the last year is amazing.



The new St. Vrain

We also spent an afternoon fishing the tail water below the dam of Estes Lake in the Big Thompson River. This section of the river is loaded with trout, as well as fly fishers. Just

walk further downstream, fewer fishers and still a lot of fish. An added benefit was an elk herd migrating through Estes Park that afternoon.

Tying Bench

Gartside Gurgler for the Everglades Canals Tied by Russ Hampton

Reprinted from the June 2008 issue of On The Fly

Russ Hampton tied his Gurgler Fly for Suncoast Fly Fishers at the May 2008 meeting, taking SFF fly tiers through the process all the way from cutting the foam to hooking six pound bass in the Everglades.

Okay, scratch the part about the six-pound bass, except you should know that Russ and his Gurgler Fly have taken bass up to six pounds in the South Florida canals. Work it like a popper, he said. For peacock bass, keep it moving.



The Gurgler Fly was created by Jack Garside but our man Russ gives it a weed guard as well as other twists and turns to make it his own. Here's the process:

Tying Sequence: Russ Hampton Gurgler Fly

1. Cut the foam. Russ uses a piece of piece of tempered glass, a straight edge, wallpaper cutter, and a ruler to measure the width. For small bluegill gurglers, it's ¼-inch wide; for bass, ½-inch wide.
2. Wrap the shank of the hook.
3. Cut the bucktail to the length you want. Clean out excess hair.
4. Tie bucktail in and some flash on top.
5. Tie in rubber legs facing back, for bass gurglers; but for a bluegill gurgler let them extend out the side like a bug.
6. Tie in the weed guard. Depending on the size of the fly use 20 to 30 pound hard mason.
7. Make an angled cut in the top of the foam to a point.
8. Lay the foam in with the solid part right where the thread is tied off.
9. Tie the foam down in segments, working toward the back.
10. Tie in Estaz Grande, palmering it forward to the weed guard. Tie it off and give it a haircut on top. Material sticking down is okay.
11. Fold the foam forward and tie it off right in front of the weed guard
12. Pin the foam back and build up thread under it so that it sits in the air a little bit.
13. Tie thread at the front of the lip of the foam so that the lips sets up high. Tie it off and apply head cement.
14. Go fishing.

Half and Half Fly Tied by Bob Burkard



One of my favorite flies for redfish, snook, and speckled trout is the Half and Half, a combination of two traditional patterns, Lefty Kreh's Deceiver and Bob Clouser's Clouser Minnow.

The Half and Half is often described as a Clouser with a Deceiver saddle feather tail. This combination results in a fly with the jiggling motion of the Clouser and the "fish attracting" tail

movement of the Deceiver.

You can tie a Half and Half in an almost unlimited combination of colors and hook sizes, and it represents more of a tying style rather than a particular pattern. For this fly I am tying a white, chartreuse, and blue Half and Half. This combination has become my go-to fly for fishing off the beaches and flats. I follow the recipe described by Bob Clouser in his book *Clouser's Flies, Tying & Fishing the Fly Patterns of Bob Clouser* with a few modifications. While the Half and Half is often tied with a great deal of flash, I have found that cutting down on the amount of flash has resulted in more fish for me.

Note: This pattern has been around for a while and, in fact, Paul Sequira also presented a recipe for the half and half fly in our own Suncoast Fly Fishers newsletter back in 2006.

Materials:

- Hook: Gamakatsu SL11-3H 1/0
- Thread: White UNI-Thread 6/0
- Eyes: Dumbbell Lead Eye - Red - Sized Small
- Tail: White Saddle Hackles - use long thin saddle hackles to get the best action
- Collar: Buck tail - White
- Belly: Buck tail - White
- Flash: Pearl Crystal Flash, Rainbow Flashabou
- Gills: Red Krystal Flash
- Back: Buck tail, Chartreuse, Blue
- Finish: Head cement, Clear Cure Goo - Hydro

Tying Sequence

1. Tie in lead eyes and finish as you would a regular Clouser. For this fly I am using red dumbbell eyes.
2. Tie in 4 white saddle hackle feathers on the top of the hook, with two saddle feathers on each curved inward like praying hands and the base of the saddle hackles against the rear of the lead eye. (This is tied in like a Deceiver tail). I like the feathers to be between 2 ½ and 3 times the length of the hook.
3. Tie in 4 strands of Pearl Krystal Flash on each side of the tail. Cut off slightly longer than the feathers.

Continued on next page.

Tying Bench, continued

Half and Half Fly Tied by Bob Burkard

4. Tie down white buck tail behind the eyes, being careful to lightly wrap thread rearward and more securely wrapping as you progress forward. This will help the buck tail lay down on the fly. I tie this buck tail about half the length of the feathers. Using your thumb, push down on the buck tail so that it lies on each side of the hook. This helps prevent the saddle hackle from fouling when casting.



5. Place a small bunch of white buck tail in front of the barbell eyes and tie to anchor, finishing as you would a Clouser wrapping behind the eyes. This should be the same length as the previous buck tail. Remember that this will be the belly of the fly.

6. Turn the hook over in your vice. Tie in 4 strands of rainbow Flashabou from the center point.



Fold the Flashabou so that there are 4 strands on each side of the hook and tie them down. Trim slightly longer than the pearl Krystal Flash.

this red Krystal Flash adds to the fly.

7. Tie in 6-8 strands of Red Krystal Flash from the center point and fold the Krystal Flash so that there are an equal number of strands of each side of the hook. Tie them down and trim to the length of the hook point. I really like the look that

8. Place and tie a small bunch of chartreuse buck tail on the bottom side of the fly, in front of the barbell eyes just as you would for a Clouser. This buck tail should be the about same length as the white buck tail belly.



9. Place and tie a small bunch of blue on top of the chartreuse buck tail the same length as the chartreuse buck tail. I like the contrasting chartreuse and blue colors and I have caught more fish with this color combination than any other Half and Half colors that I have used.

head, eyes, and thread wraps. I have found that the thin or hydro works best because it soaks into the buck tail and threads and makes this a more durable fly.

10. Form a neat head and whip-finish.

11. I use Clear Cure Goo to coat the

Bob

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip # 65



By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor

Roll Cast Pickup

Watching a client fishing this morning reminded me of a very useful cast that is simple but not often used. If you are in a position where your rod is almost vertical and the fly relatively close to you, trying to make a back cast may end up causing the fly and/or line to hit you. Move the rod rearward and get some line behind it forming a "D" loop, now execute a roll cast. As the line almost straightens in front of you make a backcast then finish with a forward cast to deliver the fly. The fly and line should not hit the water in front of you on the roll cast. This is also very useful when using a sinking tip or weighted fly.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach



At the top of the magic hour on Tampa Bay

Photo by Bill AuCoin

Bob Morrison: How-To



The Time is Right

Snook are happy and hungry, too Snook can be found in moving water now that water temperatures have reached seventy -plus degrees. They will spend the summer along the beaches and will spawn during the new and full moons. Right now snook are hungry, and will eat almost any fly or lure that looks like food. Be ready to change fly patterns and sizes to get results. Scaled sardines, greenbacks, and other minnow patterns should work well, as will shrimp patterns.

Match tides and sun. Coordinate tide changes with sunrise and sunset as much as possible. These combinations represent the best conditions for finding feeding fish. And remember to try those poppers and gurglers at sunrise on an outgoing tide at dawn to bring up those hungry sea trout.

After dark fishing. Night fishing around docks, bridges, and other obstructions is producing, so get out your dark and light mullet patterns, and use them.

Deceive the redfish. Redfish are around the oyster beds, so try those cockroach deceivers with the grizzly hackle body feathers, also small dark crabs.

Eggs: handle with care. Female trout over twenty inches will be heavy with eggs very soon. Handle these breeders with special care when unhooking and releasing them, since they are carrying the next generation.

Correction: In last month's column there was a misprint in the tip entitled "Watch those teeth", regarding the leather finger-glove used for grasping fish by the jaw. The tip should read: "Cut a finger sleeve from the glove, attach the sleeve to a zinger (a pin-on-your-shirt spring-loaded spool with a thin wire cable cord and clip for the glove sleeve, and attach the assembly to your shirt, vest, or belt." (Editor's note: It was the editor's fault.)

Go get 'em, and good luck!

Bob

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David Putnam: Fly Fisher Reflections

How Many Flies Do I Need?

Under my desk, next to my full-sized dresser full of materials, it looks like the Container Store,...



I fish for bluegills with a friend, a fly fisherman who uses only one size-10 fly—same hook, color, tail material and legs—while I flail away with various sizes, shapes and colors.

He has more action with tiny fish, which still seem to please him, somehow. They're included in his count, naturally, though they could swim in a highball glass. At the end of the day I've usually caught a few of the bigger fish, but yesterday a two-pound bass ate my buddy's fleck of foam he calls a fly, giving him rights to "most and biggest," using that embarrassing fly.

When he fishes Tampa Bay, all his flies fit in one small plastic box. They're variations of a three-inch Clouser Minnow on a size-4 Mustad hook. Winter time, he uses the darker ones. Now that menhaden are back, he'll throw a chartreuse-over-white variation wearing cheap lead barbell eyes.

My flies for saltwater wouldn't fit in a large bucket, and the flash and colors are heavenly bright. My question is, "what's wrong with *me*?" I know the single most reliable fly for most areas where I fish, yet I take full fly boxes, trying a half-dozen flies in a morning's fishing.

Is my pal a cheapskate? Ah, yes, that's part of it. All his fly tying materials fit in one small side drawer of an old, scarred desk. Under my desk, next to my full-sized dresser full of materials, it looks like the Container Store, with four large plastic boxes marked according to contents. No question I've got hoarding tendencies. I no longer drink. Could fly tying be a substitute?

I rationalize it this way: I can enjoy a fly I've tied simply by looking at it, imagining it in the water doing its thing, attracting the "big one."

I've already got one or two thoroughly proven flies for my next trip, so what am I to do, just sit at my fly tying desk looking at that one pattern? That's the only option for my friend, poor guy, while I've got countless books, articles and videos of other flies I might tie, adding my own personal touches and improvements.

The scary thing, now that I'm considering it, is I sound exactly like a hopelessly confused hoarder I saw on television, who said that everything she saw in her home had a purpose. What if she had made every item herself and was planning to use it?

David

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Do you eat the fish you catch in Tampa Bay and the Gulf? You should. We're talking mackerel, bluefish, seatrout, redfish, sheepshead and more. A new study from the University of Southern Mississippi shows they're good for you and, like salmon, high in heart-healthy Omega 3 oils. Thanks, Tom Jones, for this alert. ([Gulf Coast Research Laboratory](#))

I'm semi-addicted to the weekly law enforcement report from MyFWC. I'm happy to report that no arrests were reported from the St. Petersburg/Clearwater area in this week's report. But it sure seems like a lot of weird stuff is going on up in the Big Bend/North Central area of the state. ([MYFWC](#))

Did you hear about this Panama City character (a fishing guide, allegedly) who got so mad at the brown pelicans diving on the bait around his boat he decided to let them teach them a lesson. According to the report, he let the pelicans hook themselves then he reeled them to the side of the boat and tied their beaks shut with fishing line. FWC law enforcement watched through binoculars and moved in for the arrest. ([News Herald](#))

Boat U.S. is out with its list of the most popular boat names for 2014. Alas, my *DieHard angler* didn't make the list. Number 10 was *Seas the Day*. Stupid name. The winner was *Serenity*. Also stupid, IMHO. But, anyway, here's the point: I took a US Power Squadron class many years ago and the instructor said in his opinion the best name for a boat is one long word, a word with hard consonants and short syllables, so that when you make a call on the VHF other folks in the area really understand what you're saying. (Coast Guard monitors, too, if you need them.) *Serendipity, Serendipity, Serendipity?* Get it? ([Boat U.S.](#))

This sounds like a pretty big deal. Bass Pro Shops announced it is renovating its Wonders of Wildlife museum in Springfield, Missouri and turning it into a 360,000 square-foot attraction with a new name -- America's Wildlife Museum & Aquarium. It's a seven-year project, but some of the displays are already in place, including a large saltwater aquarium with a 220-pound goliath grouper, spotted moray eels, spiny lobsters, and reef fish. Overhead, mounted tuna and hammerheads swim around an old sunken ship. ([Springfield News Leader](#))

There's more on this subject. Some historical IGFA exhibits in Dania, Florida will be relocated to the new wildlife museum and aquarium in Springfield. But the IFGA display of 173 species of fish hanging from the ceiling will stay. So will the leaping swordfish in front of the building. ([Miami Herald](#))

I went bass fishing on Lake Kissimmee with Capt. Mike Faust. The live well was bubbling. Two Powerpoles on the transom kept going up and down. The trolling motor kept moving us around a field of lily pads. Hours later when it was time to go back to Camp Mack there wasn't enough juice left in his four boat batteries to crank his new (and amazing) Evinrude G2 250 Hp outboard. "I thought I might need this some day," Faust said. He reached into a compartment and pulled out a small black case labeled "InstaBoost". He opened the transom hatch and attached positive and negative clips to one of the batteries. Did the outboard start? Yeah, like, right now. I was impressed. Mike said he bought it at Lowes for \$99. Reviews are good. ([Amazon](#))

Bill