

On The Fly



Urban Outing, Saturday, August 22. Fish Tampa Bay on the St. Pete flats adjacent to the shoreline south of Coffee Pot Bayou. Lunch at Flora Wylie Park at noon. Sign up at the meeting or call George Haseltine at 727-423-8110



Also in this issue of *On The Fly*

NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

On The Fly

August 2015 Volume 25, Issue 8

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Snook love David Putnam's Dahlberg Diver. A frog? Really? Yep, they were all over it one morning, one right after another, along a Tampa Bay mangrove shoreline. P 7

Time to renew your membership in Suncoast Fly Fishers.
Be sure to select your new email-or-not option. P 3

Suncoast Fly Fisher News 'n' Notes

Time to Renew

Membership renewals for the 2015 – 2016 period are due in September. Starting now, to facilitate contact, you may choose to share your email address with fellow members. It is with the understanding that your email address will not be shared with non-members or used for commercial, political or other purposes. To renew, **see Treasurer Karen Warfel, at the monthly meeting** or mail a check and completed membership form to ...

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

Meeting: Thursday, August 20.

- Program: Brad Lowman, Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure
- Fly tier: Brad Lowman, Layne (Smitty) Smith.

Outing, Saturday, August 22.

- Urban outing. Downtown St. Petersburg.
- Picnic lunch at Flora Wylie Park served by Rick and Karen Warfel.

Meeting: Thursday, September 17

- Program: Learn to tie flies tie-a-thon. Instructor/student match ups.
- Also, FREE pizza.

Have you met our newest members?

- Brad and Elisa Shannon. FYI: Club membership now totals 123.

Florida Sportsman Show, Tampa Fairgrounds, September 12-13

- Suncoast Fly Fishers will demonstrate fly tying and help interested parties learn to tie flies
- A sign-up sheet will get passed around at the meeting **or call Dan Bumgarner, 727-422-9163**

October 23-24: Florida Council Fly Fishing Expo IGFA museum in Dania Beach

The new dates are **October 23-24** and Florida Council President Tom Gadacz says it will be one of the best ever Florida Fly Expos. Already Tom Logan and David Olson have commitments from Chico Fernandez, Flip Pallot, John Cave, Pat Ford and Sam Root. Visit the **Florida Council** IFFF website for the latest information.

Got any fly gear for sale? Email details to wmaucoin@verizon.net



SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) For new and renewing members. Membership categories (select one):

- ___ REGULAR MEMBERSHIP 1 year - \$15
- ___ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 1 year (includes Member, Spouse and children under 18) - \$25
- ___ BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP 1 year (includes monthly business card newsletter ad) - \$100

If a current member of FFF, enter your FFF number _____.

International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) This is only for new members and is in addition to SFF membership. If you are a current member of IFFF, please enter your IFFF number (above). SFF is a charter club of IFFF, and membership in SFF requires membership in IFFF. Current members pay annual dues directly to IFFF. If a new member, select one category only:

- ___ INDIVIDUAL 1 year - \$35
- ___ INDIVIDUAL 3 years - \$85
- ___ SENIOR (age 65 or over; provide date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) ___/___/___) 1 year - \$25
- ___ YOUTH (under age 18; provide date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) ___/___/___) 1 year - \$15
- ___ FAMILY 1 year - \$45
- ___ FAMILY 3 years - \$100

Total amount due: \$ _____. Please make check payable to **Suncoast Fly Fishers** and submit with completed application at next meeting or mail to: **Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821.**

Amount Received \$ _____. Date Received ___/___/____. Received By _____

The information requested on the Membership List 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. If you do not provide an e-mail address, you can obtain the newsletter from our web site -

<http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com>

If an e-mail address is provided, please select one of the following options:

- ___ Publish my e-mail address on the Membership List which is distributed to members.
- ___ Do not publish my e-mail address on the Membership List which is distributed to members. Only use my e-mail for distribution of SFF newsletter and important club announcements.

NOTE: AS A CONDITION OF CLUB MEMBERSHIP, ALL MEMBERS AGREE NOT TO SHARE MEMBER E-MAIL ADDRESSES OR USE THEM FOR ANY REASON (COMMERCIAL, POLITICAL, ETC.) OTHER THAN SFF CLUB RELATED CONTACT.

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
Secretary: Dick Miekka
Treasurer: Karen Warfel

Board of Directors

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 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 -- George Haseltine and Dan Bumgarner
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 6:00 to 8:30 pm, Walter Fuller Park Recreation Center, 7981 26th Ave N., St. Pete



Directions

to our meeting at Walter Fuller Park...

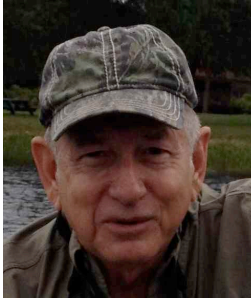
From 22nd Avenue N turn North on 72nd St. N. Turn left (South) on 26th Avenue N. Then turn right into the recreation center

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](#).

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



George Haseltine

Suncoast Fly Fishers Outing Reviews and Previews

Review: Clam Bar Outing, Sat. July 18

The clouds filled more than the skies as our minds were darkened with the question of whether to fish or not to fish. It didn't look good and the forecast didn't help, but what a great feeling when at least 20 people showed up to fish (mostly wade) the shallows just South of the Misener Bridge.



Capt. Dan Bumgarner

It does a heart good to see so many fly lines gracefully filling the air and landing in the water. We were blessed. The clouds stayed all around us providing shade with a breeze and did not release any rain until we had eaten lunch and gone our separate ways. How good is that?

Robert Fisher and Mark Hays each reported catching a snook. Mark said his snook was 18" long. Others caught fish also, but the winning entry was a 17" trout caught by Joe Corr. Way to go Joe! And Mark Craig pointed out another of my errors in reporting a 19 1/2" trout last month when in fact it was 20 1/2" trout that he caught at a dock. Sorry Mark.

Twenty-seven signed up, four opted out with a phone call, 22 showed up to break bread together. A great time was had by all. I know some of you showed up only for lunch to join us as we enriched each other's lives with fish tales and other exaggerations. What a joyful noise. For all who attended: Never underestimate the power of your presence in other people's lives and their presence in yours. Thank you Tom "Truk" Trukenbrod for catering lunch for us. The provisions were ample and the watermelon was delicious. You're the man, Truk.

Preview: Urban Outing, Saturday, August 22

Our next outing on Saturday August 22nd, 2015 will be our Urban Outing in downtown St Pete. We will fish the flats parallel to where Coffee Pot Blvd NE turns into North Shore Drive NE. We will have a chart and directions at the meeting. Our quest will again be for the longest above minimum legal size snook, trout, or redfish. Boats, kayaks and wading are all possible, making it convenient for everyone.

We will be eating lunch at noon at Flora Wylie Park which is on North Shore Dr. NE. at 13th Ave. NE. If you have trouble finding a place to park, call George at 727-423-8110 and we will shuttle you to lunch. We don't want you to miss it. Do not let a dark cloud of doubt keep you away. This month Rick and Karen Warfel have graciously volunteered to provide a secret lunch that will please everyone. Don't think twice about it sign up and show up. If you don't show up, there will be a "you" shaped void in our midst.

How about catering lunch for us in September at Cypress Point in Tampa? It can be as simple as picking up a sub platter, some chips, watermelon, drinks and ice at your local Publix. Let George, Dan, Truk or John know how we can help you.

2015-2016 Annual Tournament Leaders

| Species | Length | Angler | Outing |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Longest bass - | 16.5 inches | David Putnam | April: Hillsborough River |
| Longest bluegill | 9.5-inches | Tom Trukenbrod | April: Hillsborough River |
| Longest sea trout | 20.5 inches | Mark Craig | June: Docklight outing |
| Longest redfish | 22-inches | Mark Craig | June: Docklight outing |
| Longest snook | Open | | |

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 minimum length as determined by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.



The gurgler is designed to push more water and create more commotion as well as give a larger profile. Think snook, redfish, bass. It's a good early morning fly that some members will be casting at the Urban Outing this month.

Materials

Hook: Daiichi 2546 size 1/0 hook
Thread: Grey Danville flat wax 210 denier thread medium
Mouth: Red or orange cactus chenille
Eyes: 239 Flies crustacean eyes
Tail: Cream craft fur and Sand craft fur
Palps: Root Beer medium palmer chenille and green grizzly hackle.

Overbody: 239 Flies white/tan foam strip

Underbody: Tan EP tarantula brush (½ inch)

Markers: Prismacolor marker (tan) Prismacolor marker (brown)

Tying sequence:

Step 1. Start your thread at the eye of the hook and advance it back to a third of the way down the bend of the hook. Tie in your cactus chenille and palmer to the point where the hook begins to straighten on the shank.

Step 2. At a 45 degree angle, tie in your 239 Flies Crustacean eyes right above where your chenille ends. You may need to wrap several times in and around each eye to space the stem from the hook. The end result should place both eyes about a ¼ of an inch away from the hook.

Step 3. Cut 4-5 clumps of both sand and tan craft fur off the hide and place on a table separately. Pull the "long and shorts" out of each clump so you have clean and tapered clumps. Stack the sand clump on top of the cream clump matching the tips and trim the butt section off so that you are left with 1 piece that is approximately 2 ½ inches in length. Tie your craft fur just behind the eyes and bar them with the fat end of the tan marker and slim end of the brown marker.

Step 4. On the bump created where you tied in the craft fur, tie in a 2 inch piece of rootbeer palmer chenille and palmer forward 5 wraps.

Step 5. Tie in a green grizzly hackle and palmer forward 6-8 wraps. Break off the excess and wrap your thread backwards (away from the hook eye) pressing the last wraps or two of hackle fibers down.

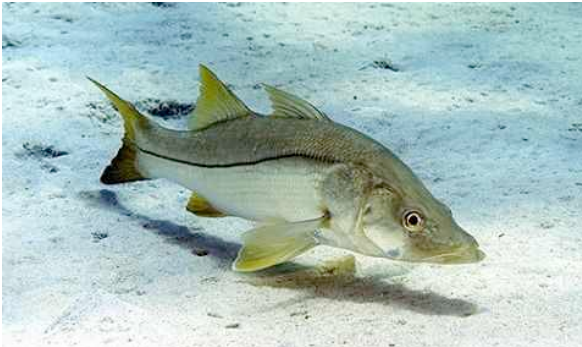
Step 6. Advance your thread to ¼ of an inch behind the eye and tie in your 239 Flies foam strip. You should tie very firmly back to where the hackle ends. Your thread should be hanging nearly touching the green hackle.

Step 7. Tie in your tan EP tarantula brush and palmer forward to ¼ of an inch behind the eye of the hook.

Step 8. Fold your foam strip back and down and tie onto the hook shank ⅛ of an inch behind the eye of the hook. Whip finish 2 times in front of the foam strip and cut the foam to length.

Brett Fitzgerald: Snook and Gamefish Foundation

By Bob Morrison



The speaker at our July meeting was Brett Fitzgerald of the Snook and Gamefish Foundation, who gave us a very interesting talk on the subject of our friend the snook.

The Snook Foundation is a group dedicated to the preservation and health of snook populations in this area. Following here are

some highlights of Brett's presentation.

Brett explained that snook have very good eyesight, which enables them to see both prey and enemies in variable conditions. They see poorly in bright light but very well in low light and darkness, something to remember when docklighting.

Snook prefer moving tidal current that will bring baitfish and shrimp to them, and will wait behind structure to ambush their prey rather than chasing it. Structure can be bridges, docks, holes



Brett Fitzgerald, Executive Director, Snook and gamefish Foundation

The foundation will welcome any contribution of information describing your personal snook catches. Such data will be helpful to foundation research projects. Cash donations to fund these projects are also welcome.

Send your catch data to www.angleraction.org. You can contact the foundation at:

E-mail:

brett@snookfoundation.org

Website:

www.snookfoundation.org

Phone app: ianglerlite

Cell phone: 561 707-8923

in level bottoms, bars, and shallow mounds surrounded by dropoffs into deeper water. A school of snook will tend to remain where it is until the bait moves away or the tidal current direction changes.

Spawning begins in April and crests in July and August, when larger snook may move for considerable distances, while smaller snook tend to move less.

Baitfish will be small in early spring, growing to larger size as summer progresses, and Brett emphasized that we should adjust the size of our flies accordingly.

Bob

David Putnam: Snook love Dahlberg's Diver



In late July David Putnam hooked and landed three spunky snook in a 30-minute span fishing a Tampa Bay mangrove shoreline on an incoming tide. The magic fly was his version of the Dahlberg Diver. "Mine is as simple as you can get with a wide strip of rabbit fur for a tail and a deer hair spun body. Rabbit fur seems to work as well as a splayed hackle tail which is more time consuming to tie," said Putnam.

Andy Constantinou: British Carp on Smitty's Dog Biscuit Fly

8-11-15

Hi guys...Nice 16lb mirror carp I caught this afternoon on the dog biscuit fly at Manor Farm Fishery in Lower Caldecote, Bedfordshire, UK which Smitty tied for me. Thank you Smitty.

In case you want to know I caught the carp on my new Hardy Sintrix 8 weight rod which was going at half price at my local fly fishing shop, magic.



I'll be back in Florida end September. Can't wait to get back

Cheerio, Andy



Tom Gadacz: E. G. Simmons park fly fishing camp for youths

Suncoast Fly Fishers led two summer camp sessions introducing the wonderful world of fly fishing and casting to 76 youths from 9 to 14 years of age at E.G. Simmons Park in Brandon SFF members Tom Trukenbrod, Rick Warfel and Tom Gadacz were the instructors.

Recreation Program Supervisor David Ramirez and camp counselors Heather, Laury, Robert, Mike and Dallas gave us great support with the kids. We are grateful to [Fish Florida](#) which provided us with a grant for the fly fishing equipment.

On July 20 it was warm and humid with some wind gusts and the kids were casting after a 20 minutes of classroom work. We discussed the differences between spin and fly casting, fresh and salt water fishing and the basics of fly casting using these principles :

- no slack in the line
- the casting arch
- acceleration to a sudden stop
- making sure the rod tips follows a straight line
- pausing at the end of each stroke
- and how distance affects the casting stroke as well as the length of the pause.



We provided handouts and some suggestions for practicing. We started them casting with a pickup and lay down, then casting at targets at 30'.

In the second session on July 31 the weather prevented outdoor casting. Fortunately we did some random casting before the downpour. These were the older ones including three who were in our session last year. Two purchased fly rods and were great. They cast decent loops and one was hauling to distances of 40 and 50 feet. He said he used YouTube and other online sites and taught himself how to cast.

Heavy rain with lightening forced us indoors and we talked about fly fishing and casting drills with PVC pipe with a ball on top of the pipe. All the kids received Certificates of Completion, Junior Training Clinic for Fly Casting from Suncoast Fly Fishers.

Tom

Al Pitcher: On The Road Again



Al Pitcher emailed that he is "currently out and about" these days, RV-ing through the Midwest enjoying summer in Ohio and Indiana. He spent some of his time at Indian Springs RV Campground on the Ohio/Indiana line, about 20 miles outside of Cincinnati and enjoyed

catching bluegills at the adjacent spring-fed lake.

Jimmie Carroll: Brookies, Rainbows and Browns in N. C.



Here are pictures of my daughter Jennifer and I catching some brown trout...and an overhanging tree limb or two. We camped in the Smokys and fished three different streams. They caught brookies before I got there and rainbows on two other streams. I'm trying to use my new bamboo rod and it's heavier than my two-weight rod that I let Jennifer use. So why they caught (brook) trout and I didn't. Ha!

Jimmie O

Tom Gadacz: Hams Fork trout fishing using "The Dayle Way"

Really Match the Hatch. Gavage.

Usually when you find an excellent trout fly fishing place, you're reluctant to share with others because the secret gets out, the place gets popular and before you know it, the uniqueness you enjoyed is now crowded. So I will give you some clues and you need to do some work to discover the place. Want to catch fish by matching the hatch? There is a better and more reliable way. The Dayle Way!



Dayle Mazzarella (r) with Nick Gadacz and one of his Ham's Fork River rainbow trout caught "The Dayle Way."

Going from 92 degrees and 80% humidity in Florida to 66 degrees and 35% relative humidity you are 130 miles out of Salt Lake City and also at an elevation to 7,000 feet. Not much around except access to some great trout fishing. Nick, my son, and I got settled in our hotel and headed out to do some fishing on our own. This is one of our fly fishing get together with IFFF MCI and guide, [Dayle Mazzarella](#). Some great catches and misses and a real learning experience about matching the hatch.

In this town of 2,700 we picked up our fishing licenses at the Sinclair gas station. A few miles out of town on our way to the river, we lost cell phone reception. Our first day on our own was good but the bugs over the water that we matched with yellow sallies did not get the interest of the fish. We switched flies frequently and began using some

dropper nymphs. Finally got a few on the droppers and Nick landed a 17" rainbow.

The next day we had an early start with Dayle and Dylan, his nephew. We began catching fish but not on yellow sallies. Since trout feed 90% of the time on subsurface flies, Dayle seined the river and selected a few nymphs. After a few catches he garaged the stomach of one of the rainbows and changed the flies. It worked. We weren't matching the hatch but were catching fish. Well, the fish were not feeding on the surface flies but the subsurface ones which were split-back nymphs and pheasant tails. Mayfly nymphs were the breakfast food of the day, not stoneflies. Maintaining a good drift was critical. We caught several good-sized rainbows and Nick had a 19" rainbow that went aerial several times. We also hooked a few over 20" which managed to break off. Maybe they were 24".

I don't know how much pressure these fish see but they were very wary and gave us a hard time taking what we had on our 5X tippets. This was a great learning experience when you want to match the hatch and catch fish.



Dayle gavage the trout's stomach



Real life results eliminate the guesswork

Lesson learned = sample the water and the fish's stomach. You'll get a good match! It's "The Dayle Way."

Tom

Tom Gadacz: Florida Council shines at fly-fishing's big trade show

IFFF MCIs Dusty Sprague and Leslie Holmes and Tom Gadacz, IFFF FL Council President attended the 2015 ICAST/IFTD Show in Orlando July 15-17, 2015.



Florida Council President Tom Gadacz (l) with Master Casting Instructors Carlos, and Dusty Sprague at the IFTD in Orlando in July.

IFTD, organized by the **American Fly Fishing Trade Association**, shares space with the long-running ICAST show of the **American Sportfishing Association**. ICAST is the world's largest sportfishing trade show and the premier showcase for the latest innovations in fishing gear, accessories, and apparel.

Manufacturers displayed all their new equipment for 2015-2016 as well as their popular standard products. There was an estimated attendance of 13,000 and 270 exhibitors. The same venue is planned for July 12-15, 2016.

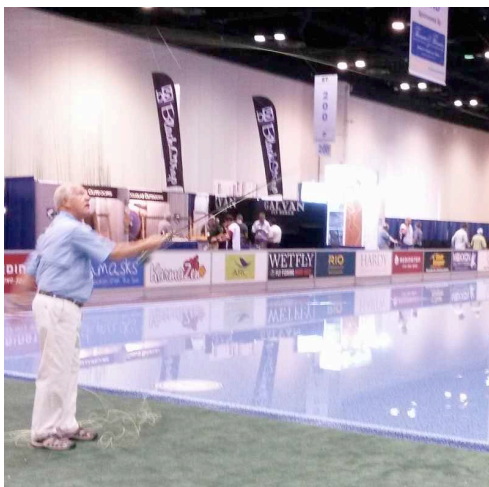
Exhibits opened for all other attendees at 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Wednesday and Thursday and 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Friday. IFFF provided MCIs for exhibitors at the casting pond each of three days from 8:00 to 9:00AM.

None of the exhibitors took advantage of our scheduled casting sessions. Dusty and Leslie did make contact with several individuals interested in casting but this was during open hours of the Exhibit Hall (9:00 to 6:00).

We had brochures on IFFF, IFFF Casting Program, IFFF Fair in Oregon, handouts of "Why should I join a club and the IFFF" and information about the IFFF Florida Council Expo.

We received feedback from several individuals and Jeff Wagner suggested that future participation should be focused on seminars on how IFFF and IFFF Certified Casting Instructors can improve the business model for fly shop owners as well as manufactures and retailers.

Tom



MCI Leslie Sprague demonstrates proper casting at the casting pond.



Tom Gadacz, president of the Florida Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) poses next to a blue marlin made with recyclable materials.

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #69



By *Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor*

You'll cast better if you know this about your fly line

One of the components of a weight forward (WF) fly line head is the forward taper. This section attaches the tip to the belly. This component determines how the fly is delivered. It can be a delicate delivery as is needed for small flies, or a hard presentation as in bass bugs or large flies. The smallest diameter is at the tip, the largest at the belly. This gradual or fast graduation over a short or long distance determines presentation.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

Suncoast Fly Fisher: Best Bets for August-September

Capt. Dan Bumgarner (*Tampa Bay Charter Fishing*)

A novice angler asked an old salt “will the rain bother the fish?” The old salt simply replied “have you ever caught a dry fish?” I will have to say that rain in the proportions that we have had lately will have an effect on the fishing. The mouths of storm drains, creeks and mosquito ditches can be very productive when the run off starts to wash all sorts of goodies in to the bay. Snook really like to take advantage of this type of situation. A moderate shower with light wind can actually trigger a bite. On a recent charter we fished through the rain and it was the most productive part of the day. The recent heavy rains have lowered the salinity of the backwaters which should push the baitfish farther out in to the bay and the predators will follow the food. On that note I heard some good news from the offshore crowd. It seems that the new hatch of Spanish sardines that was holding in 60 to 120 feet of water is moving toward the beach. If they do move in to the shallow waters of the beaches this could break the mackerel drought we have been experiencing. Other good news is that the water temps have dropped and some large very skittish redfish are being caught. Fishing for jumbo sized snapper is also still very good. Try working bridges, jetties, docks and any structure with good current flow for these tasty treats. These guys love those juvenile Spanish sardines so a clouser minnow or a gummy fly on a sink tip should work for you.

Bob Morrison: How-To

Want snook action? Take off your shoes Want cobia action? Check Buoys



Snook are very spooky fish, so approach them quietly. Many will be in backcountry bayous, small, tight water. Extra caution and silence are needed here. If you are in a boat, take off your shoes, as Ken Doty told us in June.

At the Gulf, look for troughs just off the beach, and use flies resembling greenbacks or pinfish. The big three will wait in these troughs to ambush passing baitfish. Try an EP Fiber Pinfish imitation with a ninety-degree twist. Tie the fly with the hook point facing the sea bottom, but with the tufts of EP tied parallel to the sea bottom so that the fly will lie on its side like an injured pinfish. Cement a layer of foam to the topside of the EP, opposite the hook point, which will make the fly float on the surface. Cement a large holographic eye on the bottom side of the EP so that an attacking game fish will have a target to aim at. This fly comes to us from our friend Craig Smothers of Sarasota, who recommends it for use anywhere in shallow water.

Watch for cobia around buoys. Also watch for sea turtles in these areas, since cobia will often follow turtles in hopes of catching any small critters that turtles may scare into movement as the turtles hunt for their own food.

Redfish should be active now, coming off the dark of the moon. Incoming tides should provide the most action on the part of all game fish, including Spanish mackerel. For these guys, try a light wire leader tippet as a defense against their big, sharp teeth.

Go get 'em and good luck

Bob

Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Haiku

We wind hope on the vise
fibers, feathers, flash and herl
Hopes are often dashed

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Ken Hofmeister: Catch 'n release. Or..... eat'um?

"Gamefish are too valuable to be caught only once." Lee Wulff, 1938.

Guess I grew up with a passion for catching fish--and cooking them. In middle school, I would ride a bike home with a stringer slung over the handlebars. In addition to "how many?" "How big?" There was the question of "How did they taste?"

Since I've eaten possum, you can imagine that I ate most anything that swam including eels. The primitive hunting instinct always kicked in as I would drag my catch back to the "cave." Sometimes, fried on the bank was better than taking them home.

I like fish fried, smoked, grilled, baked, sushi, poached, and in a stew. I always cleaned what I caught and ate (or gave away) what I cleaned. Proud of that! This attitude persisted throughout my spinning days and the early fly-fishing days. I felt superior to those who kept illegal fish. Vastly superior to commercial netters and poachers.

So when did this attitude shift? Very, very gradually. Suncoast Fly Fishers talked about "catch and release" as a worthy goal. So, on outings I would sometimes release a fish to impress my colleagues.

Over the wake of my fly fishing days I've fished with guides who practiced "catch and release" exclusively. I still had fun fishing. And then I began to look at the rationale beneath conservation.

Catch and release caught on slowly amidst the culture of "catch and cook." Fly fishers were generally considered elite snobs when they talked about it (and even when they didn't). But the facts are that more and more anglers are putting pressure on fewer and fewer fish.

A turning point came when Ray Scott, in 1972, decided to institute catch and release rules in his BASS tournaments. This move made more difference than countless catch limits or restrictions. Scott did it at first for profit reasons and to avoid the negative press and hostility of local anglers whose lakes were decimated after catch and kill tournaments. His epiphany came when he was invited to speak at a Federation of Fly Fishers Conclave in Aspen, Colorado. They took him fly-fishing and he witnessed up close and personal the joys and excitement of catch and release. So he tried it. And liked it.

Today, I will keep one or two for supper and release the rest. With ladyfish, I prepare sushi for my visiting birds. Catch and photograph works just as well in convincing Suncoast Fly Fishers at monthly outings that I really did catch one that big!

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Enterrococcus. Vibrio vulnificus. Aaaarrggghhhh. Retainer ponds are overflowing. So now partially-treated sewage has been dumped into the bay. That's on top of the rain runoff already causing sickly bacteria levels to rise. St. Petersburg's shoreline and waters near Tampa's Picnic Island Park and Cypress Point have been called out in recent advisories. So? So don't become a statistic. Check virus reports regularly. ([Florida Health Department](#))

New gear for 2016. Fly fishing's big tackle company trade show was at the Orlando Convention Center in July with all of our favorite brands on sale for the first time to

fly tackle dealers. So what's new? Here's a peek:

- **Pflueger Patriarch Fly Reel**
 - Machined aluminum. Large Arbor. Sealed carbon drag.
- **Cortland Micron Backing**
 - Dacron. Zero twist. Low friction. Low stretch. Strong knots. 20 and 30#.
- **Plano Fly Rod Tubes**
 - Keep reel attached. Shoulder strap. Three sizes
- **Orvis Helios2 Rod**
 - One piece. 8'10". Strong. Smooth. 8-12-weight.

Frog fly for snook? Of course. Snook are freshwaer fish, too. Member David Putnam got multiple snook strikes last month with his version of the Dahlberg Diver which he ties, to save time, with a rabbit strip instead of matching hackle. Here are some online tying instructions. ([Hatches](#)). Or, hey, just buy some. ([Orvis](#))

Everybody's a winner? Proposed Bahama bonefish regulations have put a fishbone in the throat of fly anglers who go there for DIY fishing. Here's an update from Bonefish and Tarpon Trust with ideas for how the Bahamas can maximize its bonefish fishery by keeping an eye on the future. ([Bonefish and Tarpon Trust](#))

Bass. Bream. Catfish. Nile perch. Carp. Capt. Pat Damico's recent advice in the Tampa Bay Times reminds us that the Tampa Bay area has multiple freshwater fly fishing opportunities, too, including roadside ponds, city and county park lakes, and more. Rig up your 3 weight. ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

Labor Day. St. Pete's lake fishing deadline is fast approaching. ([Welcome to St. Pete](#))

Well, we are the lightning capital of the world. Rick Warfel emailed me a link to a new smart phone/laptop app called Weather Bug that tells you where lightning is striking in your area. Access it from the menu or put it on your home page. ([Weather Bug](#))

And new chapters are still to be written. *The Legend of Lefty Kreh.* ([Garden and Gun](#))

Yep, it's kind of a big deal. Second half of the snook season is just days away. ([FWC](#))

Bill