

On The Fly

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

On The Fly

December 2015 Volume 25, Issue 12

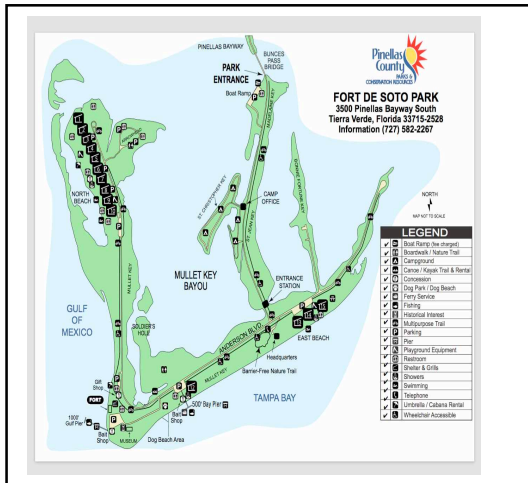
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Hi Che, long time no see. P 11.



Bob Morrison is thinking. About... wait for it... tomatoes. P 10.



Our Dec. 19 year-end outing, the *Don Coleman Invitational*, is at Fort De Soto Park. Fish park waters early then consume the competing chili dishes and vote for the best, Pavilion 5, near the North Beach parking lot. Bring your favorite side dish, too, to share with the group.

Suncoast Fly Fisher News 'n' Notes

No December meeting. Happy Holidays

December 19 outing, Don Coleman Invitational

- Fish the Gulf and Bay waters surrounding Fort De Soto Park
- Great Chili Cook-off at noon at Pavilion # 5 near the North Beach parking lot. The top three chili dishes will be determined by vote by all in attendance.
- This is the annual Don Coleman Invitational Tournament to remember our former club member who authored *Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod*, the publication that is given to all new members.

January 21 meeting -- Trash 'n' Treasures Auction

- Bring and donate the fly gear you no longer use. Also, plan to bid on gear you do need. Alan Sewell is auctioneer.

February 18 meeting-- Capt. Pat Damico

- Pat will discuss fixes for the most common mistakes in fly casting

March 5, MCI Casting clinic

- Master Casting Instructors Dayle Mazzarella and Pat Damico will lead this clinic. This is a MUST for all who are serious about their fly fishing. Venue, probably: Maximo Park

April 2 -- Hog Roast 2016 at Treasure Island Municipal Auditorium.

May 7 - First Fly Fishing 101

- This will be the first hands-on, open-to-the-public session of a new course for those want to take up fly fishing. MCI/SFF member Dayle Mazzarella is designing the program.



Robert Fischer caught this monster sheepshead on Smitty's shrimp fly at the Don Coleman Invitational at Fort DeSoto Park last year.

Did you forget?

Membership renewals for the 2015 - 2016 period were due in September. If you haven't renewed, it's time. Hey, it's past time. Starting now, to facilitate member-to-member 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, mail a check with your completed membership form (on page 3) to ... Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers

P. O. Box 40821

St Petersburg, FL 33743-0821

www.suncoastflyfishers.org

Club email address...

pres_vp@suncoastflyfishers.com

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

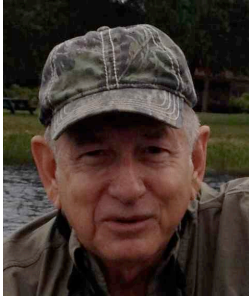
Directions to our meeting at Walter Fuller Park...

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 and Annual Tournament Update

*George Haseltine, Dan Bumgarner, Co-
Chair SFF Outing Committee with Truk
Trukenbrod & John Craig*



Capt. Dan Bumgarner

Review: Weedon Island Preserve, November 21

It was an overcast day with a welcomed breeze because it kept the “no see’ems” at bay most of the time. It only rained once, lightly for about a minute.

Approaching the dock at 7:45 AM I passed Mark Hays’ truck parked on the left. Rick Warfel was watching a kayak as the owner drove to the main parking lot to park. Unfortunately, there are only about 10 parking spots near the launch and they were already full. There were a lot of people there by 9:00.

We had 37 signatures on the sheet and 28 showed up for the feast of smoked Spanish and king mackerel provided by Mark Hays. Joe Dail volunteered to “sit the bench” early to reserve or pavilion. Thank you, Joe.

John Craig showed up early with the drinks, cole slaw, bread, cookies and watermelon. John is one of those behind the scenes, tireless workers. Thanks, John.

Who brought the tomatoes? They were great.

It was good to see Annie Hays who drove down from St. Leo College to join us and brought brownies prepared by her mom Marianne. Tom Gadacz brought chips and there were other goodies there but I couldn’t find out who brought them. Thanks to everyone who did bring something. It was a good time with good friends.

It was great to have a visiting family: Ryan, Will and Cooper Sollars join us for the first time. Ryan and Cooper were at our last meeting. Smitty gave his winning gift certificate from Lake Tarpon to Cooper. Way to go, Smitty. Everyone made them feel welcome. I hope they will join soon.

David Tyska has visited with us before and after this outing requested an application to join. Welcome David.

Woody made his “annual” visit with us and threatened to throw me in if I hooked the snook we saw at the dock. What a great sense of humor this guy has. I didn’t catch the snook, because I think he meant it.

Our President, Kirk Burton caught the longest fish, a 21” redfish. Congrats, Kirk. There was a variety of ladyfish and a few small snook caught, but not a single speckled trout.

Our December outing is at Fort De Soto Park. Lunch at Pavilion 5. Details on next page.

Reviews and Previews, continued...

Reviews-Previews-Tournament Update

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.

Preview: Don Coleman Invitational, Fort De Soto Park Saturday, December 19

In December, we're at **Fort De Soto Park** for a great day for fishing and our world famous "Chili Cook off." Thank you Wendy and Kirk Burton for handling all the details and the voting on this festive occasion. John Craig reserved Pavilion #5 at the North Beach parking area.

Bring your favorite chili and/or a side dish. There will be electric at the site and lots of people have volunteered to bring Coleman stoves. You can wade, kayak, paddle board (I say this tongue in cheek because most of us wouldn't dare get up on a paddle board) or bring your boat.

There is no general meeting in December, so there will be no sign up sheet. Just show up. Please. We need you, too.

There is plenty of water to fish and I guarantee there will be plenty of chili and fixings to eat. Notice elsewhere in this newsletter where Bill AuCoin puts links to websites for directions. I don't know how he does it, but that is just awesome. Once again, the award will be for the longest above legal limit trout, redfish, or snook.

Please, please, please, someone catch a legal size snook so Bill can add it to our annual tournament standings report in this newsletter. Please join us, even if it is just for lunch.

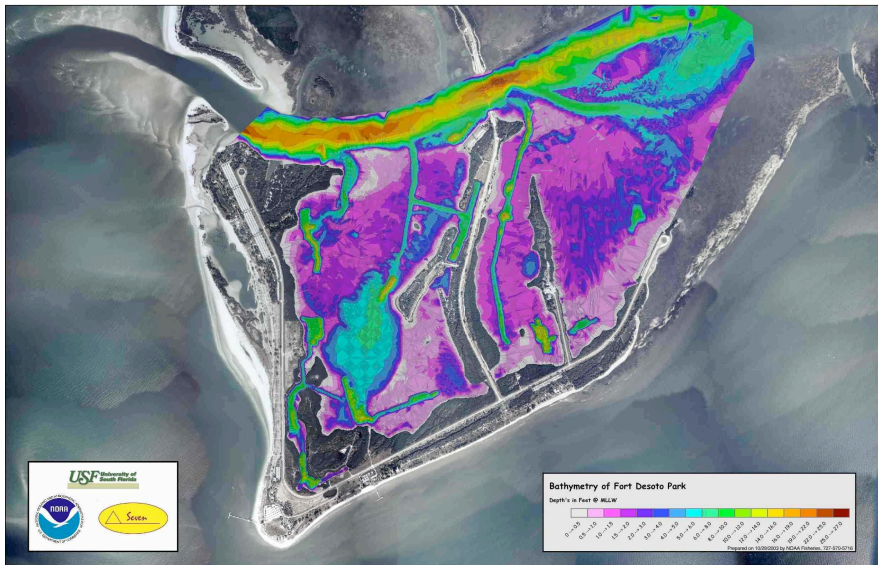
Questions? You can text or call George @727-423-8110 or email at ghh343@aol.com.

Questions? If you have questions or want to sign up for an outing you can call or text me on my cell phone, 727-423-8110, or email me at ghh343@aol.com.

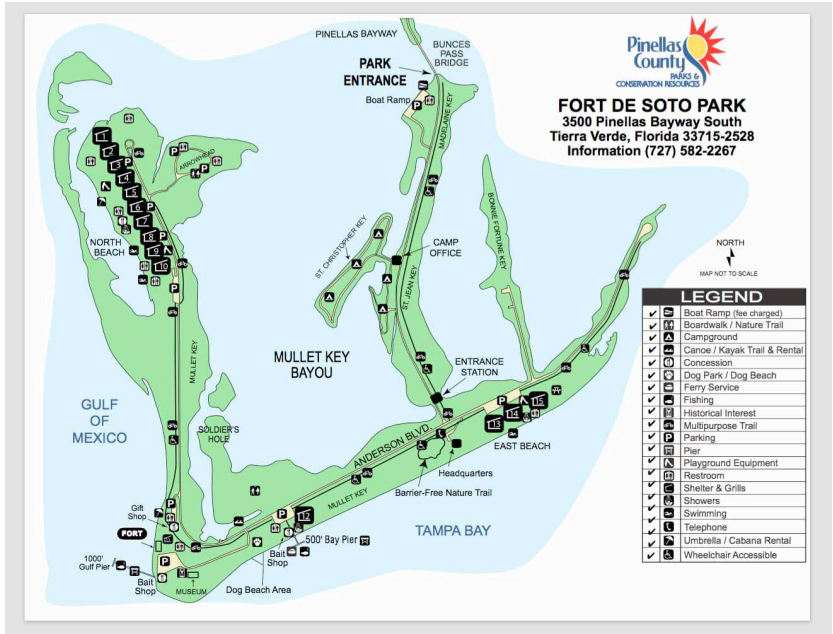
George

More information about fishing the waters of Fort De Soto Park is on the next page

Be Prepared: Don Coleman Invitational - Fort DeSoto Park



This NOAA bathymetric photo shows water depths. Dark blue areas are deeper and often hold fish on low tides. We'll fish an outgoing tide on Dec. 19.



Fish in the morning in the waters surrounding Fort De Soto Park. You can launch your boat at the boat ramp. You can put your kayak into play or just park and wade-fish almost anywhere in the water along the 7-miles of paved roads. Good luck, all.

November Outing Snapshots: Weedon Island Preserve



It was kind of a big deal. Outings committee chairman George Haseltine (right) and Rick Warfel get ready to enjoy Mark Hays' smoked mackerel and other goodies at the Weedon Island Preserve picnic pavilion.



Thanks, Mark Hays. Our food editor has awarded you five stars for your smoked mackerel.



Hey, pass the chips. From left to right...Miriam and John Craig, Karen and Rick Warfel, Bill Scarola and, very far right (no pun intended), Kevin Kelly.

Continued... Weedon Island Preserve Outing



Kevin Kelly has a good 'yak-launch system. Go get 'em, Kevin.



Bob Morrison's taste buds would like to thank the person who brought the home grown, vine-ripe tomatoes.



Hey Woody Miller, great to see you. Obviously, it's the magic hour at Weedon Island. Tell the photographer you have places to go, promises to keep.



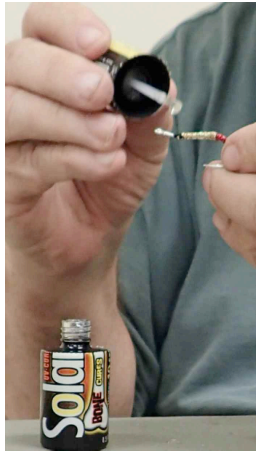
Bruce Evensen has a thumbs-up for everything on the buffet table, soon to be in his stomach.

Photos by Tom Gadacz, George Haseltine and Bill AuCoin

November' Meeting: Smitty Ties. Fly Fishers Go To Cuba



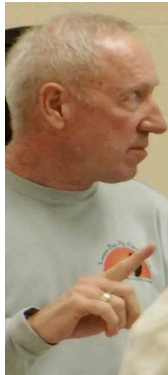
Paul Sequira was just one of many watching Layne (Smitty) Smith work his magic on the vise.



Smitty applies and UV-dries fly glue.



Ted Hagaman



Walt Durkin



Che Guevara 's image lights up the side of a building in Havana.



Bonefish, 'cudas, and huge jacks were among the rewards, which also included rides in 50's-era convertibles. Che was not able to join Ted and Walt on this expedition

Ted Hagaman and Walt Durkin of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club presented an excellent recap of their August trip to Cuba with five-days of fly fishing the remote islands of the Gardens of the Queens.



November meeting guests included Ryan and Cooper Sollar (left). Ryan, Cooper and Will Sollar joined us at Weedon Island Preserve for the November outing.

Tom Gadacz: Big Fly Cast Shoot-Out at Picnic Island

Suncoast Fly Fishers compete at the Big Shoot Out fly casting competition

The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club sponsored its annual Big Gun Shoot-Out on November 28 at Picnic Island in Tampa.

Several SFF members participated in the casting tournament. John Craig, Rick Warfel and I represented SFF. John, Rick and I were teammates and had fun competing. We picked up some good lessons especially when casting through the hoop and the mangrove stations. Great fun and met some great casters.



John Craig scores for the SFF team. The object of this contest was to place the fly and fly line inside the hoop. (Hey, that's a tight loop.)

There were six stations and variable points were awarded for distance, V-fish, accuracy, hoop, mangrove and the Carl Hanson cup.

There were 43 competitors and most teams had three members.

There was an individual award which was won by Nick Angelo and the team winners were Nick Angelo, Bryon Chamberlin and Pat Damico.

The best distance cast was by Cas Summers -- 111 feet.

Ten casters put the fly in the Carl Hanson cup and one placed it in twice Check out the scores of the winners below.

Tom

“Captains Team” Earns the Most Points

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
	2015 TROPHY WINNERS IN GREEN		TBFFC	BIG	GUN	SHOOT-OUT 2015				
TEAM										
Rank	Competitor	Distance	Accuracy	Hanson	Hoop	V-Fish	Mangrove	Total**	Indiv Rank	Team Name
1	Bryon Chamberlin	96	90	0	100	80	60	426	6	Captains
1	Pat Damico	88	85	0	60	60	60	353	20	Captains
1	Nick Angelo	94	100	0	88	100	100	482	1	Captains
	TEAM TOTAL							1261		WINNING TEAM >>>>

Congratulations Captains Chamberlin, Damico, and Angelo.

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #73

Renzetti Fair

By Capt. Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor



Tom Gadacz, Dick Miekka and I went to the Renzetti Show in Titusville a couple of Saturdays ago.

Lefty, Bob Clouser, Nick Curcionni, David Olsen, Steve Parker, Cas Summers, Rick Santos, Mark Benson and many other great casters/teachers were there and presented one on one opportunities for instruction.

I tried a number of rods with different lines and was astonished at the improvements in technology. This further reinforces my suggestion to put the rod you are interested in to a test, making sure that you are technically on the right page.

Hearing things like, "The rod doesn't load, the rod is too stiff, the rod is too soft, the tip isn't right," etc., are often not an accurate description of the rod/line combination but rather a self-induced error with your casting.

Correcting the casting error all of a sudden makes the rod perform better.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

Fly fishing guide Pat Damico charters in lower Tampa Bay. Contact: captpat.com . (727) 504-8649

Ken Hofmeister: Snook love docks and night lights



"So this new member buys a snook fly in Chicago and gives it to me. The snook took the 'bait' way, way under the dock..

Ken

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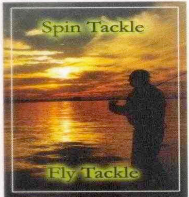
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David Putnam: Fly Fishing Reflections

A Sage



A few years ago, with a fat commission check in my pocket, I bought a fancy *Sage* fly rod. I was moving to Colorado from Florida, and felt the need of a fine graphite wand to “mend” line with, and to allow for better fishing with “nymphs”—flies that sink—a practice I’d read about.

Mending means adjusting your fly line once it hits fast-running water so the current doesn’t sweep your fly along so fast a 10” trout can’t catch it. The water in Colorado starts up in the mountains and runs like crazy down hill.

I was standing on the ground at a local park, practicing my casting, when the rod broke about ten inches down from the tip. My guess is that there was a nick in the fragile graphite, probably caused when one of my bass popping bugs hit it during a poor cast. All I could do was shower it with cuss words and head home to check on its warranty.

I paid over \$450 for the rod. Just the rod, no reel or line. Since then I’ve learned of entire graphite fly rod outfits that suit me fine for under \$80, with a reel loaded with backing and fly line and a case to carry it. (A top-of-the-line *Sage* rod is now \$1300!) I’ve experimented, and the distance I gain with a fine, “fast” rod is minimal over the cheapo outfit. The distance a rod will throw a fly line is only one measure of its value, but it’s a good one.

Mine had a warranty. Here’s what I was to do: mail *Sage* the broken rod and \$75, and they’d fix it and get it back to me in about a month. \$12 to mail it, so it was going to run \$92. Still, I had an investment in it, didn’t I? What was I going to do, throw it out? Had I grown up enough to no longer need a fancy brand name rod?

Feeling sorry for myself, deciding what to do, I sat quietly and read about one of the famous old fly fishermen in England who wrote that “the ecstasy of fishing with the fly is to be found in the qualities of the fly rod.” His was undoubtedly a fine hand-crafted bamboo rod. George Skues was his name, and I’m sure he would have thrown his bamboo rod in the reeds of the River Test in favor of a Walmart graphite rod of today. A new *Winston* trout rod would have rendered him so ecstatic he wouldn’t have been able to light his pipe.

I mailed the rod and the \$75 to *Sage*. After reflecting on it I realized that I’m a lot like George Skues, out there on the water, searching for ecstasy wherever I might find it.

David



Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover

Park-Wade-Fish Fort DeSoto Park. Our December outing is the Don Coleman Invitational at Fort DeSoto Park. I've always liked to wade and kayak fish this park. There are seven miles of roads and plenty of places to pull over and slide in the 'yak or just wade in. Here are a few links to info on this timely subject. ([Here](#), [here](#), and [here](#))

Thank you, Orvis. I get a big end of the week kick out of Orvis' Friday Fly-Fishing Film Festival written by Phil Monahan. The 12.04.15 edition is a good'un. Scroll down.

Watch 'em catch redfish in the grassy gulf shoreline around Homosassa. Then, as a reminder of how much kinder the weather is here in Florida, watch the trout anglers chase trout on an icy Michigan River in November.

([Orvis Friday-film-festival](#))

Books make great gifts. Buy some for yourself, too. Philanthropist and motivational author Bob Rich has raised millions of dollars to help good causes. He has written a new adventure novel – [Looking Through Water](#) – to support a cause that is very close to the hearts of Suncoast Fly Fisher. Yep, Project Healing Waters.

([Amazon](#))

Hey fly fisher, want some good laughs this season? After a year of not catching any bragging-size fish, I need a few laughs. Whew, just in time, fellow fly fisher Paul Quinnett and illustrator Deanna Camp are out with a *coffee table* book. (Hey, isn't that "code" for please-don't-throw-it-away?) Anyway, one reviewer says it is "Hilarious." FYI, that is not the same person running for president.

([Elusive Trout; True Tales & Cocktails](#))

Best new fly reel of 2015? I vote for the Pflueger Trion as the best new fly reel in the mid-price range, which was \$140 or so when it hit the market. Now, as we head into 2016, it's on sale so it's an even better deal. One oversized ball bearing makes it one of the smoothest fly reels. It has a one-way clutch so it reels-in easily even when the drag is tight. It has a center disc-drag. And, it's anodized for superior protection against salt-corrosion. Go ahead; you deserve it. ([Pfluegerfishing](#))

I can see clearly now. A few months ago my eye doctor told me I needed prescription glasses to fix some creeping near-sightedness. I bought some Rx sunglasses at Visionworks but they had progressive lenses and they have been a bit difficult to get used to. Then I noticed that advertiser/Hog Roast supporter – [Ono's Trading Company](#) – also has prescription sunglasses. I ordered a pair and they're great. Nearsighted correction is on the top portion of the lens; bifocals are on the bottom. I ordered green mirror over amber lenses for more color definition and to help see through the surface and into the water column while fishing the flats. I'm loving 'em.

Bill