

# On The Fly

February 2015 Volume 25, Issue 2

Officer and board nominations at Thursday's meeting.  
See President Kirk Burton's article on page 2



Our 2015 Hog Roast and silent auction is Feb. 28. Top tier gear is ready for bidding. Pages 5-6-7-8.

PS: Macauley Lord is our Hog Roast Speaker. He will also lead

classes at Tampa's Picnic Island Park Feb. 27 and 28. Page 15

Add largemouth bass to the species fooled by the dog biscuit fly. Throw a fist-full of dog food pellets on the surface first. Page 18.



## Also in this issue of On The Fly

NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

# On The Fly

February 2015 Volume 25, Issue 2

- Kirk Burton: Make a difference 2
- News 'n' Notes 3-4
- Hog Roast and Auction Feb. 28 5-8
- Membership Survey 10-11-12
- Alan Sewell: Reviews-Previews 13
- Tom Trukenbrod: The Spotlight 14
- Macauley Lord: video flycaster 15
- Weedon Island Outing: ladyfish! 16
- Trash 'n Treasures meeting 17
- Even bass like the dog biscuit fly 18
- Pat Damico: Casting Clinic 19
- Fly Fisher DIY: Stripping basket 19
- Bob Morrison: How-to 20
- Putnam: Fly Fisher Reflections 23
- Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover 24

Want an 8-weight TFO Pro 2 rod/Lamson Liquid reel/Rio line outfit? Of course you do. Just complete the 2015 Membership Survey. Print it out. Fill it in. Bring it in. Hand it over. Get your raffle ticket. Pages 10-11-12.

## Kirk Burton: Your Chance To Make A Difference

February is the time of year when Suncoast Fly Fishers elect officers and board members for open positions. This year there are two officer positions and three board member positions open for election/re-election. The officer positions are Secretary and Treasurer. Karen Warfel is eligible for re-election as Treasurer and has agreed to continue in this role if re-elected.

Below are the open positions and the members who have agreed to stand for election. Consistent with our club bylaws, at the February meeting members will be able to make additional nominations for the open positions.

POSITION	NOMINATIONS	NOTE
<b>Secretary</b>	Dick Miekka	Incumbent's term is expiring
<b>Treasurer</b>	Karen Warfel	Agreed to continue if re-elected
<b>Member</b>	Tom Gadacz	
<b>Member</b>	Rick Wafel	
<b>Member</b>	Jeff Heer	

If you would like to support our club and help set the direction for the future get in touch with a member of the nomination committee and let them know. Likewise, if you would like to nominate someone for a position let the committee know that as well.

This year's nominating committee members are:

Ken Hofmeister  
Rick Warfel  
Pat Damico  
Mark Hays  
Mark Craig

*Kirk*

Kirk Burton, President

## News 'n' Notes

### February 19 club meeting: Free pizza.

- Presentation by VP Tom Trukenbrod, chairman of the strategic planning committee. **Your opinion counts.** If you haven't already done so, print the survey in this issue, fill it in, and give it to Tom at the meeting. He'll enter you in a drawing for TFO's Lefty Kreh Processional Series rod with a Lamson Liquid Reel and Rio fly line and backing.
- Fly Tiers Alan Sewell, Layne Smith, Dan Bumgarner, others. Members are encouraged to join them. Bring your fly tying materials. Extra vises are available for those who do not have them.
- Nominations for 2015 officers and board members. The nominating committee will present its proposed slate of officers and board members then President Kirk Burton will invite more nominations from the members present. Members of the nominating committee are Ken Hofmeister, Rick Warfel, Capt. Pat Damico, Mark Hays and Mark Craig. The committee encourages SFF members to contact members of the nominating committee with any suggestions for board members before the February 19 meeting. The floor will be open for nominations at the February meeting after which nominations are closed. Elections will be at the March membership meeting.

### HOG ROAST

See Rick Warfel at the February meeting and get your tickets for the Feb. 28 Hog Roast and Silent Auction.

Fly tiers, talk to Rick.

### Fly Swappers: Celebrate **Mardi Gras** on February 19

Members who want to participate in the February Fly Swap must tie Mardi Gras flies and bring them to the February meeting. What's a Mardi Gras fly? Well, Layne Smith, who is handling the fly swap this month for Myron, explains that Mardi Gras flies are flies that are tied with purple, green and gold/yellow materials. Okay, if you want to push the envelope, Smitty said it's okay to put a little red (not much) on the fly. Here's what you do: Call Smitty before the meeting and let him know that you're participating. If he's not there just leave a message. His number is **727-688-2407**. Tie three flies with the prescribed colors -- purple/green/gold -- and bring them to Smitty at the meeting.

### February 21 Freshwater Outing: Walsingham Lake Park, Largo

#### February 28, Hog Roast and Silent Auction

- 4 - 8 pm. Treasure Island Municipal Auditorium. Food by Sonny's BBQ and much more. \$20. Children 13 and under \$10.
- A limited number of parking passes will be available for parking in the police station parking lot just East of the Auditorium. See Rick Warfel at the February meeting.
- Hey fly tiers: your hand-tied flies are needed for the Hog Roast. See Rick Warfel at the February meeting. If you can't attend the meeting phone Rick at 813-523-0692.

*News & Notes continues on next page*

## News 'n' Notes

### **Feb. 27 & 28: Macauley Lord Video Casting Workshop, 9 am - 1 pm**

- Tampa's Picnic Island Park, 7409 Picnic Island Blvd. Meet at Shelter #614.

Macauley Lord Casting Workshops from 9 am to 1 pm on how to use video to improve your fly casting. Go to [www.ubersense.com](http://www.ubersense.com) for a free app to help with your videography. Macauley Lord is one of the very few ever to earn a Lifetime Achievement Award by the International Federation of Fly Fishers. The clinic cost is \$20 per session. Check in with Tom Gadacz at the February meeting.

### **February Shad Outing: Not this year**

Every year about this time Florida fly fishing clubs pass the word about the annual shad outing on the St. Johns River. Walt Durkin has notified us that the 2015 outing has been cancelled because, among other reasons, the campsite is too wet from rain. This is only the second cancellation in 20 years.

### **March 19 meeting. Russ Hampton: Where and how to fish Everglades canals**

- Also, Tom Trukenbrod will draw the winning ticket for the TFO/LAMSON/RIO fly rod-reel-line outfit. Be sure you submit your filled-out survey to Tom to qualify for the drawing. See instructions in this issue.

### **March 21 Outing. Sunshine Skyway South**

### **April 24-26 Outing. Everglades Canal. See Alan's Reviews-Previews**

### **May 23 Outing, Hillsborough River**

#### **Tom Gadacz: IFFF Florida Council Planner**

Our 2015 Fly Fishing Expo will be at the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) and the Marriott Courtyard Fort Lauderdale Airport and Cruise Port October 2 - 3 in Dania Beach near Fort Lauderdale.

The International Fly Fishing Fair will occur August 11-15 in Bend, Oregon. The IFFF is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It will be a great meeting. Details are on the IFFF web site at <http://fedflyfishers.org/FlyFishingFair.aspx>.

The IFFF Fly Tying Group has established a Fly Tying Skills Awards Program and details for how to participate are provided on the IFFF web site at <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Tying/FlyTyingSkillsAwardsProgram.aspx>

Florida Council activities are posted on our web site and activities can be followed on Facebook: so, follow us.

*Tom*

## **Message from the Hog Roast Committee**

If you have never been to a Suncoast Fly Fishers Hog Roast, this is your year to go. If you have been and came away disappointed, this is your year to return. If you come every year then welcome back. You're going to have a great time!

The food is going to be terrific. Sonny's BBQ is catering and there will be all the ribs, turkey and pulled pork you care to eat plus all the sides and your favorite tea or pink lemonade. If that's not enough you can bring your own beer, wine or non-alcoholic beverage.

Our own George Haseltine will be master of ceremonies and the featured speaker will be Macauley Lord. Both of these guys are funnier than you might expect from a mild mannered contractor and an award winning fly casting guru. See who takes the trophies for largest fish in each category in our annual fishing tournament and who receives the coveted Visions and Values Award presented by President Kirk Burton.

We have a fantastic slate of raffle prizes and auction items. In total there will be nearly \$6,000 worth of merchandise that will appeal to fishermen and non-fishermen alike. The member only door prize is a custom built 5 wt. rod, by master rod builder Alan Sewell with matching line, reel and case. Our grand prize raffle will be a Pescador 10 Kayak complete with paddle and vest. Tickets are just \$5 dollars each or 5 tickets for \$20. This year for the first time ever we are going to have a very special live auction for an exciting new type of boat. Alan Sewell will display his special talent as auctioneer for a Frontier 12 by NuCanoe. This auction will be held right before we serve dinner so don't be late. Everyone will find something they want in the silent auction that will continue throughout the evening. There will be all sorts of rods, reels, lines and complete outfits from 5 wt. to 10 wt. Upgrade to an Adventure Technology graphite kayak paddle, look your best in Onos performance sunglasses, stay at the Plantation Inn in Crystal River, travel round trip on the Key West Express from Ft. Myers Beach or Marco Island to Key West, fish with the best guides in the business, improve your casting with private lessons, bid on original artwork and buy all the flies you will ever need from our expert member tiers. If that is not enough you can take a chance in our famous bucket raffle. Tickets are just \$1 each, 12 for \$10, and 26 for \$20.

This is an important event for the club. The money we raise supports everything we do for the year and allows us to serve our veterans and the community at large through the many civic outreach programs that we participate in.

See you there.

*Rick Warfel and your Hog Roast Committee*

## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction

This is our featured club event of the year and it is a *must attend* event for every SFF member and guests interested in fly fishing or a fun night out!

**When:** Saturday February 28, 2015 from 4 to 8 pm

**Where:** City of Treasure Island Auditorium, 120 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, FL 33706

**Cost:** Members and guests \$20/person. Children 13 and under \$10/each.

**Keynote Speaker:** Macauley Lord will be our featured speaker. Macauley Lord is a highly regarded figure in the field of fly fishing. He helped build the famed fly fishing instructional program at L.L. Bean's Outdoor Discovery Schools and has written many books and articles about fly fishing. He is also an amusing and entertaining speaker that everyone will enjoy.

**Menu:** BBQ pulled pork, ribs, and chicken with sides of BBQ beans, corn on the cob, yellow rice and green beans with redskin potatoes and desert. Sonny's is catering the event. BYO beer/wine.

**Door Prize for active members:** Custom built fly rod (5 wt.) by Alan Sewell with matching line, reel and case. A ticket for each active member in attendance is included in the price of the event.

**Raffle:** Grand Prize Raffle. This prize will be a Pescador kayak from Canoe Country Outfitters. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and raffle is open to everyone.

**Live Auction:** Alan Sewell will auction a new 12-foot NuCanoe Frontier worth \$1200. It's the go-to kayak for fly fishing.

**Silent Auction:** We have some great products in this years' silent auction which is open to all. Catch an opportunity for a professionally guided trip by guys who know the best spots, bag some trophy flies tied by our best member tiers, and fill your limit with gear and merchandise. We have the best in rods, reels, fishing equipment, trips and more. Bid on an Adventure Technology graphite kayak paddle, round trip excursion on Key West Express, Ono's polarized sunglasses, Alpen Optics binoculars, TFO Lefty Kreh Professional Series 4 and 7 wt. rods, Lefty Kreh TiCr X Series 10 wt. rod, Pflueger Trion reel, Cabela's Wind River outfit, Cortland Tropic Plus line, fly rod outfit and fly tying equipment from Bass Pro Shops, and a two-night vacation package at the Plantation Inn in Crystal River with four rounds of golf on their 18 hole championship course.

**Bucket Raffle:** Fishing items and packages with a value up to \$35 will be in buckets and raffled off during the course of the event. Tickets are \$1.00 each, 12 for \$10.00, and 26 for \$20. The bucket raffle is open to all attendees. You'll see some very useful gear in those buckets, things like scissors, flashlights, Plano fly boxes and more.

**Awards:** President's Vision/Values Award and trophies for the biggest fish in several categories.

**Tickets:** Tickets will be available at the regular member meetings before the event. Please purchase your tickets early. If you are planning to attend the Hog Roast and cannot attend a meeting, you can mail your reservation and check. If you mail your reservation, you can pick up your tickets at the door. Please let us know if you plan to attend as soon as possible so we can provide the caterer with an estimate of attendees.

**Mail to:** Suncoast Fly Fishers, P. O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Please print)

**Number of adults:** \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of children 13 and under:** \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL =** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Alan Sewell will live-auction the NuCanoe 12-foot Frontier at the Hog Roast*

## **NuCanoe is for Fly Fishers**

By Steve Gibson, Southern Drawl Guide Service

*"It's so stable you can stand up and tap dance on the deck."*

After months of deliberation, I've decided to switch my kayak allegiance to NuCanoe.

I began thinking about NuCanoe last year after fishing out of a Frontier owned by fly-fishing buddy Joe Mahler of Fort Myers. I found the boat has everything I need -- and less.

I like the NuCanoe Frontier for several reasons: It's simple. It's roomy. And it's so stable you can stand up and tap dance on the deck.

Mahler sold me on NuCanoe. He's a fly-fisher extraordinaire, and knows full well what he wants in a boat. There are many fishing kayaks out there that are deplorable fly-fishing boats. Always remember the golden rule: The fly line will tangle on anything it can.

If you're not familiar with the Frontier, please check it out: <http://www.nucanoe.com/nucanoe-frontier/>

The boat is a hybrid kayak. It's a cross between a kayak and a canoe, hence NuCanoe. It's roomy, well-planned and simple.

I like simple the best.

First thing you'll notice about the Frontier 12 is that it's beamy. It's 41 inches wide. But that makes it very stable.

The seats are unbelievable. They swivel 360 degrees. That means you can fish 360 degrees, something you can't do in most kayaks.

One of the neat things about the Frontier is that you can turn it into a tandem (two angler) kayak in a matter of minutes. That will come in handy when taking my wife out or when I want to guide fly fishers on night snook trips.

Thank you,  
NuCanoe.

*Steve Gibson's  
Southern  
Drawl Kayak  
Fishing serves  
fresh and  
saltwater  
anglers of all  
skill levels on  
waters from  
Tampa Bay to  
the Everglades. Contact him at [steve@kayakfishingsarasota.com](mailto:steve@kayakfishingsarasota.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

## 2015 Suncoast Fly Fishers Membership Survey

**Print it out. Fill it out.  
Bring it to the February meeting.**

On behalf of all the officers and board members of Suncoast Fly Fishers I want to emphasize how important it is for every member to complete the membership survey (on the next two pages) and bring it in to the meeting.

When you turn it in you will be entered into the drawing to win a high-end 8-weight fly rod-reel-line outfit consisting of...

**COMPLETE THE SURVEY AND YOU COULD WIN THIS OUTFIT**  
Lefty Kreh TFO Professional Series Rod  
Lamson Liquid Reel  
Rio Fly Line and Backing

We need your feedback to continue to make our club better and better, ensuring that it remains the best fly fishing club in the state of Florida.

This is important: Do not put your name on the survey. The survey is anonymous.

If you can't attend the February meeting then mail your completed survey to me at PO Box 40821 St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821. It must arrive no later than March 13. Put your name on a separate piece of paper so a raffle ticket number can be assigned to you.

Thanks.

*Tom*

*TOM TRUKENBROD, VICE PRESIDENT  
Chairman, Strategic Planning Committee*

***The two-page membership survey follows on the next two pages.  
Print it out. Fill it out. Turn it in or mail it in.***

## 2015 SFF MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Thank you for completing this survey. This information will help the club officers and board of directors to plan meetings and activities that will match your interests and needs.

1. Do you think Walter Fuller Recreation Center is a good location for SFF club meetings?  
 YES  NO  UNDECIDED

2. How often do you check out the fly tiers table before the meetings?  
 ALWAYS  SOMETIME  NEVER  What Fly tiers?

3. How often do you practice or teach casting with the club rods before the meetings?  
 ALWAYS  SOMETIME  NEVER  What Club Rods?

4. How often do you buy raffle tickets at the meeting?  
 ALWAYS  SOMETIME  NEVER

5. The raffle prizes are items that are useful and /or enjoyable.  
 YES  NO  UNDECIDED

6. Which topics would you like to see covered in future meeting programs? Check as many as you like.

Talks by local guides  Fly Tying Clinics  Boating safety   
 Environmental Issues  Fish biology  Kayak skills and safety  Fish  
and Wildlife Research  How to choose and buy fly rods, lines and reels  Care  
and maintenance of fly fishing gear  How to improve casting skills  Members  
telling about their latest fishing trip  First Aid/ Fishing Injuries  Pending  
legislation concerning fisheries management  Fly tying basics  Other  
(please complete) \_\_\_\_\_

7. Would you attend an outing at any of these locations? Check as many as you like.

Fort Desoto  Pinellas Point  Manatee River  Hillsborough River  
 Dock Lights at Night  Braden River  Weedon Island  Veterans'  
Memorial Park  Snook Haven  Honeymoon Island  Chassahowitzka  
River  Lake Okeechobee  Emerson Point  Walsingham Lake   
Anclote Key  Upper Tampa Bay Park  Alligator Lake  Myakka River  
Other (write in): \_\_\_\_\_

How far will you drive?  1/2 Hour  1 Hour  More   
I would attend more outings IF: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Would you like the annual banquet meal to be "Hog Roast/ Barbeque" or a different menu?  
 Keep Barbeque  Change (Suggestion) \_\_\_\_\_

9. Would you be willing to teach fly fishing skills to school groups and kids camps?  
 YES  NO  MAYBE

## 2015 SFF MEMBERSHIP SURVEY: PAGE 2

10. Would you be willing to teach fly fishing skills to adult groups?

YES  NO  MAYBE

11. Would be willing to help veterans in Project Healing Waters at an outing at one of the parks in Pinellas County?

YES  NO  MAYBE

12. Would you like to volunteer for events like the Florida Expo?

Yes  No  Maybe

13. Are you aware of the benefits that SFF enjoys by being a Charter Club of the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF)?

YES  NO  What is the IFFF?

14. Would you like to have more special outings like the Everglades trip that require traveling further and staying overnight?

YES  NO  UNDECIDED

15. Would you be willing to participate in environmental improvement projects like Coastal Cleanup, fish habitat restoration, etc.?

YES  NO  UNDECIDED

16. Would you approve of the use of email to communicate special messages and alerts of interest to the club that cannot wait for the newsletter or next meeting?

YES  NO  UNDECIDED

17. How many times per month do you usually go fishing?

Give a number from 0 to 30. \_\_\_\_\_

18. How often do you use/look at the SFF website?

Often  Occasionally  Never

19. What % of your fishing do you do in the following ways?

Fly Fishing \_\_\_\_\_% Fishing with lures \_\_\_\_\_% Fishing with bait \_\_\_\_\_%

TOTAL = 100%

20. What % of your fishing is salt or fresh water?

Saltwater \_\_\_\_\_% Freshwater \_\_\_\_\_%

21. Which of the following do you own? Check all that apply.  Boat  Kayak

Canoe  Waders  None of above

Thank you for completing the survey. When you turn in the survey, you will be entered in a raffle for a valuable prize.

## Alan Sewell's Club Outing Reviews & Previews



### **January 17, 2015 - Weedon Island Preserve**

The Suncoast Fly Fishers enjoyed a beautiful day fly fishing at Weedon Island. The weather was perfect for fishing, as most of the large turn-out caught fish. The species of choice was our famous ladyfish. Karen wade-fished from one spot and caught many ladyfish. The largest was caught by Bob Burkard, a nice 22-3/4" fish that, as it turns out, was the longest of the year. (See tournament results below). Lunch was the frozen chili from our December outing. The pots were scraped clean to fill the last bowl.

Cornbread and apple pie topped of the meal.

### **February 21, 2015 - Walsingham Park**

Our February outing will be freshwater fishing with the largest bass and sunfish taking the monthly award. Park opens at 7:00 am. Lunch will be served around 12:00 noon. We have Shelter #5 reserved, so fish for a few hours and come to eat. Good paddling and boating, but no gas engines. Shelter is across the lake from the boat ramp.

### **March 21, 2015 - South Sunshine Skyway Bridge Area**

### **April 18, 2014 - Ft. DeSoto Park**

### **April 24 - 26 - Everglades Canals**

I can not say enough; this has always been great fishing.

We stay at: Sunrise Sawgrass La Quinta  
13651 Northwest 2nd Street  
Sunrise, FL  
1-954-846-1200, ext #6

Rooms are being held by Alan Sewell, Suncoast Fly Fishers, reservation # 162544.

Call early to book a room in your name. Some of our members are going to be there for five days, so come when you can. Our other fly fishing clubs also want to attend. Rates are \$78, plus tax and fees, per night.

## **2014 - 2015 Final Outing Tournament Winners**

Largest Bass - Karen Warfel - 14"  
Largest Sunfish - Annie Hays - 8"  
Largest Ladyfish - Bob Burkard - 22-3/4"  
Largest Redfish - Ken Doty - 23"  
Largest Snook - Alan Sewell - 38"

**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... Tom Trukenbrod**



**Hometown:** Winnetka, Illinois

**When did you join Suncoast Fly Fishers?** About 10 years ago

**What is your favorite game fish to catch on the fly and why?** Well, maybe not a game fish but a Mayan cichlid is a great fish at the end of a fly line. It fights like it's on steroids. Next would be a big brown trout that just never wants to stop fighting.

**What are your top three places to fish?**

1. Fort DeSoto Park
2. Canals by the Everglades
3. Freshwater rivers in upstate New York

**What is your go-to fly rod and reel?** Saltwater – Cabela's 4-piece 8-weight with an Orvis disc drag reel. Freshwater: Sage 8.5-foot two-piece with an Orvis disc drag reel.

**How and when did you get introduced to fly fishing?** In the early '90s a neighbor in Niskayuna, NY was getting into fly fishing and asked if I would like to come along. We went to the Battenkill in Vermont. He lost interest that first year but 25-years later I still can't get enough.

**Why do you like fly fishing compared to fishing with conventional tackle?**

The challenge of putting the correct fly where it should be on a trout stream on a windy day.

# Improve Your Fly Casting Thru Video!

## LEARN WITH THE BEST

Master Casting Instructor Macauley Lord, who put LL Bean on the map for fly casting instruction, will be conducting a clinic on how to use videos taken on your phone, tablet or camera, to improve your fly casting!



### WHEN:

Register for Friday or Saturday,  
February 27 or 28 from 9:00 to 1:00.

### WHERE:

Picnic Island (7409 Picnic Island Blvd, Tampa, FL). Shelter 614

**COST:** \$20.00 per session per individual Registration deadline: Feb. 19th

(Saturday's Clinic is a repeat of Friday)

Contact: Tom Gadacz [thomasgadacz@yahoo.com](mailto:thomasgadacz@yahoo.com) or 727-360-8030.

**BRING:** Your video recording device – any i(Apple) or Android video device (Phone, pad or tablet). Please download one of two apps for slow motion replays:

Coach's Eye <https://www.coachseye.com> Ubersense <http://www.ubersense.com/>

~ SPONSORED BY SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS ~



## Weedon Island Preserve Outing : Ladyfish Heaven



*Bayou Grande -- looking north from the Weedon Island Preserve fishing pier toward Riviera Bay at 7 am on the morning of the Saturday, January 17 outing.( Chris Byrne photo)*

Our January outing and the last month of the 2014-15 tournament was held at Weedon Island Preserve and surrounding waters of Tampa Bay.



*After lunch Alan Sewell announced the winner of the longest fish caught at the January outing. Bob Burkard (seated) caught a 22-3/4 inch ladyfish.*

Outings chairman Alan Sewell announced the winner of the longest fish award was Bob Burkard who landed a 22 3/4-inch ladyfish. It was one of hundreds of ladyfish caught

by members that day. Ken Doty and George Hazeltine recorded some just-under-the-slot speckled trout caught in the Tanglewood neighborhood canal.

The new 2015-2016 tournament season starts next month at Largo's Walsingham Lake.



*Bruce Carlton (r) and his dog Dixie, Ron Kelley (l) and others depart the Weedon Island Preserve outing lunch.*

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## Trash 'n' Treasures

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Our January meeting was a hoot. Somebody else's "trash" became somebody else's treasure at a very modest price. All the money raised goes to pay for the food we consume at our monthly outings.



*Auctioneer Alan Sewell doing what he does so well..*



*Member Mark Craig trucked home Ken Hofmeister's canoe for which he bid and won for only \$20.*



*Larry Morse was very pleased with an Orvis Clearwater fly rod that he scored with a bid of \$40.*

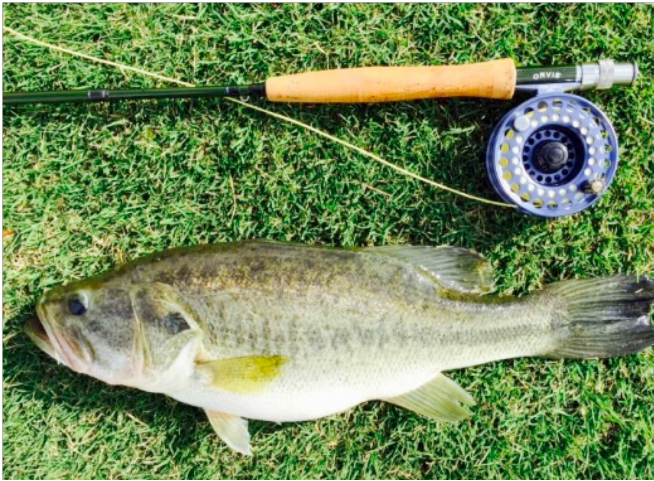


*Bill and Adam Hays will put these one-owner wading boots to good use.*

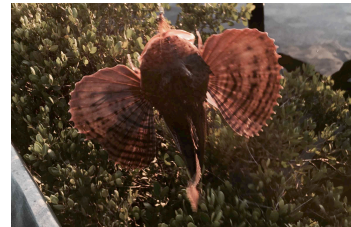


## Andy's Bass on the Dog Biscuit

Previous issues of our newsletter have shown that Suncoast Fly Fisher Andy Constantinou has caught carp, bass, tilapia, turtle and a seagull on Smitty's dog biscuit fly. Now you can add a largemouth bass to this floating fly's success list. Andy chum-flung a few lookalike dog food pellets on the water then dropped Smitty's imitation on the surface of a local Apollo Beach pond. Lunkertime! Andy estimates it weighed 4-5 lbs.



*Smitty's Dog Biscuit Fly*



*SEA ROBIN. But not on the dog biscuit fly. Andy also caught this sea robin off of his Tampa Bay dock on a buff and olive Clouser minnow. "I thought it was going to fly away when I saw its wings," Andy said.*

## Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip # 63



*By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor*

### **Another cause of poor line layout**

Incorporating the rod stop discussed in our last tip will result in a good layout of the fly line when it is at the right moment in the cast. If you cast vertically, stopping the rod too close to the water is a frequent cause of poor line layout on the water. Stop the rod a little higher each cast and see what happens. If you cast more horizontally, stop the rod shorter. When practicing, use a tree in the yard or some fixed object as a guide. The rod arc, or angle made from the start of the backcast to the end of the forward cast will vary with different line lengths. The shorter the cast, the smaller the arc or angle.

*Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach*

## Fly Fisher DIY

### **Tom Jones: Stripping Basket**

I rummaged up my latest contraption and strapped it on for another try and it's perfect for when I really want to put up with having something like that encumbering me while fly fishing in a boat. My problem is that I like to move around a lot on the boat and the crazy thing keeps getting in my way. I like the lower position which makes it much more comfortable to use, and the extra distance from the reel makes it easier to strip a hook-set. The strips are strips of Velcro fastened with canvas snaps. I have a canvas-snap tool if anybody wants to use it.

*[Editor's note: Got a do-it-yourself project you'd like to share with other members? Let me know: [wmaucoin@verizon.net](mailto:wmaucoin@verizon.net)]*



## Bob Morrison: How-To



### **Find the warmer water**

#### **A thermometer is fishing gear.**

It's a good idea to carry a water temperature thermometer when you go fishing. The fish we pursue, especially snook, are very sensitive to the 60-degree temperature level since they start to die at temperatures below that level. At above 60 they can function and feed well. You as a fisherman need to be able to find the areas that are above sixty because that's where they will be. With this knowledge you can bet that I will be carrying my thermometer, just as soon as I find it.

#### **My what big eyes you have**

Some fly tiers are using large holographic eyes on shrimp patterns and have been reporting some very good catches. Again the question is whether it's the pattern or the eyes that trigger the strikes. I'm sure you'll agree that this experiment is interesting enough to try. Let's do it, and see what happens.

#### **Make your fly sink. Now!**

If you are on the water and need a deep-running fly but don't have one with you, you can add a split shot if available. Or, you can carry a few freshwater bead heads that you would use to tie weighted nymphs, wooly buggers and other streamers. Simply start to tie a loop knot with your leader tippet, tying the beginning open knot as usual, then passing the tippet through the hook eye. Then pass the tippet through the bead, and finish the knot as you normally would. The bead will take the fly down, and the bead will be free to slide around a bit, imparting an attractive wounded-baitfish action. Clever, eh?

Go get 'em, and good luck!

*Bob*

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## David Putnam: Fly Fisher Reflections

### Stay Home

If you go fly fishing at Andros Island, take a spinning rod. Afternoon winds blow in the 25-knot range, making for tough fly casting, given the vagaries of bone fishing. Who knows where they'll suddenly appear, requiring an impossible cast. A friend of mine takes frozen shrimp in Ziploc bags, which he keeps in a cooler and uses to tip his jigs. He's a hero at 3PM.

I've let my enthusiasm get in the way when planning bonefish trips. Once I listened to an "outfitter" who's office is in Wyoming, which means that he'd fished-- or so he said-- a particular bone fish camp at Sandy Point in the Abacos. The "big fish" turned out to be in the 3-lb range and hard to find, the lodge's only operational boat was a 20-ft, very old fiberglass skiff which a kid from Nassau poled with a pine sapling...once he got the hang of poling, which he'd only done a few times. With three anglers aboard, it was a mess.

The lodge dining room with the water view was shut down immediately after dinner, so we retired to our rooms for drinks. Why was it shut down? Here's why: in the wee hours on our first night I heard a mysterious rustling sound and flipped on the light to check it out. I'd brought a box of mangoes for our group and the Bahamians we'd meet. It was in the open closet at the foot of my bed. *The noise was being made by a swarm of cockroaches on the mangoes-- healthy, three-inch palmetto bugs, at least a hundred of 'em.* Maybe more rustled to get away, in cracks and crevices and under our beds. I couldn't move fast enough to kill more than five or six.

Obviously, the kitchen and counter-tops in the dining area were covered too, but we were spared that lovely vision. Some sort of cataclysmic infestation?

There were five of us on that trip, all good friends since childhood. Two of 'em are dead now, but I guarantee you they remembered that trip until they died

## Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover

**Big win for saltwater anglers.** Recreational saltwater anglers have always felt like the saltwater fisheries management agency always favored commercial fishing interests. Finally recreational fishing and boating interests came together and proposed a way to change all that, a plan that called on NMFS -- National Marine Fisheries Service -- to recognize the monetary value of saltwater recreational angling. It was known as the Morris-Deal Commission, named after two industry leaders who dedicated their influence and personal time to the cause, Bass Pro Shops founder Johnny Morris and Maverick Boats' Scott Deal. Their plan was unveiled in February 2014 at the Miami Boat Show. It worked. Just a year later, in mid-February 2015, also at a Miami Boat Show press conference, NOAA Administrator Eileen Sobeck announced a new national fisheries policy based on the input of the Morris-Deal



Commission. She called it a "valuable road map" for the future that supports programs that strengthen populations of fishes important to saltwater anglers. ([Miami Herald](#))

**Gulf snook season opens March 1.** This year the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute is asking us to fillet our legally-caught snook -- that's a 28-33 inch slot on the Gulf coast -- and take the filleted carcasses (with organs intact) to a participating bait and tackle store. The marine scientists will analyze it and quantify the data about Florida's premier inshore game fish. In Pinellas County participating tackle stores are Marino's Marina in Palm Harbor and I.C. Sharks in St. Pete. In Tampa Gandy Bait & Tackle is also participating. ([MYFWC](#))

**Lake Okeechobee's restoration plan.** In 2025 Lake Okeechobee will be measurably cleaner than it is today. That's the 10-year plan recently formalized by Florida's Environmental Protection Department to reduce nutrients and phosphorous in the lake and the nutrients and phosphorous that flows into the lake. Check it out. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

**Rock Pythons moving to the Everglades?** You're more likely to see a Burmese python when you fish the Everglades canals in April. But wildlife officials are scared to death, figuratively speaking, that the dreaded rock python is moving that way up from Miami. And don't let your dog get close to one either. ([Fox News](#))

**Assigning blame.** And why didn't you catch fish today? Was it the fly pattern you used? Your casting? Time of day? Capt. Pat Damico discusses this in this comprehensive article about how to make your fly fishing experiences more productive...for a lifetime. ([CapMel.com](#))

**Orvis Film Festival** -- Good video is the next best thing to being there. That's why I go to Orvis Friday Film Festival site to watch fly fishing videos compiled by Phil Monahan. Here's the latest. Don't fail to check out the aerial video of the flats around Mexico's Palometa Club. Can you see the sea turtle? ([Orvis.com](#))

**Look, it's a 'yak. It's a canoe. It's a skiff.** -- No, it's the best of all three. It's the NuCanoe and you'll have an opportunity to bid on the 12-foot Frontier in a special live auction at the Hog Roast on Feb. 28. Sarasota guide Steve Gibson turned us on to it. As he says, you can stand on the deck and dance a jig. Spend a few minutes checking it out on the NuCanoe website. ([NuCanoe.com](#))

*Bill*