

On The Fly

January 2015 Volume 25, Issue 1



cap on our club's successful year.
Page 12.

The Don Coleman Memorial and Chili Feast outing at Fort DeSoto Park put a smiling



Our 2015 Hog Roast and silent auction is Feb. 28. National fly fisher star Macauley Lord is the speaker. Top tier gear is on the way and ready for your auction bids. Check 'em out. Page 3.

PS: Mac will also lead fly casting classes at Tampa's Picnic Island Park Feb. 27 and 28. You can get video of your casting form. For real. Page 4.

Want an 8-weight TFO Pro 2 rod/Lamson Liquid reel/Rio line outfit? Of course you do. Just complete the 2015 Membership Survey and you'll get a free raffle ticket. Print it out. Fill it in. Bring it in. Hand it over. And do not put your name on it. Pages 6-7-8.

Also in this issue of On The Fly

NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

On The Fly

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News 'n' Notes

Robert McIntyre. RIP

Suncoast Fly Fisher Bob McIntyre has died. On January 10 Bill Lane, a good friend and fellow member passed the sad news. "It is with deep regret that I tell you that the Lord took Bob home tonight at 9:30 surrounded by family. Please share the word and celebrate his life. What a great friend! Bob was admitted to Bayfront Hospital a few days earlier with heart, respiratory and renal problems. IFFF Florida Council President Tom Gadacz wrote, "Bob was a great fellow with a good sense of humor. He was very supportive of SFF and attended many of the meetings and outings. We will miss him."



Bob McIntyre at December's Don Coleman Outing

January 15 meeting -- Trash 'n' Treasures Auction. Bring money to bid on stuff and bring stuff you no longer use. The money we raise pays for those five star lunches that Alan Sewell prepares for us on Saturday outings. **Arrive at 6:30 for the business portion of the meeting then get ready to bid.**

- **LAST CALL:** This is the last meeting to bring in a shirt (and \$10) to be embroidered with the SFF logo.



Trash 'n' Treasures Auctioneer Alan Sewell

January 15 and February 19 meetings. Complete a membership survey. Check out the new membership survey on pages 7 and 8. Print it out. Fill it in. Bring it to the January or February meeting and give it to VP Tom Trukenbrod at the raffle table. If you're a member in good standing Truk will enter you in the March raffle for a high-end fly fishing outfit -- TFO rod, Lamson reel, Rio line.

February 19 meeting. (Did somebody say "free pizza")

- Membership Survey Night with VP Tom Trukenbrod and strategic planning committee.
- Fly tying demonstrations by Layne (Smitty) Smith and Alan Sewell

Feb. 27 and 28 at Tampa's Picnic Island Park -- Macauley Lord Casting Workshops
Macauley Lord is one of the very few ever to earn a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Federation of Fly Fishers. This world-class instructor and author will teach us how to use video to improve our fly casting. More information on page 4.

February 28 Hog Roast and Silent Auction, City of Treasure Island Municipal Auditorium

We'll see Mac Lord at the Hog Roast, too. He's the featured speaker. Details about the 2015 Hog Roast/Auction are on the next page.

Our club keeps growing. Treasurer Karen Warfel reports that the Suncoast Fly Fishers club now has 134 members.

Hey fly tiers: Hog Roast chairman Rick Warfel needs you to donate some flies for the Hog Roast and he needs you to sign up for that at the January and February meetings. A form will be passed around. If you can't attend the meeting then email Rick at rh_warfel@yahoo.com or call him at 813-523-0692.

12th Annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction

This is our featured club event of the year and 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.

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 kayak or a high-end fly rod and reel combo. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and raffle is open to everyone.

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, equipment from Bass Pro Shops, and a 2 night vacation package at the Plantation Inn in Crystal River, including 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 or 12 for \$10.00. The bucket raffle is open to all attendees.

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 = \$ _____

More News 'n' Notes

March 19 meeting: Russ Hampton on the Everglades

- This meeting will be your last chance to turn in your membership survey and get a raffle ticket
- Presentation by Russ Hampton: Where and how to fly fish the Everglades Canals
- Membership survey drawing for fly rod-reel-line combo

Suncoast Fly Fisher Fly Fishing Tournament and Outing Dates

- January 17. Fish and lunch at Weedon Island Preserve, St. Petersburg
- February 21 outing. Freshwater fishing and lunch at Walsingham Park, Largo



Premier casting instructor Macauley Lord is coming to town and will lead sessions at Picnic Island Park Feb 27 and Feb. 28

Macauley Lord Casting School Feb. 27 and 28. Improve Your Fly Casting Using Video

Macauley Lord will be teaching the use of video to improve your fly casting on February 27 and 28, 2015 at **Picnic Island Park** in Tampa, Florida. The sessions will include video casting from 8:00 to noon. There is a \$20 fee per person per session.

We recommend that attendees

bring their own rods and reels with preferably orange or green line since the session will include video analysis.

Please bring your smart phone, pad or tablet (iPhone or android) or other video device.

Deadline February 20
Your check for \$20 should be payable to Tom Gadacz. Mail to: Thomas Gadacz, 5353 Gulf Blvd. A-201, St. Petersburg, FL 33706

About Macauley Lord

Macauley Lord grew up in Louisville, Kentucky. He graduated from Bowdoin College in 1978 and did graduate study in natural resource policy at the University of Michigan. He returned to Maine in 1986 to help build the famed fly fishing instructional program at L.L. Bean's Outdoor Discovery Schools in Freeport. Since then, Macauley has become a world-renowned casting instructor and author of numerous books and articles for *American Angler*, *Fly Fisherman*, *Saltwater Fly-Fishing*, and other magazines. In 2011 the Federation of Fly Fishers awarded Macauley its Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication to teaching and promoting fly-casting. Macauley will lead the casting session and introduce video recording to assist in analysis of your casting form. Video recording, although not a new technology, has now been adapted to smartphones, pads and tablets, adding a new dimension to improving our casting skills.

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](#)
website, facebook

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

2015 SFF Membership Survey

To all SFF members

ROD-REEL-LINE-BACKING COMBO RAFFLE

The next two pages are the 2015 SFF Membership Survey. Please print them out. Fill out the survey and bring it to the January or February general meeting. All members in good standing who return a completed survey will receive a raffle ticket to be entered into a raffle at the March 19 general meeting raffle drawing.

The lucky member wins:

Lefty Kreh Professional Series 2 Eight-weight, four-piece fly rod with carry case, a Lamson Liquid reel, Rio fly line and backing.

Bring your completed survey to the meeting and give it to me at the raffle table. You will be entered into the drawing. The survey is anonymous. Do not put your name on the survey.

If you can't attend either meeting then mail your completed survey to PO Box 40821 St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821 to arrive no later than March 13, 2015. Put your name on a separate piece of paper so a raffle ticket number can be assigned to you.

Surveys should not be signed to keep them anonymous. We would really like to see you at our meeting, so just bring it.

TOM TRUKENBROD, VICE PRESIDENT

The two-page membership survey follows...

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



December 20, 2014 - Don Coleman Memorial and Chili Feast

Our December outing was the annual Chili Eating and Don Coleman Memorial event. All local Clubs were invited, with Mangrove Coast, Tampa Bay and Suncoast showing up to fish and eat. That Saturday was a great day to fish. It had to be one of the best places in the states to be. This was an open fishing outing and many fish were caught.

There was one fish of importance, caught by Robert Fisher. It was a six pound Sheepshead, caught on a "Smitty's Golden Eye Shrimp". (Ask Robert to show you the picture, or ask Smitty how it tasted.)



Lots of fly fishers were there to celebrate and eat. Thanks for all who brought side dishes to go with the chili. Another great day of F.F.F.F. (Fun, Food, Friends and Fish).



January 17, 2015 - Weedon Island Preserve

SFF will be fishing the Weedon Island Preserve for the first time in many years. This area is one of the best places to wade or paddle in Tampa Bay. Wade fishermen have vast areas to roam and paddlers can fish Weedon flats or cross into the mangroves and fish inside of the preserve. Riviera Bay is also there to fish. Kayaks are available at the preserve to rent from Sweetwater Kayaks. This is an open tournament with the longest fish winning the prize. Lunch will be served at 11:30 at the picnic shelter located beside the main parking lot.

February 21, 2015 - Walsingham Park

2014 - 2015 Outing Tournament Catches

Largest Bass - Karen Warfel - 14-inches
Largest Sunfish- Annie Hays - 8-inches
Largest Ladyfish - David Putnam - 21-1/2 inches
Largest Snook -- Alan Sewell -- 38 inches
Largest Speckled Trout-Open
Largest Redfish-Ken Doty -- 23-inches
Largest fish of other species - Adam Hays. Peacock Bass

Note: All fish entered in the yearly contest must be caught at a club outing, in the zone defined, and must be at least the legal size set by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission

Alan

Member in the Spotlight

Myron Hansen: Member in the Spotlight



Hometown: Cumberland, Iowa

When did you join Suncoast Fly Fishers? I'm not sure of the year, but it was in the early 1990's.

What is your favorite game fish to catch on the fly and why? I guess I enjoy catching a large bluegill on the fly more than any other. Ounce for ounce they put up a great fight and I like using the light tackle. The scenery in the areas where they are caught is usually great and they are also my wife's favorite fish for dinner.

What are your top three places to fish?

1. Intracoastal dock lights
2. Lake Okeechobee (when the big bluegills are biting)
3. Any freshwater lake or river

What is your go-to fly rod and reel? Saltwater – Sage 7wt and a Hardy reel

Freshwater – G. Loomis 3wt and an Orvis reel

How and when did you get introduced to fly fishing? I actually first started really early on after reading about it in Boy's Life magazine. My dad had a fiberglass rod that was designed for a fly reel or spinning reel. My grandfather gave me an old automatic (spring loaded) fly reel. I bought some inexpensive fly line and caught a few bluegills in our farm pond with poppers. Then it was 25 or 30 years before I got interested in it again. Martin Skelly, who worked with my son's Boy Scout troop, told me about Carl and Ester's weekly get-togethers. I started going there and got involved.

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

I guess I like everything about fly fishing. I like all the gear and I like being able to make my own flies. Sometimes I just enjoy the casting.

Tying Bench

Myron's Schminnow Tied by Myron Hansen



Myron Hansen's Schminnow

Fish this fly most anytime and anywhere in saltwater. I like it for night time dock light fishing which is my favorite time and place to fish.

Materials:

Hook:

Thread: Flat waxed

Cement: Clear nail polish

Tail: Finnish raccoon Pearl crystal flash

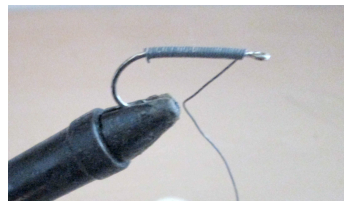
Body: Pearl chenille (size medium)

Eyes: Bead chain (size 1/8-medium)

Extra: Lead wire (size 020)

Tying Sequence

Step 1. I begin with a lead wrap of the hook, then a thread wrap, and then a coat of cement. The lead wrap adds some additional sink speed. I like the balance achieved by wrapping the hook shaft with lead rather than using heavy eyes.



Step 2. I create a tail using the Finnish raccoon and add sparkle with one or two pieces of crystal flash. Again the thread is coated with cement.



Step 3. The body is created by wrapping the hook shaft with the pearl chenille beginning where the tail was tied off and working forward. The chenille is tied off just before the hook eye. A little space is left for addition of the bead chain eyes. Again cement is added.



Step 4. The fly is completed by adding two bead chain eyes. The fly is tied off with a whip finish. All visible thread is then cemented.

Don Coleman Memorial Outing and Chili Feast - Fort DeSoto Park



Our December year-end fish and food outing in honor of deceased member Don Coleman was held at Fort DeSoto Park. The weather was amazing and so was Alan Sewell's white and red chili with cheese and other delectables. Members of Mangrove Coast fly Fishers of Sarasota and the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club joined in the fun.

The catch of the day was a 6-pound sheepshead landed by Robert Fischer. "We were fishing flats near Arrowhead (Picnic Area) where there was a mix of grass and sand and using 8# tippet because the water was so clear and I think that was a key to getting the old sheep head to bite. I was very lucky that his big buck teeth didn't touch the leader or else this would have been just another tale about the big one that got away."



Robert Fischer with a 6-pound sheepshead fooled by Layne (Smitty) Smith's Golden Eye Shrimp. The fish was later baked with butter and garlic and topped with Hollandaise sauce and crabmeat. What a great fish!"

Jimmie Carroll landed this trophy but it looks like another predator caught it first.



New member Bob Burkard waded deep and shallow in three locations inside the park, landing one speckled trout in the very clear water of lower Tampa Bay.



Tom Gadacz: Who was Don Coleman?

The Don Coleman Classic 2014: Legends and a History of Change.

Our 2014 end of the year outing could not have been better (except for a few of us who did much casting and no catching). The chili was superb and the sides excellent. We even had chili guacamole. Members for the Tampa and Mangrove Coast clubs joined in the event.

Don Coleman was a very interesting fisherman. He grew up in New York, designed many structures in New York as an engineer, built his own house, and vacationed in Florida. Fortunately for us he and his wife, Beverly, settled in St. Petersburg.

He and Paul Sequira became close friends and partnered in testing fly fishing gear, flies and fishing areas. The results of their analyses were passed on to club members. If you have not read "Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod" you are missing much good advice on how and where to fish in the Tampa Bay area. It was great to celebrate and remember Don.

Many things have changed in our club and I was reminded of the passing of time by three individuals – Paul Sequira, Alan Sewell and Robert Fischer. All are longtime members of SFF and accomplished fly fishermen who wore interesting SFF caps. Over the 23 years we had several different hats with multiple colors and logos. These longtime members portrayed the changes not only in caps they wore but their contributions to SFF and fly fishing. As Don Coleman said of Carl Hanson – "The only thing you have that you can give away and still keep is your knowledge."

What we can say to Paul, Alan and Robert is thank you and thanks to all you other guys who share your knowledge and time making SFF the best fly fishing club anyone could join. May you catch (and release) many big fish, help other members, participate in club outings and other activities such as Project Healing Waters and summer youth fishing camps. We're not just a fly fishing club. We're an adventure.

Have a great 2015! *Tom*



Paul Sequira's hat



Alan Sewell's hat



Robert Fischer's hat

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip # 62



By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor

STOP STOP STOP

Why don't I get a good straight layout of my fly line when making my presentation cast? There are many reasons. A frequent one is to not have a proper stop at the end of both forward and back casts. When the length of fly line is the same, the forward and back cast should be identical in all respects, unless wind is a factor. Watching an experienced fly caster present a cast should look smooth. The forward stop is almost unperceivable, but must be there. Using the mantra, "Stop, Stop, and Drop," can be helpful. Lefty refers to this as a, "Speed up and stop!"

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

Bob Morrison: How-To

Foul-hook a fowl?



What do you do if you should hook a bird?

1. Protect your eyes with glasses or goggles if possible.
2. Get a partner to help you.
3. Wrap the bird in a towel or poncho. Cover the bird's head to calm it and to protect yourself from its beak. Tie or tape the beak, leaving it partly open so the bird can breathe. Tie the wings and legs if possible. With long-legged birds like herons and egrets, fold the legs before tying to reduce the danger of breaking them.
4. Unhook the bird, cutting off the barb and pulling out the remainder. Keep a pair of wire-cutting pliers for this purpose.
5. If the bird is a pelican, check the beak pouch for any tearing. Such injuries may require the attention of a veterinary. You can call a vet at 888-404-3922.
6. Release the bird to fly away on its own.
7. If you find a bird carcass, put it in a trash container. It may contain hooks, sinkers, or whatever.
8. Finally, try not to cast near birds.

Go get 'em, and Good Luck!

Editor's note: [Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary](#) has helpful info, too. Or call 727-391-6211.

Bob

Dayle Mazzarella, MCI: Grass Drill # 11

[Editor's note: This is the final chapter of instruction in Master Casting Instructor Dayle Mazzarella's careful and comprehensive fly casting program. Thank you, Dayle, for sharing this with On The Fly and your fellow members of the Suncoast Fly Fishers. We are most grateful.]

DOUBLE HAUL DRILL

GOAL: Learn to double haul.

PURPOSE: Increase line speed, reduce work load on rod hand.

Fishing Application: Increased line speed makes it easier to cast under windy conditions, cast under obstructions, cast distance, and reduce fatigue over a long day of fishing.

PRINCIPLES: All previous principles.

SET UP: 75' rope with 7 cones, 1 at each end of the rope, place one cone in center of the rope, and 4 others near the center of the rope.

STEP 1: Assume student has mastered previous skills.

STEP 2: Find a partner who has also mastered those skills.

STEP 3: Assuming 2 right-handed casters, Partner A stands in the middle of the tape facing the tape with the fly line extended to 35' - 40' and the rod tip about 12" on the other side of the tape.

STEP 4: "A" performs Grass Drill B while Partner B places a cone where the rod stops on both the forward and the back cast. (Assuming the line is landing close to parallel to the tape or rope.)

STEP 5: "B" then places the 2nd pair of cones approximately 2 feet *inside* the stop/start cones.

STEP 6: "B" now stands to the left and slightly behind of Partner A. "B" takes the fly line with his/her *left* hand, about 2 feet below the stripping guide.

STEP 7: As "A" performs the line drill, "B" watches the rod tip. As it approaches the inside cone, "B" performs the "down-up" maneuver. The "down" should coincide with "A"'s "pop" or "snap" in the line drill.

STEP 8: Let the line sit. Straighten the line to remove slack and then repeat in the opposite direction.

STEP 9: When "B" is doing well with the timing, switch partners and repeat the process.

STEP 10: Each partner does the entire drill by themselves. Go back to partner drill if problems occur.

Troubleshooting:

1. The "down" should occur just about as the rod reaches maximum rod bend (near the inside cone). If the hauling partner doesn't feel the rod bend and/or the line doesn't straighten, it is because of a haul too late or too early. Watch the cone!!
2. If the line lands straight but the hauler hasn't performed the "up" portion of "down-up", then the hauler's hand will be 3 or 4 feet from the rod guide. If this happens, hauler, make sure to go "up"!

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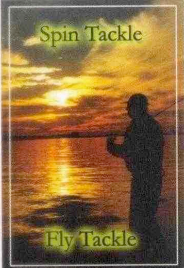
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David Putnam: Fly Fisher Reflections

Houseguests

You'll have to listen to these tired old complaints: "I would miss the seasons down here, the changing leaves." He won't know how "you can stand the heat in September."

I stand September because of the fall runs of baitfish on Florida's east coast, when I'm knee deep in the surf pulling on big snook. The world's best bluegill fishing happens on the summer full moons. I wade then to keep cool, and wear one of those wide-brim, Florida Cracker hats. People *die* in Atlanta and Chicago heat waves every year.

He'll bring his flyrod, a 4-wt carrying a dried-out double-taper line, his "small stream rod." His wife won't wait long to offer her variation of, "He doesn't catch anything, but he loves it, standing there with his pals on the Amplegut River. *Please* show him how to fish."

It can be fun, depending on the guest. I've been known to invite a guest along on a 50 degree overcast morning in my skiff, out through the morning chop in the inlet. "Grab a jacket," I say. They say, "Oh, Hell, I don't need a jacket." If they get really miserable I suggest poking holes in a garbage bag and wearing it like a coat, with a cap made out of a 1-gallon Ziploc. I don't carry spare rain gear, just bags.

Dressed like a deckhand on an Alaskan crab boat, I probably looked foolish to him at the dock. Not now. His jeans, once wet, draw heat out of him fast. A change of seasons, indeed.

At the boat ramp he didn't notice that the hardwoods have lost their leaves. Out on the water the mullet migration might get his attention as a seasonal thing, marked by the dozens of boats from Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana, all cast-netting roe mullet. That'll give him a good story, how down in Florida he watched people killing millions of migratory fish for their roe, helping doom them to extinction. Happens in December. You can point out the migratory Skimmers and Bluebills and huge white pelicans from Manitoba, but this season to a northern houseguest means one thing: "Hey, I'm here, the snow and ice behind me. Take me fly fishing."

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Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



January 17 Outing: Weedon Island -- If you look at a satellite picture of Pinellas County you'll note that almost every piece of land has a building on it. Almost. Two big green areas stand out. One is Fort DeSoto Park at the south end of the county. The other is the Weedon Island Preserve, a 3,000-acre expanse of mangrove forest shoreline and some of the best fishing opportunities in Tampa Bay. Anglers fish it by boat, kayak, from the pier, or wade in. Do some research online before you fish it during the January 17 outing. You can fish the grass flats on the outside or dropoffs and holes on the inside. Tides bottom and peak about 45 minutes later than the times posted for the St. Pete Pier. ([Weedon Island Preserve](#))

How to be a trash fish gourmet. Ever tempted to cook a gafftopsail catfish or a stingray? Here's your how-to guide, top chef recipes in an article in the magazine with that catchy title. I get it. It's just that I never thought of Spanish mackerel as a trash fish. Still, I'm grateful for the recipe and the advice; namely, cook and eat Spanish mackerel right away. That does make sense. (Or use it in a fish chowder, huh?) And lionfish do not belong in this trashy category, either, imho. ([Garden and Gun](#))

This fish would make it the super-duper slam. If you accidentally catch a five foot fish that doesn't wiggle like a real fish, you might have caught a drone. No kidding. The U. S. Navy is testing one. Watch. ([Soundings](#))

Bigfoot in the Hillsborough River? This could be real, folks. A fisherman on the Hillsborough River has taken a picture of Bigfoot half submerged in the shallow water along a wooded shoreline. Can I have a motion for Suncoast Fly Fishers to mount an expedition to locate this creature? We might ask, politely, Please, Mr. Bigfoot, leave a few lunker bass in there for our gurglers when we fish the Hillsborough at the Carl Hanson Memorial Outing this summer. ([Huffington Post](#))

For your bucket list, maybe? As our snowbirds from the upper midwest know, Lake Winnebago near Fond du Lac, Wisconsin has a short sturgeon-spearing season in February. It's kind of a big deal. Years ago I read a column in the Chicago Tribune about a Wisconsinite who sat day after day in his ice shanty staring into a hole in the ice waiting patiently for a sturgeon to swim by. Occasionally he would take a sip of brandy. He may have let his dog sip some brandy, too, a reward for the black lab's patient company. Alas, on the last day of the season the poor dog slipped and fell into the hole in the ice. The dog paddled around under the ice and found another hole in the ice where he could surface. Of course, this hole was also staffed by a brandy-loving sturgeon-spearer. We are happy to report that he didn't spear the ice-frosted dog, which through his blurry vision surely must have appeared to be the abominable snowman. ([Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#))

Bill