

On The Fly

July 2015 Volume 25, Issue 7



Jeff Kopelman went to Cherokee, North Carolina and did a little trout fishing. How big was this one? P 8

Clam Bar outing. July's Saturday morning outing is based at St. Pete's Maximo Park just off I-275 near the Sunshine Skyway. You can launch there and you can lunch there, too. (Pavilion 13). Details on P 4



Andy sends rainbow cheers from Buckinghamshire P 8

Science Speaks: Fish don't feel pain. Now who's hurting? Hofmeister's on this story. P 9

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

On The Fly

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Suncoast Fly Fisher News 'n' Notes

Club Meeting: Thursday, July 16.

- Speaker: Brett Fitzgerald, executive director, Snook & Gamefish Foundation
- Fly tier: Layne (Smitty) Smith

Club Outing, Saturday, July 18. Clam Bar outing. Fish within sight of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge
Lunch at Maximo Park, Pavilion 13.

Club Outing, Saturday, August 22. Urban outing.
Downtown St. Petersburg.
Lunch at Flora Wylie Park

Have you met our newest members? Introduce yourself at the meeting.

- Rafael Bustos, Seminole
- Ron Hill, St. Petersburg

FYI: Club membership now totals 120.

August 13-15, International Fly Fishing Fair
Riverhouse Hotel and Convention Center in Bend, Oregon

Florida Sportsman Show, Tampa Fairgrounds. Suncoast Fly Fishers will demonstrate fly tying and help interested parties learn to tie flies. It's September 12-13. A sign-up sheet will get passed around at the meeting.

October 23-24: Florida Council Fly Fishing Expo

at IGFA museum in Dania Beach

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

New in box: Van Staal 7/8 fly reel. \$450. Originally \$700. Call Bruce Evensen, 727-403-9010

To E-Mail Or Not To E-Mail

Your board of directors has spent a good deal of time discussing the ins and outs of e-mail.

As you know, when you joined Suncoast Fly Fishers we obtained your e-mail address, phone number and physical address. Many members have asked why we don't send out a list with e-mail addresses so you can coordinate fishing trips and generally keep in touch.

As many of you know, e-mail can be a huge waste of time when you receive unwanted messages and advertisements. We recognize this and have chosen to keep email addresses private, using them for delivering the newsletter only.

With the recent passing of two long time members we re-evaluated our e-mail policy and have decided to offer you the choice of how your e-mail can be used. Here is what we will propose to members.

When you, join or renew your membership in SFF, if you include an e-mail address you will be given the following options:

- 1. Use my e-mail for the SFF newsletter and important club announcements only.**
- 2. Publish my e-mail address in the member directory.**

You will also be asked to indicate that you agree not to share member e-mail addresses or use them for any reason (commercial, political, etc) other than SFF/fishing communications.

Kirk

**Kirk Burton, President
Suncoast Fly Fishers**

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers

Suncoast Fly Fishers

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

Club Officers

Pres: Kirk Burton, 727-631-3033
Vice Pres: Tom Trukenbrod
Secretary: Dick Miekka
Treasurer: Karen Warfel

Board of Directors

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

Committees

Volunteers needed Please speak to any officer or director at the meeting
Casting Skills -- Pat Damico, MCI, and Dayle Mazarella, MCI
IFFF Liaison -- Pat Damico
Fly Tying -- Myron Hansen
Membership -- Karen Warfel
Webmaster -- Dick Miekka
Hog Roast -- Karen and Rick Warfel
Club Outings and Lunches -- George Haseltine and Dan Bumgarner
Project Healing Waters -- John Craig, Terry Kirkpatrick
Raffles -- Dave Barson
Programs -- Board of Directors
Newsletter, publicity -- Bill AuCoin

Aims and Purposes

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) is a non-profit 501(C) 3 organization and a charter member of the International Federation of Fly fishers.

Suncoast Fly Fishers are dedicated to sharing their total fly fishing experiences and to developing interest in fly fishing in both fresh and salt water. We promote and teach both fly fishing and related subjects of fly-tying, rod building, fly-casting and knot tying. Through collaboration, fellowship, conservation and sportsmanship we help members become more skilled, have more fun, and be more productive in the sport. SFF supports the conservation of natural resources, boating safety and fishing regulations.

Monthly Meetings are the third Thursday of each month except December from 6 to 8:30 pm, Walter Fuller Park Recreation Center, 7981 26th Ave N., St. Pete



Directions to our meeting at Walter Fuller Park...

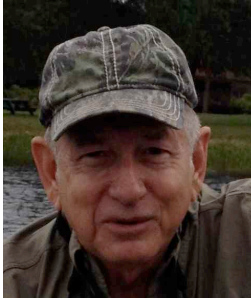
From 22nd Avenue N turn North on 72nd St. N. Turn left (South) on 26th Avenue N. Then turn right into the recreation center parking lot.

<http://suncoastflyfishers.com/meetings.html>

The Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. (SFF) is an organization of fishing enthusiasts who love fishing with the fly rod. We welcome all people of all ages with similar interests; regardless of their fly fishing skill level. We enthusiastically teach those that wish to learn or improve their fly casting, fly tying and related fly fishing skills. SFF meets monthly where we talk fly fishing, tie flies and most months feature a speaker with a program highlighting local fly fishing opportunities. SFF is a non-profit, 501(C)3 organization. SFF is a charter member of the [International Federation of Fly Fishers \(IFFF\)](#). SFF is a member of the [Florida Council of IFFF](#).

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers Outing Reviews and Previews



George Haseltine

Friday Night June 19th 2015 SFF Annual Night Dock Fishing Outing.

The night was still with very little wind. The sky was clear and the stars were bright. The water was like a sheet of glass with very little movement. Fish were at every dock light. The problem was that they weren't always taking our flies.



Capt. Dan Bumgarner

We had 18 signatures on the sign-up sheet with five people requesting a ride. We got three reports from club members. Ken Doty caught a 16-inch trout. So did Norm Sande.

Mark and Mark

And the best report came from Mark Craig and Mark Hays who shared a boat all night and caught lots of fish. Mark Hays said the tide started to move after midnight and the fish started striking flies. He loaned Mark Craig a fly that Paul Sequira had tied and Craig caught three snook in a row on it. Unfortunately, none of them were above minimum legal size so they didn't qualify for the tournament. But Mark Craig did report catching a 19- 1/2-inch trout and a 22-inch redfish making him the leader in both categories. Mark Hays said he pulled into his drive at 5:00 AM, put on a pot of coffee and went to work. Remember when you could do that?

If you didn't have a boat or know someone with one, please come to the outings that you can attend and at least have lunch with us. Get to know everyone as we break bread together. It is a great time to develop friendships and find fishing buddies with boats. It is OK to wade or fish along the shore for our Dock Light Outing and we're trying to come up with another solution for those who could not find a boat ride.

Saturday, July 18 "The Clam Bar" Outing

Our next outing on Saturday July 18th, 2015 will center on The Clam Bar, We will have directions at the meeting on July 16th. You can fish anywhere north of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge so long as you can still see the bridge. If there is a tie for the longest above minimum legal size Snook, Trout, or Redfish, the winner will be the one caught closest to The Clam Bar. Boats, kayaks and wading are all possible; making it convenient for everyone. We will be eating lunch at noon in shelter 13 at Maximo Park. The reservation has already been made by John Craig. **WE STILL NEED SOMEONE TO CATER LUNCH FOR US.** It can be as simple as picking up a sub platter, some chips, watermelon, drinks and ice at your local Publix. Let George, Dan, Truk or John know how we can help you. FYI, Rick and Karen Warfel volunteered to cook up a surprise for our August Outing!

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	19.5 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.

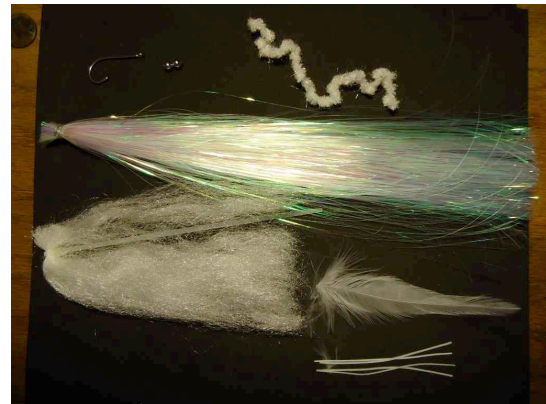
Next four outings: August -St. Pete Urban Outing. September: Cypress Point, Tampa. October: Hillsborough River (Carl Hanson Memorial). November: Weedon Island Preserve.



This is the fly that Alan throws in residential canal waters lit up and surrounded by dock lights. It's the fly he was flinging last year when he hooked up with and landed that big dock light snook (yeah, the 38-incher that won the club outing tournament.) Where's the magic? Well, can you say Sili Legs?

Materials

- #2 Mustad C71SSS Hook, Circle Streamer 2HX,1HL (or similar)
- Silver bead chain eyes
- White Sili Legs
- Flash
- Ice Fur, White
- Ice Dub Chenille, White
- Saddle Hackle. White
- White Thread



Tying Instructions

Wrap hook front to back to front with thread.

Secure eyes behind hook eye.

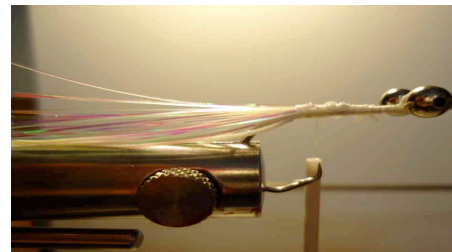
Tie in legs, flash and Ice Fur onto tail.

Wrap feather and chenille at hook point.

Palmer chenille front to back to front and tie off in front of bead chain.

Palmer saddle hackle over chenille and tie off in front of bead chain.

Secure thread wraps and trim tail ends.



And here's a savvy fishing tip from Alan: *"Fish docks with at least 30-40 lb bite tippet. If using a circle hook, pull line straight on the line when a fish strikes. Do not lift your rod to set the hook. A circle hook will set itself."*

From the June 2008 issue of On The Fly



There's something about rubber band spiders that fascinates bluegills.

Sometimes the bluegill is all over that spider fly the minute it lands. But many times the bluegill is a bit more tentative. It will nose up to the surface and watch this thing from one inch away. It's like it's hypnotized by it. The fly angler doesn't have to move the fly. Some other unseen force will make it move or shake a rubber leg. The bluegill can't help itself. Whop! Yep, he's on.

Ken Doty is one of the best at tying the bluegill spider fly and he demonstrated

the procedure at the August 2008 meeting. He makes it look and sound easy:

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 3366 sizes 10
- Thread: 3/0 flat waxed nylon color your choice
- Body: white foam disc about ½" diameter
- Tail: pinch of yellow marabou
- Legs: thin rubber legs

Tying Instructions:

1. Start with a 3366 Mustad, size 10 panfish hook with pinched down barb.
2. Lay a base of thread down the hook to the tail.
3. Add a small piece of marabou about the length of the hook shank, usually yellow, for the tail.
4. Run thread halfway back to the eye of the hook.
5. Pinch on a white foam disk about a half-inch in diameter.
6. Tie the foam disk to the hook at the midpoint of the hook.
7. Add legs on both sides. Start with a piece of rubber about 2" long and using a middle tie, each leg will be about 1" long.
8. Trim it up.

Members Share Docklight Savvy. And Freaky Flies?



Ken Doty, Mark Hays and Ken Hofmeister (L to R) led a lively discussion at the June meeting about how to catch big snook and reds under residential dock lights.

Ken Doty: Use smaller flies. Bring three rods, two with floating line and one with sinking line. The marine patrol is out there so make sure you're legal. Keep your navigation lights on when you're fishing so other anglers know you're fishing that dock. Wear glasses because you don't want a Clouser hitting you in the eyes. Be polite to homeowners who are out on their dock. If your fly gets stuck on one, leave it there. You can tie another fly. Take off your shoes. Be quiet.



Mark Hay's box. Can you say gurgler?

Mark Hays: Watch the dock for awhile and work out a plan before you approach it. Fish gurglers. And fish them in the dark water, too, even along the seawall between dock lights. Snook cruise those seawalls. Use cheap line because, barnacles. Use 40-pound test bite leader. You can drop down to 30 or even 25 if you have to.

Ken Hofmeister: Clousers. Moving water. Bring two or three rods. Six weights. Eight-weights. Big fish are deep.

Alan Sewell: A trolling motor is a must, and you must point your trolling motor away from the dock so you can use it to horse a snook away from barnacle-encrusted piles. Crush your hook barbs and ask your boat-mate to smash his hook barbs, too. Alan doesn't remember exactly which fly it was but something stuck into his jugular with some speed and he wound up in the emergency room. Fish a short, stout rod. Alan's is 7'10".

Ray Markham: A GPS-controlled Pilot trolling motor is amazing. In anchor mode it will keep your boat right where it's supposed to be. Fish two-inch glass minnows with pearl crystal. Grass shrimp. Gummy minnows. Wood docks are better. All wood. New docks are worthless. Cast under docks; practice by casting under a bush in your yard.

Three of our club's most avid dock light fly fishers sat in front at the June meeting and shared some of their secrets for catching docklight snook, reds and trout. Also, prompted by moderator Ken Hofmeister, other members also went on the record with their hard-earned advice: members like Alan Sewell, Capt. Ray Markham, Bruce Evensen, Layne Smith, Capt. Dan Bumgarner, and Bob Morrison.



*Myron Hansen managed the fly swap. June's exchange was called *Freaky Flies for flies made with strange materials*. Specimens included flies made with paintbrush bristles and a condom. Hmm. Something like *Sili Legs*?*

Jeff Kopelman: Rainbow River; Grouper Gravy



The star of the show was this 26.5-inch rainbow (6.5-pounds in case you were wondering) that Jeff caught on a wooly bugger near Cherokee, NC

Rainbow trout were happy and hungry when Jeff Kopelman went to Cherokee, North Carolina in May. Then, back in Florida, he flung a Clouser from the dock and, voila, a red grouper liked what he saw.

Jeff



Grouper bonus. Back in Florida Jeff caught this fat grouper off of the dock with a Clouser.

Andy Constantinou: Back in Buckinghamshire



E-dispatch on 7/3/15

"Caught a nice 4 lb rainbow trout this morning on a size 16 red buzzer fished about 18-inches under an indicator. I was using a 10-foot 6-wt rod on Latimer Park Lakes in Buckinghamshire.

I don't normally take fish but this one I filleted and cooked on my BBQ with Cajun blackened seasoning. Delicious.

Cheers, Andy

Ken Hofmeister: Do Fish Feel Pain?

No question about it, fishing is a painful sport. All sorts of pain. Anglers can break expensive rods and weep. Getting hooks out of sensitive areas can be painful. Sheer anguish sets in as the big one gets away. And then there is the pain of getting skunked--especially after bragging about "knowing where they are."

There is also the pain in the pocketbook after reviewing the expenditures at the toy store (Cabela's or local fly fishing shop). Sometimes critters inflict pain as well. Member Richard Oldenski, M.D., wrote about the muscular and skeletal pain associated with our sport. Falling down a riverbank can induce more than discomfort.

But what about the fish? How self-centered can we be? What about the fish when we yank him out of his habitat? How about the fish that has a hook (forgot to remove the barb) torn out of his jaw? Or the gasping fish that is held up squirming for a photo op? Or even the fish that is rudely and roughly released?

Fear not! According to a group of British scientists, fish feel no pain. After exhaustive experiments, these smart scientists concluded that fish feel no pain. Their studies were reported in the Journal of Fish and Fisheries and summarized in an article by Valerie Elliott in the Daily Mail Jan. 12, 2013. Naturally, PETA spokesperson, Ben Williamson, disagreed.



Steve Putbrese feels no pain. Nor, scientists say, does the snook.

So--fish feel no pain. They don't have the cerebral capacity or sensory receptors in the nerve system to do so. Apparently anglers have just enough brainpower to outwit the dumbest fish and feel pain themselves.

Ken

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #68



By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor

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

Since most of us use weight forward or WF lines we should understand what comprises the "Head," or the part attached to the leader ahead of the running line, the small-diameter line that connects to the reel. The head is comprised of the tip, the short (6 to 12 inch section) to which leaders are attached. The front taper, the tapered part of the line between the tip and the belly. The belly, the large-diameter level section that carries most of the energy during the cast. The rear taper, the tapered section that connects the belly to the running line. The length, diameter, and weight of the front taper, belly and rear taper are all variables and will help customize a line for specific use. Scientific Anglers Expert Distance taper, often used in the

Big Gun Shootout, in 8 wt, has a head that is 75 feet long, add a 9 ft. leader, and to cast this line well with no overhang, having the junction of the running line and head at the rod tip, you will have to carry 84 feet of line. Can you do that? Most line boxes contain a drawing of the exact taper you are buying. Study it.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

Suncoast Fly Fisher: Best Bets for July-August

Captains Dan Bumgarner and Ray Markam point us toward fly fishing success in July and August

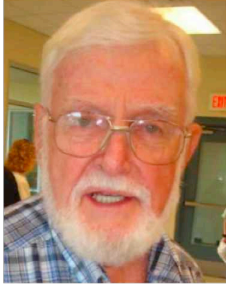
Capt. Dan Bumgarner (Tampa Bay Charter Fishing)

So here we are in July and it is hotter than a firecracker. Get used to it because it is going to be that way for a couple of months. This will be the time for early, late and night fishing. Redfish will start to move up on the flats and congregate in larger schools this month. The usual redfish flies should work on them. Trout have about finished their spawning and have moved to water a little deeper. A sink tip or intermediate line would help get down to where they are holding on the deeper edges of the grass flats. There is also a lot small bait holding on the flats now and the predators are riding herd on them. Throw a small minnow imitation around the edge of the bait pod and you should get a response. Another summer time fly fishing challenge is shark fishing. Find a flat with descent visibility and current flow and hang a chum bag over the side and wait for the sharks to arrive. A few pieces of chopped up fresh greenbacks or ladyfish scattered around the boat would really help. Seaducer or deceiver style flies tied on 2 or 3 ought hooks will do fine. Favorite colors are red and orange with a little yellow and chartreuse thrown in for occasional high lights. A small trace of #3 or #4 single strand wire is a must.

Capt. Ray Markham (Captain Ray Markham)

Think deeper, slower, early or late, and higher tides if you want to be successful fishing on the flats over the next couple of months. We've already had some scorching days and we've barely begun the summer months. Fish will eat larger baits in dirty water, or water with algae that obscures a bait's profile. Bright colors like chartreuse and yellow work well for most species, but for redfish, browns, rust or orange patterns with gold flash will produce fish. Weedless flies will excel, since there can be quite a bit of floating grass. If fishing drop-offs in channels on a falling tide, consider a sink tip or weighted fly like a Clouser Minnow. If night fishing for snook, smaller is better. A white fly like the DT Special in white with pearl crystal flash tied about 2-inches in length on a #4 hook has always been a top producer for me. Tarpon will continue on the beaches but will begin moving up inside Tampa Bay in greater numbers. Dock lights will be your best bet for trout and snook at night. Fishing the swash channels at the beach will produce some nice snook around full and new moons. In low light conditions, work a slider, a gurgler, or popper.

Bob Morrison: How-To



Knot Sense versus Sally Hansen. Is Chapstick in your fly tying kit?

This makes sense. The U.V. Epoxy sometimes known as Knot Sense was designed for use in making leaders while fishing, to cement leader knots outdoors, with the epoxy hardening in natural sunlight. We also know that Knot Sense can be used to tie flies in the field, cementing tying knots in the same

manner. Many fly fishermen bring along a small tying kit for just such contingencies. If you are one of these, or just want to tie an occasional leader, remember to bring the Knot Sense along with your leader materials. It dries more quickly in the sun than Sally Hansen, is easy to apply, and is a heck of a lot stronger. Sorry Sally.

Hook eye blockage. Tying a fly indoors or out, insert a small dab of Chapstick or Blistex lip balm wax into the hook eye hole. Then you can complete your fly, finish, and cement your knot. The wax will prevent the cement from entering the eye hole. When the cement is dry, poke the wax out, and you have a nice clean job. This move is lot easier and cleaner than trying to pick out hardened cement that has fouled the hook eye. Smart.

Do you know how far you are casting? Mark your fly line with colored nail polish forty feet back from the end of the line where it joins the leader. When you see this mark reach the rod tip during casting, you know that with your approximately nine-foot rod and nine foot leader, you are casting a total distance of 58 feet. This knowledge can help you to modify your cast as necessary, and hopefully increase your casting distance.

Is that fish in the slot? Keep a brief record in your waterproof pocket showing minimum and maximum legal lengths of the fish you catch, plus catch limits for each species. You can also mark your rod so as to measure each species minimum and maximum length, using a different colored nail polish for each species. Finally, keep a record of which color relates to which species in that trusty old waterproof pocket. Even more clever, what?

Go get 'em and good luck

Bob

International Fly Fishing Fair in Bend, Oregon. Register now

August 13-15, International Fly Fishing Fair
Riverhouse Hotel and Convention Center in Bend, Oregon.

Here are highlights from a recent email from IFFF headquarters:

- To see **new workshops**, please go to the [registration page](#), listed under Fly Fishing Fair on our web-page. Even if you are not taking workshops you must still register for the Fair to get name badge (for entrance to the Fair), a registration packet, and to purchase meal tickets. Meal tickets are limited for each meal, if you do not purchase your ticket early, you may miss out.
- **To register** go to the [Fair main page on our website](#) and there will be a "Register Now" button for you to click to get started. Have your member number ready and we advise that it may help for you to fill out the registration pages and have them beside you when you start. Don't forget to have your credit card too.
- **Buy a fishing license.** If you're planning to take on-the-water workshops or just do some recreational fishing while in Bend, you will need an Oregon fishing license; which you can buy online and print before you even leave your house. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's website is where you can purchase licenses. This link ([click here](#)) will take you to an information page and the "Buy Now" button on the right is where you go to purchase.
- **Host hotel** this year is the [Riverhouse Hotel and Convention Center](#). Rooms are filling up fast, make your reservations now.
- Workshops, Demonstrations, Rendezvous, and games all about casting. Go to this page to view the different casting activities going on.
- **Conservation:** Conservation is a big part of why we exist as an organization; stop by the IFFF Conservation Booth to get information about what we are doing in conservation activities across the country.
- **Fly Tyng Demonstrations:** Two shifts at each table every day for three days...that is how many demonstrations will take place, that's right, over 120 demonstrations.
- **Free Programs:** Free with your entry to the Fair, come and see unique hourly presentations that include fly fishing destinations, conservation topics, fishing specific types of water, and flies to use.
- **Meals and Special Events:** From the Tuesday free reception to our closing barbeque there are several opportunities to join us for food and fun.
- **Youth Activities:** Educating our youth about fly fishing instills a fun, family oriented activity to enjoy for years to come. Check the schedules for youth activities.
- **Women's Program:** This is for women only, a one and a half to two day experience you won't forget.



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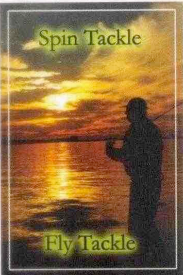
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David Putnam: Fly Fisher Reflections

Peek in the fly box of the king of bluegills

A psychiatrist could deliver a lecture based on the differences in my Florida freshwater fly box and that of Ken Doty, the self-styled King of Bluegills.

Mine has sizes 10, 8, 6 and 4 popping bugs made of a variety of materials: some are foam cylinders that need to be shaped. There are ones of hand-sanded cork, others made from already shaped popper bodies of dense foam, in an array of colors. A few are

hand-made from balsa wood sticks hand-finished. A dozen or so are made from cylinders punched from the soles of flip-flops in plain and striped designs.

I use a wide variety of bronze and stainless hooks, some kinked especially for making poppers. Others are nymph hooks with turned-down eyes, some are nickel-plated, and a few have bright red Eagle Claw hooks.

Tail materials? I use all sorts, from rabbit strips to splayed hackles and an insane variety of shiny flosses and crystal flashes and rubber and plastic stuff that offers wiggle on its own.

I spray paint, hand paint, attach decal eyes with weird glues, palmer feathers to make buggy-looking parts, drill through bodies to attach legs, cut and shape foam in a variety of ways, and otherwise do a lot of crafty things to make my bugs. It's taken me many years to acquire these esoteric skills and a good "eye" for what bluegills will eat...sometimes.

I'm drawn to an endless variety, thinking in my bones that at one time in one place yet to be fished, one of my colorful, arty little flies will be the only fly the fish will eat, while my friend in the other end of the boat watches helplessly. Enter the psychiatrist.

Or, enter my friend, fishing buddy and fly maker, Ken. He's nuts. Why? He only uses one fly, and it's ridiculously simple. A white spider. You can see it on the [Suncoast Fly Fisher website](#). (Also on P6 in this issue. Editor)

First, he uses white closed-cell foam the thickness of a bar coaster, then he cuts it out in a round shape using a hollow tube with sharp edges. An empty .45 pistol cartridge would come close to making the right size. Another pal uses the hollow shaft of a golf club, with its edges sharpened.

Then he attaches a weensie piece of yellow—never white or chartreuse—marabou about 3/4 of an inch long to the rear of the bronze size 10 Mustad hook. Then he folds the foam over the hook with the edges facing the hook point and ties it in place with white thread. He may touch it with super glue to help it hold together. Tail, foam body done in less than two minutes. To each side of the foam body he attaches a 1 1/2" piece of white rubber leg material, the tiniest you can imagine. There! It's done, complete, finished in less than three minutes. No eyes need be applied. It's a little bigger than a black-eyed pea, and looks like no bug you've ever seen. Yeah, the legs can tangle in the hook. Still works.

Ken tucks a fly box in his shirt pocket about the size of a snuff can for a day's fishing. A week ago he caught over 50 big Lake Okeechobee bluegills in one day and used up only three flies. Cost? Maybe ten cents. My fly boxes need their own bag. I've spent enough to remodel the garage. Hundreds of different flies.

If you ever enter a "one-fly" bluegill tournament in Florida, take a half hour and make up a dozen "Dotys" and hope your competition has pretty boxes full of flies.

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Sage, Rio, Redington now sell direct. Good for them. Good for us?

Far Bank, the company that owns Sage Rods and Rio line, has decided to let us buy Sage and Rio directly from the company. I assume we'll still be able to buy these products from retailers, too. My guess is that this will be just like lots of stuff available online. We'll pay the full MSRP when buying direct. Because suppliers do not want to undercut their retailers. So, if a discount is to be had, we'll get it from the store. So, maybe, everybody's a

winner? ([Angling Trade](#))

Alarms are ringing about a proposed law that says if you go fishing in the Bahamas you'll have to use a Bahamian guide (no DIY fishing) and pay a daily fee, too. Check out some of the opinions [here](#), and [here](#), and [here](#).

"Ethan Kiburz has the tiger by the tail and he knows it." Two Yankee fly fishers went docklight fishing with Ethan on a sultry, sticky, summer night, and they were impressed. ([Hatch magazine](#))

Hey, maybe this is what we should be wearing, especially at night when we're docklight fishing? For safety's sake. ([Southern Trout](#))

The annual IFTD fly fishing gear show is at the Orlando Convention Center this week, sharing attention and hall space with the ICAST fishing gear show. This is where the next generation of fishing gear gets displayed and sold to retailers. Your club and the Florida Council will be well represented with Florida Council President (and SFF member) Tom Gadacz anchoring the Florida Council exhibit #409. Dusty Sprague and Leslie Holmes, IFFF Certified Master Casting Instructors, will hold casting sessions. We'll have a follow-up report in the August issue of *On The Fly*. ([AFFTA](#))

Be careful out there. ([Fox News](#)). ([AP](#))

Capt. Rodney Smith spoke to our club last year about the importance of rescuing and protecting the Indian River Lagoon. A man of many skills, Rodney started work on another project -- a novel. It's about fishing, of course, but also murder: *The Road to Matupalo*. ([Rodney Smith Media](#))

Capt. Ray Markham chatted me up at the June meeting and pointed me toward a neat website for showing real and predicted tides, temperatures, air pressure and (yes!) wind direction and speeds. ([Tidesonline](#))

Our July outing is Saturday and we're supposed to fish The Clam Bar area. Where is this clam bar? Well, it's in lower Tampa Bay just inside the Dick Misener Bridge on I275. Actually, you'll be able to fish anywhere in that area so long as you can see the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. Go to the meeting Thursday to sign up and learn more about fishing this area. The forum section on the Captain Mel site may be helpful. ([Capmel](#))

Bill