

On The Fly

June 2015 Volume 25, Issue 6



King for a day: Wes Demmon found tarpon pods migrating just off of Fort De Soto Park's north beach. Purple toad. 11-weight rod. 20# tippet. 140-pounds. P9



Jeff Heer, shown here fishing in Alaska, is our *Member in the Spotlight*. P8



Suncoast Fly Fishers team up with Vets at Fort De Soto. P10

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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, June 18 Club Meeting. The topic of conversation is S N O O K

- Fly tier: Capt. Dan Bumgarner ties the Beach Bunny. (See Tying Bench, this issue)
- Speakers: Dock-light snookin' from Ken Hofmeister, Ken Doty, and Mark Hays
- Fly Swap: "Freaky Flies." Members are to bring three flies tied with unique and/or unusual materials. (*Dog, cat, cockatiel alert?*)

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

- JR Dubler
- Howard Hecht
- Kevin King
- Frank Austin
- Steven Curiale
- Tyson Rawson
- Nathan Suedmeyer

Dock-light Club Outing Friday June 19 from sunset until sunrise Saturday, June 20

On your own dock light fishing, anywhere in Pinellas County. \$25 gift certificates for Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure will be awarded for largest (above minimum length) sea trout, redfish, and snook. Read George Haseltine and Dan Bumgarner's *Reviews and Previews* in this issue.

Be Prepared. The outings committee (George Haseltine and Dan Bumgarner) has released a list of where the next ten of the club outings will be on the third Saturday of each month. Here you go:

July -- Clam Bar with lunch at Maximo Park, St. Pete
August -- St. Pete Urban Outing with lunch at Flora Wylie Park on Bayshore Drive
September -- Cypress Point with lunch at Cypress Point Park, Tampa
October -- Carl Hanson Hillsborough River competition with Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club
November -- Weedon Island Preserve, St. Pete
December -- Don Coleman classic at Fort De Soto Park with a chili cook-off, Tierra Verde
January 2016 -- Pinellas Point/Pink Streets, St. Petersburg
February 2016 -- Fort De Soto Park, Tierra Verde
March 2016 -- Walsingham Park Lake, Largo
April 2016 -- South Skyway/Tierra Ceia, Palmetto

Taking a guest fishing on one of our outings? Your guest must sign a liability waiver. Print it out from the club's website, suncoastflyfishers.org

July 20 (Monday) and July 31 (Friday) -- Fly Casting with kids, E. G. Simmons Park, Ruskin

Volunteers are needed to teach fly casting to pre-teens on these two dates from 1 to 3 pm. Email Tom Gadacz: thomasgadacz@yahoo.com

And, on a related note...

Wanted "used but useable" fly lines for youth form rods

We have several Redington Form Rods with 30-foot lines. Some of the lines are showing wear from the last two years of teaching young people to fly fish. If you have fly lines (preferably 4 - 7 wt) you are not using but are still in good shape give them to Tom Gadacz at the June meeting.

New Dates for the 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 Chicago Fernandez, Flip Pallot, John Cave, Pat Ford and Sam Root. Visit the [Florida Council](#) IFFF website for the latest information.

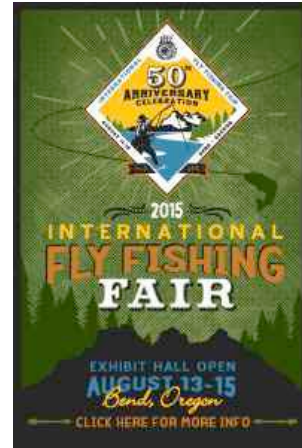
Suncoast Fly Fisher News 'n' Notes

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 Tying 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, to 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.
- **Daily Schedule** – This is the schedule for the week. It gives the dates, times, and locations.



We are Suncoast Fly Fishers

Suncoast Fly Fishers

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

Club Officers

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

Board of Directors

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

Committees

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

Aims and Purposes

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

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

Monthly Meetings are the third Thursday of each month except December from 6 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

Saturday May 23rd, 2015 The Hillsborough River was perfect for kayaking and we couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day: very little wind and lots of sunshine. It was a great day for fly fishing and everyone caught fish. Seventeen of us fished and then met for lunch in Shelter 3 at Trout Creek Park. Thank you John and Mim Craig for reserving the shelter and making sure we had plenty to eat with the traditional watermelon as well. This is their second month in a row.



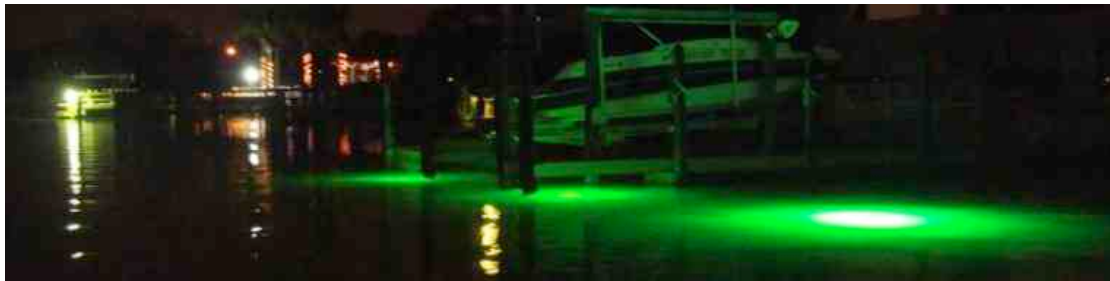
Capt. Dan Bumgarner

We were seeking the largest (above minimum legal size) bass or bluegill or other sun fish. It was good to see Woody join us again after a long absence and he caught the largest bass at 14 1/2". Annie Hays was there too. What a great surprise. She is working at St Leo's College this summer; dad Mark picked her up for the day and they shared a canoe.

Friday June 19 at sunset until sunrise Saturday, June 20, 2015

Our next outing will be our traditional night dock fishing outing where you can fish anywhere in Pinellas County. We changed it a little bit, so we will fish FROM SUNSET FRIDAY JUNE 19TH UNTIL SUNRISE SATURDAY JUNE 20th. The fish we seek is the largest (above minimum legal size) trout, redfish or snook. Call me at 727-423- 8110 and leave a message Saturday anytime with your reports.

We require no meal for this outing, but would you please consider serving lunch at one of the following outings. If you cook or have a special dish, please share it with us. We on the committee will help in any way we can. Thanks



2015-2016 Outing Tournament Updates

Species	Length	Angler	Outing
Longest bass -	15 inches	Larry Morse	February: Walsingham Park
Longest bream	Open		
Largest sea trout	17.75 inches	JJ Jekielek	March: Blackthorn Memorial
Longest redfish	Open		
Longest snook	Open		
Longest sea trout	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 per the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Tom Gadacz: North to Alaska; East to Hillsborough River

From Alaska to the Hillsborough River was quite a contrast for our May activities. Ted Hagaman showed us how to use our empty beer cans by cutting out a pattern and ending up with a modified spoon fly.



At the May meeting Walt Durkin and Ted Hagaman told Suncoast Fly Fishers how research made their do-it-yourself summer expedition to Alaska a success.

Ted teamed up with Walt Durkin and filled us in about fishing in Alaska without turning their 401-K to a 201-K. They had some great pictures of catches as well as wild life and glaciers. The key to their trip was plenty of

research which included on the web information and calling some of the local fly shops. This was done during the winter months when most of the shop owners were relocated to a warmer climate or were stuck in the tundra and had cabin fever.

Those of you interested in fishing Alaska start planning early and be prepared to spend time researching and calling fly shops. Decide either where you want to go or which fish you would like to catch. Keep it simple and work from your primary goal. If you're fishing for salmon, the kings come in early (June) and the silvers come in late (August - September). These are general guidelines and may vary according to location. If you plan on getting a guide to get you started book early. With some work you can do well wade fishing on your own. Ted and Walt chose Juneau which has some great rivers. They fished the Gastineau Channel in Fish Creek (on Douglas Island), Cowee Creek (a 30 mile drive from Juneau) and Montana Creek (formed from the great Mendenhall Glacier).

By Saturday the glaciers melted and the Hillsborough River was mid-level, flowing well and had some hungry fish. All of us caught fish (well almost all of us). The bream and bass were waiting for whatever we threw. Spiders, poppers, and even some spin casting spoons were effective. I tried my newly acquired bamboo rod and it caught fish, a lot of fish. The rod (7' 4 wt) was easy to cast and provided distance to reach the base of the trees and lily pads. It was one of the best days I have had on the Hillsborough.

As announced, Trout Creek Park was a great place for lunch.

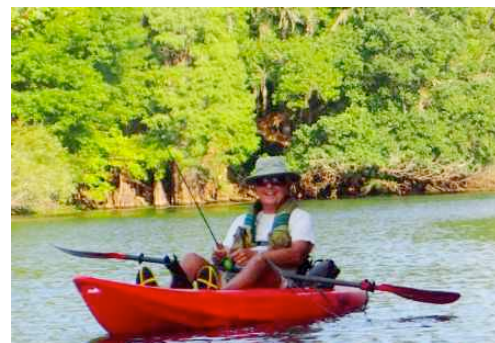
Tom



Ted Hagaman turns empty beer cans into spoon flies.



Ted's beer can flies



"Where are the fish?" asked Joe Dail, to no avail.



The "Beach Bunny" is derived from a fly called the "crazy carper". It seemed to me that if this fly were tied in all white it would make a great beach snook fly. The fly incorporates a rabbit zonker thus the "Beach Bunny". It was immediately clear that there was a world of options to explore, I have

done a few and we will let the members try some of their own. The recommended size for this fly was 1 to 6. The smaller size is a little difficult for me to tie but sizes 1 and 2 are easy.

Materials

Hook size 1-6
Barbell or bead chain eyes
Pearl Krystal Flash
Chenille or Estaz
Rabbit zonker strips

Tying Sequence

Step one: Lay down a thread base.

Step two: Attach barbell or bead chain eyes far enough back from the hook eye to allow ample room for tying off the head.

Step three: Tie in a small bundle of pearl Krystal Flash for the tail. The tail should be a little less than one hook length long.

Step four: Attach the chenille on top of the tail and wind forward taking one turn past the eyes and tying off.

Step five: Secure the thread with a couple of half hitches to allow you to take the hook out of the vise.

Step six: Making sure that the fur will lay back toward the tail when finished push the hook through the zonker strip from the skin side about one eighth of an inch from the end.

Step seven: Pull the zonker strip forward being careful to make sure all fur is cleared and tie off to form the head.

Member in the Spotlight... Jeff Heer

Hometown: Toledo, Ohio



When did you join Suncoast Fly Fishers? My son, Joe, already an SFF member, signed me up around 2008. I was still working in Toledo, so I didn't attend my first meeting until after retiring to Tampa at the end of 2011.

What is your favorite game fish to catch on the fly and why? Love to go after those smallmouth bass. They usually hit and pull hard, and make a nice jump or two.

What are your top three places to fish? Minnesota's Boundary Waters for smallmouth; Norfolk River, Arkansas for rainbows and browns; Tampa Bay's flats for anything with a bad attitude.

What is your favorite fly rod and reel? A March Brown 3-weight Stillwater 7 piece rod, a six and a half footer. The reel is a Colorado model by Ross. The combo is a blast when after small trout or grayling.



That's Jeff fly fishing Portage Creek off the Portage Glacier Highway in Alaska.

How and when did you get introduced to fly fishing? I started both fly fishing and fly tying at the same time in 1973 while in the U.S. Navy, stationed at Warminster, Pa. I bought a 6-ft. Fenwick fiberglass 2 piece rod and a Pflueger 1494 with 5-weight level line. Talk about starting out with a handicap. Heck, the rod and level line were tough to learn with, too. As soon as my entry into fly fishing began, I ordered from the Outdoor Life Book Club, Poul Jorgensen's book, "Dressing Flies for Fresh and Salt Water". Been tying ever since.

Why do you like fly fishing compared to fishing with conventional tackle? I enjoy tinkering with the bazillion pieces of gear and do-dads available to us, and putting all those parts together to make an outfit that's satisfying to use - one that perfectly suits the task at hand.

Wes Demmon: Tarpon along the beaches



Wes Demmon with a 140-pound tarpon off of Shell Key in early May.



The tarpon hit a purple and black toad on a 2/0 hook. It took Wes 55 minutes to land it on his 11-wt Sage rod with a 60-pound shock tippet. "That was 55-minutes I'll never forget," Wes said.

I only sight cast for tarpon. Otherwise, it's too much work blind-casting. I saw a small school in seven feet of water just off Ft. De Soto Park beach and the lead fish took the fly right away. It jumped twice, then peeled off about 200 yards of line. After about 55 minutes, I got the tarpon to the boat when the brand new Sage One rod broke. (You can see that in the picture). I then hand lined it in. It was an awesome fight.

Wes

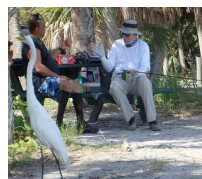
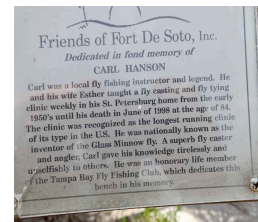
Tom Gadacz: Vets go yakking and fishing at Fort DeSoto

IFFF President Gadacz and other Suncoast Fly Fishers enjoy time on the water with Bay Pines vets
Fishers spent a great day on the waters at Fort De Soto with veterans from Bay Pines V. A. Medical Center. They came to fly fish, fly cast, and kayak. SFF members Jim Bandhauer, John Craig, Terry Kirkpatrick, Ted Rich, Alan Sewell, and Tom Gadacz helped vets get in and out of the kayaks, learn to fly cast and, best of all, catch fish. There was lots of casting practice that day.

Peter Jonsson, VA Recreational Specialist, organized the outing, transportation, and an excellent lunch. He also managed to do some fishing. Fishing and other stories were exchanged in the shade of the benches and even a great white egret listened in. And we sat on the bench dedicated to one of our old pros, Carl Hanson. For this outing we could not have had a better day than May 13. We wish to thank Bruce Evensen and Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure for donating many great flies for the event. Great weather, a high tide and great companionship plus sharing the fly fishing experience with men and women who have given so much in serving our country.

No rest for the weary as we prepare for the outing this Saturday at the Bradenton Yacht Club for our regional Memorial Day outing organized by Ted Haas, Gulf Coast Regional Coordinator, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing.

Tom



Tom Gadacz: 2015 Project Healing Waters Fishing Expedition

Volunteers from Suncoast Fly Fishers, Tampa Bay Fly Fishers, and Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers help 30 vets go fly fishing May 16. Event hosted by Bradenton Yacht Club



Bradenton Yacht Club hosted the third annual PHWFF event on May 16, 2015 so some 30 veterans could go fly fishing. Florida captains, guides and boat owners provided boats for the. Area wide chapters of PHWFF and members of the nearby IFFF clubs (Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers, Suncoast Fly Fishers, and the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club) provided volunteers for each boat.

Ted Haas, Gulf Coast Regional PHWFF Coordinator, organized the day's event. Tom "TJ" Brinegar from the PHWFF Tampa Chapter brought in a third of the disabled vets, half of whom were being introduced to fly fishing for the first time.

After a brief orientation the captains, volunteers and veterans headed out to fish the Manatee River and Terra Ceia Bay for four to five hours. We had great weather with some wind out of the east and water temperature of 83 degrees. We had four women veterans who were out on the water. It's good to see more women becoming interested in fly fishing.

Several varieties of fish were caught with spotted sea trout leading the list. Anglers also caught jack crevalle, mackerel, black drum, flounder and snook.

One of the veterans in our boat built his rod as part of the PHWFF program and had a chance to try it out and practice casting. We returned for a great lunch and exchanged stories. It was amazing on how the size of the fish grew with each telling. It was a very rewarding experience for all and an opportunity to give back to the men and women who served to protect our country.

Tom



Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #67



By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor

The better the cast, the better the rewards

One of my pet peeves is having a client or casting student tell me that the fly line they purchased is one size larger than the number recommended by the manufacturer of their fly rod. Builders of fine fly rods spend a lot of time deciding what number they will put on their product. Most inexperienced people can cast a short distance easier with a heavier line because in fly fishing the weight of the fly line bends or loads the rod rather than the weight hanging on the end as in bait or spin casting. This is a very good reason why your relationship with a fly shop should be carefully selected. New fly fishers need constant help and guidance through the learning process. Careful individual instruction is the key to learning to cast well. The better you

cast, the more you will enjoy our great sport.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

Where will you be fly fishing in June and July?

*Captains Pat Damico, Dan Bumgarner and Ethan Kiburz
point us toward fly fishing success in June and July*

Capt. Pat Damico (captpat.com)

Borrowed from Pat's article in the [Tampa Bay Times](#)...

Best fly rod fun for snook is now. Our west coast beaches are enjoying an explosive return of snook. The season is closed to protect spawning snook, but careful catch and release action is available. An easterly wind will ensure that our beaches will have clear undisturbed water close to shore. Large female snook can be seen frequently surrounded by some smaller courting males. Get out early and walk the sand close to areas of good tidal flow. Passes are a magnet, especially if there is nearby structure. Good Polaroid glasses and a hat with a dark underside brim will make spotting fish easy. Look in the wash very close to shore. Casting will be parallel to shore, not out into deeper water. Enter the water to gently handle and release fish. White flies in size 1 to 1/0 that duplicate available baitfish will work. Lines with clear sinking tips are preferred over floating lines and will be equipped with a 30-pound fluorocarbon leader about 5 feet in length. Cast only when fish are sighted and then place the fly close enough to get their attention. Never pull the fly into the fish's face. Baitfish don't attack large predators. A fish angling toward you will be the best opportunity. Crimp or file all hook barbs to minimize handling and simplify release.
<http://www.tampabay.com/sports/outdoors/captains-corner-catch-and-release-snook-plentiful-in-bay-area/2229746>

Capt. Dan Bumgarner ([Tampa Bay Charter Fishing](#))

Try a white seaducer or the bunny fly I am going to tie at the meeting for early morning snook on the beach. Another exciting option is mackerel in the bay. Put out a chum bag and if you don't mind committing fly fishing hearsay pitch a few live chummers in to the mix. When things get going cast a Clouser, surf candy or gummy minnow in the fray and use a steady fast retrieve. You will need to incorporate some light wire in the bite tippet and even then be ready to lose some flies.

Capt. Ethan Kiburz (Captainethankiburz.com)

Water temperatures in Tampa Bay are exceeding 80 degrees. When the water gets that hot, we begin to experience an algae bloom that diminishes the water clarity, making it difficult to sight fish during the day. On the other hand, night fishing for snook, redfish and trout can be outstanding. Small flies that replicate glass minnows or baitfish have been the most productive.

Snook have made their way to the beaches and passes in preparation for their spawn during these summer months. These fish will be near whitebait. EP baitfish, Polar Fiber Minnow, and The Clouser work best.

Redfish will be rushing to the mangroves in the warmer months in attempt to find cooler water on higher tides. Personally, I like to fish the lower tides we get around sunset this time of the year on the new and full moon phases. Gurglers can be an exciting way to catch a redfish in low light.

Tarpon have begun their migration up our Gulf beaches and can be found in water as shallow as two to three feet, but more commonly they are in between 6-12 feet. Hundreds of these fish can be seen around the big moon phases as they travel north.

Bob Morrison: How-To



Who knew? Hair combs, wood putty and used ammunition are fly fishing gear

Use a comb to hold dumbbell eyes. When hand-painting eyes on lead dumbbells for use as eyes on Clousers and such, try using an ordinary hair comb as a holder for the dumbbells. Slide the dumbbells between the teeth of the comb; paint the eyes, let them dry, then turn the comb over and paint the other side. Remember, you can file the sides of the dumbbells flat, which will enable you to attach flat stick-on eyes as an alternative to hand painting.

Use heavy putty instead of split-shot. When you need a small weight such as a split shot to take a fly down, try this method. There is a lead-free putty weight material that can be used without having to resort to that awful split shot container. Make a few BB-sized balls of putty and press them onto your rod, just above the grip. The putty will cling indefinitely until needed, at which point you can peel off a bead and squeeze it onto your leader. Good idea.

Another use for empty pistol cartridges. You can carve popper bodies from foam or cork using empty pistol cartridge cases (shells), such as those from calibers Magnum .44 or Colt .45, as a carving blade. Cut an opening in the side of the case with a file or saw, which you will use later. With the case upright, use a small round file to sharpen the edge of the case where the bullet used to be. Then, with the blade end of the case up, apply the cork or foam, using a twisting or rocking motion to produce a sawing action to cut the material. When the cut is complete, use a screwdriver inserted through the opening that you cut earlier, to pry the popper out of the case. Voila. Finally, ask for empties at the gun range. They should have them.

Go get 'em and good luck

Bob

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Did you hear the one about the fly fisher who walked into the EPA offices?

Well, we're about to if EPA keeps trying to turn our gasoline into corrosive corn fuel. Most gas stations pump E10 (ethanol 10%) and now the EPA is talking about "adding" E15. Does it affect you? Almost certainly. Two-cycle outboards, motorcycles, snowmobiles, lawnmowers, you-name-it can not use E15. And if gas stations add E15 pumps then almost certainly they will replace E10 pumps. A few stations (WAWA is one) still have no ethanol pumps but for how much longer? Here's what I think: this whole ethanol thing have more to do with subsidizing farmers than with environmental benefits. There are more people in our county than there are in some of those states. But they get two senators, doncha know. ([Smarter Fuel Future](#))

Fluoro or mono? Is fluorocarbon leader better than regular monofilament? And, if so, how much better? Or, is it only better in some ways? The author of this article has strong opinions about it including which brand of fluorocarbon is best in clear water. (Seaguar GrandMax and TroutHunter fluorocarbon get top billing in most categories.) It's written from the POV of a trout angler looking for light tippets so, to big fish fly fishers, I say do your own research. Hat tip to Pat Damico for sharing this link. ([Yellowstone Angler](#))

Bass Pro Shops is on Forbes' list of the best large companies to work for. ([Forbes](#))

If you have to evacuate don't forget to bring fly gear first. When storm surge surges, how bad will the flooding be where you live? A new app from Pinellas County lets you see. You'll enter your Pinellas address and then get an animated view of your home and the water depth you can expect in different hurricane categories. ([Pinellas Storm Surge App](#))

They twist, they bend, they crawl on their belly like a reptile.

Okay, the first two are true, big selling points for the new practically indestructible Rhino Readers from Ono's, the company that makes sunglasses with bifocal readers for fly fishers. Rhino Readers cost less than \$30. ([Ono's Trading Company](#)).



Bill