

On The Fly



Jon Cave speaks at the Florida Fly Fishing Expo at IGFA. Suncoast Fly Fishers were there: Hofmeisters, Craigs, Warfels, and Florida Council President Tom Gadacz. P 15



Tripletail for Adam Hays. P 17

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

On The Fly

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Burkard's Silly Putty Spoon Fly. P 8.



Suncoast Fly Fisher News 'n' Notes

Meeting: Thursday, November 19, Walter Fuller Park, 6-8:30 pm

- Walt Durkin and Ted Hagaman of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club will describe their recent fishing trip to Cuba.
- Outings Chairman George Haseltine will provide details for the Saturday outing with lunch at the picnic pavilion at Weedon Island Preserve, located just to the north of the main parking area. He'll ask for volunteers to pick up picnic lunch supplies and to arrive early to occupy a couple of tables at the picnic pavilion. He'll bring maps of the park for members who are not familiar with the area. The picnic lunch menu is a surprise except that Mark Hays will bring some of his world famous smoked mackerel.
- This is the last meeting opportunity for members to renew for 2016. Renew your dues now to continue receiving all the benefits of club membership.

Outing, Saturday, November 21, Weedon Island Preserve

Big Gun Fly Casting Distance Shootout, picnic Island Park, Tampa, Sunday, November 2

- Hosted by Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.
- 9 AM to 2 PM.
- Lunch, drinks and raffle prizes at no cost.
- Team and individual competitions, accuracy and distance.

Renzetti Fly Fishing Fair, December 4-5, Titusville, Florida. (More info on P 28

No December meeting

Outing, Saturday, December 19, Fort De Soto Park

- This is the annual Don Coleman Memorial Tournament in memory of our former club member who authored *Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod*, the publication that is given to all new members.
- Invitations to join us will be extended to all area fly clubs -- Tampa Bay, Mangrove Coast, Tarpon Coast, Sun City, and Lady Kayakers.
- After fishing members will convene at noon at Pavilion #5 for the annual Chili Cook-Off Competition. The top three chili dishes will be determined by vote by attendees. Wendy and Kirk Burton will arrange for portable stoves and other necessities.
- **Wendy Burton writes**, "*Come join us for the Don Coleman Classic Chili Cook-Off and potluck. Dust off that favorite chili recipe. Join the fun by bringing your entry to the competition, possibly earning you bragging rights for the year. You might make the hottest, best flavor, or most different. We'll have someone to stir and watch the pot(s). If you are not bringing chili, bring a side to share. The club provides the bowls and spoon, toppings and drinks.*"

Trash 'n' Treasures Auction Meeting, Thursday, January 21

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

MCI Casting clinic this spring. No firm date, yet. Stay tuned.

- You will get much better at fly casting. Master Casting Instructors Dayle Mazzarella and Pat Damico are two of the best fly casting teachers in the country.

Hog Roast 2016 is April 2. Save the date.

more news & notes on the next page>>>>

October Brainstormer: Being the Best Club for All

We didn't have a speaker lined up for our club's October meeting so



Prize Money. Outings chair George Haseltine awards prize money to Rick Yarn (L) and Mark Craig (R).

President Kirk Burton took the opportunity to lead a brainstorming session. The subject was: How can we make Suncoast Fly Fishers the best it can be for all members?

Members provided a number of excellent suggestions covering everything from outings and programs to the newsletter and social media.



President Kirk Burton

Kirk told members that any time they have suggestions for improving member experiences to email them to the board at pres_vp@suncoastflyfishers.com.

Continued...Suncoast Fly Fisher News 'n' Notes

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Renew your membership now or you'll be delinquent

Membership renewals for the 2015 - 2016 period were due in September. If you haven't renewed, it's time. Hey, It's past time. Starting now, to facilitate member-to-member contact, you may choose to share your email address with fellow members. It is with the understanding that your email address will not be shared with non-members or used for commercial, political or other purposes. To renew, **see Treasurer Karen Warfel, at the November meeting** or mail a check with your completed membership form (on page 3)to ... Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers

Aims and Purposes

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

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers

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

Club email address...

pres_vp@suncoastflyfishers.com

Club Officers

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

Board of Directors

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

Committees

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

Monthly Meetings are the third Thursday of each month except December from 6:00 to 8:30 pm, Walter Fuller Park Recreation Center, 7981 26th Ave N., St. Pete



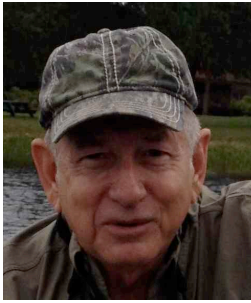
Directions to our meeting at Walter Fuller Park...

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

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

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

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



George Haseltine

Suncoast Fly Fishers Outing Reviews and Previews and Annual Tournament Update

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



Capt. Dan Bumgarner

Review: Lake Tarpon, Carl Hanson Memorial, Oct. 17

For a Saturday morning, the traffic was rather light crossing the 49th St Bridge onto McMullen Booth Road and up to the 255-acre John Chesnut, Sr. Park. This was our Carl Hanson Outing where we remembered him with our annual "catch all the sunfish you can" trip.

We had seven sign up and four of us showed up; three to fish and one to join us for lunch. We didn't expect many because of so many other things going on, but it was a beautiful day with very few other people even at the boat ramp. A welcome breeze kept the temperature down and made for a very good day for fishing and just being outside.

As for the fishing...Uh...Did I mention it was a beautiful day? Smitty fished with Jeff Janacek in a Gheenoe. Smitty caught several bluegill; Jeff caught four bass and one bluegill on a popper. Of course, they told of a "large boil" at one point, a tight line and then he got away. By the time lunch was over that thing weighed 20 lbs. Even so, Jeff once again took the trophy and portrait home. Mark Hays was the last one from SFF to claim it; that was in 2012. Jeff has had it from 2013 to now. Smitty did win our monthly award since he was the only one from St Pete to catch any fish.

Joe Dail was seen fishing in his kayak which he can conveniently put into the back of his car. Really cool.

Bob Morrison made the trip from Largo to join us with his storehouse of information concerning fish, snakes and birds. Man, he knows a lot.

Dick Miekka and Denise Bruner from TBFFC catered lunch for us. They brought Coke, Sprite and water to drink, and chips, with tuna, ham, and chicken salad croissants. It was great. We had a good time and enjoyed the fellowship of breaking bread together. And then, Denise presented us with a peach cobbler that was just out of this world. Thank you, Denise.

There are no changes to the annual tournament results, below:

Reviews-Previews-Tournament Update

2015-2016 Annual Tournament Leaders

Species	Length	Angler	Outing
Longest bass -	16.5 inches	David Putnam	April: Hillsborough River
Longest bluegill	9.5-inches	Tom Trukenbrod	April: Hillsborough River
Longest sea trout	20.5 inches	Mark Craig	June: Docklight outing
Longest redfish	22-inches	Mark Craig	June: Docklight outing
Longest snook	Open		

Note: All fish entered in the yearly contest must be caught at a club outing, in the zone defined, and must be at least the minimum length as determined by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.

November Outing is at Weedon Island Preserve. Details are on the next page.

Preview: November Outing at Weedon Island Preserve



In November, we're back to Weedon Island. This is a great place to kayak. Parking is a little difficult, but you can unload your kayak at the dock and then drive your car to the main parking lot. As for directions, we'll have them at the meeting, but notice elsewhere in this newsletter where Bill AuCoin puts links to websites for directions. I don't know how he does it, but that is just awesome. Once again, the award will be for the longest above legal limit trout, redfish, or snook. Bill also does a good job of listing our annual award leaders in this newsletter.

We don't know what we will do for lunch yet. John Craig will reserve the pavilion.

Please join us, even if it is just for lunch.

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

George

More information about **Weedon Island Preserve**

How to fish Weedon Island Preserve via boat, kayak or wading. **Florida Fishing Insider**

Rick Warfel: Lake Parrish, a Unique Fishing Opportunity

Lake Parrish is a large freshwater lake that is located at the Florida Power & Light power plant on SR62 East of Parrish, FL. This lake has a reputation as a phenomenal fishery for largemouth bass, pan fish and catfish. Sadly it has been closed to the public since September 11, 2001. Actually, that's good news because since that time the lake has received very little fishing pressure.

Recently the United Way has been authorized to hold three tournaments each year usually in November, January and April. Entry into these tournaments is \$350 per boat and includes up to three anglers. All proceeds benefit United Way of South Sarasota County, United Way Suncoast, and the United Way of Manatee County.

The tournaments do have cash payouts for the top three finishers in a total weight competition of \$1,000, \$750 and \$500 respectively and Calcutta payouts for the largest crappie (50% of pot) and largest lunker (100% of pot).

The Suncoast Fly Fishers board would like to know if members would be interested in participating in one of these tournaments because, if there is enough interest and members approve the club could buy an entry into an upcoming tournament and raffle the club's entry for \$1 each.

Each member could buy as many tickets as wanted. A drawing would be held to determine the winner. The winner could choose the two other participants that they wanted to fish with. It would not be a requirement that the other participants be club members.

Fly fishing is not a requirement but it would be the most fun and it might be the best way to catch the largest crappie. A vote will be taken at the next member meeting on November 19 to see if the membership would like the club to spend \$350 to provide this opportunity to our members.

For more information about the tournament please visit the website <http://fishunitedway.com/>





About this fly...

It is fun experimenting with different types of saltwater flies and I have been expanding my tying experience to include a few spoon fly patterns. I have had good luck with spoons when spin fishing and I thought that a lighter spoon would be great on a fly rod. I have caught a few fish on this new (to me) fly including small redbfish, puffers, trout, ladyfish, catfish and crevalle jacks. I am working on the "big" redbfish and snook.

I find this process is more like making a lure than tying a fly, but it still fishes like a fly only with lots of wiggle and wobble. I know that there are different recipes on the Internet for spoon flies and I have tried a number of them. I really like this silly putty version; it is light enough to easily cast and yet it sinks nicely.

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad, 1/0 Saltwater Streamer Hooks 2XH/4XL
- Spoon to use as a mold: I like to use either a 1/8 oz Johnson Spoon or a ¼ oz Little Cleo
- Thread: Red UNI-Thread 6/0, I use mono to tie in the Weed Guard
- Red Krystal Flash
- Nail Polish with Gold Glitter
- .030 lead
- 16 lb Mason Hard mono for the Weed Guard
- Silly Putty
- Epoxy : I like to use Clear Cure Goo, thick for the initial coats, and then I top coat it with the thin Hydro



Tying Sequence

1. Bend your hook to match the shape of the spoon that you are using.
2. I like to tie in a little of the .030 lead on the keel of the fly so that it sinks quicker and with more action. This weight is optional, but I find that it makes the fly wobble more as it sinks.



3.(Left) Layer the lead with red thread and cover with glue (or Clear Cure Goo epoxy).

4. (Right) Lay a base of thread and palmer in red Krystal Flash. This gives color to the fly and also provides a base for the epoxy to grip.



5. (Right) Tie in a mono weed guard using the 16 lb mason line for the guard and the clear mono thread.

6. Take the hook out of your vice.

Tying Bench, continued... **Bob Burkard's Silly Putty Spoon Fly**

7. (Right) Make a spoon mold in the Silly Putty with your chosen spoon. Roll the putty into a ball and then press it flat. Gently press the spoon into the top surface of the Silly Putty to make an impression. I like to go in a little deeper than the final thickness of the fly. Remove the Spoon from the Silly Putty: you now have your spoon fly mold.



8. (Left)) Brush the mold with a thin layer of Clear Cure Goo. I cure this layer with my UV light before adding the hook to the mold. Brushing epoxy up the sides will help make a concave face.

9. I add another thin layer of epoxy and hold the hook in the mold as I cure it with the UV light.

10. (Right) Remove your spoon fly from the mold by stretching the Silly Putty away from it until it separates. Bend the spoon "blank" just a little more to give it a concave underside by placing it in the meat of one hand and flexing the eye with the other hand. At this point in the process the spoon fly is very thin and very flexible, so be careful not to bend it too much or it will break.



11. File or trim any rough edges with scissors or an Emory board file. The additional layers of Clear Cure Goo epoxy that you will add later in the process will also help to smooth out rough edges.



12. Place the fly in your vice and paint the fly with the gold glitter nail polish. Cover both sides. Let the nail polish fully dry before proceeding further.

13. If necessary, give the spoon fly one final touch-up with the emery board file.

14. I like to give the spoon fly another coat of thick Clear Cure Goo (but not too thick), and then finish up with a top coat (or two) of the very thin Hydro Clear Cure Goo. Make sure that you fully cure the epoxy with the UV light between each layer.

Tom Gadacz: Tricks and Treats Casting Session

A dozen or so club members sharpened their casting skills on Halloween at Walter Fuller Park.



Duck Truk -- Tom Trukenbrod shields his face, sending a message to Kirk Burton and Rick Warfel not to overshoot their targets.

Trick or Treat! If you don't properly apply power you will be lashed. If you can double haul without slack you can have coffee and donuts. That was the Halloween theme for the SFF Casting Session on the morning of October 31. Actually, everybody was a winner, learning fly casting tricks and enjoying coffee and donuts brought by VP Tom Trukenbrod.

The weather was great with some light breezes out of the east. Twelve or so SFF members gathered for an informal casting session at Walter Fuller Park. We used the space behind the Recreation Center. Occasional passersby inquired about our sport and were assured we did not have hooks at the end of our lines. Most ducked anyway.

We worked on a variety of casting exercises such as the basic stroke, double hauling, and casting stance. We even had a youngster who knew everything about casting as well as the rest of the world.

Advice was available upon request and several took advantage of the expertise. It was great to see members sharpening their skills and look forward to more such events, another activity your club offers members.

Tom



Marine Quest 2015: Helping Kids Tie Their First Fly

Suncoast Fly Fishers turned on the fly fishing light bulb for dozens of boys and girls

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in St. Petersburg held its annual open house October 17 and once again your fly club took the opportunity to help boys and girls tie their first fly. Kids were lined up several deep and in several rows waiting their turn. FWC's Dave Reed, who does an amazing job of organizing and managing this annual event, sent Suncoast Fly Fishers a very nice thank you note:

"You guys always have a very popular booth and it was wonderful to see your volunteers staying late to make sure 'no child was left behind.'" You guys were tying flies up until 4:45pm! Next year I'm getting in line before 10am! Looking forward to next year add more tables. Cheers, Dave."



Jeff Heer oversaw our Marine Quest 2015 effort



Rick Warfel helps a future fly fisher get started on tying her first fly. John Craig also spent time at the instructor table.



Ken Hofmeister got grandkids Graham and Julia to help the cause this year.

Bob Burkard, Member in the Spotlight



Hometown. My wife Carole and I moved to Oldsmar, FL almost four years ago from Douglassville, Pa.

When did you join Suncoast Fly Fishers? I joined Suncoast Fly Fishers 1 ½ years ago. This has been a great experience and I appreciate the friendships and the sharing of knowledge and advice from the club members.

What is your favorite game fish to catch on the fly and why? If you had asked me this question 3 years ago I would have said that nothing could beat a rainbow trout rising for a dry fly on a cold mountain stream. However, since I started saltwater fly fishing in Tampa three years ago, I cannot imagine anything better than catching a large snook off a beach when sight fishing. They are a challenge to catch and provide a long and fun fight. With this said, I have not caught a bonefish or a tarpon yet to compare this to.

What are your top three places to fish? There are so many great places to fish that this is a very difficult question. So, in addition to my new home range here in Tampa Bay where the great fishing, the fantastic scenery and clear water simply cannot be beat, I would say that the Lehigh River in Eastern PA and the West Branch of the Delaware River in New York State are my favorite fly fishing destinations. Maybe I will change my mind once I have the opportunities to fish the Florida Keys and some Western US trout streams

What is your favorite fly rod and reel? My wife gave me a Scott 8wt with a Tibor Reel as a present when we moved to Florida and this has become my favorite saltwater fly fishing outfit.

How and when did you get introduced to fly fishing? Mountains, northern New Jersey, and New York State for all kinds of fish. I mainly used spinning tackle, but fly fished on and off. I caught my first bass on a fly rod when I was 11 years old, and have many great memories of fishing with family and friends.



However, I became a fly fishing fanatic over 15 years ago when I found a friend who loved to fly fish. He was a much better fly fisherman than I was and he helped me to “up my game.” I made it my mission to improve my casting and to be able to match him when fishing dry flies. The friendly competition made fishing more fun. At this time I also became obsessed with tying my own flies.

Why do you like fly fishing compared to fishing with conventional tackle? I still use conventional tackle occasionally, but I like the challenge of fly fishing. I find the activities of “hunting” for fish and fly casting (especially if using my own flies) very rewarding.

Tom Gadacz: Florida Fly Fishing Expo at IGFA Museum

The IGFA museum was the venue for the 2015 FL Council Expo Oct. 23-24. This two day show featured an incredible lineup of Who's Who in South Florida fly fishing. Your Suncoast Fly Fishers club was well represented. Attendees included John Miriam and Shelby Craig, Ann and Ken Hofmeister, Karen and Rick Warfel, and Tom Gadacz, who contributed this report.



Expo Presenter John Hand (left) gets a hearty pat-on-the-back from Suncoast Fly Fisher Ken Hofmeister.

We were hoping for wet and windy weather so the south Florida fly fishers would come to our Expo and not go fishing. They did come to the Expo and were rewarded with first class programs. Jon Cave was the featured speaker at the Saturday evening banquet. Chico Fernandez gave three programs which included fly casting from a boat.

Andy Mill presented his "A Passion for Tarpon." Other presenters included Capt. Jamie Allen, Cordell Baum, Jr., Capt. Mark Benson, Capt. Bou Bosso, Capt. Bob Branham, Nick Curcione, Capt. Dave Denkert, Pat Ford, Capt. Rob Fordyce, Capt. Joe Gonzalez, Capt. Pete Greenan, Capt. John Hand, Capt. Rich Keating, David Lambroughton, Capt. Honson Lau, Michael Mastrangelo, Gary Meyer, Jim Penrod, and Alex Lovett Woodsum and Ruth Stokes, who presented "Lady's Intro to Fly Fishing." You name it and we had a program on it for fly fishing in Florida.

There were 17 very accomplished fly tiers and 24 vendors. The crowd was enthusiastic about the venue and the program. It was great to see many new faces from south Florida. We had 269 paid attendees plus many more fly tiers and vendors. Mark Benson enlisted vendors who displayed great products and provided donations for our auction.

On Friday evening pizza and beer led into a film presentation on Fly Fishing. Oscar Feliu and Jack Neely started Saturday morning with the youth program. Saturday was an exciting day with plenty of programs. The banquet was Saturday evening with our live auction (Auctioneer, Blair Beville). Phil Greenlee, President and CEO of IFFF, spoke about the IFFF and some of the important work it is doing.



Expo registration with a smile. Ann Hofmeister, Karen Aust, Teri Benson, Patty Logan, Amy Corey and Ruth Stokes staffed the registration table for the Expo at the IGFA Museum.



Karen and Rick Warfel took charge of the raffle and auction events.

Expo coverage continues on the following page

P2...Florida Fly Fishing Expo at IGFA Museum



Chico Fernandez shared do's and don'ts for successful fly casting from the deck of a boat

David Olson put together a star studded program with which generated much enthusiasm. We saw many new faces and it was great to have many walk-ins. Tom Logan did great with facility arrangements. Suncoast Fly Fishers Rick and Karen Warfel did a great job with the auction/raffle. Teri Benson had the pre and on-site registration process running well and thanks to Ruth Stokes for all her help. Karen Aust, Ann Hofmeister, Patty Logan and Amy Corey registered and greeted attendees.

Ken Hofmeister ran the membership table and we had several attendees join IFFF and a few members interested in forming Federation clubs in South Florida. Bill AuCoin and M. E. DePalma provided publicity and web support for the event. Ron Whiteley gave us a great blast in the newsletter. Gerald Bell prepared the programs and financial support. David Lambroughton took some great photos of the event. Rhonda Sellers from IFFF sent out the announcement of our Expo to all IFFF members in Florida.

Recently IFFF received a large donation to support its activities. Phil Greenlee awarded 10 of our hard working volunteers. (Photo below).



International Federation President Phil Greenlee (with microphone) awarded the IFFF President's Pin to Expo volunteers. (l to r) Patty Logan, Teri Benson, Karen Aust, Phil Greenlee, Rick Warfel, Karen Warfel, Ann Hofmeister, and Ruth Stokes. Not shown, Mark Benson, Bill AuCoin, and Florida Council Pres. Tom Gadacz.

Tom

Adam Hays: Tripletail, Shark Near Sunset Beach

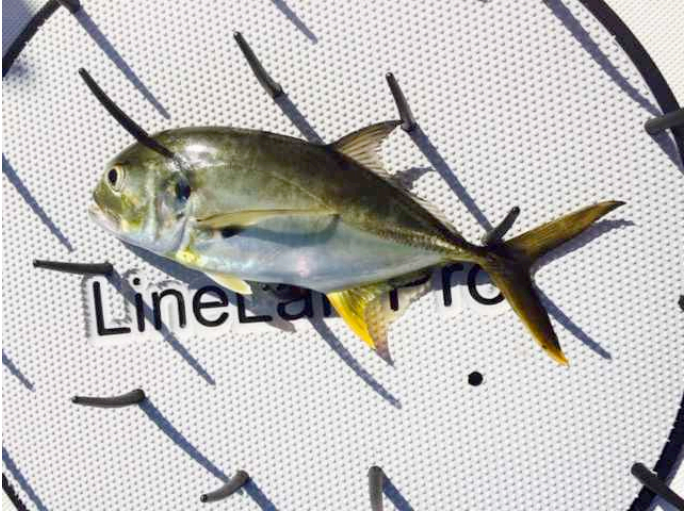


Fishing in the Gulf just off of Sunset Beach in late October Adam Hays scored several times with his TFO BVK III reel and rod. Adam landed a black tip shark and a 16-inch tripletail, both hooked on a minnow streamer.

Ken Hofmeister: Jacks are Wild

"Jacks were wild in my canal until I picked up a fly rod. (Note the **Carbon Marine Line Lair** which I won at the Expo raffle.)

Ken



Stephen Massey and His Brothers Celebrate Birthdays Fly Fishing for Tailing Redfish in the Lower Laguna Madre

Story and photos by Stephen Massey

It was time to plan for the Massey Brothers annual Columbus Day gathering which is based upon all of our birthdays falling within a 30-day period around October 11.

This year the group said they would like to introduce me to the art of catching tailing redfish. My brothers had been to the Lower Laguna Madre several times over the years



Suncoast Fly Fishers Stephen Massey (L) with one of the birthday redfish. Capt. Rick Hartman (R)



That's my brother Royce (l) fighting a red and (r) holding the memory for the picture.



Royce shows off one of his redfish and the gear. Capt. Randy Cawlfeld deserved some of the glory.



The Massey Brothers, l-r, (Don #2, Cal #1, Royce #4, Stephen #3)

and they said it was time to go again. Arrangements were made for guides and housing.

There are four boys in the Calvin and Elsie Massey family. I will refer to the boys as #1, #2, #3, and #4 based upon their birth order. I am sure Mom and Dad had big smiles on their faces as they watched their boys (there were no girls) come together in fishing and friendship. They taught us to fish in the Corpus Christi, Texas area at an early age and we have carried it forward.

Brother #4 suggested that we reconnect with a guide that they had used some 10 years ago in the Texas valley. He took control of the guide details. Brother #2 arranged for lodging, brother #1 took to making flies, and I prepared the Gheenoe for trailering 1300 miles to South Texas.

The pictures tell the story:

Continued: Massey Brothers Celebrate Another Birthday



Cal with a speckled trout caught from the Gheenoe.



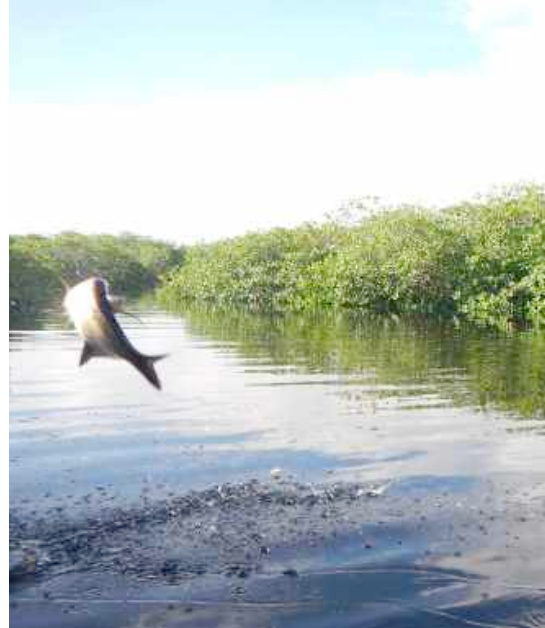
Don and one of his redfish from the guide's flat boat. Below, Don fighting this red.



Andy Constantinou: Tarpon, Bonefish in Mexico



Andy Constantinou with a bonefish caught fly fishing in Mexico in late October.



Andy grabbed this nice shot of a 30-pound tarpon jump. Boating partner Dale Garcia was on the other end of this line.

Jimmie O. Carroll: Redfish in Apalachicola

Bill, I've been down here in Apalachicola for a week, with rain, mighty strong winds and real muddy water.

Heading back to my farm on Possum Creek tomorrow, outside of Gate City, Va. Overall it's been a great time but all good things must come to an end.

Jimmie O



Blast from the Past

Ken Hofmeister: Withlacoochee River Outing

An overturned canoe, steep portages around fallen trees, gators, snakes., racing hearts. You bet we'll remember the Withlacoochee outing.

"Who's idea was this? Don Manning was yelling, but he had finally reached the safety of the High Bluff boat landing on the Withlacoochee River outing. Ken Doty replied: "mine."

Joe Bolesina, SFF treasurer, had overturned his kayak and our club records were soaked. Richard Oldenski, in the bow of my canoe, worried about the cardiac condition of some paddlers ahead of us.

The river scouting report from the Lacoochee canoe rental place said the river was clear except for some floating grass. The only grass was what that scout was smoking. Fallen trees were all over that stretch of the river. Steep portages were routine. Gators and snakes were adding to the perils.

Manning was in the canoe ahead of us, and I called out to ask which turn to take around some fallen trees. Don replied in his inimitable fashion: "Every man for himself."

After that trip, the club elected to take advantage of IFFF rates and secure club insurance.



Richard Oldenski fishing in chest-high water. Thankfully, there were no downed trees or portages on this outing.



Doc. Richard Oldenski saw the exertion from the bow of Ken Hofmeister's canoe, rehearsing cardiac arrest intervention protocols, no doubt.

Richard Oldenski wrote the outing reports and prepared the lunches with help from Mark Hays and others. Venison kabobs and Polish sausage were a couple of memorable tasty items on the menus.

It was truly a "blast from the past" to reflect on this outing.

Ken

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #72



By Capt. Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor

"I love my XXX brand 8 wt rod, I'm getting the same in a 5 wt." I hear this frequently, later often followed by, "That 5 wt is a piece of junk!" Or, "I love my 8 ft., 7 wt brand XXX, I'm getting the same rod in a 9 1/2 ft. length." Again, an unhappy result.

The variations in performance even within the same model can be considerable, or can be satisfying. A reputable fly shop should let you try a rod. Changing the line can also make a world of difference. As a casting instructor, I always ask clients to bring their own equipment to a casting session. Of course I bring balanced equipment which they often end up using for the lesson because their equipment is problematic.

Rod price is often a distraction. Try before you buy!

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

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

Al Pitcher: Photo of the Month



Look like it could be the trunk of a Suncoast Fly Fishers' SUV. Yep, but this one, Al says.

Bob Morrison: How-To



Does your fly box speak Spanish? Just about now the Spanish mackerel are moving into the shallows along with the other gamefish. Try poppers and gurglers on the outgoing tide together with Clousers and deceivers fished deeper any time. These flies should be rather sparsely tied with some Krystal Flash tied in for shining visibility; fish them just above the tops of the weeds.

Sometimes becoming unhinged is a good thing. Some people like to use sinking tip line when fishing over the weeds in say four to eight feet of water. I prefer a totally sinking line which seems to give the fly a straighter, more natural action across the bottom or grass bed. Finally, I am able to better control my fly with the sinking line. The sinking tip of a floating line sometimes causes the fly to bob up and down, an unnatural action which could discourage a fish from striking.

Sounds like Don Coleman. On those sparsely tied flies, shrimp patterns are working for all species of fish. For baitfish patterns use colors like a wise writer said a couple of years ago: "Bellies white, with backs of green, blue or black." A little chartreuse and yellow along the lateral line doesn't hurt either.

Ziplock used flies. Once you have fished flies, put them in a separate Ziplock bag away from the fly box. Do not return these flies to the box until they have been rinsed and dried. This step will keep salt contamination away from your unused flies.

Go get 'em and good luck

Bob

Gems from Don Coleman, RIP

"Wade like the predator you are -- like a stalking bird -- and keep your rod tip down."

"Don't overload yourself when wade fishing. Become a minimalist."

"Use weedless flies when fishing around weeds, mangroves, and obstructions."

"Fish have to find our fly before they strike. Fishing flies should contrast when their surroundings and not be camouflaged like baitfish."

A fly does not have to look like food. It only has to act like food."

(Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod)

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David Putnam: Fly Fishing Reflections



It's all about simplicity

I reminded myself today that it's all about simplicity. The boat, fly rods, fly lines and flies all carry the history of good times, but the bad times too— the items forgotten, the knot that failed, the dangerous storm. Past problems have sucked a tiny bit of fun away, I'm sure. Maybe the taint of bad memories keeps me home.

I have a friend I call sometimes about going fishing. Usually his answer is all about reasons why *not* to go. Is it fear? Maybe it's age creeping in. When I was younger I threw stuff in the boat and took off at a moment's notice. People who knew would say of me, "Oh, David? He fishes all the time." They don't do that as much now.

Here's my plan for fishing more: put the essentials for my next boat trip in one place in the garage. No rooting around to find, say, my bluegill flies if trout and reds are in the Bay. The charged battery, the trolling motor, two fly rods with leaders tied on 'em, the net, everything will be there. That will help me relax, hook up the trailer and go. I can make a list in advance, so I won't forget the sunscreen or the super new flies I tied. It'll all be right in front of me. No last minute racing around. Just stuff for a fly fishing trip.

Taking spinning *and* fly tackle complicates things. Zara Spooks don't get along with Clousers. Pare down, reduce the number of items in the boat. Mine's a 16 ft. open skiff. I don't need to try and squeeze more utility out of it, to prove it can do it all. It was designed for two people to fly fish.

I'll text or call my pal and say something like, "I'm leaving at six in the morning to fly fish the incoming tide around Pinellas Point. If you want to go, be here. I've got drinks and snacks. The plan for the day is to make it simple. We'll be back around noon."

I'll be organized with or without him, ready to go.

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Weedon Island Preserve Fishing Primer. Our November Outing is at Weedon Island Preserve. It has lots of productive fishing areas for waders, kayakers, boaters. If you're not familiar with it, here's a site with some helpful information. ([Florida-Fishing-Insider](#))

Florida's license-free fishing days. Saturday, November 28 is a saltwater license free fishing day, one of four in the year. There are also four license-free freshwater days. Great days for Suncoast Fly Fishers to invite our non-fishing friends to go fishing. ([My FWC](#))

This is why I buy ethanol-free gas at WaWa. The U.S. House of Representatives sent a letter to the EPA's Gina McCarthy saying do-not-put-more-ethanol-in-the-gas. It was signed by 184 Republican and Democrat members who are quite aware of the flaws in the so-called "Renewable Fuel Standard." ([Trade Only Today](#))

Stay in *The Loop*. Here's another way to take advantage of your IFFF membership. Go online and check out the how-to tips and articles in *The Loop*. If you don't remember your password just enter your email address and IFFF will send it to you. (Been there; done that.) Be sure to read the article about what to do with the hand that holds the line: *Line Hand Skill, Training the Partner Hand for Better Casting*. ([The Loop](#))

Titusville is just a 2+ hour drive. Renzetti Fly Fishing and Rod Building Fair is Dec. 4-5. You know about the headliners -- Lefty Kreh, Flip Pallot, Bob Clouser, Nick Curcione, Bob Popovics, Oscar Feliu, Scott Hamilton, Steve Bailey, and Jon Cave. The schedule includes a two-day, women-only fly fishing school...a one-day fly fishing school with Jon Cave and Bob Clouser...and a special program for kids on Saturday with Ian Sasso, Chuck Levi and a very young angler who's casting is said to be amazing. And there are two causes that need are continuing support--life changing outdoor experiences for breast cancer survivors and wounded vets. UPDATE: Just got word that Oscar Feliu has died. That is so sad. ([Florida Today](#), [Renzetti.com](#))

Website of the Month -- Last month I wrote it was *outdoorexperience.com* Wrong. It's *saltwaterexperience.com*. Go there and watch the October 21 "Teaser Video" of host Tom Rowland fishing a huge school of redfish. Tip of the fedora to David Putnam. ([saltwaterexperience.com](#))

Largest boat show on the Gulf Coast. The 38th annual St. Petersburg Power & Sailboat Show is Dec. 3-6. Military and kids under 15 get in free. Fishing seminars. ([Showmanagement.com](#))

Eight filleted snook carcasses all in a row. On my walk I came upon and counted eight dead filleted snook at the edge of a salt pond that drains into Bayou Grande. I imagine they were caught in the dark the night before. Very off-putting. Were laws broken? Most certainly; but which? In November we can keep one snook between 28-33 inches. OK. So, I guess it's possible but not likely that eight anglers each caught one legal snook by hook-and-line. Also, it's illegal to fillet fish in the boat, but these fish were not in a boat. Were they netted? It didn't pass the smell test. I texted details to Tip@myfwc.com. I hope FWC sets up a catch-em-in-the-act stakeout because this is what it will take. I'll walk this way again and if I see dead snook I'll text FWC again. Will FWC do anything? I seriously doubt it. If you see stuff like this, call or text and let them know. FWC needs our eyes and ears out there. Here's the website with all the contact information. ([myfwc.com/contact/wildlife-alert/](#))