

# On The Fly

Time to renew your membership. Form on P 4



September's meeting is our Tie-a-thon meeting with Craig Smothers, Toni Fernstrom and Smitty. Oh, and free pizza. Page 2.



Chico Fernandez (above), Jon Cave, Andy Mill and many more will teach workshops at the 2015 Florida Fly Expo Oct. 23-24 at the IGFA Museum/Conference Center in Dania Beach. More on page 2.



August's urban outing on St. Pete's downtown waterfront was great fun. Lots of fish were caught and Warfel-wonderful beef brisket was avidly consumed at the picnic lunch on North Shore Park. P

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

## On The Fly

September 2015 Volume 25, Issue 9

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## Suncoast Fly Fisher News 'n' Notes

### Fly Tying & Pizza, Can you Think of a Better Combination?

The September membership meeting will be devoted to the art of fly tying or fly dressing as some call it, and eating free pizza provided by the club. We will have featured tiers from the local area including Craig Smothers from Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers, Toni Fernstrom of Bill Jackson's, Chris Sexton of Flint Creek Outfitters and, of course, the always amazing Smitty. Come, watch and learn. In addition to featured tiers, we will have tying vices and human being "tying guides" available for those who are interested in learning what tying is all about or just want help learning a new technique. Whatever your tying question this is your chance to get answers. Join us and bring a friend. We will start at 6:00 with Pizza delivered between 6:30 and 6:45.

[Kirk Burton, President, Suncoast Fly Fishers, \(727\) 631-3033, Pres VP@suncoastflyfishers.com](mailto:Kirk.Burton@suncoastflyfishers.com)

### Time to Renew

Membership renewals for the 2015 – 2016 period are due in September. Starting now, to facilitate 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 monthly meeting](#) or mail a check and completed membership form to ... Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821

### Board approves presidential e-mail address that keeps on keepin' on

Now if we want to email an idea or a complaint or whatever to the president of our club we don't need to use his or her personal email address. Instead, the board has approved a new presidential email address that will remain the same even when new club presidents assume office. The new email address will get your communications directly to President Kirk Burton and also VP Tom Trukebrod is...

[Pres.VP@suncoastflyfishers.com](mailto:Pres.VP@suncoastflyfishers.com).

### Florida Council Fly Fishing Expo -- IGFA museum in Dania Beach

The dates are [October 23-24](#) and Florida Council President Tom Gadacz says it will be one of the best ever Florida Fly Expos. Already co-chairs Tom Logan and David Olson have commitments from Chico Fernandez, Jon Cave, Andy Mill, Pat Ford and Sam Root and many more. Details at the [Florida Council IFFF website](#).



*At the August meeting Florida Council President Tom Gadacz, left, presented SFF member Ken Hofmeister right, with the 2015 Council Award of Excellence for his untiring work for the council on behalf of Florida fly fishers.*

### Club Calendar

#### Meeting: Thursday, September 17.

- Program: Tie-a-Thon. Also, free pizza

#### Outing, Saturday, September 19.

- Cypress Point Park, Tampa Bay. Picnic lunch at Cypress Point Park. Bring your own chair.

#### Outing, Saturday, October 17

- Carl Hanson Memorial Outing. Tentatively, Lake Tarpon.

#### Marine Quest fly tying, FWRI in St. Pete, Saturday, Oct. 17

#### Mangrove Coast Club's Fall Fly Challenge, Sat., Oct. 17

If you are unable to attend the Friday evening meeting, you can still fish Saturday. MCFE will email you a token for your official fish photos and you can use your own measuring device (please bring it to the Saturday check-in). Details about the event and the registration form can be found [here](#).



**SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM**

\*Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ \*Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\*City \_\_\_\_\_ \*State \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF)** For new and renewing members. Membership categories (select one):

- \_\_\_ REGULAR MEMBERSHIP 1 year - \$15
- \_\_\_ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 1 year (includes Member, Spouse and children under 18) - \$25
- \_\_\_ BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP 1 year (includes monthly business card newsletter ad) - \$100

If a current member of FFF, enter your FFF number \_\_\_\_\_.

**International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF)** This is only for new members and is in addition to SFF membership. If you are a current member of IFFF, please enter your IFFF number (above). SFF is a charter club of IFFF, and membership in SFF requires membership in IFFF. Current members pay annual dues directly to IFFF. If a new member, select one category only:

- \_\_\_ INDIVIDUAL 1 year - \$35
- \_\_\_ INDIVIDUAL 3 years - \$85
- \_\_\_ SENIOR (age 65 or over; provide date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_) 1 year - \$25
- \_\_\_ YOUTH (under age 18; provide date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_) 1 year - \$15
- \_\_\_ FAMILY 1 year - \$45
- \_\_\_ FAMILY 3 years - \$100

Total amount due: \$\_\_\_\_\_. Please make check payable to **Suncoast Fly Fishers** and submit with completed application at next meeting or mail to: **Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821.**

Amount Received \$\_\_\_\_\_. Date Received \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_. Received By \_\_\_\_\_

The information requested on the Membership List is distributed to members only and is not used for commercial purposes. If you do not desire this information disclosed to members, please so indicate.

\*\*The monthly newsletter, "On the Fly," is only distributed electronically. If you do not provide an e-mail address, you can obtain the newsletter from our web site -

<http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com>

If an e-mail address is provided, please select one of the following options:

- \_\_\_ Publish my e-mail address on the Membership List which is distributed to members.
- \_\_\_ Do not publish my e-mail address on the Membership List which is distributed to members. Only use my e-mail for distribution of SFF newsletter and important club announcements.

**NOTE: AS A CONDITION OF CLUB MEMBERSHIP, ALL MEMBERS AGREE NOT TO SHARE MEMBER E-MAIL ADDRESSES OR USE THEM FOR ANY REASON (COMMERCIAL, POLITICAL, ETC.) OTHER THAN SFF CLUB RELATED CONTACT.**

# ***We are Suncoast Fly Fishers***

## **Suncoast Fly Fishers**

P. O. Box 40821  
St Petersburg, FL 33743-0821  
www.suncoastflyfishers.org  
[pres\\_vp@suncoastflyfishers.com](mailto: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 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 6:00 to 8:30 pm, Walter Fuller Park Recreation Center, 7981 26th Ave N., St. Pete



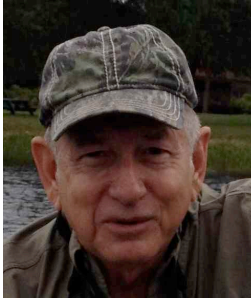
## ***Directions to our meeting at Walter Fuller Park...***

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

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## Suncoast Fly Fishers Outing Reviews and Previews and Annual Tournament Update

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



Capt. Dan Bumgarner

### Review: Urban Outing, The Flats off North Shore Drive, St. Petersburg Saturday, August 22, 2015

Well, we were faced with another dilemma at our August Outing. The bacteria count was high and the beaches were closed to swimming. What to do? We talked about it at the General Meeting and had a lot of good suggestions. Alan suggested we have a casting contest instead. What a great idea. Others recommended an alternate site, but we decided that it would be difficult to let everybody know at the last minute. After a lot of discussion, we decided to go as originally planned and advise anyone who will be wading to be sure to wear waders.



*Rick Yarn's 21-in red caught along a seawall.*

It was a great day. The morning started relatively cool and clear. Doty and George were on the water over the flats at 7 AM and each caught a trout almost immediately and then continuously for the next 2-½ hours. At one point something hit Doty's fly so hard that it put him on the reel for only the third time in 20+ years. It was a 19" mackerel, rod bent on going to Sarasota and taking Doty with him.

Rick Yarn and Jeff Kopelman were wading along the seawall when Rick connected with and landed a 21" Redfish. Way to go Rick!

Norm Sande and many others caught 10" trout. Bill AuCoin and Mark Hays each reported catching a 15" trout. Bob Burkard caught a 22" ladyfish. Ken Hofmeister caught a lot of snapper and trout. Ken also saw tarpon rolling, but couldn't get them to hit anything. David Putnam caught a 13-½" mangrove snapper. I think everybody

caught something. What a great day. Even the weather cooperated and it didn't get unbearably hot.

We had 26 names on the list and 22 showed up for lunch. A special thanks to those of you who couldn't make it in time to fish, but came to lunch. We had a good crowd with plenty of laughter and the usual story telling. **And how about that lunch?** Rick and Karen Warfel brought beef brisket, cole slaw, watermelon and all the fixings. There was even a Coleman stove there compliments of Dan Bumgarner. Whoa, now we're cookin'. I'm not sure if they were kidding when they said that Karen broke her finger during the preparation. But, it was broken, and I hope by now it's a lot better. Thank you Rick and Karen for volunteering and going the extra mile to make this lunch so special. We are grateful.



*George Haseltine and Ken Doty had some rod benders.*

*Continued on next page*

## Reviews and Previews continued...

I have to say that providing lunch is not a competition. After a lunch like this, many may shy away from volunteering. If you have a special meal you can provide, then great. If you feel that you can pick-up Publix sandwiches, potato chips, ice, drinks and watermelon, then please volunteer. This is all for the good fun and fellowship that we share around our common love for fly fishing. I'd show up for peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, just to listen to the fish story from the "first liar who doesn't stand a chance."

## 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.*

## Preview: Cypress Point Park, Tampa Saturday. September 19, 2015

Our next outing will be September 19 at Cypress Point Park in Tampa. We will have a chart and directions at the meeting. As of August 25 there are no shelters available so we may have to provide our own shade, tables and chairs. We did it at the Urban Outing; we can do it again. Our quest will again be for the longest above minimum legal size snook, trout, or redfish. Boats, kayaks and wading are all possible; making it convenient for everyone. Please be there. Yes, you; I'm talking to you. This month Joe Corr and Larry Morse have graciously volunteered to provide lunch. Thank you, gentlemen.

*NOTE* If you don't have an opportunity to sign up for an outing at the meeting, you can call or text me on my cell phone, 727-423-8110, or email me at [ghh343@aol.com](mailto:ghh343@aol.com). *George*

**Cypress Point Park, 5620 Cypress Street, Tampa  
Hours: Sunrise to Sunset**

### Directions from St. Petersburg

1. Interstate 275 to Tampa. Take airport exit. Stay right.
2. Right on W. Spruce Street
3. Right on N. O'Brien Street
4. Right on W. Cypress to Tampa Bay shoreline. Cypress Point Park is on the left.

**Wade fishing?** You can visit Hillsborough County's Healthy Beaches website to check on the latest bacteria counts. If worrisome, wear your waders. (On Aug 31 the sample showed enterro bacteria count at North Cypress Point Park was slightly higher than advised and a beach advisory was issued.) To check on the most current sample, go [here](#) and select North Cypress Point Park.



The snook fly, as noted, is great fished along the beaches. It is a great baitfish pattern for dock light fishing as well. I tie it in various sizes from a 2/0 hook down to a size 4 or even 6 when the bait is on the small side, like in the spring. *Layne Smith*

**Materials**

- Hook: Mustad C47SD "Shrimp" Hook #1
- Thread: Danville Flat Waxed Nylon White
- Tail: Craft Fur tapered
- Collar: Arctic Fox Body Fur (placed in dubbing loop and palmered)
- Head: UV Pearl ICE dub (tied in then folded back over body)
- Eyes: Any 3-D molded eye to size
- Finish: Clear fish skull, UV Resin or epoxy

**Tying Sequence**

**Step 1:** Right above hook point tie in craft fur tail one and a half to twice hook shank length.

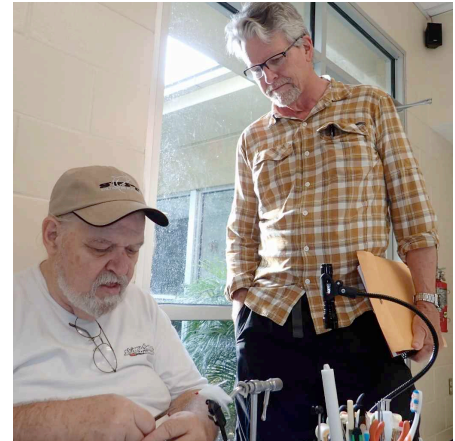
**Step 2:** Advance thread slightly and create dubbing loop; insert arctic fox and twirl creating a brush.

**Step 3:** Palmer brush forward at the same time stroking back the arctic fox fibers to create body.

**Step 4:** Finish palmering just short of hook eye then tie in a small bunch of UV Pearl Ice Dub. (Make sure to tie the dubbing at it's midpoint and that it encircles hook shank).

**Step 5:** Whip finish and cut thread, and then fold back the dubbing that is extending past the hook eye. (Make sure that your dubbing radiates out from hook eye as you fold it back so you are covering the whole head of the fly not just folding it back on top).

**Step 6:** Place 3-D eyes on fly and then coat with UV Resin creating a head. (If you like you can use epoxy instead or one of the new clear "fish heads.")



*New member Bill Richards goes to school on fly-tie guru Layne (Smitty) Smith.*

# Brad Lowman: Surfing for Snook

*Sometimes you don't want to match the hatch*

By Bill AuCoin

Back in August 2014 Brad Lowman's friend Tom was catching some big snook on the beaches. Brad, not so many.

Brad didn't feel too good about this, you can tell: "He was throwing this stupid fly, a fluffy polar fiber thing with dumbbell eyes. I was throwing EP fiber minnows and schminnows and they looked just like the scaled sardines swimming on the surface just above the snook." Brad's match the hatch flies weren't attracting much interest, especially not from any three-footers.



*Brad's two go-to beach snook flies, impressions of sand perch and sand fleas.*

Then a light bulb flickered on over Brad's head. That match-the-hatch fly he was throwing was just one among zillions of real sardines. Snook weren't hungry for the real thing. Why would they give a hoot for his imitation?



*Brad Lowman from the fly shop at Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure. At the August meeting he tied snook flies and shared new insights into catching bigger snook on the beaches of St. Petersburg and Clearwater.*

*Hey, those snook weren't looking up to eat minnows. They were looking down into the sand for something a bit more tasty. Sand fleas, maybe? Sand perch? Well, yeah.*

So this past August Lowman came armed to the beaches with "stupid" puff ball whatchamacallits featuring big, heavy, dumbbell eyes. Here snookie, snookie. Want a sand perch? Look down now, Darlin', here's a tasty sand flea.

Brad spoke at the August meeting of Suncoast Fly Fishers. He tied his two go-to bottom bumpers and then he told us his snook evolution story and he showed us slide after slide of two and three footers that apparently like his stupid puffball perch and sand flea on Pinellas beaches like Redington Shores, Pass-a-Grille, Shell Key, Sunset Beach.

Brad's beach snook light bulb continues to do some heavy lifting, supplying him with new strategies.



When a pod of snook swims by wait for the big one.

Shell Key is great on the Gulf side and back side.

Low incoming tides are best.

Fish early evening and into the dark of night.

Keep moving.

Fish an intermediate sinking line because floating line floats up and down and makes your fly swim up and down. Not a good thing.





*Hot dog. AuCoin boats a just legal 15-incher that ate one of Bob Burkard's Clousers.*



*Bob Burkard caught trout after trout, huge ladyfish, and a couple of puffers. Don't eat that fish, Bob.*



*Outing chairs George Haseltine and Capt. Dan Bumgarner debrief anglers. The first liar doesn't stand a chance, you know.*

## Snapshots: St. Pete August Urban Outing



*Say goodbye to the inverted pyramid of the St. Pete Pier.*



*Brisket anyone? Yes indeed, said Bob Morrison*

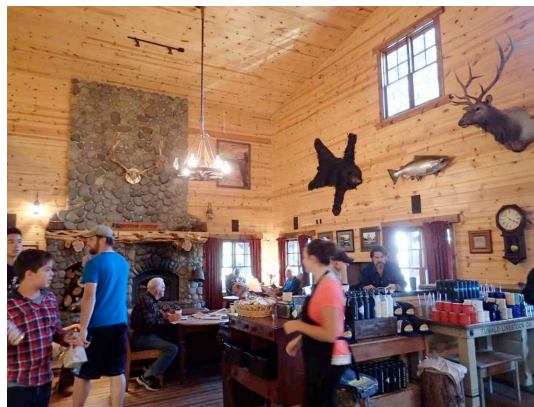


*And a good time was had by all. Well-fed now, urban outing participants relax in the shade at Flora Wylie Park and reflect on the brisket-slaw-beans-and-watermelon feast they ate.*

## Tom Gadacz: Oregon Adventure 2015

Arriving in Sisters, Oregon at 8:30 PM to check into our hotel and get some dinner began our central Oregon fly fishing adventure. The city of Sisters is high desert with surrounding snow covered mountain peaks. Checking in was no problem and we were informed the only place still open for dinner was Hardtails Bar and Grill. It is a biker bar with "good" hamburgers. The hamburger was good, the bikers friendly with advice on their fishing spots and the microbrew was excellent.

A crisp 47-degree morning started with breakfast at Sisters Coffee Company which became one of our favorite spots. The décor was western with wood paneling, balconies with log railings, and a huge stone fireplace surround by local wildlife trophies. The coffee and breakfast was great and the surroundings relaxing. Great way to start the day.



*Sisters Coffee Company welcomed Tom and Nick Gadacz and their guide Steve Erickson with a hot mug of coffee to prepare for each day of fly fishing trout and salmon rivers in Oregon.*



*Wading the Deschutes. Guide Steve Erickson (L) and Nick Gadacz.*



*Success. Nick prepares to release his 20-inch Deschutes rainbow/steelhead. On the Deschutes when a rainbow reaches 20 inches it is assumed to be sea-run and put into the steelhead category.*

Checking into the Fly Fishers Place we hooked up with our guide, Steve Erickson. We brought all our equipment; however, Vibram boots were not recommended for our Deschutes River trip. The shop loaned us studded felt soled boots and later we were thankful for the change.

We fished the Deschutes from Warm Springs to Trout Creek. The scenery was great with the surrounding mountains and wildlife. Since fishing from a boat on this section of the Deschutes is not permitted we used the drift boat to get to Steve's fishing spots.

The current was swift and the bottom had rocks that required cautious wading. We caught several nice rainbows and white fish and toward the end of the trip Nick hooked and landed a 20+” rainbow. He had a feisty one which took several leaps, made several good runs, and eventually landed in Steve's net. Anything on the Deschutes above 20 inches is considered a steelhead so Nick got one fish with two names.

The next day East Lake, situated 65 miles away and at 6,400 feet was our destination fishing for kokanee (sockeye salmon). The scenery was remarkable with hills of volcanic obsidian rock and areas of diatomaceous earth formed by fossilized aquatic organisms. We sight casted for several hours and latter trolled for the big fellas. We caught three different species – rainbow, brown, and kokanee.

*Continued on the following page*

## Oregon Adventure 2015, continued

The next day was a get-together with some of the IFFF Council presidents at Oregon President Sherry Steele's place in Sisters.



*Tom shows off one of his hefty Metolius River rainbow trout.*

After lunch and a talk about the Metolius River we fished a beautiful river with deep gorges, ice blue water and caught kokanee as well as brook trout and rainbows. It is formed from many springs,

underground rivers and snow fed streams. It has a constant temperature of 48 degrees.

We started near the headwaters and continued downstream to Riverside, the Gorge, and Wizard Falls. This is not an easy river to fish. The gorges are deep, the water very swift and many areas with difficult access. We had several strikes and a beautiful hike.

Well after all that fun, Nick flew back to his family and work and I headed to Bend, Oregon for the IFFF Fly Fishing Fair.



*Metolius River. Deep gorges, ice blue water and fast moving water gave up kokanee (sockeye salmon), brook trout and rainbow trout.*



*Fish on. Nick fights a strong fish and the fierce current of the Metolius River.*



*Nick Gadacz and guide Steve Erickson after a three-river fly fishing splurge that earned them river-run rainbows, sea-run steelheads, brook trout and kokanee (sockeye salmon).*

*Tom*

Andy Constantinou sends 3-pound greetings from the UK



*And the emergent fly he caught it on with a size 14 hook. Emergers imitate nymphs that have just reached the surface, but are not yet ready to take flight.*



*Andy Constantinou sends his best regards from the UK, a see-what-you're-missing photo of a 3-pound rainbow caught in August at Latimer in the UK.*

*Cheerio, Andy*

Tampa Bay is pretty cool in the summer



*Day-after snook. Ken caught this nice snook the day after the August outing. "It hit on my warm-up cast for tarpon. I did cast to a few tarpon during a 20- minute window."*



*Docklight delivers. On September 9 Ken Hofmeister sent this picture and a telling message. "I caught this fly on (Ken) Doty's maribou fly tonight."*

*Right, Jeff Kopelman caught this grouper on a "diva" Clouser. "Hoping he will grow up," wrote Jeff.*



## Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #70



*By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor*

### ***Do you and your fly line have a mutual understanding?***

In discussing the components of a fly line we are attempting to answer an interesting quote by Martin Joergensen, "My fly line doesn't understand me! And I don't understand it..." The belly is the heaviest and thickest part of a fly line. The energy of the cast is carried here. A long belly would be seen in steelhead, salmon and most general saltwater weight forward tapers. When used properly, they will cast normal flies a longer distance. A short belly is seen in bass, muskie, pike and Clouser weight forward tapers. These are designed to cast a heavier, more resistant fly shorter distances quickly. Remember, all fly lines cast best when there is minimal overhang, meaning the head, which includes the belly, should be just outside of the rod tip when the cast is executed with only the thin running line in the rod.

*Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach*

## Suncoast Fly Fisher: Best Bets for September-October

*Capt. Ray Markham*

### **Time for the inshore slam**

Snook set up on points, around bars, and also in potholes on negative falling tides around the new and full moons. Reds will favor the potholes. Throw a white DT special tied on a #4 hook for snook. Throw a Dupree Spoon fly for reds.

Look for trout on scattered grassy-sandy areas. Target trout with chartreuse and white Clouser minnows.



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## Bob Morrison: How-To

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**Mini-first aid kit.** If you are not carrying a first aid kit with you when you are fishing, then you should. Just fill a Ziplock bag with tweezers, Band-aids, disinfectant swabs, SPF lip balm, pain killers, antacid tablets, etc., and carry them in a crush-proof box. You might be glad you did.

**Repair your landing net.** If you carry a landing net, sooner or later you will get holes in the mesh. To keep these holes from getting larger, coat the edges of the mesh around the hole with "Aquaseal" sealer. The sealer should hold things together until you can do something more permanent. You might also carry some strong cord for tying up holes in cord-mesh nets.

**Re-use silica packets.** Try using those little silica packets that come in shoes, electronics, etc., to prevent moisture buildup in reel cases, rod tubes, camera cases, and anywhere else needing such protection.

**Salt water is especially brutal.** Carry a few silicone-impregnated cloths to wipe down anything that has been exposed to salt. Use these in nooks and crannies that you might otherwise miss. Use after freshwater washing as well.

**Study the shallows.** It's late in the summer, and springtime finger mullet are now five to six inches long, so size your flies accordingly. Watch the shallows for other baitfish, and size flies to match or contrast. The same goes for color. Whatever works.

*Go get 'em and good luck*

*Bob*

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## Gems from Don Coleman

### Mullet on the Fly

"If you want to try catching a mullet on a fly, just use a small green fly. Nothing fancy. Just a simple dubbed nymph pattern on a #10 freshwater hook. Tie them in several hues of green."

*(P 23, Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod)*

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Spin Tackle

**The Fly Guy**

Capt. Pat Damico

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## David Putnam: Fly Fisher Reflections

### Spinning Hair



There's hot in-season fishing in every direction if I look at the "Action Spotter" in *Florida Sportsman*—countless world-class fishing spots, fresh and salt water. In under three hours, I can be bass fishing in Lake Kissimmee. South two hours there's Ding Darling Wildlife Refuge. It's another hour to Chokoloskee and Everglades City. The 10,000 Islands should be enough for good fishing,

Don't tell anyone outside the fly club, but I've been buying patches of dyed deer belly hair. Sounds crazy doesn't it? When I ordered online I attached a note asking for any particularly long hair that would be suitable for spinning snook flies. Maybe they'd rummage around and find some choice pieces for a new customer from Florida, a sweetheart of a guy who wants nothing more than to spin hair into the wee hours— good, long, straight hair without much under-fur.

They sent me garbage, hair patches suitable for tying some sort of size 16 trout nymphs, I suppose, none of it more than 3/4 inches long. It won't work, but it was expensive...I wrote 'em back and a woman suggested by email that maybe regular buck tail would have been better. She explained that it's longer than belly hair. Rather than write her back, "No s---t! It's also useless," I threw what I'd bought in the trash, and drove over to Bill Jackson's and found exactly what I was looking for. Brad Lowman, a good snook fisherman and the manager of the fly fishing department, probably hand-selected the deer hair patches. You get my drift, right? Right here in the St. Pete area we've got professionals to guide us. Why I sometimes forget that and buy online is a mystery. Brad can tell you where to *fish*, for heavens sakes!

I stopped by a friend's house the other night and asked him what he was catching his snook on recently. He showed me a plastic bag containing the exact hooks, thread and other materials he'd need to tie more of his special fly, along with a fly already tied to use as a model. It might be a year, he explained, before he'd want to tie more, and having everything at hand saved lots of time and aggravation.

He has bags for bonefish flies he doesn't tie often, and bags for his tying freshwater poppers, and bags with differing eyes and hooks and flash and buck tail colors for his usual Clouser Minnows. One bag had a note in it about the right hackle length for his favorite tarpon fly, along with special short-shank hooks he likes. It said, TARPON on it in bold magic marker.

He never buys online, but goes to his favorite fly shop and replenishes his bags and talks fishing with the pro on duty.

I've got that good spinning hair, but doggone it, I think I'm out of those Gamagatsu hooks I liked. I've got thousands of hooks in special boxes, but some of them date back to the 1990s. They're just sitting there waiting for someone to tie stuff around 'em.

David

## Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



**You are going to the Expo aren't you?** Word is that the block of discounted rooms are disappearing fast at the Courtyard Marriott near the Florida Fly Fishing Expo Oct. 23-24. This is the sixth annual expo and the first one in South Florida; Dania Beach, to be exact. Chico Fernandez, Jon Cave, Andy Mill and dozens of other fly fishing starts will share their knowledge. Go to the Florida Council website for details and instructions about how to book your room. ([IFFF Florida Council](#))

**Get Chico to sign it for you.** I'm pretty sure Chico Fernandez will bring a big stack of these to the Expo to sell and sign. [Fly-fishing for Redfish](#) ([Stackpole Books](#))

**When I'm not fishing, I'm reading about it.** Frank Sargeant, formerly outdoors editor at the Tampa Tribune, now issues a daily collection of fishing-related news from around the U.S. You've probably noted that we link to it a lot on this Flyover page. Sign up today. It's free. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

**And speaking of The Fishing Wire.** A lot of Suncoast Fly Fishers like to move about the state and fish here and there. But one of the issues is where to launch the boat? Problem solved. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

**Why wear waders when the water is warm? Here's why.** The health department's August 25 water test at Cypress Point Park showed the harmful enterococcus bacteria count was on the high side and the sample was rated "poor." It may get better before the September outing. Or not. If you have a compromised immune system or an open sore then...well you know. Check this site just before the outing to see if there is a newer sample report. ([Hillsborough Healthy Beaches](#))

**If DIY fly fishers were not welcome in the Bahamas, where would they go?** There are options, you know. This is a long Beau Beasley article and a darn good summation of the issues surrounding the Bahamas proposed bonefishing regulations. By Beau Beasley. ([Midcurrent](#))

**Amazing shark pictures.** Photographer Pat Ford, who will be one of the instructors at the 2015 Florida Fly Fishing Expo, shared these amazing images with one of my favorite magazine. ([Sportfishing](#))

**The future of fly-fishing?** I'm hoping not. ([You Tube](#))

*Bill*