

On The Fly



Hog Roast and Silent Auction was a huge success. Good food. Good deals. Good fun. Andy Constantinou (above) was high bidder for the 2016 NuCanoe Frontier 12 with 360-degree swivel seat. Read all about it on pages 5,6,7.



Time to tie some tarpon toads. See Smitty's recipe on page 18.

On The Fly

April 2016 Volume 26, Issue 4



Walsingham Lake Lunker
Mark Hays holds an 8-lb bass caught by Bruce Carlton on one of Mark's foam beetle flies at the March outing. Page 12



Lunkerman Bruce Carlton caught the 8-pounder. He also shot the picture. Page 12



Jeff Kopelman and Rick Yarn fished two of North Carolina's best trout rivers. They did well. Page 17.

President George Haseltine	2
News 'n' Notes	3
Hog Roast was a big success	5
Outings: Reviews and Previews.	9
March Meeting Candid Camera	11
Walsingham Lake Outing: 8-pound bass	12
Our club hosts Project Healing Waters	13
What do you need to start tying flies?	15
Reports: Marquis, Moss, Hansen, Burton	16
Reports: Constantinou, Kopelman-Yarn	17
Haseltine: IFFF's Fly Fishing 101 is great	18
Warfel: Suncoast Youth Conservation Cntr	19
Tying Bench: Smitty's Tarpon Toad	20
Tying Bench: Warfel's Bendback Shrimp	21
Capt. Pat: Casting Clinic. Captains Corner	22
Bob Morrison: Fly Fishing How-To	23
What about Fly Fishing Only in saltwater?	24
Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover	25
Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover	24

A message from incoming President George Haseltine...



Well, the formalities are over. The Nominating Committee nominated, the Nominees agreed and the Club voted. We are new and refreshed as a Board of Directors, ready to take on the responsibilities of promoting fly fishing, fly tying, fly casting, and marine conservation in a family fun atmosphere.

Hello, my name is George Haseltine. The transition is complete. I met with our outgoing President, Kirk Burton, (as he put it) "so I can soak up the vast knowledge of running a global fly fishing club." Thank you Kirk, for your leadership and involvement with our club. And by the way, I do believe that Suncoast Fly Fishers is of global significance. We are the best. Even Dayle Mazzarella said so at our last meeting. Thank you, Dayle.

I am humbled and honored to hold the office of President. Along with Rick Warfel as Vice President, Dick Miekka as secretary, Karen Warfel as treasurer and Board Members Bob Burkard, John Craig, Bruce Evensen, Tom Gadacz, Jeff Heer, Tom Trukenbrod, Rick Yarn and Kirk Burton as our immediate Past President we will have a great year ahead of us as we build on the traditions of those who have gone before and implement the new ideas of those who have and will join us.

As I look around at the dedicated men and women who have made this club as great as it is it would be intimidating except for a couple of things. First, you elected a very strong Board. People who really care about our organization and the things we do. And, those who have served in the past are more than willing to offer support, help and guidance on any issue that may come up.

Get involved, read and re-read this awesome newsletter, keep watch, attend our meetings and outings and you will enjoy yourself and see a fulfillment of Napoleon Hill who said "Tell the world what you are going to do, but show them first."

If you love fly fishing in all its' aspects, then hold onto your seats, here we go.

Looking forward to serving you,

George

Suncoast Fly Fishers News 'n' Notes

Thursday, April 21 meeting.

- Our presenter and fly tyer is Kelly Sobczak who will talk about her passion for fly fishing and fly tying. She'll tie flies to use on the Everglades outing. She and her husband Wes have lived and fished in Colorado, Alaska and, now, Florida.

Saturday, April 23, South Skyway Outing

- Fish within sight of the Skyway. Meet for lunch at noon at the South Skyway Rest Area.

Friday-Saturday-Sunday, April 22-24, Everglades Outing

Ken Hofmeister reported that we have twelve rooms (two beds in each) reserved at SFF reduced rates of \$103 (includes breakfast). Members may call: La Quinta, Sunrise Sawgrass Mills directly at [954-846-1200](tel:954-846-1200) (ask for Gladys or any front desk person). Or, reservations may be made by calling [1-800-642-4230](tel:1-800-642-4230), option 1. Motel address is 13651 N. W. 2nd St., Sunrise, FL.

Reservations must be made by cut off date of April 1.

There will be a Canal-Side Fish Fry on Saturday noon at the outing, along with the Cocoa Fly Fishing Club Florida Fly Fishing Association). You'll dine on the fresh catch of the morning and hush puppies. SFF grills and cooks are welcome. You catch 'em, you clean 'em, and we cook 'em.

Need a 'yak? -Alan Sewell writes that he has three fishing kayaks available for the Everglades expedition. They are on a trailer, or take them separately. Call Alan at 727-470-4570. Alan recommends you read *Ultimate Guide to Fishing South Florida on Foot* by Steve Kantner. It tells when, where, why and how to fish the Everglades. Alan Sewell - Telephone 727-470-4570

Thursday, May 19 meeting

- Our fly tier and presenter is Allen Wyatt of the Andy Thornal Fly Fishing Shop in Winter Haven. The subject is fly fishing for Florida bass and bream.
- Fly Box Exchange

Saturday, May 21 St. Petersburg Urban Outing

- Downtown St. Petersburg Urban Outing. Lunch at Flora Wylie Park on North Shore Drive

IFFF membership changes

Changes big and small are coming to the IFFF, decisions made by the board from recommendations of a committee that has been working on the matter for some months with the goal of making IFFF service to its members more valuable and important. All IFFF members received a long detailed letter April 5 explaining the changes Here's the once-over-lightly...

- Now our general membership includes our spouse or partner and children under 18
- *Fly fisher* magazine is being reformatted so it also can be read on tablets and smart phones. You can get the printed version for an extra \$10.
- IFFF has reinstated the "affiliate club" category which was dropped several years ago. Rather than requiring individual members to join, clubs can become affiliated with IFFF for a fee. IFFF hopes to broaden its reach so more club members will join IFFF as individual members.
- The Federation will improve the curricula and value of "The Fly Fishing Academy" to bring in more instructors
- The Federation regularly will develop a speaker's bureau for easier club access to top caliber presenters.

Research Everglades Canal fishing.

Read some of the Ready-Set-Go articles in the April 2013, April

2014 and April 2015 issues of *On*

***The Fly* by Paul Sequira, David**

Putnam, Alan Sewell and

Everglades Canal guru Russ

Hampton.

Suncoast Fly Fishers News 'n' Notes

May 7– Introduction to Fly Fishing at Bill Jackson’s Shop for Adventure. (It’s free!)

- April 16 was the first of two IFFF-sanctioned events hosted by Suncoast Fly Fishers for persons who are not fly fishers but are interested in becoming a fly fisher. It was fully subscribed with 22 attendees.
- The next one is May 7 and it will also be held at Bill Jackson’s Shop for Adventure at 9501 U. S. 19 North, Pinellas Park. Bill Jackson’s provides room for the class as well as coffee and rolls plus lunch
- The class is from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm and it is followed by lunch from 1:30 to 2:30.
- Club members “social assisters” are needed to answer questions about fly fishing and about our club.
- It’s free, but the class is limited, so call to see if there’s a vacancy left. Call Tom Gadacz, 727-360-8030.

Jon B. Cave’s PERFORMANCE FLY-FISHING SCHOOLS, April 29-30, Titusville, Florida

This event by Capt. Jon Cave, one of fly fishing’s major stars, is not free (\$400) but it includes an afternoon of fly tying and a full day of Fly-Casting/Fishing Instruction). Classes will be held at the Renzetti, Inc. facility. 8800 Grissom Pkwy. Titusville. To register call 321 267 7705

Club Outings Locations for 2016

April--South Skyway; April --Everglades Canals

May--Downtown St. Petersburg Urban Outing

June--Night Light snook outing

July--Picnic Island, Tampa

August--Lake Maggorie, St. Petersburg

September--Chassahowitzka River

October--Hillsborough River, Carl Hanson tournament against the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club (SFF is host.)

November--Weedon Island Preserve

December--Don Coleman Classic at Fort DeSoto Park with other fly fishing clubs in our area

Used Fly Gear for Sale by Members

STH Reel. Eliseo’s 12. Made in Argentina. Used only twice. Asking \$175. Call Dave Barson at 407-973-7895

Jon boat. 15-foot, Semi V, welded aluminum (no rivets so no electrolysis); two swivel seats (w/storage under); controls at forward seat; 20HP Johnson two stroke outboard motor, plus Motor Guide electric trolling motor with batteries; and good trailer. Come see it at 7040 M.L. King Street South, in the Pink Streets area. Asking \$1,800, or best offer. Call Charlie Most at [727/865-1425](tel:7278651425) before stopping by.

Got used fly gear that you no longer use? Offer it for sale here. Email Bill AuCoin at wmaucoin@verizon.net

We’re growing

On April 7 Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg had 132 members including 19 family members and six honorary members.

Tom Gadacz: 13th Annual Hog Roast a Big Success

April 2, 2016 marked the 13th time Suncoast Fly Fishers held the Hog Roast and Silent Auction. This year's Hog Roast also marked our club's 25th anniversary.



Lefty's deceivers by Charlie Most.

The Hog Roast started with a catered event at a local banquet room and then the event was held at John Zientarski's home with the actual roasting of a hog which required several members starting in the early morning hours putting the pig on a spit and tending to the roasting. Captain Bob entertained us with many of his original

songs on a guitar. When the Zientarski's moved we held the event in 2011 at the Maria Center and in 2012 at the City of Treasure Island Auditorium and had the BBQ catered.



Tarpon flies by Bruce Evensen

In 2013 the venue was the Florida Gulf Coast Fishing Center and Interactive Museum. Since 2014 the venue has been the City of Treasure Auditorium. This became the main club event to generate some funds to support club activities for the rest of the year and has provided discounted merchandise to members and guests alike through the live/silent auction process.



Clousers, gurglers, bendbacks and others tied by Ron Kelley.

Many changes have been made but the spirit of the event has remained – a gathering of members and friends to have a great time, a nice BBQ meal, a review of our year's activity, recognition of members for their special support, and auctioning and raffling of items to support club activities.

This year was a spectacular event with Glen Pla as the guest speaker who shared his experiences in his career as host of the Brighthouse television show, *The Average Angler*. There were bucket raffles with amazing items, silent auction with an enormous amount of items including fishing gear, spectacular boxes of member tied flies, art, fishing trips, casting lessons, and social events. The members-only raffle was a 9/10 wt. rod built by Alan Sewell which included

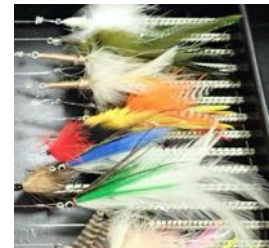


Andy Constantinou raised his hand with the winning bid for the 2016 NuCanoe Frontier 12 with 360-degree seat.

reel, line and a custom rod tube. The member winner was Bruce Carlton.

The live auction item was a NuCanoe Frontier 12 won by Andy Constantinou. The Pescador 10 Kayak by Perception raffle was won by Bobbie Skukowski.

Over 100 members and guests enjoyed a slide show of 2015 events, a presentation of 2015 in review by President Kirk Burton and introductory remarks by incoming President George Haseltine.



Cliff Nigh's tarpon box



Bruce Carlton won Alan Sewell's 9/10 rod-reel and custom made rod tube crafted by Rick Warfel



Guest speaker Glen Pla, host of "The Average Angler" on Brighthouse networks.

Continued... 13th Annual Hog Roast was Very Successful



The 2016 Vision & Values award went to Tom Trukenbrod

Tom Trukenbrod received the SFF Vision and Value Presidential Award. Captain Dan Bumgarner presented the fishing awards to David Putnam for the largest bass (16.5"), Tom Trukenbrod for the largest bluegill (9.5"), Mark Craig for the largest sea trout (20.5"), and Mark Craig for the largest redfish (22").

This year Smokey Bones catered the event and the pulled pork, ribs, chicken and sides were excellent. Dessert was a sheet cake with the SFF emblem.



Outgoing President Kirk Burton presented Karen Warfel with the 2015 Vision & Values trophy.

Our greatest thanks go to Rick and Karen Warfel for chairing the



NuCanoe's Frontier12 from St. Pete's West Coast Kayaks and Paddle Boards

event and special thanks to Bill AuCoin, Dave Barson, Dan Bumgarner, Kirk Burton, Andy Constantinou, John Craig, Joe and Martha Dail, Tom Gadacz, Myron Hansen, George Haseltine, Ken Hofmeister, Tony Piazza, Al Pitcher, Bill

and Bobbie Skukowski, and Tom Trukenbrod who helped with the event.



Incoming President George Haseltine (l) presented outgoing President Kirk Burton with the club's Leadership Award



Just Desserts – Created by Publix Bakery— featured the Suncoast Fly Fishers logo



Thanks to Karen and Rick Warfel who co-chaired the hugely successful 2016 Hog Roast and Silent Auction

Tom

Editor's note: If you attended the Hog Roast complete the survey on the next page and bring it (unsigned) to the April or May meeting.

SFF Survey on 2016 Hog Roast and Silent Auction

Suncoast Fly Fisher: Please do not sign your name. Bring the completed surveys to the April or May membership meeting or mail it to: Suncoast Fly Fishers P.O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821

Please circle your evaluation of the categories below. Please enter any additional comments at the bottom of this sheet or on the reverse side.

Overall Event	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Length of Event	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Location	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Appearance of the Room	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Recorded Music	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Program					
Glen Pla	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Year in Review	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Quality of Food					
Pulled Pork	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Ribs	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Chicken	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Smoked Wings	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
BBQ Beans	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Cole Slaw	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Garlic Bread	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Beverages	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
SFF Logo Cake	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Chocolate Pudding	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Member Only Door Prize					
Alan Sewell 9-10W Rod,	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Reel, Case and Tube					
Grand Raffle Prize					
Pescador 10 Kayak	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
WiPaddle and Vest					
Live Auction					
NuCanoe Frontier 12	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Silent Auction					
Silent Auction Items	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Guided Fishing Trips	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Casting Lessons	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Member Tied Files	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Bucket Raffles					
Awards Ceremony					
Vision and Values Award	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Fishing Awards	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS:

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers



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: George Haseltine
Vice Pres: Rick Warfel
Secretary: Dick Miekka
Treasurer: Karen Warfel

Board of Directors

John Craig - Tom Gadacz - Jeff Heer -
Bob Burkard - Bruce Evensen - Rick
Yarn

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 -- Open
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



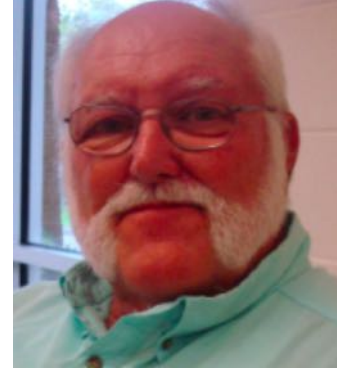
Join. Renew. Application at www.suncoastflyfishers.com



Co-Chair George Haseltine

Suncoast Fly Fishers Outing Reviews and Previews and Annual Tournament Update

The SFF Outing Committee is co-chaired by George Haseltine and Capt. Dan Bumgarner with help from Truk Trukenbrod and John Craig



Co-chair Dan Bumgarner

REVIEW...

Saturday March 19, 2016, SFF Outing Walsingham Park

It was a great morning to be on the lake with a fly rod. We had kayaks, Gheenoes and boats. I'm not sure if we had any fishers from shore or not. Smitty was very creative with his printed sign saying that he would "Fish for food". It worked because someone took him up on it and shared their boat with him. Very cool, Smitty, and thanks for helping me park my Gheenoe.

We had 27 names on the signup sheet, with 21 joining us for Publix sandwiches, potato salad, chips, water melon, cookies and a large Greek salad which Mike Besel has brought for the last three outings. Thanks, Mike.



Because it started to rain around 11:00 everyone gathered at the shelter and commenced eating before 11:30. Bob Morrison got there about 11:55 and almost missed it. Whew! Just in time Bob. Let this be a warning to all of us. Lunch could be anywhere from 11:15 to 12:00. As always, we thank you faithful members who always help out.

Bruce Carlton caught a 24-inch bass on a foam beetle tied by Mark Hays. That's funny because a winning 19-inch bass was caught at the same place two years ago by a passenger in Mark's boat; he was also using Mark's fly. See a pattern developing here? That puts Bruce in the lead for bass in our annual count.

Quin Berry, one of our new members, caught two bass; one of them 16-inches long. Quin mentioned that he is looking for a fishing partner. Asked if he had a boat, he said no and the interest immediately waned. Ha! Keep trying Quin. These guys are great jokers. Of course, Alan Sewell caught his quota of bluegill/bream. Norm Sande also reported catching many bluegills.

Reviews and Previews continues on the next page.

Reviews and Previews, continued...

PREVIEW...

April 22-23-24 Outing – Everglades Canal Outing

Our Everglades trip is April 22-24. You can call 954-846-1200 for reservations at the LaQuinta Inn, 13651 NW 2nd St Sunrise, Florida 33325. Reservations for one of the rooms blocked off by Ken Hofmeister had to be made by April 1 to get our special rate. If you haven't already made your reservation by April 1 it may cost more, but join us if you can. It really is a lot of fun.

April 23 Outing – South Skyway

Fish anywhere within sight of the Sunshine Skyway. Lunch at South Skyway Rest Area

We do have a conflict with our next outing at the South end of the Skyway Bridge. You can actually fish anywhere within sight of the Skyway. Lunch will be at the south end rest area. Come to the April meeting for details. We will have charts at the April General Meeting.

Once again, the award will be for the longest snook, redfish or sea trout. We have eliminated the legal limit size and more changes are to come. Be sure to be at the April meeting.

Questions? You can text or call George @727-423-8110 or email at ghh343@aol.com.

George

South Skyway Tides on April 23 via Tides4Fishing.com



It's a new year.

2016 TOURNAMENT LEADERS

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing caught
Longest bass -	24-inches	Bruce Carlton	Walsingham Lake (March)
Longest sunfish			
Longest sea trout	16-inches	Ron Kelley/Mark Craig	Fort DeSoto Park (February)
Longest redfish			
Longest snook			

Note: All fish entered in the yearly contest must be caught at a club outing and inside the defined zone. The new 2016 tournament started with the January outing at Pinellas Point/Bay Vista Park and continues until the final outing of 2016 at Fort DeSoto Park.

March Meeting Candid Camera



Suncoast Fly Fisher pioneers Charlie Most (l) and Paul Sequira share fishing stories. Tom Gadacz photo.



Smitty puts the finishing touches on his grasshopper fly. Right, Dayle Mazzarella, our speaker.



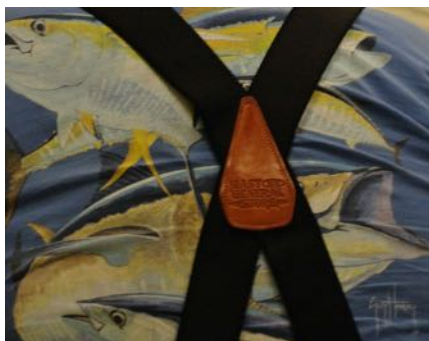
Dayle Mazzarella shared fly valuable fishing insights with members at the meeting.



Dayle Mazzarella (l) and Alan Sewell



Taking in Dayle's insights into saltwater fly fishing. From the left, Jeff Heer, Bill AuCoin, Bob Burkard and Rick Warfel. Tom Gadacz photo.



Left...Suspenders and a Guy Harvey T-Shirt. Captain Dan, is that you?

Right, nominating committee chairman Ken Hofmeister announces and leads applause for our new officers and board members.



Bruce Carlton Catches 8-lb Bass at Walsingham Lake Outing



Bruce Carlton's two-foot bass. Mark Hays holds Bruce Carlton's 7-8 lb lunker bass caught on Walsingham Lake at the March outing. Mark said the bass hit a #8 foam beetle that he gave to Bruce last year to fish the Glades.



Lunkerman: Bruce Carlton was the star of the Walsingham Lake outing, catching a two-foot bass on a foam beetle tied by Mark Hays. He caught it on a 5-weight rod with a 6-lb tippet.



Watermelon anyone? Kirk Burton has the goods.



Bruce Carlton in the stern and Mark Hays fished Walsingham Lake in Mark's' Gheenoe.

Lunch photos by Tom Gadacz.
Photo of 8-lb bss by Bruce Carlton, who caught it.



Mark Hays and Paul Sequira



Norm Sande, Karen Warfel and Tom Jones chat it up.

Tom Gadacz: Project Healing Waters at Fort DeSoto Park



Michael kayaking at PHWFF outing at Fort DeSoto Park

Veterans from Bay Pines VA Medical Center and members of Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF), an International Federation of Fly Fishers Charter Club, fly fished, fly casted and kayaked on March 16 at Fort DeSoto Park.



John Craig is chairman of the PHWFF committee

SFF members Jim Bandhauer, John Craig, George Haseltine, Ted Rich, Alan Sewell, and Tom Gadacz helped veterans get in and out of the kayaks, gave fly casting instructions, and helped the vets do some real fly fishing in salt waters.

This time we had better luck catching which included a fighting large trout which Al not only fought very well but also landed and released. Michael practiced casting and slowed his cast to 40-feet to save his shoulder. We also caught a jack and a flounder. There were additional hookups and strikes.

We enjoyed lunch, traded fish stories (lied a lot) and some continued fishing into the afternoon. It was a very interesting day with good weather and no significant tidal movement. It was a special day for our veterans and a pleasure for fly fishers to support the men and women to whom we owe so much! *Tom*



Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing outing. Suncoast Fly Fishers and veterans gathered for our annual outing at Fort DeSoto Park March 16. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) is an organization that brings together fly fishers with veterans who have returned from the stresses of war. This is a very active program at the VA Medical Center which has biweekly programs with members of SFF who share their interests in fly tying, rod building, casting and outings. Peter Jonsson, VA Recreational Specialist, organized the outing, transportation and an excellent lunch

Tom Gadacz: Project Healing Waters Staff Attends SFF Meeting



Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing officials joined us at the March meeting. From left, Daniel Morgan, director of communications; Ira Strouse, social media assistant and veterans ambassador; Suncoast Fly Fisher Pat Damico; and David Folkerts, chief operations officer.

The day after Suncoast Fly Fishers hosted the Project Healing Waters outing at Fort DeSoto Park three special guests from PHWFF joined us at our monthly membership meeting.

David Folkerts, PHWFF Chief Operations Officer; Daniel Morgan, Director of Communications; and Ira Strouse, retired paratrooper and now Co-Area coordinator, just finished an organizational PHWFF event in Orlando. They were introduced to and met members of the club.

David expressed their appreciation for the effort and support that members of Suncoast Fly Fishers provide for our veterans through PHWFF. We shared our experiences with David, Daniel and Ira.

Terry Kirkpatrick and John Craig received recognition for leading our efforts with the veterans at Bay Pines Veterans Center. Alan Sewell has helped many veterans build a fly rod and two veterans have received national and state recognition for their artistic design.

David told us that this year almost 700 fly rods have been built by veterans. They select the type fly rod they want and the rod is theirs when finished.

David, Daniel and Ira fished with Captain Pat Damico for two days. Capt. Pat initiated the PHWFF programs in Florida. They caught trout, ladyfish, mackerel, and snook.

Tom



Suncoast Fly Fisher Terry Kirkpatrick, a rod-building guide, joined the PHWFF team for this special photo.

Layne Smith: What You Need to Start Tying Flies

On The Fly received this note from new member Brian Clark

You know I was thinking the other day, about getting into tying. And I have no idea what to buy. What do you think about doing an article or a series of articles about a beginner's fly kit or something along those lines? Let me know. Regards, Brian

It's a great question and the right answers will be helpful for any fly fisher who wants to start tying flies. Alan Sewell said he'd be glad to work with Brian one-on-one. Robert Fischer said start with the Clouser minnow. Paul Sequira taught a class on this subject. Check out his article in the [May 2010 issue of *On The Fly*](#). Layne (Smitty) Smith, one of our club's all-time fly tying stars, was quick to respond with a detailed guide, which follows.

WISE. When it comes to tools you should buy the best you can afford, i.e. a rotary vise is a top choice but any vise than has good gripping power is a must if you are tying saltwater flies on larger hooks ...

SCISSORS ... don't skimp and get a pair of \$1.98 "cheapo" bargain brand scissors and expect to get good results ... get a really good pair of scissors. It doesn't have to be a \$75 - \$100 pair of stone sharpened platinum blade scissors made in Germany ... but a good quality pair like Dr. Slick or any ice tempered stainless steel scissors with serrated blades to use for most of your materials work (between \$20 - \$30) and use your pair of "cheapos" for cutting lead wire and wire ribbing material ... Later on you can get a medium priced pair for doing deer hair work ...



Layne Smith

Thirdly, get a good BOBBIN, preferably a ceramic bobbin ... straight metal bobbins are great for wire or tinsel but not for fine threads or silk floss ... they eventually wear through and will break your thread at the most inopportune moments! Most of the other tools you can add to your "tying arsenal" as the need arises.

Now about MATERIALS ... here again get the best you can afford especially when it comes to feathers ... A good quality neck or saddle hackle will give you better results than strung or loose hackle that is mismatched and going every which way. Next bucktail ... A natural white bucktail and a chartreuse bucktail will get you started doing Clouser Minnows (a MUST for saltwater fly fishermen) ... Look for a tail with long, slightly kinky fibers that are not mushy to the touch. Most all bucktails will have some amount of mushiness near the base ... but the less of it there is, the more usable hair you will have for tying your flies.

WEIGHT ... i.e. barbell eyes and such ... for fishing this area think small (unless you plan to fish sunken offshore rigs or deep rock piles) ... use your judgment when matching barbell eye size to hook size (you don't want to use extra large barbell eyes on a #4 or #6 hook nor do you want to use micro barbell eyes on a #3/0 ... you are defeating the purpose of the weighted eyes) ... your best bet would be to stick to extra small, small or in some cases medium, I probably would not go any higher than medium if you are fishing inter-coastal or the beaches.

When it comes to SYNTHETICS there is a ton of it out there and most of it is "fly specific" meaning that you check the pattern you wish to tie then you add that material to your "stash" ... just be careful ... if you are going to tie a half dozen or less of that pattern, it would be better to just go out and buy the flies already tied!!! As a matter of fact, my suggestion to new tiers would be to go to local fly shops, club tiers or local guides that are club members and ask them what flies they have confidence in that work best in this area and then try some of them out before you try your hand at tying them ... once you have built some confidence in these flies yourself, then you can start building your stockpile from there instead of ending up like me with a tying room full of materials that would rival the likes of Wapsi or Hairline Dubbin !!!!!

Seriously, if you have any questions see me or any of the other tiers at the club ... We would be more than happy to help you through through the "What do I need, what should I get!" stages of the the enjoyable art of Fly Tying! Till then ...

Tight lines and "Keep the head cement out of your bobbin tube" !!! ~~~ Smitty! -----<^>))><

Dennis Marquis & Son: Docklight Success on Boca Ciega Bay



Ben Marquis with his first snook fishing with his dad on Boca Ciega Bay.

I am a newer member of the club. I've been fly fishing for about four years, all in salt water in the coastal south NJ tidal zones for stripers, weakies and blues.

I have always used a 9-foot, 9wt TFO rod and reel. We moved here in January. Went dock light fishing Saturday the 19th from 6pm till 12pm. We were on a 17' Maverick with a stern electric trolling motor.

We fished the docks in different areas of Boca Ciega Bay. We had our pick of ladyfish, some the biggest I have seen, sea trout and snook. Saw some reds, but did not get any to take the fly. Saw one small tarpon and could not get it to take the fly either.

Best part of the night was watching my 21-year-old son catch his first snook, seatrout and ladyfish on the fly. He only started learning about six six months ago.

Dennis

Frank Moss: Shad Season on the St. Johns



Frank Moss scores big on St. Johns River shad with Capt. Paul Cave.

I caught nine of these shad and lost another three. They only weighed about two pounds, but a 6-weight made it a lot of fun. Paul Cave guided me to his favorite honey holes and --- fish on!!!

We were fishing the Puzzle Lake area in the Oveida/Sanford area, putting in at the Jolly Gator launch at C. S. Lee Park.



Shad fly

Frank

Kirk Burton and Myron Hansen: Docklight Snook Double



Myron Hansen (l) and Kirk Burton each hooked and landed snook fishing Clousers on the docklights March 23

Andy Constantinou Docklights with Capt. Ethan Kiburz

Snook and toadfish on the fly plus four jumps from a tarpon

I had a great night fishing with Ethan on a guided trip in Gandy Bridge side of Tampa Bay fishing the dock lights. My friend Gerald who is visiting from England caught his first snook.



Andy's Toadfish

I hooked and lost a couple as well. I caught my first toad fish; it is so ugly. Ethan was amazed that it took a fly.

Later I managed to hook a 70 to 80-pound tarpon which came off after its fourth jump, a very exiting experience.

Andy



Gerald's snook

Jeff Kopelman and Rick Yarn: Trout (and elk) in NC

In late March Suncoast Fly Fishers Jeff Kopelman and Rick Yarn fly fished and landed (and lost) big browns, rainbows and brook trout on North Carolina's prestigious Davidson River and the Oconaluftee River near Cherokee.

They also lost a few, 15-pound browns probably, that instantly broke their 3 lb tippets.



Jeff said he used a 7.5-foot rod, short enough to keep his line under the tree limbs but stiff

enough to cast woolly buggers. On the Oconaluftee at one point a trio of elk appeared and they started moving closer to Jeff. "These guys were checking me out and to tell you the truth I was getting nervous but then they got distracted moved away," Jeff said.



One of many spunky trout caught by Jeff Kopelman and Rick Yarn in North Carolina in late March



So long. Nice seeing you.



"These elk were checking me out and I was getting nervous, to tell you the truth," said Jeff.

George Haseltine: Fly Fishing 101 at Bill Jackson's May 7 Sponsored by Suncoast Fly Fishers

This IFFF introduction to fly fishing course is free but space is limited so you must reserve a place by calling Bill Jackson's at 727-576-4169. Sign up a friend with you. This is the ideal way to introduce fly fishing to new people.

Once again the IFFF and Dayle Mazzarella came through with an exciting, informative, "user friendly" Fly Fishing 101 class at Bill Jackson's on April 16.

Dayle was exceptionally well prepared. We started right on time and stopped right on time; evidence of his skill and experience in the teaching profession. His wife Barbara handled the paperwork and background support so necessary for a successful meeting.

Our "after meeting" debriefing was a combination of his defending his approach, to enlisting new ideas. Those of us who were there to assist thoroughly enjoyed this time. We learned some valuable lessons about teaching fly casting: Ask permission and then lay your hand over the student's hand for guidance, never take the rod out of their hand, don't dwell on a point too long, and on and on. It was great.

Thank you, Mike, fishing manager at Bill Jackson's, for enlisting people as they shopped for adventure, and then providing the space for us to use. Mike even said that for future classes he may be able to open the room at 8:00 AM for an earlier start.

We had 22 sign up and nine showed up. The weather may have had a lot to do with it, because the wind was not very cooperative. None the less, Dayle had our attendees unrolling yarn lines from the short practice "rods" directly into the wind. How about that? These people were really excited about it.

Rick and Karen Warfel, Tom Gadacz, Hugo Schmidt, Bruce Evensen, Bob Morrison and George Haseltine represented Suncoast Fly Fishers and assisted Dayle and Barbara in any way we could.

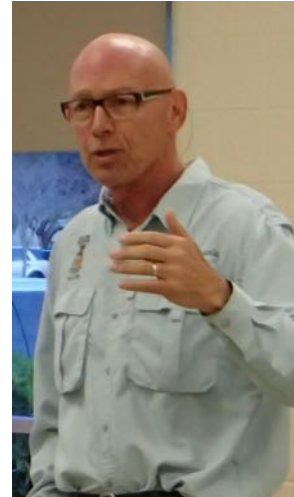
The enthusiasm in the room and outdoors was truly inspiring. It was awesome to watch as the new interest they came in with turned to the discovery of a new "way of life." Dayle captured their interest from the start. Everyone paid close attention and asked some very good questions. They were even taking notes.

Dayle said from the start that he was not going to teach them how to cast, but simply give them enough class room instruction and hands on experience to provide a thirst to learn more. And that he did. He covered a brief history of fly fishing, basic knots, fly lines, rods, and reels and how to use a "noodle" to practice casting. He even had old pictures of women in full length dresses standing at streams edge casting.

Thank you Dayle and Barbara for your willingness to share with us. What a great day it was!

George

George Haseltine , SFF President 2016-2017



IFFF Instructor Dayle
Mazzarella

Rick Warfel: Suncoast Youth Conservation Center



Karen and I enjoyed the opportunity to attend the grand opening of the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center in Apollo Beach.

This is a joint public private enterprise between the State of Florida, TECO, FWC, The Florida Aquarium and local government.

The overall site comprises over 20 acres and is home to the Manatee Viewing Center, a turtle rescue facility, research laboratories focused on growing coral, and the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center.



Brian Yablonski, chairman of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Over the next couple of years the plan is to move the redfish hatchery from Port Manatee to this location. The event was attended by stake holders from all of the participating organizations and the public.

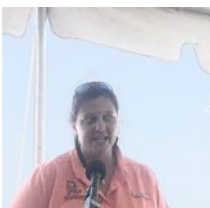
The presentations were presided over by FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Director Gil McRae. Florida Representative Dana Young, County Commissioner Sandy Murman, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Chairman Brian Yablonski, Florida Aquarium President and CEO Thom Stork and TECO Vice President Tom Hernandez all gave presentations.

Kathryn Guindon, a long time fisheries biologist for the FWC, is the director of the new facility. She had the honor of cutting the ribbon and opening the doors to the building which houses offices, research areas and a learning

laboratory for the youth that will benefit from the newest addition to the state wide network of Youth Conservation Centers.



Thom Stork President and CEO of the Florida Aquarium.



Fisheries biologist Kathryn Guindon is director of the new facility.

The grounds will have kayak trails and salt marsh areas that the kids can use to learn about the environment and develop skills. They will even be able to fish in the salt marsh that is being developed on the property.

Videos of the event can be seen at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esccuT64pG0>

https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=Suncoast+Youth+Conservation+Center



Rick

TARPON TOAD

(Readers: also check out [Enver Hysni's tarpon toad in the May 2010 issue of *On The Fly*](#))



Smitty writes, "This is THE go-to tarpon fly for the Tampa Bay area. From Homosassa to Key West, this fly is used by more Florida guides than any other. This particular color combination is a favorite of local guide Bryon Chamberlin, who was a guest speaker at a SCFF meeting and a board member of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers. It has been used with great success in and around Tampa Bay (also chartreuse as well as a tan and rust color variation). It's a fairly simple pattern to tie to be so

deadly.

Materials:

Hook: Gamakatsu SC12 S size 1/0
 Thread: Flat Waxed Nylon black (or color to match body)
 Tail: Purple Marabou Blood
 Feathers (Tan, yellow chartreuse or orange)
 Collar: Black Schlappen, palmered (Chocolate brown, green chartreuse or black)
 Body: Purple EP Fibers (Tan, yellow chartreuse or orange)
 Eyes: Large Mono Nymph Eyes

**Tying Sequence:**

Step 1: Wrap the tying thread on the front half of the hook, and continue the thread towards the bend in the hook. Tie two full purple marabou feathers at the bend in the hook to create the tail. Secure the tail by making the first two wraps of thread loose, and make several tight wraps. Wrap the tying thread one third of the way down the hook shank.

Step 2: Tie the black Schlappen feather in just behind the tail, and wrap towards the eye of the hook. As you wrap the Schlappen, use your fingers to stroke the barbules toward the bend in the hook. Once you have wrapped the Schlappen, use several strong wraps of tying thread to secure the feather to the hook shank. Use your scissors to cut the tag end of the Schlappen.

Step 3: Tie several clumps of poly yarn in a spent wing fashion. You will need at least 5 clumps to create the head of the fly.

Step 4: Tie in Large Mono Nymph Eyes ahead of the yarn head by cross-wrapping the center bar of the eyes to the hook shank. Once the eyes are secure, wrap the thread around the hook shank just behind the eye of the hook. Use a whip finisher to finish the fly, and cut the remainder of the tying thread.

Step 5: Use your scissors to trim the head in an oval shape. Apply head cement or zap-a-gap to the thread head and the thread that has secured the lead eyes. Allow the head cement to dry, and the fly is completed.



This is a great pattern for general flats fishing or night time dock light fishing. I like it in white or tan but other colors work as well. The pattern has bead chain eyes and uses rooster hackle for the tail and bucktail for the wing/carapace. Tying the fly bend back style has several advantages. It rides with the hook point up and is a little more weedless that way. The dropped bend in the hook acts as a keel for stability and the bead chain eyes on the bottom of the hook help keep the fly properly oriented. I normally fish this fly with a long slow strip followed by a short pause to let the fly sink a little.

- Materials**
- Hook: Size 2 long shank streamer hook
 - Eyes: Large Stainless Steel Bead Chain
 - Body: Medium Tinsel Chenille
 - Tail: Rooster Hackle
 - Wing/Carapace: Bucktail and Palmered Hackle
 - Thread: 6/0 matching color



Fig. 1. Prepare and tie in hackle

Tying Sequence

- 1 Bend the hook down at about a 30-degree angle. Hold the eye and shank of the hook with needle nose pliers with the tip of the pliers at the position you want the hook to bend. This should be about half way between the eye and the bend of the hook. Press down on the bend of the hook until you achieve the angle you want.
- 2 Lay down a base of thread along the hook to a point past where the hook was bent. I like to apply crazy glue the thread base to keep everything from twisting on the hook later.
- 3 Prepare two pairs of rooster hackle by stripping off the fuzzy feather at the base of the shaft and tie in one pair on each side of the hook towards the back of the hook just ahead of the point that the hook was bent. The tips of the hackles should be down and to the centerline of the fly. (fig 1)



Fig. 2, Wrap chenille

- 4 Tie in two hackles by the tip at the same position on the hook. These will be used after the body is applied.
- 5 Tie in the chenille at the same point and wind the thread forward to the front of the hook. Wrap the chenille in a tight spiral to the front of the hook leaving enough space to tie in the bead chain eyes later. Tie in the chenille and trim. (fig 2)

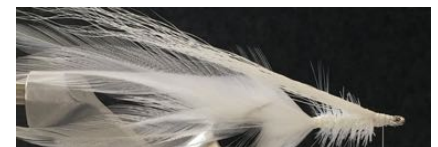


Fig.3. Tie in bucktail wrap, glue

- 6 Palmer the two hackles forward in a loose spiral to the front of the hook. Tie in these feathers and trim.
- 7 Tie in a sparse clump of bucktail on top of the hook near the eye. At this point apply a good coat of head cement to the thread wraps at the eye of the hook. (fig 3)
- 8 Invert the hook and tie in the bead chain eyes near the eye of the hook using figure eight wraps. (fig 4)
- 9 Lift the bucktail wing and move the thread back to the point that the hook was bent. Tie down the bucktail at this point to create the carapace of the shrimp. These wraps should not be too tight or you will splay the bucktail. You can wrap the thread a little ways down the bent portion of the hook to help point the tail slightly downward. Tie off your thread at this point and coat all exposed thread wraps with a liberal coating of head cement.



Fig. . Add eyes

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #77

Make the fly move

By Capt. Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor



Next to, "What fly should I use?" This is a very frequent question. On a recent saltwater charter with two clients, they told me about trips made during the last two days where they caught nothing after six hours of wade fishing. Stopping the boat in a wind protected area, I asked each one to cast for me. Both were very poor casters, with layouts of line full of slack. Holding the rod tip about five feet above the water, when they did strip, the fly never moved. After watching each do a couple casts and "work" the fly, I informed them their Clouser minnow did not move in any of their presentations. No fish would show any interest in a baitfish imitation that didn't move. Their stripping to give the fly appropriate action varied considerably. I told them to watch the end of their fly line where it joined the butt section of the leader. Sometime with the tide coming toward us they really had to exaggerate the long frequent strips to give the fly the desired action. Keeping the rod tip on the water also helped reduce slack.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

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

Captain's Corner: via Tampa Bay Times

Warming Water Brings Back Snook

By Pat Damico, Tampa Bay Times Correspondent

The local water temperature has finally hit my magic number, 65. At the beginning of each month I consult my fishing log, an old school notebook, that has records of my previous trips. In the short recap of my trip, I always include water temperature. Lethargic winter snook on our west coast that survived our relatively mild winter can now leave those haunts and chase a fly. They are leaving deeper water, like residential canals, marinas, channels, bridges and estuaries. They first stage close to these places so they can return if colder weather comes back. Target edges of flats, sand holes, points, drop-offs, structure in deep water and sea walls. They are there not only to get warm, but to feed on baitfish. Having been exposed to small glass minnows all winter a larger offering is hard to refuse. Baitfish will vary in size and color in some areas so carefully look into the water to see what is available. Match the hatch and make your presentation a similar color and size. If snook are near the bottom in 4 or 5 feet of water, your offering near the surface will be refused. A slow deep retrieve is preferred. Sink tip lines with a fluorocarbon 30-pound tippet and weighted flies will produce. This same tactic will produce reds and large trout. If you get cut off a few times, Spanish mackerel will be the culprit so change your tippet to 30-pound hard monofilament.

Bob Morrison: How-To



It's the right time of the year. But be careful out there.

Recipes for success. Spring is here and the fish are coming shallow as the water warms up. Redfish are feeding during the early incoming tide, and you can get them with finger mullet flies, shrimp patterns, or with swimming surface crabs and crabs on the bottom. For the bottom, try nickel or dime-sized dark crabs, fished slowly.

Do the stingray shuffle. Wear flats boots for wading if you have them, and don't wade where you cannot see the bottom. Remember: mud holes, sting rays.

Use the buddy system. Don't wade alone if you can help it, especially if you are elderly. It's safer if you are with a buddy, in case anything happens.

Cover up. Really. A small folding knife, pliers, a bandana or other face protection are essential, including sun gloves, and a hat that covers your ears. Remember to use a high-SPF sun protection ointment. Finally, don't forget your poncho and hook extractor.

Go Get 'Em and Good Luck!

Bob

*Don Coleman Excerpts**

Want to cast farther? Try different line weights

If you are consistently casting less distance than your rod was designed for, you should probably overline your rod at least one line weight to allow the rod to load properly. Conversely, if you are consistently making long casts you might consider underlining your rod because you will usually carry more line in the air. ... if you are casting a bulky a heavier line it will carry more momentum and make your casting easier. Furthermore, it all depends on your casting ability. If you have fast hands with a very short and fast speed up and stop, you may be best served by underlining your rod. A beginning fly caster, or one who prefers not to develop high line speed, will usually feel more comfortable with an overlined rod. Stop thinking within the lines laid down by others – even the manufacturer. Try different line weights to see which works best for you and your rod.

**Pinched from Don Coleman's Wading the saltwater flats with a fly rod. P2.*

Question and Answers of the Month for Suncoast Fly Fishers

Many states post “Fly Fishing Only” signs on streams and lakes to protect fish populations. Is that a good thing? Then should Florida post “Fly Fishing Only” signs in some salt water areas?

Tony Piazza: Yes – consistent with more catch & release.

Bill Scarola: No – keep saltwater open.

Toni Fernstrom: No – but do protect catch & release.

Ken Doty: More no-motor zones enforcement. Reduce commercial allowances on game fish.

Quin Berry: No – catch & release for me.

**“No. Catch ‘em and eat ‘em.”
Tom Jones**



Tom Gadacz: yes – selectively; not as a general project. Criteria: fragile environment; certain estuaries to protect habitat.

Bob Morrison: Yes. Posting signs on streams has been very successful so I recommend that we post similar signs for inshore fish species.

Robert Fischer: No – (we) don’t want to create an appearance of “snobs” or “elitist” fishermen.

Duane Mertz: No. Could not be enforced.

Mac Richardson: Good idea –In Michigan over 1000 miles of trout streams are “fly only.”

Alan Sewell: Everyone should fish in Florida no matter how they do it. More no-motor zones would be a better idea.

Joe Corr: I moved to fly fishing after spinning and bait casting. Fishing promotes fly fishing. So NO.

Cliff Nigh: No. So much water to fish. There’s room for everyone.

**“Good idea. In Michigan over
1,000 miles of trout streams are
‘fly only.’ “ Mac Richardson**

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Yes; next question.

Is fly fishing therapeutic? It is, rewarding us physically, mentally and emotionally. Take a good look at this post about a new film – 30 reasons – which tells the story of an injured vet and his quest to travel the world and catch 30 different species of fish with a fly rod. That’s a challenge for anyone. But did I mention that our vet is a quadruplegic? Thanks for the link, Pat Damico.

([Project Healing Waters](#))

PHWFF Salutes SFF

Check out the pictures of our guys working with veterans at Fort DeSoto Park in March. ([Project Healing Waters](#))

Zikes

“Everything we look at with this virus seems to be a bit scarier than we initially thought.” That’s from an official of the CDC. Guys, it’s time to start paying attention. Because Zika. ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

And speaking of biting insects

Recently, while wade-fishing a mangrove shoreline with Steve Putbrese , I was attacked by no-see-ums. No problem. I opened a little sample of a special remedy and it sent them on their way. Welcome, Sunsect, to our family of Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers. ([Sunsect](#))

Catch and release...seagulls

Have you ever noticed how seagulls love to swoop down and bite your gurgler? The first rule is yank it away from them. But if you’re slow on the pickup then memorize these steps. ([Myfwc](#))

Way to go, Chico.

IGFA has inducted six new members to its prestigious IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame including...drum roll please...fly fisher, author and TV star Chico Fernandez. Fernandez has been in every Florida fly fisher’s imaginary hall of fame for a long, long time so now, in a way, IGFA has made it official. Fernandez was a headliner at last year’s Florida Fly Fishing Expo in Fort Lauderdale. ([IGFA](#))

Like, what could go wrong?

Maybe you’ve fished Michigan’s Ausable River. If so you’ll be interested to know that the state of Michigan and Crawford County have green-lighted a commercial fish farm near its headwaters. I know. Worrisome. Antibiotics. Genetics. Thanks for the heads up, Al Pitcher. ([Gink and Gasoline](#))

If you’re serious about fly fishing...

This is why you need to be in Livingston, Montana in early August. Make plans now for the International Fly Fishing Fair. If you’re going, let me know. We’ll want a write up and pictures for the newsletter. ([IFFF](#))

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The advertisement features a central illustration of a rainbow trout in a circular frame. The background is a dark green gradient. Text is arranged around the central image, providing contact information and service details for various locations.

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