

On The Fly

Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

Promoting fly fishing, fly tying, fly casting and marine conservation in a family fun atmosphere



Picnic Island Park. Good fun, good eating. P7



Somebody's first snook on a fly. P16



August Outing on Lake Maggiore. Bass, bream, snook, tarpon. Ribs for lunch. P9



Jon Hoegstrom fights a big amberjack with a 14-weight rod. Jon and friends landed (and lost) some big AJs and bonito. P17

On The Fly

August 2016 Volume 26, Issue 8

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President George Haseltine...



Stay in your club and help make us better

I am proud to be a member of the Suncoast Fly Fishers and associate with you who love fly fishing as much as I do!

This mutual admiration and the joy of our fellowship together was exemplified at our July general meeting. Even though the room was packed, I wish more people could have witnessed it.

The controversy surrounding our membership in the IFFF was brought to the floor as we needed a vote of approval to spend \$350 to renew our insurance through the IFFF. When the questions started, we stopped everything to address the membership issue.

Those in attendance who opposed it, presented their case in a stern, yet, civil, courteous, mature and family-like atmosphere. I was so impressed. We had a great debate. Nothing was changed because there is a due process for change. The money was approved. This was not a victory nor a defeat. We just followed the due process for continuance.

Thank you to those of you who renewed, even though under protest. You proved that your love for the SFF is greater than your dislike for the IFFF. Commendable!

FYI: The letter we sent out to our members who have not renewed was required by our by-laws, but we did not want it to be an impersonal form letter. We decided that my name would be attached to it so our friends would receive it from (and respond to) a person, not just a Board of Directors. We got many responses for which I am grateful. I respect each view point expressed, because I respect you.

To me the SFF is not just a "Club," we are an organization of likeminded people. To me the SFF is Alan Sewel, Ken Doty, Mark Hays, and John Craig, just to mention a few. I mention them because they are my original Grand Slam of fishing partners. Likewise, the IFFF is not "they;" it is Pat Damico, Dayle Mazzarella, Tom Gadacz and others. Because I have attended just about every clinic, general meeting, board meeting, outing committee meeting and outing event, I have gotten to know these men. It wasn't until I took my turn in service presiding over our Club that I saw and realized how much these men do for us.

I say to those of you who don't like it and choose to just go away. Don't go away. Don't stand on the outside and throw rocks. Work within the system to change things. Why not start the process to change it? A proposal, a petition or something within our by-laws whereby we change things. Why deny us your fellowship? It is a lose/lose situation.

Most of us joined to fish. Ok, we can do that and still disagree on some things. Truk and the outing committee are doing a tremendous job of finding locations and providing lunches every month. Let's break bread together at water's edge and work our way through things as a family would do.

Never lose your sense of adventure

George

George Haseltine
SFF President 2016-17

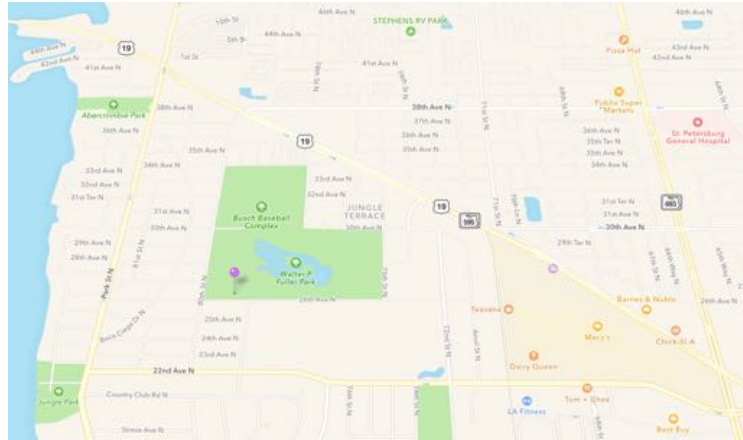
Calendar: Meetings & Outings

Monthly Meetings: Third Thursday of every month (except December) at St. Pete's **Walter Fuller Park Rec Center**. 6 to 8:30 pm. Guests are welcome.

Monthly Outings: The Saturday after the third Thursday of every month in different locations, saltwater and freshwater, with a picnic lunch at noon.

Thursday, August 18, meeting

- 6 pm. Practice casting. Bring your fly rod.
- Tie-a-thon. Bring your vise and materials and tie fresh water flies. Capt. Dan demos knots, Alan Sewell builds leaders.
- Hey! Free pizza from Joto's
- Panel discussion on how to fish Lake Maggiore, the site of our August outing.
- BBQ Rib Challenge signup: Is your recipe the best ever? Sign up for the taste-test at Lake Maggiore.
- Fly swap. If you're signed up bring your three bass/bream sub surface fresh water flies to swap for three tied by somebody else.



Directions to our meetings at Walter Fuller Park Rec Center
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

Saturday, August 20 Outing

- Lake Maggiore St. Petersburg
- Lunch: BBQ Rib Challenge. Who makes the best ribs? Bring your ribs to the competition. Bruce Evensen and John Craig will judge. Game on.

Thursday, September 15 meeting

- JoEllen Wilson of **Bonefish & Tarpon Trust** will speak about her organization's project to map juvenile tarpon habitat for more targeted conservation.

Saturday, September 17 Outing

- Chassahowitzka River

Thursday, October 20 Meeting

- Nanette O'Hara, Outreach Coordinator for the **Tampa Bay Estuary Program**, will speak about programs and progress restoring sea grasses and other habitat.

Saturday, October 22, Outing

- Carl Hanson Tournament Outing, Hillsborough River, hosted by Suncoast Fly Fishers

November 4-5 **Florida Council Expo.**

- **Plantation Inn on Crystal River**

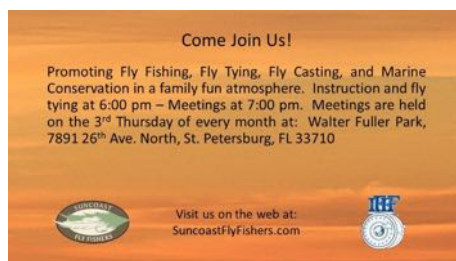
November 20 – Big gun shootout at Picnic Island Park

News 'n' Notes

We're a growing club

- Suncoast Fly Fishers now has 143 members including 24 family memberships and five honorary members.
- The time to renew your membership is fast approaching. Membership dues are payable during September for the 2016 - 2017 period. Send in your check or pay at the August or September meetings to continue to get the newsletter and enjoy other club

Check out our club's new business card



Front (left) and back of card. Thanks to Karen and Rick Warfel for managing design and printing

Project Healing Waters for Fly Fishing. Volunteers needed.

- PHWFF outing Wednesday, Aug. 17 at Fort DeSoto Parks' Arrowhead Picnic Area.
- Volunteers needed. Contact John Craig or Terry Kirkpatrick if you can help.

How to be a great fly caster

One of the huge benefits to belonging to Suncoast Fly Fishers is the opportunity to get casting lessons for nothing or next to nothing.

- Capt. Pat Damico and Dayle Mazzarella, both IFFF Master Casting Instructors, will be heading up casting clinics for members of the SFF and the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. The next one, hosted by TBFFC, will likely be held at Picnic Island Park in late November or early December.
- Also this fall SFF members will have several opportunities to participate in free casting clinics at Egan Field in St. Pete Beach. Organized by Tom Gadacz, the clinics are scheduled from 6 to 8 pm on Sept. 12, Sept. 26, Oct. 10, Oct. 24, Nov. 7, Nov. 28, and Dec. 12.
- And furthermore, Picnic Island Park is again the venue for The Big Gun Shootout to determine who can hit the targets and cast farther. TBFFC is the host. When? On a Sunday (TBD) in November.

Been to the SFF website lately? WWW.SUNCOASTFLYFISHERS.COM

An encouraging new effort to fix Lake Okeechobee. A petition is going around – and it has a lot of support -- that deserves your serious consideration. A tip of the hat to Tom Gadacz for the alert on this. Also, this was a hot topic of discussion at the sportfishing trade show in Orlando in mid-July. (Gladesdeclaration.com)

Fly Tying Sessions Coming soon. Bruce Evensen is going to start holding a fly tying session one evening each month starting in September. The first three months will be focused on members who are new to fly tying. Bruce will have more information at the August meeting. If anyone has any fly tying materials that they would like to donate, please bring them to the monthly meetings.

Used Gear for Sale

- 16-ft Gheenoe with a Johnson 4.8 and trailer. Email Bruce Carlton or phone him at [727-772-3976](tel:727-772-3976). Got used fly gear that you no longer use? Offer it for sale here. Email Bill AuCoin at wmaucoin@verizon.net

Question (and Answers) for Suncoast Fly Fishers

The July meeting question was...

Assume that you're fishing saltwater somewhere in Florida. If you had only one fly in your fly box, which fly would it be. And why?

Your Answers

Mark Hays: Lou Tabory Snake Fly in white.
(Paul Sequira's Tying Bench instructions)



Lou Tabory Snake Fly. Midcurrent.com

Hilton Bruch: Chartreuse and white Clouser.
It works!

Bob Morrison: Chartreuse and white Clouser

Alan Sewell: Conehead Clouser with a brown top and white body

Bill Scarola: Chartreuse and white -with pink- Clouser.

Darryn Manley: White and red popper. It may not always work but when it does it will be good.

Duane Mertz: Chartreuse Clouser

Joe Corr: White/Chartreuse Clouser

Quin Berry: White and chartreuse Clouser

Bob Burkard: White and chartreuse Clouser

Arthur Birnkrant: Color for Spanish mackerel

Terry Kirkpatrick: White bucktail behind a spinner.

Think about it: Next Question for the August meeting:

How do we get more young people seriously interested in and committed to fly fishing? What's the best age for a young person to start to learn fly fishing?



What's the best age to start?

Capt. Dan Bumgarner shares secrets at the July meeting...

Spanish Mackerel on the Fly

Slash attack

Macks have no swim bladder; they breathe by ram-ventilation. As a consequence, they must swim 24-7; if they stop they die. This also governs the way that the mackerel family strikes its prey. Rather than the typical inhaling strike of most fish, the macks utilize speed and extremely sharp teeth in a slashing attack.

Light wire bite tippet

The slashing attack brings us to the next point which is how to protect against cut-offs. We can accomplish this in two ways. First we can utilize a short piece of light wire as a bite tippet. [Here is an excellent link to a video](#) on how to use the haywire twist and the Albright knot to attach the wire bite tippet and fly to your leader



Capt. Dan Bumgarner tied his long-shanked Spanish mackerel fly and gave members tips on how to find and catch these high-speed flash and slash fish.



For Spanish mackerel Capt. Dan ties a Clouser in different colors but they all have long shanked hooks to help keep the sharp teeth of the mackerel as far away from the tippet as possible.

Long shanked hooks

Another alternative is to modify our flies to reduce cut-offs. This can be done by tying our flies on long shank hooks and placing the materials well back near the bend of the hook. It would also be advisable to use a 30-pound bite tippet in front of the modified fly.

Where to find them

One way to find schools of Spanish mackerel is to cruise in an area watching for diving birds or fish crashing on the surface as they feed on bait schools. This of course is quite obvious but macks will also give themselves away in a less spectacular jump as they leap high out of the water their streamlined shape hardly making a splash.

Another technique is to anchor up in an area with good tidal flow and deploy a chum bag. This will attract a lot of activity right behind your boat. You can supercharge this activity by also throwing a few handfuls of live minnows into the mix. This may not be the purest form of the art of fly fishing but it will work.

Capt. Dan

Tampa Bay Charter Fishing

Snapshots from the July outing

Picnic Island Park. Good Fun

The grass flats and sand bottom areas around Tampa's Picnic Island Park didn't deliver many fish at our July outing. But there were many well-fed and cheery fly fishers at lunch with thanks for chef Alan Sewell.



Dennis Marquis worked the beach from sunup until mid-morning then fished the grass flats on the East side of the park.



Robert Fischer fished the Gandy Bridge and scored big time on mangrove snapper.

Below, Layne Smith gets the last of Alan's delicious pig-enhanced bean dish.



Duane Mertz (l) and J. R. Dubler waded the mangrove shoreline at first light. On one of his first casts Dubler (r) had a snook blow up on his fly but then action pretty much slowed down to zilch.



Lizard fish were not the designated species



We are **Suncoast Fly Fishers**

Suncoast Fly Fishers

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

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 -- Tom Trukenbrod

Committees

Volunteers needed. Please speak to any officer or director at the meeting

Casting Skills -- Pat Damico, MCI, Dayle Mazzarella, MCI
IFFF Liaison -- Pat Damico
Fly Tying -- Myron Hansen
Membership -- Karen Warfel
New Members - Rick Warfel
Webmaster -- Dick Miekka
Hog Roast Karen+Rick Warfel
Outings/Lunches - Tom Trukenbrod, Bob Burkard
Project Healing Waters -- John Craig, Terry Kirkpatrick, Alan Sewell
Raffles -- Dave Barson
Programs -- Bd of Directors
Newsletter -- 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.

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



Tom "Truk" Trukenbrod

Suncoast Fly Fishers Outing Reviews and Previews and Annual Tournament Update

*The SFF Outing Committee is co-chaired by Tom
"Truk" Trukenbrod and Bob Burkard with
support from John Craig and Dan Bumgarner*



Bob Burkard

REVIEW: Picnic Island Park

SATURDAY July 23, 2016

Fishing in middle Tampa Bay

Target species: Spanish Mackerel

We all had a great day fishing. Picnic Island is a great destination. The breeze certainly helped cool us on the hot summer day. There were waders, kayakers, and boaters. Spanish mackerel was our designated species; alas, there were no mackerel caught and very few fish of any species were caught during the morning. Does a puffer count? Long story short: there are no changes to the annual tournament tally. We had 31 sign-ups and everyone showed up --WOW --plus two later arrivals for a total of 33.

Alan Sewell provided another terrific lunch with his homemade bean dish, sandwiches and watermelon. As always, Alan, thanks. Here's the BBQ Beans recipe which he kindly shared.

Truk

Alan's BBQ Beans Recipe

1 lb bacon, chopped, cooked and drained

1 lb sausage, cooked and drained

1 lb low fat sirloin, cooked and drained

1 can each, drained

Pork 'n' Beans

kidney Beans

Pinto Beans

Great Northern Beans

Navy Beans

Black Beans

1 cup BBQ sauce (I use North Carolina style, made with vinegar base)

2 tbsl mustard

2 tbsl vinegar, unless sauce has vinegar.

1/2 tsp red pepper

1/4 tsp cumin

1 cup brown sugar

1 onion copped and cooked

HEAT OVEN @350* MIX INGREDIENTS AND

COOK FOR 40 MINUTES.

2016 OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS THROUGH JULY

| Species | Length | Leader to date | Outing caught |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Longest bass - Longest sunfish | 24-inches | Bruce Carlton | Walsingham Lake (March) |
| Longest sea trout Longest redfish | 17.75-inches | Bruce Carlton | Urban Outing (May) |
| Longest snook Longest ladyfish | 23.5-inches 18.5-inches | Ken Hofmeister Mark Hays | Dockight outing (June) Urban Outing (May) |

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 De Soto Park.

Saturday, August 20 Outing Preview: Lake Maggiore, St. Pete

- **Monthly outing tournament targets are bass and bream**

Lake Maggiore is a new addition to our outings since we have received reports that, after years of poor fishing results, nice fish are now being caught. This is a fresh water fishery. Good size bass have been landed as well as snook, reds, and of course bream. BUT, a large sign at the boat ramp says, “No Hunting or Trapping of Alligators Allowed.” So, boats (5 MPH), kayaks, and careful (extremely careful) fishing from shore. The boat ramp is on Martin Luther King Street So. (9th street So.) at the south end of the park

Truk



Lunch at 11 am. BBQ Rib Challenge for the August Outing

Bob Burkard has issued a challenge. He claims his BBQ Ribs are better than yours. You can prove him wrong. Make some ribs with your special recipe. Sign up at the August meeting. John Craig and Bruce Evensen will do the taste test. Entries will be judged on taste and presentation.

- Entry must be BBQ / Smoked Baby-back or St. Louis ribs
- Entry must include a least 1 rack of ribs
- Sauce is optional, whatever you prefer
- Bring your cooked ribs to the picnic. We do not have grill, but we will have a “cooler” where we can place them to keep them warm
- Judges will be given a 2 rib sample from each entry
- Prizes to be awarded for 1st and 2nd places

Bob Burkard

Members Share Their Tips for Fishing Lake Maggiore

You can catch bass and bream, of course, but you might also catch snook and tarpon

Ken Doty, George Haseltine and Mark Hays have been scouting Lake Maggiore for several weeks. They know that spiders have not worked; neither have live worms or crickets. (Don't ask how they know.) The locals catch plenty of shellcrackers with grass shrimp but this is not our option.

Last week Ken and Mark tried larger baits. Ken caught three nice bass and lost two more with a large popper. Mark caught one nice bass on a #1 streamer fly and jumped a 10 lb snook on a Spook plug. It would seem that large baits early in the a.m. are the ticket to success.

As the lake has many weedy and mossy areas a weed guard would help. They also saw at least 10 small 5 – 15 lb. tarpon rolling. Mark will be leaving his 4 weight home. The launching ramp is new and is reached by turning into the park at the brush dump access road. This is the furthest road south in the park. There is some shoreline fishing but no wading. The lake was posted to this effect but the alligators took the signs down. **(Mark Hays)**

At the boat ramp there is a warning not to hunt or trap alligators in the lake. I can attest that wading is out of the question. Fishermen can catch bream, crappie, tilapia, snook and even tarpon. Gear up from 3 to 9 wt. Heavy foliage around the shoreline. **(Alan Sewell)**

There are some nice snook in there. That's what I'd fish for. Go early, look for "structure." Polar fiber minnows would be my first choice. **(David Putnam)**

There is no wading. Boat ramp is at south end of picnic area. Enter at the trash site entrance. Use your best go-to fly. **(Ken Doty)**



Lake Maggiore. What? Not the lake you were picturing?

The only Lake Maggiore I've been to is in Italy. Stunning mountains and incredible medieval and Renaissance architecture. **(Andy Constantinou)**

Capt. Dan tied his Spanish mackerel Clouser at the July meeting



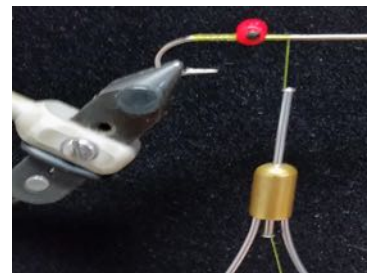
This is a Clouser but it's a Clouser tied to protect your leader from the sharp teeth of a slashing mackerel. This can be done by using long shank hooks and placing the materials near the bend of the hook. Also, it's best to use 30-pound bite tippet. I have

tied these in all white but have found that the old reliable chartreuse and white to be the better choice.

Tying Sequence:

Step. 1 Remove the offset from a number 2 long shank hook and mount it in the vice. Lay down a thread base from just in front of the hook point back to the bend of the hook.

Step. 2. Attach a set of medium barbell eyes just ahead of the hook point. Apply tying cement to the wraps and eyes.



Use a long shank hook and place eyes and materials toward the bend of the hook.



Capt. Dan ties his modified Clouser in chartreuse and white but also in white-white.

Step. 3. Select a bundle of white supreme hair about the thickness of a match stick and about one and a half to two times the hook length. Tie in just in front of the eyes and bind down over top of the eyes and back to the bend of the hook. Wrap the thread back to the tie in point in front of the eyes.

Step 4. Invert the fly and tie in a few pieces of flash down each side. Select another bundle of olive or chartreuse supreme hair about the same size as the first and tie it in on top of the flash.

Step 5. Whip finish and apply head cement.

Capt. Dan



It doesn't look like much, but this is a pattern that will take fish under a wide variety of conditions. As with so many patterns, the secret is to fish it with confidence. To that end this is a pattern that begs for a bit of personalization.

MATERIALS:

Hook: Mustad 3906b or similar 1XL heavy wire wet fly or nymph hook.

Thread: Black or orange Flatwaxed Nylon (or your favorite thread).

Body: Dubbed orange rabbit, squirrel or synthetic or a mix of the three.

Hackle: Hungarian partridge, yellow pheasant rump, natural game hackle, hen hackle or anything else that's soft and webby.

Head: Black or orange thread head coated with UV Resin or a bead head (black, brass or fluorescent orange), or a cone head (same choices), or peacock herl or even no head at all ... the choice is yours.

TYING INSTRUCTIONS:

Note: I am demonstrating this tying procedure with a thread head coated with UV Resin ... if you choose to do a bead or cone head then you would want to slide either of those onto your hook and solidify its position with a few thread wraps tucked up inside the cavity of the bead or cone and add a drop or two of head cement or UV Resin and cure to keep it in place.

A lot of materials will work for the body of the fly. I use anything from an orange synthetic yarn (I Love This Yarn brand in color #200) to stock orange dubbing, fluorescent dubbing such as Senyo's Laser Dub, and complex custom blends featuring several materials. At the end of the day the only thing that matters is a golden, natural carrot orange applied in a tidy, tapered tubular shape.

Step 1: Pick the dubbing of your choice and thin it out to attach to hook.

Step 2: Dub your thread starting with a thin amount then building it up.

Step 3: Form a neatly tapered body that doesn't crowd the hook eye.

Step 4: Select a well-marked hackle feather. I like partridge, but pheasant, hen hackle, mallard breast or dyed wood duck all work well.



Step 5: As with any soft hackle, you need to leave room for the hackle barbs to move and swim. Sparse is a good guideline, but I'll often tie a carp fly slightly fuller than I would an equivalently sized bluegill fly.

Step 6: One or two wraps is all it will take. Don't make this pattern any more complicated that absolutely necessary. If you take more than 10 minutes to tie one, you're working too hard.

Smitty

Tom Gadacz: E. G. Simmons Youth Fishing Camp



The next **Joan Wulff**? Could be. More girls are joining up for summer camp fly casting instruction than in previous years.

Suncoast Fly Fishers participated in the Hillsborough County Saltwater Fishing Camp at the E. G. Simmons Park in Ruskin.

We had only one session on June 16 with 40 youths. The July 12 session was cancelled because a tanker had been leaking oil from the southbound lane of the Skyway Bridge.

We covered an introduction to fly fishing, compared fly fishing to spin casting, and discussed types of waters to fly fish, flies, and fly fishing techniques and equipment. Some of the youths did have a previous

experience fly fishing. We explained and demonstrated the casting stroke, the clock, and the pick-up and laydown.

After some practicing with 8' 6" 5 wt rods, they cast 30 feet to targets which included hula hoops, pot dishes, and V crossed stakes. We put out an array of rainbow loops for a few who could not resist distant casting. Most did demonstrate some good casts and enjoyed the exposure to fly casting. This was our fifth year participating in this Fishing Camp and each year there has been an increase in the number of girls.



Ken Hofmeister and a future fly casting champion



For the fifth year in a row Suncoast Fly Fishers have helped boys and girls learn how to cast a fly rod. This year SFF coaches at the E. G. Simmons Park in Ruskin were Tom Gadacz, Jeff Heer, Ken Hofmeister, and Tom Trukenbrod.

We thank Dave Ramirez, Recreation Program Supervisor, Parks and Recreation Department, for the opportunity to participate in the camp and greatly appreciated the help of the camp counselors.

Equipment for this program was purchased with a grant from Fish Florida with the support of Lara Kramer.

Tom

Tom Gadacz, President, IFFF Florida Council.
Board Member, Suncoast Fly Fishers

Chapter two...

Bob Burkard: Do Snook Prefer Jigs over Clousers?

Early on a summer morning Bob Burkard caught eight snook in a row at the north end of Honeymoon Island. Seven of them came on a spinning rod throwing a jig. Only one was caught on a fly rod but Bob had to tie on a jig and fling it out into the water. Don't tell anybody. So, eight snook on a jig but none on a fly. What 's going on?



Now Bob is on a mission to tie flies that are just as good or better at catching snook as those heavy jigs. He and like-minded, curious researchers are testing Clousers and sand flea flies, all tied with heavy eyes.

One early Sunday morning Bill AuCoin joined Burkard at the north end of Honeymoon Island and started fishing with jigs and fly rods. AuCoin caught two small snook on a jig and another on his fly rod with a Clouser. Bob caught a huge speckled trout on a sand flea fly.

On the next weekend Burkard fished the same spot and three times he hooked into something big that broke him off. Two times on a jig. One time on a fly. Still no verdict. Research continues.



Bill AuCoin caught this snook on a big, sinking Clouser tied by Bob Burkard. Below, Burkard prepares to cast to nervous water.



Something huge wanted all of Burkard's fly line and backing. Luckily, the leader broke.



Bob with a sizeable seatrout caught on a heavy-eyed sand flea fly. Below, Bob wades the water at North Honeymoon beach.

Peter Smith: First Snook on the Fly



Capt. Dan Bumgarner's grandson Peter Smith wants to thank Alan Sewell for his sage advice. Alan told him to fish the surf at Fort DeSoto Park and he was right. Here's proof, Peter with his first line-sider on the fly. Capt. Dan said this was just one of four snook that Peter tangled with that morning.

Andy Constantinou: Big Carp on Smitty's Dog Biscuit Fly

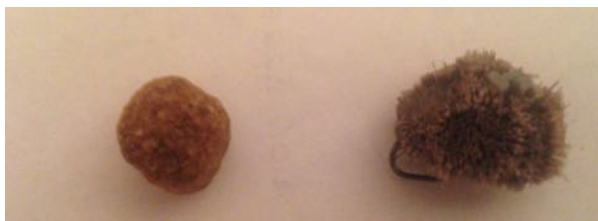


"I had a very great time at Manor Farm, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire today. My friend John and I caught nine carp each weighing approximately 12 to 25 lb.

Yes, all on the dog biscuit fly tied by Smitty (thank you Smitty).

We photographed them in the 30-inch diameter landing net which makes them look

a bit small.



Dog food pellet (l) and Layne (Smitty) Smith's imitation. Carp love it. Just ask Andy.



Bigger than it looks

Ron Hill: Jumping Tarpon off Anna Maria



In late July Ron Hill got into tarpon just off the Anna Marina Island beach. He was using a Scott 12 weight rod. Ron said he jumped this tarpon on a tan double bunny fly.

Jon Hoegstrom and friends: Bonito. Jack Crevalle. And Amberjacks So Big They Break Your Fly Line. Aaaaarrgghh

Here are some photos from a trip three of us took to throw some flies offshore for a change from our normal inshore venues.



Brother-in-Law Mark Godcharles with an amberjack that didn't get away.

We went out about 30 miles West of Anna Maria to a natural spring in the Gulf with my old friend **Captain Billy Nobles**.

After chumming a bit, the action started with jacks and bonitos and then segued into AJs.



Gene Proulx and Mark with a not-so-little tunny



Jon battles a huge AJ with a 14-weight rod. The AJ won.

The last photo is me, 20-ish minutes into a fight on a 14-wt fly rod with a very, very big AJ that ended with the breaking of the Rio Leviathan fly line.

When I asked Billy how big do you think that was, he said, "It can be as big as you want"

Jon

Bob Morrison: Fly Fishing How-To



Hit the Beaches. Early.

Snap-Swivel and Done -- If you ever want to change flies quickly while fishing, you might add a small snap-swivel to your leader tippet. This swivel will permit you to change a fly more quickly than cutting off the attached fly and then tying on the second fly. This method could be helpful to people like me, with diminishing eyesight and clumsy fingers that take forever to tie a simple loop knot.

Coquina is the key -- I am told that pompano in the surf are feeding on the coquina, a small clam only slightly larger than a man's pinky fingernail, and about the same shape. You can use white and pink deer belly hair alternately to spin-tie this fly on a Mustad hook of size one or two. Add two 3/4-inch long tan chenille tails at the hook bend for realistic effect. Tie this fly with the hook riding up and with the tails tied on the hook bend so as to point upward. Use alternating spins of pink and white belly hair to give a striped appearance. Add a small dumbbell eye for weight in the middle of the hook shank while tying on the belly hair. This fly is a producer for both pompano and anything else that might be in the surf.

Magic Markers go both ways -- I noticed that pinfish have horizontal as well as vertical stripes. You can make these stripes with yellow and pink markers to add realism.

Flies should stand out in a crowd -- On the opposite side of the coin, tie some flies that contrast with the natural look which will make your fly stand out in a crowd of natural bait rather than get lost in the crowd. This kind of fly works especially well with crabs. Remember, a wise man once said that "It doesn't always have to look like food, it just has to act like food."

Go Get 'Em, Good Luck.

Bob



Whatever it takes, I'm going fishing
Thanks for sharing, Smitty

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #81



Is your fly rod/reel/line outfit balanced?

By Capt. Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor

Recently, I had two students, fishing buddies, together for their first casting lesson. At my request they brought their equipment for me to check. I was not able to assemble one reasonably balanced outfit with everything they had. They had 4-5 weight rods, only one that was ok, allowing me to give them one of my reels. I gave the second student one of my complete outfits for the session. They fished for trout and bass with this "stuff," constantly telling me of their success with spinning tackle. We have very expensive fly tackle today, but there is excellent well balanced gear available that is very reasonably priced. Much of it available from other fly club members at a considerable saving. Have your instructor examine what you have and follow his suggestions if you need different equipment. At the end of the first lesson, both were casting much better with one-fourth of their original effort.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

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

Captain's Corner: via **Tampa Bay Times**

Floating seagrass impediment to fly fishing

By Pat Damico, Tampa Bay Times Correspondent

Besides oppressive heat, this time of year floating weeds and grass are things to contend with when fishing with a fly rod. If we don't make a fly look natural, fish will refuse it. Green stuff on the fly hook will always get a refusal. Flies that represent baitfish must be moved through the water to look natural. Select fly patterns that have the hook pointed up with relatively stiff hair extending past the hook bend, thus giving a weedless option. If weeds are on the surface, use a weighted fly and even a sink tip line that will get your offering deeper, thus avoiding the weeds. Clouser minnows and bendbacks are good examples. Floating flies can also have the hook point upward that are completely protected. Examples are mouse patterns tied with deer hair. If you tie your flies or have a fly tyer who keeps you supplied, use a strand of 20- or 30-pound hard monofilament tied in at the head to protect the hook point. Single strand wire is also an effective alternative, especially for darker flies. Flies that encourage strikes with little movement are also a great choice; crab, shrimp and sand flea imitations fit the bill. Before casting, wait for an opening in the grass and pay attention to wind and tide. Accuracy really is important. Your fly should hit an open spot that is weed free. Practice casting to targets in your back yard to improve your ability to hit a small spot. When fishing canals or channels, the windward side will frequently have all the debris, leaving the other side open. Catch and release beach fishing is another great option, targeting fish in the wash close to the sand, usually a weed-free zone.

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Big winners at ICAST and IFTD. I spent a day at the International Fly Tackle Dealer Show at the Orlando Convention Center in July. This is where fly gear companies display and talk-up next year's product line to 15,000 reps and retailers. IFTD is the fly fishing portion of the huge ICAST show managed by the American Fly Fishing Trade Association and the American Sportfishing Association. ([AFTTA](#), [ASA](#))

Familiar Faces. I met up with Blake Young of Nu-Canoe and thanked him for providing our club with a product discount for our Hog Roast fund raiser. While there I spotted Steve Gibson of [Southern Drawl Kayak Fishing](#) in Sarasota. He is really high on the new *Pursuit* model which is stable...and fast! ([Nu-Canoe](#))

Stu, is that you? I chatted up Stu Apte whose name now brands a new series of Tycoon Fly Rods. And I thanked him for pioneering saltwater fishing and tarpon-on-the-fly techniques. ([Stu Apte](#))

Lefty had left the building. I couldn't find Lefty Kreh to thank him for all that he has done for fly fishing. Actually, I wasn't sure if he was at the show. Specifically, I wanted to tell him how much I am learning from the video lessons I'm watching of "The Complete Cast." Lefty and Ed Jaworowski worked together on this project produced by Temple Fork Outfitters. It is the gift that keeps on giving. ([The Complete Cast](#))

Folding kayak. It didn't win the best of show award for kayaks but I would have voted for it. You can fold it up and keep it in the garage. When traveling you don't have to leave it on top of your vehicle; just carry it up to your room like a suitcase. ([Formex](#))

Best of Show. Each year buyers and media get to vote for the best new gear for the year in a number of sportfishing categories. Here are some of the fly gear winners:

Best new flats wading boot. [Shimano American](#)

Best new eyewear: [Rafael](#) by Costa del Mar

Best new fly reel: Pflueger [President](#)

Best new fly rod: [Mojo Bass Fly](#) by St. Croix

Best new fly fishing accessory: [Retractable Fly Box](#) by Boomerang Tools

Best hard lure. [3D Suicide Duck](#) by Savage Gear USA. You'd have to switch to some extra-heavyweight fly-casting tackle to get this duck lookalike in front of a lunker. Hey, maybe this is the "fly" that takes back the Carl Hanson trophy from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Just saying...



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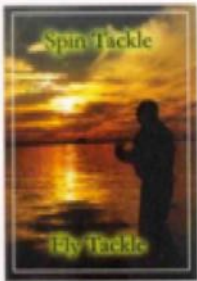
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The advertisement features a central image of a rainbow trout in a circular frame. The background is a dark green gradient. Text is arranged around the central image, providing contact information and details about guided fishing trips and casting lessons in Wyoming, San Diego, and Tampa.

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