

# On The Fly

## Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

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



Dayle Mazzarella took the lead at the 2016 Casting Clinic at Picnic Island Park. P13



Does this fly sorta look like somebody we've seen on TV? P16

# On The Fly

December 2016 Volume 26, Issue 12



The Big Gun Shootout. John Craig takes aim at the hoop. P15

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## ***SFF President Letter – November 2016***



### ***It's just a fly rod. Oh?***

Bamboo or fiberglass, or graphite and cork;  
Reel seat and eye guides a true craftsman's work.  
TFO or Orvis, Redbone or Sewell,  
A perfect prescription for life changing renewal.  
It will make your heart race and your blood pressure go down,  
It will bring joy to your heart, and get you out of town.

From whence comes such peace? It's just a fly rod.  
Test the balance, the flex, and your soul it will prod.  
Salt water, fresh water, brackish or not;  
The experience will always turn out to be more than you thought.

### **Happy Holidays, Everyone.**

I hope you'll be surrounded by loved ones at this joyous time of year and Santa brings everything you ask for.

There's no general meeting this month, but I'll look for you at our Don Coleman, Fort DeSoto Park outing. Details are all over this fine publication. Food, fun, and fellowship is what we're all about. Be there. We need you. Without ya there's a "you" shaped vacuum. Mother Nature hates a vacuum.

If you need anything to help get you there, just call me 727-423-8110. We're trying to find a way to partner up boat owners with those who don't have a boat, but there's plenty of wading places in the meantime. There's no better way to find a fishing partner than attending our outings.

Check out our website. Dick Miekka, Bob Burkard, Rick Yarn and crew have been working on updating it. We even have a new calendar. [Check it out!](#)

We've had a great year and there's another one to come. Thanks to all of you who make it happen.

I encourage any of you who have been just observing to jump in and help with anything and everything you enjoy doing.

Never lose your sense of adventure.

*George*

George Haseltine, Proud to Serve as SFF President 2016-17

## Calendar: Club 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 (usually) at noon.

**Dues are due. Credit cards accepted.** We now have 147 members including 24 family memberships and five honorary members. Membership dues for 2016-2017 were due in September. See Karen Warfel at the January meeting or fill out the form on page 6 and mail your check to the club to continue to get the *On The Fly* newsletter and enjoy other benefits and activities. SFF now accepts credit cards on site at SFF events (meetings, outings, Trash and Treasures, Hog Roast, etc.) for payment of membership dues and virtually all other payments to SFF.

### NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

#### Saturday, December 17, Club outing Don Coleman Invitational

- Fort DeSoto Park
- \$100 for the raffle winner
- Chili cook-off.

### Planning Ahead -- 2017

#### Thursday, January 19 Meeting.

- Trash 'n' Treasures with auctioneer Alan Sewell.
- Nominating committee will be announced.

#### Saturday, January 21 Outing.

- Bay Vista Park, 4<sup>th</sup> Street S. and Pinellas Point Drive.

#### Thursday, February 16 Meeting.

- Tie-a-Thon featuring salt water flies, knots and leader tying.
- Free pizza
- Slate of officers and board members announced; nominations from floor welcome.

#### Saturday, February 18 Outing

- Walsingham Lake County Park, 12615 102<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N.

#### Thursday, March 16 Meeting.

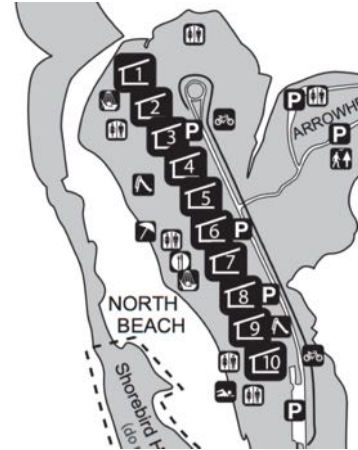
- Dayle Mazzarella, speaker.
- Election of new officers and board members.

#### Saturday, March 18 Outing

- Cypress Point Park, 5620. W. Cypress St. Tampa.

#### April 1. (No foolin') Annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction

- Treasure Island Municipal Auditorium.
- Featured Speaker --Chico Fernandez.
- Dress casual (well, not that casual).



*Fort DeSoto Park Outing  
Lunch 11:45, Meet at Shelter4 in  
North Beach picnic area.*



*Seasons greetings, fly fishers. Tree  
ornament and fly by Paul Sequira.*

**For more information view the Club Calendar**  
in the Outings and Events section of our website, [www.suncoastflyfishers.com](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com)

## News 'n' Notes



### **Bryon Chamberlain fly-casts 123 feet, four-inches**

Bryon Chamberlain of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club won the Big Gun Shootout at Picnic Island Park Nov. 20 with a fly cast of 123-foot, 4-inches. Dave Olson was second with a cast of 120 feet, nine inches. And Dave Choinard was third with a cast of 119-feet, two inches. (More on the Big Gun Shootout on Page 15)

### **Introduction to Fly Casting, St. Pete Beach**

Tom Gadacz and Brian Clark will continue offering free fly casting lessons into 2017 on the second and fourth month of each month. 6-8 pm. Egan Field, 9101 Blind Pass Road, St. Pete Beach. Sign up at the St. Pete Beach Community Center or call 727-363-9345.

### **Thursday, January 25, 2017, Introduction to Fly Tying**

Suncoast Fly Fisher Bruce Evensen restarts his monthly Introduction to Fly Tying class on Thursday, January 25, 7 pm. Fly tiers will meet in the conference room at High Performance Plumbing Services at 4450 Morris Street in St. Petersburg. Classes will continue on the fourth Thursday of each month. At the monthly meetings (on the third Thursday of each month) Bruce will announce the name of the fly that will be tied that month.

## Used Gear for Sale

### **Bill Scarola is selling his NUCANOE**

NuCanoe, 2 seats, three seat mounts, one custom made, two paddles (one is carbon fiber very light weight), trolling motor mount kit for the stern, 36-inch ruler attached. Fold up cart. Scupper plugs. \$1200. Call Bill Scarola 732-740-7538.



### **Ken Doty is selling his Gheenoe**

Gheenoe, 15 foot Highsider. Galvanized trailer. Boat cover. 55lb thrust Minn-Kota trolling motor with auto pilot. 8 hp Mercury outboard. \$2200. Never in saltwater. Call Ken at 526-4753.

### **J. R. Dubler's Bamboo Fly Rod Kit. Never used.**

Vintage Circa 1945-52 Ebusu Split Bamboo Fly Rod Kit. Never Used, Set in Original box. Includes: 4 fishing sections plus 1 extra tip, original flies and hooks in original wrappers, encased in wood box. Material: Split Bamboo, Cork Handle, Nickel Plated Metal. Size: 96" or 64" Long. Excellent Condition-Never Used. Great Collector's item. Listed at \$299.00 – Make offer. J.R. Dubler 813-843-3737.

### **Bruce Evensen has fly gear and flies for sale. Call him at 727-403-9010**

- 7-8 weight Van Staal fly reel, brand new in the box; never used, \$430.
- Okuma fly reel. 7-9 weight. 2 extra spools. Reel and spools have 20# backing. \$75.
- Thousands of flies from \$1 to \$6 each.

## Capt. Pat Damico: Ask him anything

Capt. Pat Damico was our November meeting speaker and facilitated a back-and-forth discussion on fly fishing issues brought up by members at the meeting. He gave his frank opinions on those matters, too.

Questions and Pat's answers (paraphrased) are in italics...

When is the best time to go fishing? *Do you want to go fishing or not? Just go. That said, look at tide charts. Understand what they mean. If you have negative tides it's a good time to look around, scout for drop-offs. If a cold front is on the way, it's usually a very good time to fish because fish will be feeding. When a high pressure system dominates it's usually not the best time for catching fish. Have a log of each trip. Note conditions, what worked and what didn't.*



Do you wear waders in the winter? *I wear them in the winter and summer, especially in the summer because of bacteria.*

How important is the quality of the fly rod? *It's important but probably not as important as having a balanced outfit. That said, a lot of people do get a lot of satisfaction fishing with high end rods and reels.*

What's the best way to build a leader? *I use four feet of 40-pound test for the butt, two feet of 30-pound test for the middle, and two feet of 20-pound test for the tippet. All Ande. For sharp toothed fish you may also need to add a bite tippet. One of the objectives is to have a leader that lets you deliver the fly smoothly.*

When they sell leaders they are usually categorized as 1X, 2X, 4X, 6X and so forth. How do those relate to leader strength? *The higher you go the lighter the leader. Roughly speaking, a 4X leader tests at 6 pounds. A 6X leader tests at 2 pounds.*

How do you care for your equipment? *Clean your fly line with a rag with warm, soapy water. Ivory soap; must be non-detergent. Wipe with a clean, wet cloth, then a dry cloth. I store the rods horizontally in one piece so they're already assembled and ready to put in the boat. Rinse rods thoroughly with a hose using a fine spray on all reel parts after each use. Occasionally take the spool off reel and clean and lubricate according to manufacturers instructions.*

Do you use dressing on your fly line? *Yes, but only recommended ones, then wipe it off. By the way, when you get ready to fish don't forget to stretch the line to get rid of the coils.*

If you only had one fly to fish with what would it be? *Most members agree that a chartreuse over white Clouser minnow for saltwater.*

## Question of the Month

***What is the single best thing about catching a gamefish on the fly?***



Capt. Ray Markham: *Sight-fishing for gamefish on the fly is the epitome of the sport of fishing. The hunt-stalk-fooling the fish and landing it...it doesn't get any better.*

Duane Mertz: *The fight. I can feel every moment of the fish. Then having a clean release.*

Myron Hansen: *Sight-casting the docklights and catching a fish on a fly that I tied. Exciting!*



Jeff Kopelman: *The uncertainty of the catch.*

Hilton Bruch: *The electricity of the hit and having your hand in direct communication with the fish is the best.*

Ray Smith: *The fight and knowing you tied that fly that caught the fish.*

Tom Gadacz: *The excitement of being outdoors*

Peter Cline: *Watching it swim away!*

Bob Burkard: *Fly fishing is the most challenging kind of fishing. Catching a game fish is the most fun.*

Robert Morrison: *First, the hunt for the fish. Then, the fighting, landing, and looking at these beautiful creatures.*

Arthur Birnkrant: *When I was very young I enjoyed catching gamefish with flies. I expect it is the same now.*

Dick Miekka: *Landing it, then letting it go!*

Joe Tyrrell: *Fishless in 33 years.*



### SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

\*NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*CITY \_\_\_\_\_ \*STATE \_\_\_\_\_ \*ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*\*E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (SELECT ONE):

- INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP 1 YEAR - \$15
- FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 1 YEAR - \$25  
(INCLUDES PRIMARY MEMBER, SPOUSE OR COHABITATING PARTNER AND CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE)
- BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP 1 YEAR (INCLUDES MONTHLY BUSINESS CARD NEWSLETTER AD) - \$100

IF A CURRENT MEMBER OF FFF, ENTER YOUR FFF NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_.

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

- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP 1 year - \$35
- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP 3 year - \$90  
(General memberships include the primary member, spouse or cohabitating partner and children under 18 years of age)
- SENIOR (age 65 or over; provide date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ 1 year - \$25
- YOUTH (under age 22; provide date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ 1 year - \$20

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

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

**\*THIS INFORMATION IS SHOWN ON THE MEMBERSHIP LIST WHICH IS DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS ONLY AND IS NOT USED FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES. IF YOU DO NOT DESIRE THIS INFORMATION DISCLOSED TO MEMBERS, PLEASE SO INDICATE.**

**\*\*THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, "ON THE FLY," IS ONLY DISTRIBUTED ELECTRONICALLY. IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS, YOU CAN OBTAIN THE NEWSLETTER FROM OUR WEB SITE - [HTTP://WWW.SUNCOASTFLYFISHERS.COM](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com)**

IF AN E-MAIL ADDRESS IS PROVIDED, PLEASE SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

- PUBLISH MY E-MAIL ADDRESS ON THE MEMBERSHIP LIST WHICH IS DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS.
- DO NOT PUBLISH MY E-MAIL ADDRESS ON THE MEMBERSHIP LIST WHICH IS DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS. ONLY USE MY E-MAIL FOR DISTRIBUTION OF SFF NEWSLETTER AND IMPORTANT CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

(REV. 4/26/2016)

# 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 AnCois

## **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 rec 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](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com)





Tom "Truk" Trukenbrod

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

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



Bob Burkard

### OUTING REVIEW

Saturday, November 17, Weedon Island Preserve

It was almost a perfect day to be out on the water at Weedon Island. The sun was shining, the wind was light, and hardly a cloud in the sky. You could tell it was a busy day because all the parking spots were taken and cars were all over the grassy areas. It pays to get there early. We had 30 sign up for the day and ended up with the same number. A few different faces, but a crowd.

The Craig family catered the lunch by providing a Low Land Boil consisting of sausage, shrimp, potatoes, and corn on the cob. Delicious! Nobody went home hungry. Thank you John, Miriam, and Mark. You always set the bar high. The targeted fish was seatrout and there was no winner. However, Alan caught two small snook. Members reported catching lots of ladyfish and some puffers. Next year, snook will be the fish to catch.

## Preview: Don Coleman Invitational at Fort DeSoto Park

Saturday December 17, 2016, Lunch at 11:45, Shelter #4

If it is December it is the Don Coleman Invitational at Fort De Soto. This is the number one outing destination chosen by our members in our last survey. You have all the choices to wade, kayak, or fish from your boat. If you are not signed up to attend the outing then email Bob Burkard at RobertBurkard9@gmail.com or text to 610-256-778. He needs to know how many people to feed.

**Back by popular demand is the "Chili Cook-Off".** Bring your favorite chili, be it hot, mild, vegan, white or red. The top two judged by those present the best brings a gift certificate of appreciation. Bob Burkard is managing the Chili Cook-Off. His instructions follow this *Preview*.

As part of our remembrance of Don Coleman, the author of "Wading the Saltwater Flats with A Fly Rod" the Board would like to make this outing a celebration to one of our clubs most influential mentors. Don's *Random Thoughts from the Tying Bench* presents guidance for all of us to enjoy the pursuit of adding to our knowledge of fly fishing and tying flies. Also, he encourages us to gather together and take pleasure sharing our knowledge and experiences promoting friendships and goodwill to all our members.

### **Attend the outing and you may win the \$100 raffle**

The Officers and Board of Directors have decided to have a raffle to encourage all of you to join us at Fort De Soto Park on December 17 to fish, eat chili, and embrace Don's wish of sharing our passion -- Fly Fishing the Salt. Attendees from all the clubs in our area will be given a raffle ticket and the winner will receive a prize of \$100. So grab your gear, practice your best stories and "lies" and come and enjoy.

The targeted fish for this outing is seatrout. This is the last outing at which members have a chance to win one of the Tournament categories at least for saltwater flats categories. Redfish and seatrout are wide open. The longest fish of the day, even if it's only 10-inches long, can win. Snook and ladyfish qualify, too, but you'll have to catch a 24-inch snook or a 19-inch ladyfish to overtake the leaders. Fish only the waters around the park.

*Truk*

## Suncoast Fly Fishers 2017 Chili Cook-Off

Suncoast Fly Fishers and members of other local fly fishing clubs are invited to compete in our club's second annual Chili Cook-Off at our outing on December 17th at Fort DeSoto Park.

You will need to prepare your chili in advance and bring it to the lunch at **Pavilion 4**. The pavilion has electrical outlets so you can plug in a crock-pot to warm up your chili.

Chili entries will be judged by members and guests who taste each of the different chili dishes. Each person gets one vote. Prizes will be awarded to the top two entries. Suncoast Fly Fishers will provide sides and beverages.

Lunch and chili tasting competition starts at 11:45 AM. (Coffee will be available starting at 10:00 AM.)

We invite all voters to choose their winner based on the following criteria:

1. AROMA - Chili should smell appetizing.
2. CONSISTENCY - Chili should be a smooth combination of meat and gravy.
3. RED COLOR - Chili should look appetizing.
4. TASTE - Chili should taste good.
5. AFTERTASTE - Chili should leave a pleasant taste after swallowing.

This is a competition where anything goes. This is where you strut your stuff with your favorite chili. This chili contest (unlike other competitions) can include beans. You may cook it with a variety of meats, beans, veggies, whole tomatoes or whatever you wish.

If you want to compete in the 2017 Chili Cook Off email Bob Burkard at [RobertBurkard9@gmail.com](mailto:RobertBurkard9@gmail.com) (or text him at [610-256-7781](tel:610-256-7781) to let him know.

*Bob*

## Annual Tournament Update

*Fort DeSoto Park Outing is the final tournament outing for the year and our last chance to win one of the saltwater categories. Seatrout, snook, ladyfish, and redfish are open. Longest of the day wins. You'll need to catch a snook longer than 23.5 inches or ladyfish longer than 18.5 inches.. See below.*

### 2016 OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS THROUGH NOVEMBER

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing caught
Longest bass -			
Longest sunfish	8-inches	Tom Trukenbrod	Chassahowitzka River (September)
Longest sea trout			
Longest redfish			
Longest snook	23.5-inches	Ken Hofmeister	Docklight outing (June)
Longest ladyfish	18.5-inches	Mark Hays	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.*

***Get involved.*** We need volunteers to serve lunch at future outings. Call Truk [727-363-1638](tel:727-363-1638)

## Snapshots: November Outing -- Weedon Island Preserve



*Nice mackerel, Ken Hofmeister. Alas, Spanish mackerel was not the designated species for the November outing.*



*Did we have a winner? Nope. Outings chair Tom Trukenbrod's clipboard shows nobody admitted to catching a seatrout, the "designated species."*



*Team Sollars*



*New Member Peter Cline takes it all in*

**Photos by Tom Gadacz**



*Can anybody guess what these guys are doing?*



*Here's a clue. Lunch served by Miriam and JohnCraig.*



This is a destroyer pattern fly much talked about since somebody reporting catching 40 snook in one outing.

I watched Don Reed tie this fly in different colors at the Florida Fly Fishing Expo in Crystal River. You can watch it being tied on this [You Tube](#) video, too.

Experiment with different colors and sizes.

**Materials**

Hook: Gamakatsu SL12S

Tail: Finnish Raccoon with Krystal Flash crown

Collar: Red Estaz Grande

Eyes: Wapsi dumbbell eyes

Body: EP Dubbing Brush

Weed guard: 20-30 pound Mason mono

**Tying Instructions**

Step 1. Cover hook with thread and end about 1/8" from eye. Place dumbbell eyes 3mm in front of eye and take thread back to hook point.

Step 2. Select clump of Finnish Raccoon hair for tail. Do not remove underfur, trim butt part to give you proper tail length and tie on top of hook wrapping back to before hook bends. Make 2 or 3 turns around base of hair creating a post that stands up. Select 6 strands of Krystal flash that when folded around thread will be almost as long as tail. Secure this with thread spreading them around tail.

Step 3. Coat all thread with Dave's Flexament. Tie in red Estaz Grande and make 2 or 3 wraps forward, ending at hook point; tie off and trim excess. This provides throat, gills, blood line, etc.

Step 4. Select EP Shrimp Dubbing Brush or use dubbing loop to make your own and tie in front of Estaz. Wrap EP material forward stroking each turn with a dog hair brush toward tail. Figure eight dumbbell eyes and continue wrapping and stroking leaving enough room for a head. Tie off and whip finish and coat head with cement. Use dog brush for final shaping and trim excess with scissors.

*Pat*



## Tom Gadacz: Casting Clinic at Picnic Island Park



*This year Master Casting Instructor Dayle Mazzarella set up the course and led the program. Seven other instructors assisted*

This year the casting clinic at Picnic Island Park was hosted by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club on Saturday, Dec. 3. This is an annual event alternating between the TBFFC and Suncoast Fly Fishers. Picnic Island provided adequate space for the casting stations however the wind did present a little challenge but that is part of fishing. Dayle Mazzarella set up the program and course.

We had several excellent assistants including Pat Damico, Leigh West, Steve Parker, Chris O'Byrne, Jim Schneider and Mike Santangelo (both from Naples), and Tom Gadacz. Barbara Mazzarella registered the attendees and signed up new IFFF members.

The casting clinic is primarily staffed by IFFF Certified Master Casting Instructors and Certified Casting Instructors. The casting clinics are free to all IFFF members and \$35 for others which includes an IFFF membership. We had 30 attendees, including six new members, eight instructors, seven youths, and two women.

Dayle had the attendees pair up and the morning session stressed basic casting fundamentals and drills to improve casting. Added this year was a fish catching drill and a program for those interested in fly casting achievement without a teaching requirement.

After lunch, there were eight stations that rotated every 30 minutes and included the roll cast, double haul, basic knots and rigging, quick cast, casting heavy lines and flies, distance casting, casting in the wind, and levels of casting achievement.

It was a great session and provided IFFF members an opportunity to improve their casting skills as a benefit of their membership.

*Tom*



Pat Damico and Tom Gadacz on Tierra Verde flats



*Capt. Pat Damico poled the boat...*



*...and posed for the picture. Yeah, speckled trout are hungry, and they love flies.*

Andy Constantinou: Permit, bones in Mexico. Jacks in Apollo Beach



*Andy Constantinou with a nice permit caught on a recent trip to Xcalak, Mexico.*



*"This six pound jack was incredible. It gave me a better fight than the permit I caught in Mexico."*



*Andy with one of the bonefish he caught on the fly in Xcalak, Mexico*

## Tom Gadacz: Big Gun Shootout at Picnic Island Park



*Suncoast Fly Fisher John Craig shoots the hoop*

The Big Gun Shoot-Out was sponsored by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club (TBFFC) at Picnic Island Park in Tampa on November 20. The Big Gun Shoot-Out is a competitive fly casting contest and draws some of the best casters in Florida.

The event began in 1994. It currently consists of 6 stations and includes Distance Competition, Accuracy Competition, "V" Fish, Through the Hoop Cast, Carl Hanson Cup, and Under the Mangrove Cast. Each station has defined casting criteria based either on a specific number of casts or a limited time period. Each station was scored with maximum points of 100 and the total of the six stations determines the final score.

The final Big Gun Shoot-Out included the ten best distance scores on the initial round. There were 11 teams of three individuals. There were individual as well as team winners. Of the 34 that participated in this year's event, Bryon Chamberlin won the final distance round with a cast of 123' 4". Colby Hane won the overall

(individual) championship with a score of 452.

The three members of the winning team, "East West," were Dave Chouinard, Eric Davis, and Dave Olson with a combined total score of 1175. Dick Miekka registered all the casters and recorded the scores.

Suncoast Fly Fishers had Team Cast-A-Ways with John Craig, Rick Warfel and Tom Gadacz. Other SFF Big Gun competitors included Pat Damico, Dick Miekka, and Andy Constantinou.

It was a great event and an opportunity to meet some excellent casters.



*Pat Damico (l) with team Cast-a-Ways, Suncoast Fly Fishers Tom Gadacz, John Craig and Rick Warfel.*



*Pat Damico releases a cast to the hoop.*



*John Craig gets ready to shoot a cast under the "mangroves"*

## Bob Morrison: Fly Fishing How-To



### Mullet eat flies that look like grass

**Always pick up slack line when fishing.** Keeping your line tight allows you to set the hook with a strip strike as soon as you feel a fish take the fly. Remember, you have to be quick to get the hook in before the fish discovers that this bait is a phony, and drops it.

**Stretch your line and leader** before fishing, especially if the line has been on the reel for a while. Clean and lubricate the line with pads available at fly shops. Do not use ArmorAll which is said to be corrosive to fly lines. You can also use mild hand soap and warm water to clean a line, rinsing it thoroughly.

**Rays and Sharks.** Don't wade where you cannot see the bottom, otherwise you may get stung by a ray that doesn't notice you coming. Freeze, remaining still, if you see a shark. Have a wading staff ready to ward off any shark that gets too close for comfort. Don't wade wet, especially in the bay. The risk of acquiring a dangerous infection from polluted water is just too great to ignore. Wear waders or hip boots at all times.

**How to catch a mullet on a fly.** Did you know that you can catch mullet on a fly. Tie a small green nymph-like fly on a size 8 or 10 hook using fuzzy green material. Tie both light and dark-shaded flies. Mullet are strong fighters and also can be good to eat. Consult an oriental market or the net on recipes on how to prepare and cook them.

Merry Christmas, and I mean it!

Go get 'em and good luck!

*Bob*

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*Bob Morrison has designed the President-Elect Fly. He promises to tie this fly.*





## Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #83



### Stop false casting unnecessarily

*By Capt. Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor*

Go out on the grass and with a practice fly see how little line you need outside the rod tip to make a forward cast, shooting some line, with only one backcast. Next, see how much line you can pick up, make a good backcast and shoot line forward, again, with only one backcast. Make a one-inch wide mark on your line near the reel at each of these locations. You now know your range of casting within those two marks with this setup. With practice, you can make this range even larger. Fishing on water with floating lines, sink tips, heavier flies will cause some variables. When you work a fly, don't bring it closer than your range, because false casting in the air, where there aren't any fish, is a waste of time.

*Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach*

*Capt. Pat Damico charts in lower Tampa Bay. Contact: [captpat.com](http://captpat.com) (727) 504-8649*

## Captain's Corner: via [Tampa Bay Times](#)

### **Jacks are back. A challenging catch**

*By Pat Damico, Tampa Bay Times Correspondent*

The cold winter of 2010-11 devastated the local population of jack crevalle and other tropical species, including snook. Once plentiful, jacks provided excitement that most long-rod enthusiasts could depend on. The roar from a school crashing baitfish frequently interrupted our pursuit of local game fish. Scorned because of poor table appeal, they were made for anyone who wanted a fish that would hit anything looking like a fleeing meal and pulled like you hooked a dragster. They don't feed on slack tides, often appearing when water is really moving. Points, docks and bridges that hold bait are good places to look. Trout fishers recently had frequent doubles as they cast to bait-chasing schools, resulting in one broken 8 weight. High sticking or using the middle of the rod as a lever spells disaster for fly rods. Size can be more than 10 pounds so rig appropriately. A 9-weight with a weight-forward floating line, adequate 20-pound backing and a leader that sports a 25- to 30-pound hard mono bite tippet will work. Synthetic baitfish patterns the size of what you see in the water with hooks that don't bend under steady pressure should have the barbs crimped for easy release. Strip set the hook with authority to penetrate hard mouths. Keep rod tips close to the water to apply steady pressure on hooked fish. Your connection between fly line and backing must be smooth so it doesn't catch on guides.

## Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



**Why do we need a short fly rod?** Long fly rods help us keep more line in the air for longer casts. But there are situations when a short rod is better. Dock-light fishing is one. Just ask Alan Sewell. Target casting to thick mangrove shorelines is another. Mike Conner has some insights. ([Florida Sportsman](#))

**I need a telescoping fly rod for wade fishing.** I am serious. So, when my Clouser gets stuck in the tip top guide or when the fly line gets wrapped around the top of the rod I could collapse the rod and clear up the problem with my free hand. Maybe I could tape a fly reel to a Tenkara? ([Amazon](#))

**Guilty.** Five common fly fishing errors. HT Pat Damico. ([Vail Valley Anglers](#))

**Actually, my 16-year old Dodge Durango is a good fly fishing vehicle. So far.** But if you are in the market for a new car here are some “stupid fly fishing cars to avoid.” ([Unaccomplished Angler](#))

**Here we go again. TV commercials with “fly fishers.”** When they have someone fly fishing in whatever TV commercial they’re making why can’t they find someone who actually knows how to cast? ([West Fly Bulletin Board](#))

**Did you vote for the fly fisher?** I had no idea that Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are fly fishers. Sanders, too, as it turns out. ([Montana Trout](#))

**Be careful.** It’s important to feel the fish fight. Here’s how to take it to a whole new level. ([You Tube](#))

**Rudolph is an internal combustion reindeer.** Santa Claus steered his sleigh down my street and Rudolph and his team pulled up right in front of my house. Is it just me or does Santa’s new sleigh look a lot like a FedEx truck? ([Minn Kota Riptide](#))

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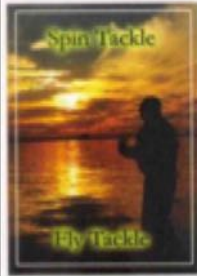
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