

On The Fly



**Members fondly remember
Richard Oldenski. P 9-10-11**



**Deals galore. January 21 "Trash
'n' Treasures" meeting. Alan
Sewell is auctioneer. P 3**

**Below, the last outing (with chili)
marks the end of a good year. P 8**



Suncoast Fly Fisher News 'n' Notes



President Kirk Burton

Another wonderful year

By President Kirk Burton

As another year comes to a close many of us reflect on the past and think about what the future will bring. For the Suncoast Fly Fishers, 2015 was another wonderful year spent enjoying the sport of Fly Fishing.

This has certainly been a great year for our club. Our board established an outing committee and we now have our outing scheduled a year in advance. This simple change supports our ability to align meeting topics to outings when appropriate so we can all be better prepared to catch fish and tell stories.

Tom Trukenbrod, our vice president, led the most successful survey to date of member thought on club activities and administration. Many great suggestions have been implemented and there are more to come.

Karen Warfel, our treasurer, led the board in research of recommended financial controls for a not for profit such as ours. As a result, we established an operating reserve to reduce the risk associated with uneven cash flow cycles. We had another successful hog roast, hosting Macauley Lord for a great presentation on float fishing in South America. Both the hog roast and the trash and treasures auction were successful fundraisers and allow us to keep dues level and still enjoy quality lunches at the outings.

Sadly, three of our club members passed away in 2015. Bob McIntyre, Don Manning and Richard Oldenski were all long time contributors to the club and will be sorely missed.

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Kirk

Suncoast Fly Fisher News 'n' Notes

January 21 meeting -- Trash 'n' Treasures Auction

- Bring and donate the fly gear you no longer use. Also, plan to bid on gear. There are some great deals. No fooling. And it's for a great cause. Proceeds pay for our outing lunches all year.

January 23 outing, Bay Vista Park at Pinellas Point, St. Petersburg

- Launch kayaks and boats, or just wade-in and fish. Lunch at noon.

February 18 meeting

- Capt. Pat Damico talks about casting mistakes and IFFF certification.
- Fly Box Exchange

February 20 outing

- Fort De Soto Park

March 5, MCI Casting clinic

- Master Casting Instructors Dayle Mazzarella and Pat Damico lead at Maximo Park in south St. Petersburg.

March 17 meeting

- Our presenter is Allen Wyatt, proprietor of Andy Thornal Co. in Winter Haven. Wyatt is an expert on fly fishing for bass and bream in Central Florida.

March 19 outing

- Walsingham Lake

April 2 - 13th Annual Hog Roast & Silent Auction 2016

- This is our featured club event of the year and is a must attend event for every SFF member and guest interested in fly fishing and a fun time, 4 to 8 pm
- City of Treasure Island Auditorium, 120 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, FL 33706
- Members and Guests \$20/Children 12 and under free.
- Please purchase your tickets early or call Karen Warfel at 813-505-3162 to confirm your attendance so we can provide the caterer with an estimate of attendees. Sign up at the meeting or mail your check to: **Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743**

May 7, Introduction to Fly Fishing 10

- Four-hour adult casting lessons at Walter Fuller Park. Limited to 20 students. Fee TBD.
- Sponsored by IFFF, this program is for fly fishers with little or no casting experience.
- Course director is Master Casting Instructor Dayle Mazzarella
- SFF members are asked to attend and socialize with new members and prospects.
- Contact Tom Gadacz to sign up participants. 706-726-7899. Thomasgadacz@yahoo.com

2016 officer election schedule

- January meeting: announcement of nominating committee members
- February meeting: presentation of slate of nominees plus nominations from the floor, if any.
- March meeting: members vote.

For sale by members

STH Reel. Eliseo's 12. Made in Argentina. Used 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.

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

Board of Directors

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

Committees

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

Aims and Purposes

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

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

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



Directions to our meeting at Walter Fuller

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

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

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

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

Join. Renew. Application at www.suncoastflyfishers.com





George Haseltine

Suncoast Fly Fishers Outing Reviews and Previews and Annual Tournament Update

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



Capt. Dan Bumgarner

Don Coleman

Invitational Outing

Fort De Soto Park, Saturday December 19th, 2015

The hardest thing about writing this report is trying to keep it short. What a great day! The weather was windy and unusually cold, but in shelter #5 it was Chili, Chili, Chili.

Wendy Burton did an exceptional job handling all the details that made this a flawless and delicious event. She also had a unique way for us to vote with two different colored beans that we would drop into jars 1/4 full of sand; how creative. Thank you Wendy, you did a terrific job! Can't wait until next year.

There were six entries in the chili cook off. All of them were delicious. Alan Sewell won for the hottest and Karen Warfel and Bob Burkard dishes tied for the best overall. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Thanks also to those of you who brought the Coleman stoves and side dishes. John and Mark Craig brought a tarp and they and Dan Bumgarner put it up to shelter us from the wind. John reserved the pavilion for us and also brought a generator (just in case), plates, utensils, cups, drinks, etc. and COFFEE! Thanks John.

Today was the day we recognized and remembered C. W. "Don" Coleman for his contributions to our club. Don wrote the exceptional "Wading the Salt Water Flats with a Fly Rod" manual and guide that is given to all new members. President Kirk Burton asked those of us who knew Don to share their memories. Many did.

Kirk also asked for a moment of silence to remember our good friend Dr. Richard Oldenski, who recently went to fish the other shore. His contributions to our lives and our club will live on.

There was no December General Meeting and we didn't have a sign-up sheet, so we passed around the clip board and wound up with 31 signatures on it! There were two there from the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers Club in Sarasota: Bob Tait and Raymond Schwabel. Thank you, gentlemen, for joining us. You are always welcome.

We also had a new member application and check from Mike Besel. Welcome, Mike. ☺

Again, since we did not have a December general meeting, Kirk Burton was awarded a gift certificate for his 21-inch redfish caught at our Weedon Island Outing in November. Way to go Kirk!

Oh, yeah, most of us fished, too. There was no record of a legal limit of anything being caught, so if you caught something, please bring it to the committee's attention at the January meeting so we can reward and recognize you. Sorry, I guess we really are an eating club with a fishing habit.

January outing details and 2015-2016 tournament results to date are on the next page

Reviews and Previews, continued...

2015-2016 TOURNAMENT LEADERS TO DATE

2015-2016 Club Outing Tournament Leaders

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

Note: All fish entered in the yearly contest must be caught at a club outing, in the zone defined, and must be at least the minimum length as determined by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. The tournament ends March 31, 2016

Preview: January 23 Outing, Pinellas Point

Last chance to win -- At our next outing we'll be fishing Tampa Bay in the vicinity of Pinellas Point down by the Pink Streets. We will have charts at the January General Meeting. The outing award will be for the longest above legal length trout, redfish, or snook. This outing is the final for the 2015-2016 tournament. We'll start the 2016-2017 tournament with the February outing at Fort De Soto Park. It will conclude with the January outing in 2017.

Fish anywhere in the bay, east of, but still in sight of, the Skyway Bridge. Lunch is at Bay Vista Park (Recreation Center) 7000 4th St S.

And this just in: Mark Hays will grill venison. Alllllrrriiigghht.

This is almost Truk's back yard. There is a boat ramp there. The flats to the East of the park are good to fish. If we can reserve a spot, John Craig will do it; exceptionally well as always. If we can't, we will need a volunteer to, as Joe Dail says "sit the bench," early so as to reserve a spot.

Happy New Year. See you there. Bring suggestions as to how we can make outings even better in 2016.

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

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

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

Future Outings...

February 20: Fort De Soto Park

March 18: Walsingham Lake

April 16: South Skyway

April 22-23-24: Everglades

George

More information about fishing the waters of Tampa Bay near Pinellas Point is on the next page

Ready-Set-Go: How to Fish Pinellas Point

First outing of the new year is Saturday, January 23. You can fish anywhere in Tampa Bay so long as it is east of and within sight of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. Lunch at noon at St. Petersburg's Bay Vista Park at 7000 4th Street S., St. Petersburg. Facilities include picnic pavilions, kayak launching areas, restrooms, and boat ramps.



Captain Dan: Pinellas Point Fishing Tips

Where to fish...

For waders going east from Bay Vista Park there is a deeper area just west of the second pier. Good fishing can also be had near the end of the 5th and 6th pier. Farther to the west is Pinellas Point Park at the southern end of 14th St South. It can also be accessed from the ends of Serene Way S. and Manor Way S.

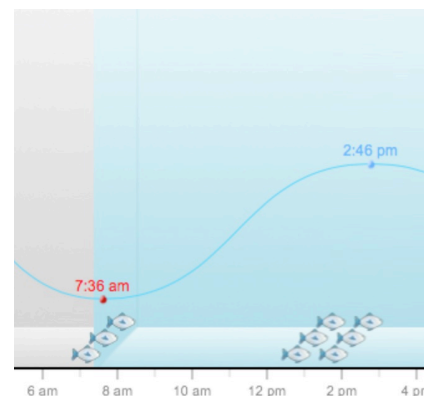
For the boaters...

There is the Clam Bar area, the flats directly off Bay Vista Park and the flats straight out of Little Bayou. This flat runs along the eastern shore of Coquina Key all the way to the mouth of Big Bayou. In addition to the flat itself there are many docks along the shore on the northern end.

Now for what to fish with...

The venerable chartreuse and white Clouser is always in the mix. It might not be a bad idea to carry a few in more "shrimpy" colors such as brown and orange or even brown and black. I would also recommend a bendback in the Prince of Tides pattern and perhaps some Kwan style shrimp patterns.

Capt. Dan Bumgarner



Pinellas Point will have a nice incoming tide on the morning of January 23. Chart courtesy of Tides4Fishing.com

Snapshots: Don Coleman Invitational at Fort De Soto Park



Wendy Burton kept the grill heat going and supervised the vote for the best chili and the hottest chili. Six chilis competed.



Bob Burkard's chili (above) and Karen Warfel's chili tied for the "best". Alan Sewell's chili was voted the hottest.



The wind was not our friend. Bob Burkard, seen in the distance, fought 22-mph gusts.



Annie Hays updates Ken Doty on life and studies at St. Leo's College.



Jimmie O. Carroll and Joe Dail chat it up.

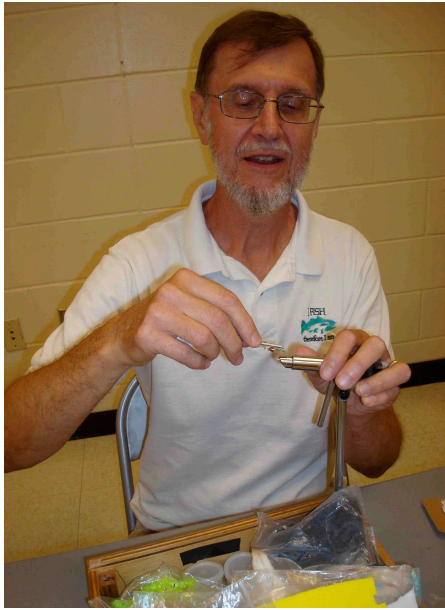


Paul Sequira and David Putnam



Ted Rich and John Craig pumped up the fuel tanks for the grills.

Richard Oldenski, RIP



“OLDENSKI, Richard MD, of Gulfport, 69, died peacefully at home, in the loving care of his family, on Dec. 12, 2015, after battling cancer for almost a year. He was a primary care physician in St. Petersburg for 35 years.

...

“Rick was an avid fly fisherman, active for many years in Suncoast Fly Fishers. He volunteered weekly at Bay Pines VA Hospital, teaching veterans to tie flies and sharing fishing and life stories. He was there in a heartbeat if a fishing buddy fell ill. He never tired of being in "the cathedral of the great outdoors," and participated in many coastal cleanups.”

“Rick was a true Renaissance man, a student of history, literature, science, and classical music. He spoke five languages, and could fake it in three or four more. After retiring four years ago, he began teaching himself to play the guitar.

“Rick is survived by his wife of 41 years, Jill; daughters Jennie Oldenski, St. Petersburg, Lindsay Oldenski,

Arlington, VA, son-in-law Brian Lamb; brother, Thomas Oldenski, Dayton, OH; sister, Joanne Nowlin, Nashville, TN, brother-in-law Michael Nowlin, and sister Gerry Oldenski, Tucson, AZ.

Tampa Bay Times

Suncoast Fly Fishers fondly remember a member generous with his time and skills

Richard was a great supporter of Suncoast Fly Fishers, volunteering his time and skills to share his medical knowledge and for many years he made sure that lunch was available for our outings. *Kirk Burton*

Model-mentor-matchmaker: Will you be willing to serve as SFF president?" asked the nominating committee chair, Richard Oldenski. "Only with a strong board and clear roles, responsibilities," I replied. Little did I know then how much this quiet and patient man would lead and influence me. He represented the strength and modeled the responsibility of SFF board for years.

You could count on Richard to be the voice of reason and restraint. He held me back from impulsive and regrettable decisions and actions on more than a couple occasions. He served a "sanitary and safe" outing lunch for years, while catching what he could before prep time. His Kielbasa was a delicious delight. Richard was point person in our Boy Scout ventures, showing us how to remove hooks and avoid sting rays. An avid reader of fly fishing magazines, he tried out new techniques and tricks. Sharing a canoe with Richard was a kick; hope sprung eternal for him. His great SSF passion was to see that newcomers got matched up fishing with old timers so both could benefit. A fine way to honor his contribution would be to take a newcomer with you on the next trip or outing. *Ken Hofmeister*



In the "cathedral of the great outdoors" with Robert Fischer (l)

More tributes and photos on the following page

Suncoast Fly Fishers remember Richard Oldenski



Catching up with Al Pitcher (l) at an outing

I will always remember Richard for his quiet demeanor. He always appeared to me a man of few words, but his dedication and actions in the Suncoast Fly Fishers spoke volumes. He will be truly missed.

Al Pitcher

Dr. Richard Oldenski was a long time member of Suncoast Fly

Fishers and loved fly fishing. He was engaged in many activities from coordinating the outing lunches with Mark Hays to participating in many outreach programs. He taught the first aid part of the Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge and was a volunteer at Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing. His program at a membership meeting on medical problems was comprehensive and covered everything from basic safety to sunburn and sting ray injuries. He was a well-rounded fly fisher – tied flies, participated in casting clinics and shared one of his favorite fishing spots with me. We waded out on the flats in South Pasadena and fished the mangroves for sea trout and caught several. Richard was an outgoing gregarious fellow who enjoyed fly fishing and contributed much to Suncoast and its members. He was an outstanding physician and fly fisher. I'll remember his enthusiasm and willingness to share his knowledge. *Tom Gadacz*



Project Healing Waters. Tying flies with vets. Alan Sewell, John Craig, Tom Gadacz, and Richard Oldenski

I joined the club about 6 or 7 years ago and I will always remember Richard for his generous contributions to the club. He always made sure lunch was provided for the outings and also the coffee and donuts for the casting clinics. But what I will remember most is how comfortable he made me feel as a new member. He will be dearly missed. *Walt Ruda*

Richard was a wonderful member of our club, and one of those who helped to make it great. He will be sorely missed. *Dick Miekka*



Richard helped out with outing lunches. Here he pours coffee for (l-r) Bob McIntyre, Mark Hays, Robert Fisher, and George Haseltine. McIntyre died in early 2015.



Ken Hofmeister, Capt. Pat Damico, Richard, Al Pitcher and Truk Trukenbrod.

More tributes and photos on the following page

Richard Oldenski Remembered

Richard was one of those people whom you were always pleased to talk with or spend some time with. Over the years I was lucky enough to share a canoe with him as we explored new fishing locations to recommend for club outings. We shared other fishing trips too such as scooping sand fleas for pompano fishing in John's Pass or fly fishing the water behind Pasadena City Hall for spotted sea trout. Whatever it was, we always had a great time and a lot of fun. Over the years Richard always gave good council at the Board of Director's meetings, always respectful of other members even though they might not have agreed with him. Richard was a gentleman and a member who always had the best interest of the club foremost in his mind. Those of us who were fortunate enough to call Richard friend, are better human beings for having known him. He has enriched our lives and we will miss him. *Paul Sequira*



Outing lunch with Rick Warfel and Ken Doty



Richard watches Don Manning tie flies. Don died in 2015.

I was so sorry to hear about Richard; he was a really nice guy. His lunches were always excellent. A big loss to the club. *Steve Putbrese*

So sad. A VERY good guy and always there to help for special projects, nominating committee, and of course special recipes for our lunches. One of my very first welcoming members when I first came to meetings and early outing partner. Warm memories. *Tom (Truk) Trukenbrod*

He will be missed. *Ray Markham*

I am so sorry to hear of Richard's passing. I did not know him well but always thought he was such a kind and pleasant person. The kind of man you want in your fly fishing club or as your friend. *Ray Cianci*

Richard's coleslaw for club outings

3 bags of precut angel hair cabbage for slaw. 1 tablespoon sesame seeds or caraway seeds. [Ken's Steak House Asian Sesame with Ginger and Soy dressing.](#)

Place the angel hair cabbage in a large bowl. Stir in the sesame or caraway seeds. Toss in just enough of the Asian sesame dressing to lightly coat the cabbage. **WARNING:** too much dressing will make the coleslaw soggy. Serve at room temperature

It saddens me greatly to lose a good friend and in particular one that dedicated much of his time to making other members of Suncoast Fly Fishers feel welcome to the organization and doing whatever it took to make their association with the club a quality experience. When I became a new member several years ago, Rich not only made sure that I enjoyed many of his famous lunches at the club outings but also allowed me to enjoy his company as we fished various flats. *Ron Kelley*

Years back I was on my way to an outing at Myakka State Park when the axle on my boat trailer broke. I never made it out of St. Pete and as I wrote in an earlier article, "I didn't mind missing out on the fishing so much, but I hated to miss Rick's lunch." Rick did the outing lunches for years, served on the board, committees and more. His was always a voice of intelligence and reason, and his words were always delivered with a smile. I miss Rick. I only fished with him once, in his canoe, on Lake Maggiore. We never caught a fish, but I enjoyed getting to know him better. Awhile back, we talked about a fly he was tying to fish for bream. The next meeting, he brought me one, I still have it. I'll keep it with one of Carl's glass minnows. *Myron Hansen*



Red Tide Has Arrived. So Where Do We Fish?

By Tom Gadacz and Capt. Pat Damico



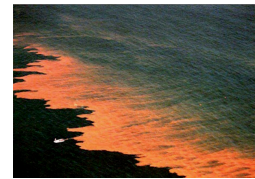
Karina brevis, aka "red tide," has arrived at St. Pete beaches.

Yes, the red tide has rolled into the St. Pete beaches with dead fish behind Dolphin Village. So where do we safely fish?

Meet *Karina brevis*, a dinoflagellate alga, has moved into our beaches. It is a single cell organism which produces neurotoxins. The two flagella allow it to move

through water. It requires light to grow and reproduce and is usually in surface water. In high concentrations the water takes on a reddish or pinkish color – giving it the name red tide.

These organisms have been described as early as the fifteenth century by Spanish explorers. Southwest Florida is especially noted for these algal blooms which are increasing in frequency. They also occur around Texas and Mexican coastal waters. They are a part of the natural community of marine organisms and recent frequent and intensive blooms raise speculation that human activities generate excessive nutrients in runoff waters resulting in bloom conditions. The neurotoxins have deleterious effects on fish, marine mammals, turtles, birds and shellfish. These toxins are airborne and have respiratory effects in humans. Common symptoms include difficulty breathing, coughing, and shortness of breath. It also depresses the immune system. There is also a red tide on the western coast of our country.



Our west coast Florida red tide is different than the west coast from mid California to Washington and even extending into Alaska. The algal organism there is *Pseudo-nitzschia*. It also produces a neurotoxin, domoic acid. It requires very high concentrations of the organism to cause harm. Well so much for the villain. Where do we fish when *Karina* is wreaking havoc?

ANSWER: Head for the back country of rivers and bays away from gulf waters. Check out the water and made sure there are no dead fish along the bank or pilings. Get out that fly rod and drift along the bank and get that fly in, under, and around structures.



Avoid the red tide. Capt. Pat Damico with a 27-inch snook caught in the back country,

Common places to throw that fly include trees, logs, bushes, mangroves docks, bridges and pilings. A horizontal cast will get the fly under docks and the branches of shore vegetation. Get your cast as close as possible to the bank as possible exploring undercut areas. Bendbacks, Clouser minnows and poppers can be the go-to flies. Vary your retrieve between long slow strips to sharp tugs for surface flies. Once you get a few strikes work the area especially if snook are around. On a recent trip we caught several snook and Pat landed a 27 incher. Nice catch!

Tom & Pat

Ecuadorean Andes *Trucha* Fishing

By Stephen Massey

This past fall, I decided to take a Spanish language class at the Tomlinson Adult Learning Center in St. Petersburg, Florida. When the first session was coming to an end around Thanksgiving, Betty and I decided to jump into Spanish immersion with a trip to Cuenca, Ecuador for two-weeks of Spanish school.



Betty landed the first (largest) trout, about 15", at 13,200 feet on a tan Adams; shown with guide David.

With the weekends free, we took a journey less traveled – we hooked up with a Cuenca local (Spanish language) to go trout fishing in the Cajas National Park (*Parque Nacional Cajas*) just a couple of hours outside of Cuenca in the Andes mountains.

Let's backtrack just to share an idea of altitude and location in Ecuador. Cuenca sits 2.5-degrees south of the equator at an altitude of about 8,200 ft. The fishing places were about 10,000 to 13,200 feet in the Andes.

My oldest brother suggested that we study altitude illness before we ventured on this trek. Wikipedia pointed us to the CDC and with information in hand and after a consultation with our local physician, we were able to avoid the high altitude issues. Interesting to note, our Ecuadorean acquaintances had a difficult time understanding that we live at two to three meters above sea-level in St. Pete.



Stephen caught a couple of smaller trout with size 18 Adams in a 10,000-foot high stream.



Andes mountain stream – note the wild horse

The fishing: As usual, Betty landed the first and the largest trout taken at 13,200 ft. It was caught on a tan colored #18 Adams. All in all – the trip was a good excuse to go trout (*trucha*) fishing. Oh yes, we did learn some Spanish and made some friends.

Stephen



Jeff Kopelman and Rick Yarn "Roughing-it" in NC



Jeff Kopelman. Jeff emailed that they were "roughing it" in North Carolina.

In December Jeff Kopelman and Rick Yarn caught more than 60 trout on the fly one morning on the West Fork of the Pidgeon River in North Carolina.



Brown Beauty by Jeff



Rick Yarn with one of many trout caught in a morning of fly fishing.



Rick Warfel: Black Drum in Apollo Beach Canal

Fishing a canal in Apollo Beach Rick Warfel caught and landed this hard-pulling black drum on a recent evening. The drum jumped on his olive and yellow Clouser minnow.



Thanks [Craig Smothers](#) and [Tumblr/Fish Kennedy Brothers](#)

Good friends must be fed



And fed they are, thanks to Ken Hofmeister. Thank you, Ken.

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #74

Slack Revisited

By Capt. Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor

One of the five Essentials we originally discussed is considered the most important by many casting instructors, and I wholeheartedly agree. Whether on the grass with a practice fly or fishing, slack will ruin every cast.



Slack must first be recognized before correcting or eliminating it. Starting a backcast with the rod too high, or back too far; not having a straight line from the rod tip to the fly; having the rod unload, or straighten, before changing direction during a cast; not having a straight line from your line hand to the stripping guide, especially when hauling; having the line fall before changing rod direction, and large rather than small loops are just some of the culprits.

The best way to see these is on the grass, standing with your casting side foot back a little and false casting with a short line, carefully observing your cast in both directions. Let out a foot of line at a time making small adjustments to keep things in harmony. Once slack appears, back up to your sweet spot and make necessary corrections. Mark your practice line with a two-inch black marker as a reference for your next practice session and repeat in the

future. *Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach*

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

Pat Damico's Captain's Corner: via Tampa Bay Times

Low tides and fly fishing are a combination that can produce extremes in both success and failure. Trout, snook, reds and sheepshead prowl skinny water looking for shrimp, crabs, baitfish and their other favorite morsels. As the tide carries the water off the flats, feeding fish must follow or be left exposed. The same fish will follow the tide as it comes in to continue feeding.

Find a protected area free from boating and people activity. Look for disturbances in the shallows that indicate the presence of your quarry. Nervous water, wakes, scattering baitfish, slow waving exposed tails, and schools of mullet deserve your attention. Feeding birds will show the area that has the best concentration of fish food as they have the same diet.

Stealth is the key. A boat may have to be abandoned. Canoes and kayaks will get you shallower and keep your profile and shadow low, and wading is often the best option. Tie a line to your waist to bring a paddle craft with you and save a hike back to an anchored boat. A floating salt water taper on a 7 weight fly rod with a fast action will present your fly with little disturbance and allow you to pick up line off the water easily. Leaders over 9 feet in length tapered to 15-pound test provide an edge. Use a loop knot to allow the fly to give more action when stripped.

Weedless flies with the hook pointed up resist snagging. Bead chain eyes in the shallows are preferred over heavier weighted eyes to avoid frightening fish and assure a soft presentation. You want to get their attention, not scare them. Your favorite crab or shrimp pattern in size 4-6 in a color that matches the bottom is ideal. Cast close to the fish, in a straight line and without slack. Avoid lining the fish which will scare your target and his friends.

Bob Morrison: How-To



Bruce Evensen gave me this tip. Friend Bruce suggested a small towel for use in handling fish while wading. His method is to play the fish from the reel, first reeling in to avoid a tangle of line in the water that could mess up the landing. Bruce then brings the fish to him, holding the rod under his casting arm and bringing the fish to him by grasping the leader with his free hand and transferring the leader to his now-free casting hand. Bruce then takes the towel out of its pocket in his waders or vest which should be on the same side as the non-casting hand. He then places the towel over the fish at the water's surface, and grasps the fish through the towel, which prevents the fish from getting away. Bruce then turns the fish on its back to reduce its struggling to escape, and uses his now-free casting hand to unhook and release the fish. Bruce then wrings out the towel and returns it to its pocket. Not a bad idea. Thanks, Bruce.

Superceramicalisticsharperalhookset. To prevent hooks and other equipment from rusting use a rust-free ceramic file to sharpen your hooks. Ceramic files are at Umpqua, Bill Jackson's and others.

Thou shalt not lose your titanium whatchamacallits.... While wading, make sure your fishing pliers are attached to you so as to prevent them from being lost if you drop them into the water. A simple method to secure the pliers is to tie and tape a short length of cord to each of the two handles of the pliers. You can then use a longer length of cord or a stretchable zinger cord tied to the pliers' cord and tied or clipped to to yourself. This tip comes from Ed Jawoworski, circa 2002.

Cleaner line in the wild. For quick line cleaning while in the field, try the Scientific Anglers' cleaning pad, which is mildly abrasive. Also effective is the Cortland Cleaning pad, which comes already saturated with line dressing.

Thank you. As most of you know by now, I spent three weeks in the hospital during December recovering from a serious arterial problem. Thank you all for your visits and good wishes. It's great to be back and see your faces again, and it's even better to be alive.

Go get 'em and good luck

Bob

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David Putnam: Fly Fishing Reflections

Shopping Resolution



One of the lessons I learned at my daddy's knee, around the time I learned to sail and throw a cast net, was to do business with shop keepers who helped me. If I had a few dollars for a new MirrOlure, I should spend it at White's Tackle Shop, where the owner listened to my endless questions and taught me knots, how to spool line on a reel and sharpen a hook, and discussed the ethics of fishing with me like I was an adult.

I was reminded of this yesterday, when I visited Enver Hysni's *OnThe Fly* shop on (3625) Manhattan Ave. in Tampa. In a half hour he gave me some good advice about a fly line I was considering buying and didn't, and we looked at a DVD of a guy fly fishing in the Seychelles for Giant Trevally. The "fly" was a black flip-flop he tossed out with his hand. The enormous "take" was spectacular, and the fight, on a fly rod, gave a real idea of the fish's power. In the past Enver's helped me choose materials, recommended flies to use, advised me about fly reels on the market, and generally been a fun, friendly guy to do business with. Only yesterday I learned that he was once President of Suncoast Fly Fishers. Who knows all he's done for the club?

I ended up buying a pair of scissors and some 3-D stick-on eyes for snook flies I'm tying. I probably could have saved a couple of dollars online.

The best program given at the club this past year, the one I put to use immediately, was the surf snook fishing talk Brad Lowman from Bill Jackson's gave in X. (September?) The fly he taught us to tie was an innovative one that produced for him, and later, for me. He showed us exactly where to fish, where to stand and how to present the fly. In visits to the store Brad's shared all sorts of casting and fishing information with me. I recently bought more Loon UV Knot Sense from him. (Instead of buying expensive 3-D eyes, did you know that you can put a dollop of Knot Sense on flat eyes on a sheet, cure it, cover it with nail polish and make your own 3-D eyes? When I make 'em, I cover the entire head of the fly with Knot Sense or epoxy to make a very durable head.)

How are you going to beat the service and products our local fly shop guys have? They're members of our club, and better fishermen and casters than most of us. A wealth of information and free advice. Instant delivery too.

My resolution in 2016 is to spend my fly fishing dollars with Brad or Enver. We're lucky they don't charge the club for their services. And, you gotta see the Trevally video at Enver's shop.

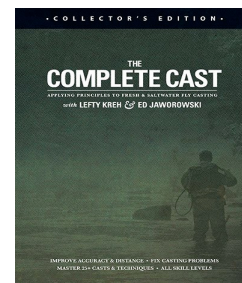
David

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Hey, this is kind of a big deal. A few years ago fly casting stars Lefty Kreh and Ed Jaworowski teamed up on a project that I think will be a treasured and lasting gift for every fresh or salt water fly fisher. With funding by Temple Fork Outfitters, Lefty and Ed worked with a top flight Dallas graphics studio to share, in the most compelling ways, what they know about fly casting.

Lefty writes, *"The project has taken several years and covers all areas of fly casting from a small trout stream to the sea. It is based on science and includes animated illustrations, high-speed photography, a single reason causing all tailing loops, practice sessions, fishing in pike and bass lakes, flats and trout streams and much, much more."*



That's three hours of lessons it and can be ordered as a DVD or downloaded for your computer. Check. It. Out. ([Temple Fork Outfitters](#))

And, speaking of Lefty. Takeaway: Share your knowledge. ([Rodney Smith Media](#))

Pothole trout. Thanks, Larry Morse, for pointing us toward this video. Worth the watch, y'all. ([Wide Open Spaces](#))

Sorry, Sally Hansen Hard as Nails. Smitty (aka Layne Smith) tied flies with this at our November meeting and he tells me lots of members have been asking him about this. ([Solarez](#))

And speaking of UV. This is an in-depth article on "ultraviolet" materials and glues and why some are very successful, and others not very. Thank you, Drew Chicone. ([Midcurrent](#))

I've got an issue with this issue. The IFFF website has a full page devoted to the ethics of fly fishing and that's a good thing. But the one I do not get is this: *"Fly anglers believe fly fishing is a privilege and a responsibility."* Well, okay, if we're fishing on private property I understand that's a privilege and that some responsibilities go with it. But fishing on public water is not a privilege. It's a right. Fish are a public resource. So who are we supposed to thank for this so-called privilege? What don't I understand about this? ([IFFF Code of Angling Ethics](#))

Helping kids learn to love the outdoors. A public-private coalition is building a statewide network of outdoor conservation centers in Florida for young people from grades 3 to 8. One of the biggest and the one closest to us is on the shores of Tampa Bay near Apollo Beach. The first director is Kathryn Guindon of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Center. Club members are aware, too, of the amazing work Dr. Guindon has done starting and managing FWRC's "Tarpongenetics" DNA tracking research program. ([Suncoast Youth Conservation Program](#))

OK, you have my attention. Transducer meet drone. ([RCF Drones](#))

Bill