

On The Fly



Dayle Mazzarella (MCI) demonstrates proper fly casting to St. Pete and Tampa area fly fishers at the casting clinic at Maximo Park on March 5. P12



Suncoast Fly Fishers help Boy Scouts work toward their fly fishing merit badge. P14



The NuCanoe Frontier 12-footer is our live-auction headliner for the April 2 Hog Roast. P3



He/she was not invited to our February outing at Fort DeSoto Park but came anyway. P10

On The Fly

March 2016 Volume 26, Issue 3

News 'n' Notes	2
Vote for officers, board. President's note+	2
April 2 Hog Roast . All the scoop	3
March Meeting, Outing, and Everglades	4
Bill Scarola: I enjoy my NuCanoe Frontier	7
George Haseltine: Reviews and Previews.	9
Snapshots: February outing, Fort DeSoto Pk	11
15 common casting mistakes and fixes	12
Popular Casting Clinic at Maximo March 5	13
Boy Scouts prep for the fly fishing badge.	15
Report: Walt Ruda: Fish. Work. Fish. Bass!	16
Trout on Smitty's shrimp, Burkard's Clouser	16
Tying Bench: Capt. Pat's Simple shrimp	17
Tying Bench: Alan Sewell's Mayan Cichlid	18
Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic #76	19
Capt. Pat Damico: TBT's Captains Corner	19
Bob Morrison: Fly Fishing How-To	20
Members weigh in: Why do we fly fish?	25
Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover	26

Suncoast Fly Fishers News 'n' Notes

NOMINATING COMMITTEE BALLOT

SFF Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officers and board members for 2016. Newly elected officers and directors will assume their responsibilities at the end of the March meeting.

Your nominating committee is pleased to present an enthusiastic and active group of leaders who have demonstrated vision, judgment, initiative, responsibility, and team player skills. These are people who have lived our values of meeting member needs, continuous improvement, and friendliness. They will invite and encourage all members to actively participate in the mission of Suncoast Fly Fishers.

President, George Haseltine
Vice President, Rick Warfel--Alan Sewell
Board member: John Craig
Board member: Bob Burkard
Board member: Bruce Evensen
Board member: Rick Yarn

These candidates were presented at the February membership meeting and the floor was open for nominations. Alan Sewell was nominated for vice-president. In the March membership meeting we will vote, *by show of hands, on all unopposed candidates. We will then vote by secret ballot on the Vice-President position, selecting either Alan Sewell or Rick Warfel.*

Current incumbent officers and directors not up for re-election include:

Treasurer: Karen Warfel
Secretary: Dick Miekka
Board member: Jeff Heer
Board member: Tom Gadacz

The nominating committee will count ballots and announce the winner at the end of the meeting.

Nominating Committee: Ken Hofmeister, Chairman; Al Pitcher, Bill AuCoin, Mark Hays, and Tom Trukenbrod

A message from outgoing President Kirk Burton...



IT'S TIME TO MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!

No, I'm not talking about the upcoming Florida Primary, this is much more important. At the monthly member meeting on Thursday March 17 we will elect new officers and board members to lead our club. The slate for this year includes nominating committee recommendations and nominations from the floor during the February meeting is shown on page 2. I want to thank those current officers and board members who were eligible for another term and have volunteered to continue to serve. Our officers and directors devote time and energy to the club to make sure that we meet our responsibilities set out

by the IRS, the state of Florida and our own bylaws. More importantly they create the vision and develop the programs that will set the future course for a great club dedicated to sharing the love of fly fishing and the knowledge of fly fishing, fly tying, rod building and related subjects.

Several members have asked why I am not running for another term as president. Unfortunately, a new job requires that I work in the DC area several days a week, keeping me from devoting the energy on club operations that you, the members deserve. Serving as your president for the past two years has been a highlight of my time here in Florida. I have been honored to work with the dedicated volunteers who freely give their time and energy to making SFF the best fly fishing club in the Southeast and perhaps the nation (I may be a little prejudiced). I look forward to continuing to share the fellowship and love of fly fishing with members at every available opportunity. Wishing you tight lines,

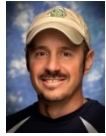
Kirk

Suncoast Fly Fishers News “n” Notes

April 2 – The 13th Annual SFF Hog Roast and Silent Auction

4:00 to 8:00 pm, City of Treasure Island Auditorium
120 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, FL 33706

This is our premier club event of the year. It is our principal fund raiser and is a must attend event for every SFF member and guests interested in fly fishing or fun night out!



Breaking News: Our featured speaker is Glen Pla, Bright House Sports Network’s “Average Angler” who makes sportfishing programs enjoyed by the whole family.

Tickets will be available at the regular member meetings and all club events. Please purchase your tickets early. If you are planning to attend the Hog Roast and cannot attend a meeting, you can mail your ticket request and check or call Karen Warfel at [813-505-3162](tel:813-505-3162). If you order tickets, you can pick them up at the next club event or at the door. Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to attend so we can provide the caterer with an estimate of attendees. Mail to: **Suncoast Fly Fishers, P. O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743**. Members and guests \$20/person. Children 12 and under are free. Please make your reservation early. Sign up at the meeting or mail your ticket request. Menu is BBQ pulled pork, ribs, and chicken with all the fixings provided by *Smokey Bones*. Parking passes will be available at the member meeting or at the door.

For the second year in a row we will have a very special live auction of a Frontier 12 by NuCanoe. The Door Prize will be a custom-built fly rod (9 wt.) by Alan Sewell with matching line, reel and case. Only members are eligible for this one of a kind door prize. A ticket for each active member in attendance is included in the price of the event. Grand Prize Raffle will be for a Pescador 10 sit-on-top kayak. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and it’s open to all.

Everybody's a winner. For the second year in a row we will have a very special live auction of the no-flip Frontier 12 by NuCanoe.

We have some great products in this year’s silent auction. Catch an opportunity for a professionally-guided trip by guys who know the best spots, bag some trophy flies tied by our best member tiers, and get your limit with gear and merchandise. We have the best in rods, reels, fishing equipment, trips and a host of other items. A few of these items include professional quality polarized sunglasses by Onos and Costa; Plano fly boxes; tricked-out Orvis Sling Pack, Alpen Optics spotting scopes; TFO Lefty Kreh Professional Series rods; a two-night vacation package at the Plantation Inn in Crystal River including golf for four on their 18-hole championship course; round trip passage on the Key West Express; wine package parties professionally hosted in your own home; fly line from Cortland; and a Hydro Glow LED fishing light for your dock or boat. The silent auction is open to all attendees.

The HOG ROAST is an excellent time to review your bucket list and get what you need to cross off a few items. For example: Take a kid fly fishing--how about Cabela's Wind River combo six wt, rod, reel, line, backing, leader? Cast a plug with a fly rod--how about a genuine hand carved Jim Swann plug nestled in a beautiful fly box, along with a couple of assorted spoons or spinners? Afraid of sunburn? Fear not--how about a new hat and lots of sunscreen? Can't find the bathroom at night on your Patagonia trip? Not to worry, we have a flashlight/keychain in every bucket. Stab an attacking lion while on safari? How about a Jim Swann knife? Need binocular/monocular to better view the scenic panoramas? How about 60% off coupons from Alpen Optics? Road trip and time for an oil change? Bob Lee's oil change certificates should handle it. Extra reel for sinking line? No problem with Redington's Red Start. Wanna start tying your own flies? Have we got deals for you! Everything from materials, instructional books, vise, and tools. Such deals are yours for \$1 per ticket, 12 for \$10, or 26 for \$20. Bring your bucket list and cash. The bucket raffle is open to all attendees. **Ken**

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Hog Roast!

Rick & Karen Warfel
Co-Chairs, SFF Hog Roast & Silent Auction

Suncoast Fly Fishers News 'n' Notes

March 16, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Outing, Fort DeSoto Park

Project Healing Waters needs volunteers to help with a fishing, kayaking, and picnicking event at Fort DeSoto Park's Arrowhead Picnic area. We will meet at the park at 8 am. This is a great opportunity for members who have considered volunteering with Project Healing Waters at Bay Pines to give it a try. Please call John Craig [727-423-3319](tel:727-423-3319) if interested so that we may get an accurate count of volunteers prior to the event.

Doc is still with us: Richard Oldenski's fly fishing gear has been donated to PHWFF

Also PHW is always looking for volunteers to participate in the weekly programs we sponsor at the Bay Pines Campus. Volunteers teach fly tying, casting, and the sport of fly fishing. Past meetings have included western rivers guides and recently a gentleman who tied professionally for L.L. Bean as our veteran guests. The vets were the teachers; we were the students at those meetings. Call me. 727-423-3319.

John Craig

Thursday, March 17 meeting.

- Our presenter is Dayle Mazzarella, Master Casting Instructor
- Our fly tier is Layne (Smitty) Smith
- IMPORTANT: Bring flies for the Hog Roast auction. See Myron Hansen. He has fly boxes for them. This is a big part of the silent auction. Thanks.

Saturday, March 19 Outing, Largo's Walsingham Lake.

Thursday, April 21 Meeting.

- Our presenter is Kelly Sobzak who will talk about fishing the Everglades, Caribbean Islands, Tampa Bay, Alaska, and more. Take a look at some of her [amazing pictures](#).



Dayle Mazzarella, MCI,
March meeting presenter.

Saturday, April 23, South Skyway Outing

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

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

There will be a Canal-Side Fish Fry on Saturday noon at the outing, along



Alan Sewell with an
Everglades canal bass.

with the Cocoa Fly Fishing Club Florida Fly Fishing Association). You'll dine on the fresh catch of the morning and hush puppies. SFF grills and cooks are welcome. You catch 'em, you clean 'em, and we cook 'em.

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

Research Everglades Canal fishing. Read some of the Ready-Set-Go articles in April 2013, April 2014 and April 2015 issues of *On The Fly* by Paul Sequira, David Putnam, Alan Sewell and Everglades guru Russ Hampton.

Suncoast Fly Fishers News 'n' Notes

April 12, 1 pm. Grand Opening, Suncoast Youth Conservation Center

Suncoast Fly Fishers are invited to attend the grand opening of the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center in Apollo Beach. Several members have already announced they will attend to lend support to a very interesting public/private partnership to help young people learn about marine life and habitat.

The new facility will be managed by Kathryn Guindon of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Center in St. Pete. Guindon, who has spoken to Suncoast Fly Fishers, initiated and managed the innovative Tarpongenetics program to map the migration patterns and recovery rates of tarpon.



April 16 and May 7- Introduction to Fly Fishing at Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure

- April 16 is the first of two IFFF-sanctioned events hosted by Suncoast Fly Fishers for persons who are not fly fishers but are interested in becoming a fly fisher. The second one is May 7 and it will also be held at Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure at 9501 U. S. 19 North, Pinellas Park. Bill Jackson's has generously volunteered to provide room for the class as well as coffee and rolls plus lunch
- The class is from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm and it is followed by lunch from 1:30 to 2:30.
- The class is limited to 20 pupils.
- Club members are needed to be "social assisters" to answer questions about fly fishing and about our club.
- It's free, but the class is limited to 20. So put your name on the list now. Tom Gadacz, 727-360-8030.

Thursday, May 19 meeting

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

Saturday, May 21 St. Petersburg Urban Outing

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



Rick Yarn: Urban Outing redfish

Suncoast Fly Fishers News 'n' Notes

Monthly Outings Locations for 2016

March--Walsingham Lake

April--South Skyway

April --Everglades Canals

May--Downtown St. Petersburg Urban Outing

June--Night Light snook outing

July--Picnic Island, Tampa

August--Lake Maggorie, St. Petersburg

September--Chassahowitzka River

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

November--Weedon Island Preserve

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



Everglades Canals. Bass, bream, oscar, cichlids, and more

For sale by members

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

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

Sage - Lamson. 9-ft. 10-wt. Graphite 111, GFL 1090-3 RPLX, with Lamson reel and Scientific Anglers WFF line, with spare spool loaded with backing. Light usage. New over \$900. Will sell for \$350. David Putnam, 727-744-7536.

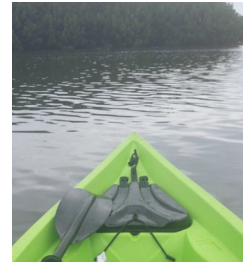
Bill Scarola: I Enjoy Fishing with my NuCanoe Frontier

Editor's note: The no-flip NuCanoe a hybrid kayak-skiff, headlines the live auction start at the Hog Roast. It comes with a Max 360 seat. Visit the [NuCanoe website](#) and learn more about this inshore fly-fisher's vessel. Visit our local NuCanoe retailer – [West Coast Kayak and Paddle Board](#) at 6447 Central Avenue in St. Petersburg.



Bill Scarola and his high-bid NuCanoe Frontier from 2015. Live auction bidding for the 2016 NuCanoe Frontier leads off the 2016 Hog Roast on Saturday, April 2, 4 to 8 pm.

I have enjoyed using my NuCanoe Frontier, a 12 footer. It's been a year since winning the bid for it at last year's Hog Roast. I've caught several different species of fish in it, but not a red or snook. Yet.



I like its portability, but the older I get the more difficult it gets to "rooftop it" so I've been trailering it. That's much easier, especially with help from a canoe-type dolly.

I originally made my own kayak dolly but I used plastic wheels and, of course, they broke off. So I went to Walmart for a commercially-made dolly. I did make my own seat bracket as it is lower in height than the ones it came with. I believe it makes it even more stable.

The quick release seat mount did cause me to get wet the first time I used it. The seat base slides out of the release part. Fortunately, I had another and made the switch.

My next equipment for it will be a trolling motor. I'll use a smaller and lighter 'wheel chair' type deep cycle battery but for now it's the ole 'Armstrong Motor'.

No regrets from me! This year's bid winner is going to love their 2016 NUCANOE.

Tight lines SFFers,

Bill



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 Mazzarella, MCI
IFFF Liaison -- Pat Damico
Fly Tying -- Myron Hansen
Membership -- Karen Warfel
Webmaster -- Dick Miekka
Hog Roast -- Karen and Rick Warfel
Club Outings and Lunches -- 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

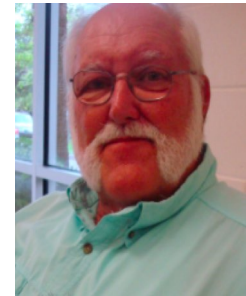




Co-chair George Haseltine

Suncoast Fly Fishers Outing Reviews and Previews and Annual Tournament Update

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



Co-chair Capt. Dan Bumgarner

Saturday February 20, 2016, SFF outing at Fort DeSoto Park with lunch at Arrowhead Park

How do you measure a successful fly fishing outing? By the number of fish caught, by the number of people fishing, by the number of people at lunch?

We measured the success of the Fort DeSoto outing by the pound. Yep, you read right, by the pound. Alan Sewell served up a delicious 12-pounds of pulled pork to 37 very hungry SFF members. Because we had 51 (yes, 51!) names on the signup sheet, Alan also prepared sausages just in case. I think he spent his Friday preparing it all for us. Fortunately, there was enough for everyone, but there was nothing left. Thank you, Alan. You did a superior job!

Also Mike Besel, one of our new members, brought a large Greek salad. There wasn't even a piece of lettuce left on that pan. Thanks Mike.

As always, we thank you faithful members who always help out. John Craig is always faithful in bringing the accessories -- plates, plastic forks, knives, spoons, napkins.

Now to the fishing. It was a beautiful day. The sun was shining and the wind was about 5-7 mph. The water was fairly clear. We had boaters, kayaker and waders. There were quite a few fish caught, mostly undersized trout. Adam Hays caught a 12-inch flounder. Way to go Adam! Tom Jones reported a 17-inch trout but had to confess that he caught it on a jig with a sp**** rod (expletive deleted). Great joke, Tom. He really had us going.

Ron Kelley caught a 16-inch trout but then Mark Craig reported a 16-1/32-inch trout. (Mark Hays commented that probably neither one of them had a ruler, Ha!) Mark Craig would have won, but we decided after consulting the non-existent, not published unofficial "fishing liars measuring rules" that the winner had to be at least 1/16" longer. For those of you who remember, this rule was established earlier by one of our members who has since gone on to fish the other shore. So, Ron and Mark both get a gift certificate at the next meeting. And both share leadership for the sea trout category in the 2016 tournament standings.

Continued on next page>



Puffer on the fly. Some days a puffer is better than nothing. Just ask Tom Jones: "I was using a spinning rod with a root beer colored plastic bait to find some fish and I caught a 17 1/2 inch trout. Then I switched to my fly rod and the only thing I caught after that was a puffer. I caught the puffer on a gray Buck tail bend back fly with a Carl Hanson monofilament body and just a little bit of silver flash with lead eyes."

Reviews and Previews, continued...

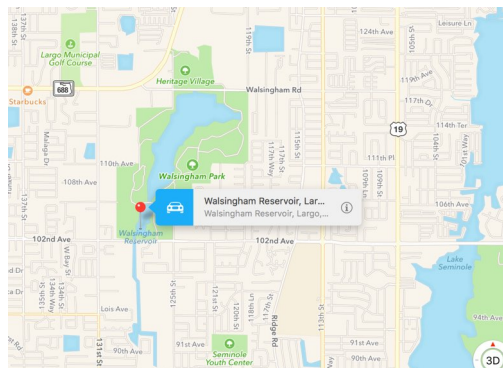
PREVIEW: Saturday, March 19 Outing – Lake Walsingham in Largo

Our next outing will be at Walsingham Park. The weather should be beautiful. We're contemplating another very special lunch for this day.

We will have charts at the March general meeting. Once again, the award will be for the longest bass or sunfish. We have eliminated the legal limit size and more changes are to come. Be sure to be at the March meeting.

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 & John Craig



George

Final results are in...

2015-2016 TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing caught
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	No winner in this category		

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.

It's a new year.

2016 TOURNAMENT LEADERS

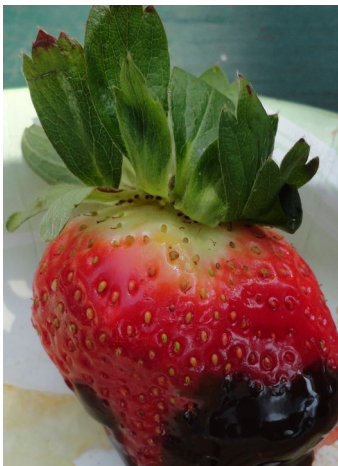
Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing caught
Longest bass -			
Longest sunfish			
Longest sea trout	16-inches	Ron Kelley/Mark Craig	Fort DeSoto Park (Feb)
Longest redfish			
Longest snook			

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

Snapshots from the Fort DeSoto Park Outing



Alan Sewell's amazing pulled pork and sausages and Mike Besel's Greek salad awaited fly anglers at our February lunch at Arrowhead picnic area. Below, fresh, Florida sweet strawberries with a chocolate topping, a very just-right treat, courtesy of Ryan Sollars and his son Cooper.



This raccoon was overheard saying, "Hey guys, please leave some table scraps for me." Photo by Ron Hill



Great egret. Great picture. Fishing was slow, but wildlife photography was great. Photo by Ron Hill

Damico: Do You Make These 15 Fly Casting Mistakes?

At our February meeting Capt. Pat Damico narrated a IFFF video used by IFFF Master Casting Instructors like Pat to recognize the 15 most common casting errors and to explain the reason for errors and explain the changes needed.



Capt. Pat Damico also tied his simple shrimp fly at the February meeting.

Pinched from the [IFFF website](#) here are the descriptions of some of the mistakes and fixes shown in the video:

- A cast in which there is too much slack on the water; the line cannot be lifted correctly, and so, in order to get the line off the water, the caster takes the rod too far back on the back stroke. This problem is eliminated by eliminating the excess slack. This is probably best done with a roll cast. Note the awkwardness of the incorrect cast and the smoothness of the correct one.
- As the back cast is made, the angler turns the wrist outward; on the forward stroke the wrist is then turned inward. For a right-handed caster, this common error results in a curve cast to the left every time. It is easily corrected by having the caster stand next to a wall and perform the casting motions without the rod. Note the straight-line path of the arm, rod, and line during the correctly executed casts.
- On the forward cast, the casting arm is thrown straight forward. This is the most common cause of a tailing loop. It is corrected by dropping the elbow during the forward stroke; compare incorrect and correct arm movements carefully.
- The rod is drifted forward during the pause between back cast and forward cast (this is also called creeping). This

error can sometimes be difficult to detect because it can be subtle. Watch the rod tip after the rod has been stopped on the back cast. It should not creep ahead before the forward cast is begun.

- The forward cast shows improper application of power, i.e., starting quickly and ending slowly rather than starting slowly and smoothly accelerating. The correct stroke is smooth acceleration that starts slowly then proceeds rapidly and ends with a positive stop.
- The caster attempts to shoot line but releases it too early. The line should not be released until after the rod is stopped at the end of the forward stroke. This common error is corrected by having the caster say "Stop, shoot."
- Wrist casting. Good casting involves the upper arm, forearm, and wrist (but only a little wrist.) In fact, good casts can be done with no wrist movement at all. Emphasize that the wrist is bent **ONLY** at the end of the stroke (both back and forward) and that it is **ONLY** bent a **TINY** bit.
- Forearm casting. Good casting must involve the upper arm as well as the lower arm. Watch the good casts carefully and note the movement of the elbow as the rod is lifted into the back cast and then dropped during the forward cast.
- There is no pause between the back cast and the forward cast. Bull whipping, to be sure. The rhythm is: Lift and back cast, **PAUSE**, forward cast, drop the rod as the line falls. Remind them of Norman Maclean's description of casting in "A River Runs Through it."
- A roll cast that is started too soon. The caster must pause long enough for the line to slide back past the shoulder before beginning the forward stroke.

Master Casting Instructor Fly Casting Clinic at Maximo Park

On Saturday, March 5, Suncoast Fly Fishers and the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club hosted a Fly Casting Clinic with five Master Casting Instructors (MCI) – Dayle Mazzarella and Pat Damico of the Suncoast Fly Fishers, Steve Smith of New Brunswick and Jim Dowd of Massachusetts with a huge assist by other well known Casting Instructors in the Tampa Bay area, Chris O’Byrne, Leigh West, and Steve Parker.



Dayle Mazzarella, MCI, works with guest Ethan Finchum. Bob Burkard photo.

Even some of the most accomplished fly casters in our area had to admit this casting clinic helped take them to a new level...and they still need to practice what they learned.

Grass drills of pick-up and lay-down (PULD), false casting, feeding line, double-haul and the constant tension cast

were demonstrated, explained and then practiced. Each drill had an advanced challenge for those pushing their limits. We took a break between sessions and ended about noon for a lunch. The casting instructors were available for questions and discussions. After lunch

optional sessions included casting drills which most attended. They included 4 stations: 1. one-legged casting - (keep the boat from rocking); 2. accuracy (under mangroves, docks, and trout fishing); 3. distance (get that redfish!); and 4. quick casting (get that bonefish!).



Dayle Mazzarella (right) showed students how to cause the fly to make a left or right hook before it lands in the water. The secret is a last-second twist of the hand which causes the rod tip to curve. The fly follows the rod tip left or right.



Steve Smith, MCI, visiting from New Brunswick, shares long distance secrets with Tom Gadacz, president of the Florida Council of the IFFF

And a special thank you to Suncoast Fly Fisher Truk Trukenbrod for bringing coffee, donuts, and lunch.



Instructor Leigh West helped fly fishers understand how to properly execute the double-haul to gain valuable distance.



Pat Damico MCI helped fly casters work on casting the fly so it landed in a small area.

Continues on next page

Continued... Fly Casting Clinic at Maximo Park



In all, 41 area fly fishers participated in the clinic and several came forward and said they learned more than in big name casting clinics costing \$250. This clinic cost only \$35 but it was free to IFFF members. Clinics by IFFF-certified casting instructors are among the rewards of membership. Photo by Tom Gadacz.



Master Casting Instructors Steve Smith (l), visiting from New Brunswick, chats it up with Capt. Pat Damico. The Casting Clinics are a bi-annual event started Pat in 2007. In 2013, Pat was joined by Dayle Mazzarella, MCI, who has since taken an active role in leading these events. This year participants were also coached by Chris O'Byrne, CI, Jim Dowd, CI, and Steve Parker and Leigh West. Photo by Tom Gadacz.



IFFF Casting Instructor Chris O'Byrne counsels Mangrove Coast member Joe Cook. Tom Gadacz photo

Suncoast Fly Fishers Demo Fly Fishing to Boy Scouts



Bob Burkard gets ready to show and explain the match-the-hatch properties of all types of flies. Scouts also watched him tie a shrimp fly and a baitfish fly.

In February, at the invitation of scoutmaster Terry Tomalin, Suncoast Fly Fishers Pat Damico, Bob Burkard and Bill AuCoin showed Boy Scouts of Troop 218 at the St. Raphael Church auditorium on Snell Isle how to cast a fly rod, how to tie a fly, and how to tie the important knots.

At one meeting Pat showed them the arbor knot, nail knot, surgeon's knot, loop knot and clinch knot.

At the next meeting Bob organized his flies into categories, and then he showed them how a fly is made. He tied a shrimp fly and a baitfish pattern. Bill helped the scouts learn to cast 30-feet or more – they all succeeded – and most were able to land the fly inside a two-foot-square target.



Bob's dry flies were just one of seven categories of his flies he displayed and explained to the scouts. Others were saltwater flies, streamers, poppers, bass bugs, nymphs, and wet flies.



Bill AuCoin (right) helped the scouts practice landing the "fly" inside a small target area 30 feet away.

Below are some of the things Boy Scouts must do to earn the fly fishing merit badge. For more information go to [the IFFF support page for counselors](#).

- Explain how to remove a hook that has lodged in your arm.
- Name and explain five safety practices you should always follow while fly-fishing.
- Demonstrate how to match a fly rod, line, and leader to achieve a balanced system.
- Demonstrate how to tie proper knots to prepare a fly rod for fishing.
- Tie a backing to a fly reel spool using the arbor knot.
- Attach backing to fly line using the nail knot.
- Attach a leader to fly line using the needle knot, nail knot, or a loop-to-loop connection.
- Add a tippet to a leader using a loop-to-loop connection or blood knot.
- Tie a fly onto the terminal end of the leader using the improved clinch knot.
- Explain how and when each of the following types of flies is used and tie at least two flies.
- Demonstrate the ability to cast a fly 30 feet using both overhead and roll cast techniques.
- Catch at least one fish and identify it. If local fishing and health regulations allow it, clean and cook a fish you have caught. Otherwise, acquire a fish and cook it.

Walt Ruda: Fish. Work. Fish Some More

It's that time of year again, spring bass are turning on. I get a few casts in before dinner on the ponds in my neighborhood. The bass and tilapia are starting to bed up and the bass are hitting topwater. You can also drag almost anything through their beds and they will usually pick it up to get it out of there. But I love the topwater action and will fish it most of the time.



I have to laugh at myself sometimes 'cause fishing is funny....

I will get up two- hours before sunrise, drive an hour to fish a flat, get skunked all morning. Then I drive home and catch a 3 to 4 pound bass just 50-ft from my back door.....

Hey, that's fishin'. *Walt*

Bill AuCoin: Fat Trout on Smitty's and Burkard's Flies

On a late afternoon wade-fishing excursion with fellow member Steve Putbrese a Weedon Island sea-trout liked the looks of Layne Smith's Golden Eye Shrimp

I was throwing Smitty's little shrimp on a 5-weight, with 12-pound fluorocarbon leader, flipping the fly this way then that way, giving it a chance to sink a little.

Then I felt a little drag on the retrieve. Oh, heck, probably grass. Nope, luckily, it was not grass. I felt the yin and yank of a real fish. The real fish shot right past my waders. A big trout. I let it run and take some of the slack fly line with it, even as I spun the spool to put line on the reel.

After a few minutes the fish had played itself out. I took some pictures. The sun was going down and it lit up the mouth of that yellow-mouthed sea trout and the golden eye shrimp.

Then, I thought, hey, this fish weighs about four pounds. It will be perfect for dinner. Alas, while I was attaching the stringer the speckled trout slipped out of my hand and fell into the water. With a couple of head shakes it ejected the stringer and took off quickly.

A week into March I caught several nice trout, including a 19-incher, on Bob Burkard-tied Clousers. The trout were at the mouth of a residential canal near Weedon Island and feeding on the incoming tide.



This fat trout, about 4 pounds, jumped on Smitty's Golden Eye Shrimp.



A 19-inch trout swallowed a Bob Burkard-tied white-and-brown Clouser minnow.

Bill



This is a shrimp fly that can be tied simply or more complicated. You can...

- Adjust color
- Tie in antennae or not
- Palmer hackle to make legs
- Stripe it with a marker
- Add more or less weight with different eyes
- Vary hook size from 6 to 1.

Materials

Hook: Size 4, Mustad 34007 (Tie with size 1 to 6 as appropriate)

Eyes: Dumbbell

Antennae: rubber legs

Chenille: Estaz

Head: Fish hair

Glue: Flex cement

Tying Sequence

Step one: Begin with size 4, 34007 Mustad hook. Wrap the thread back close to the bend with a harmonious thread color and size

Step two: Add dumbbell eyes with figure eight wraps. Continue wrapping the thread down to the bend. Add rubber legs for antennae

Step Three: Tie in double amount needed at thread then use thread to secure it

Step four: Tie in Estaz and wrap the thread forward, leaving room for building up the head. Coat thread with flex cement

Step five: While still wet, wrap Estaz forward with at least two Estaz wraps behind the eyes and tie off the thread.

Step six: Select some fish hair or similar material and tie in at the head. Some flash can be added if you prefer.

Step seven: Taper and tie off the head with whip finish. Trim it to the desired length past the hook bend and taper the tail end with scissors.

Step eight: Hold this material so that it stays on top of the fly behind and between the eyes.

Step nine: While holding it at the bend of fly with one hand, use the other to apply light cured resin to the top of the fly. Resin should cover head and part of bend. Cure with light and do some final trimming to get desired shape.



I LOVE catching Mayan cichlids, oscars, bass and bream in the Everglades canals. I love to throw poppers, sponge and cork, and see them engulfed by these fish. Purple is the color for topwaters that I really like to use. But streamers also work just as well, if not better. The exotics like to eat the fry of other fish, and their own. This fly looks like a cichlid fry. Cast it into

cover and move it slowly. The feathers will undulate. The fly will get eaten.

Materials

Hook: Long shank, size 4

Eyes: Bead-chain

Body: Bucktail, white and orange with red knitting wool

Flash: Crystal flash on both sides of tail

Tail: Feather and chenille

Tying Sequence

Step one: Wrap thread from eye to bend and back.

Step two: Tie in bead-chain eyes.

Step three: Tie tail with bucktail, I use white and orange.

Step four: Add a piece of knitting wool in red, combed apart.

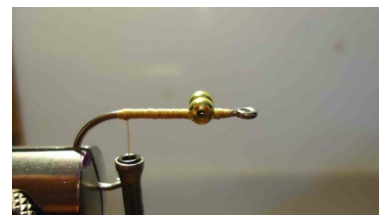
Step five: Add crystal flash to sides of tail.

Step six: Tie in feather and chenille at bend. Wrap chenille and tie off in front of eyes.

Step seven: Palmer feather over body and tie off in front of eyes.

Step eight: Tie off thread and coat it with sealer.

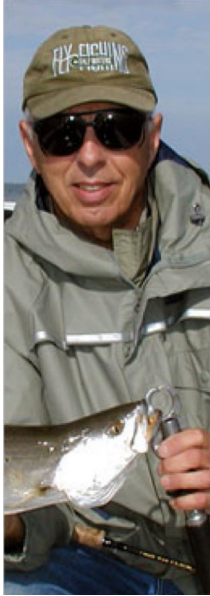
Step nine: Trim tail and mark with black marker



Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #76

Back Cast Predicts Forward Cast

By Capt. Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor



The back cast has been touted as your most important cast. Why? Because it is the setup for your forward cast and your presentation cast.

Making a forward cast with a poor back cast complicates things and never has a good result. Just watch the big guns at our TBFFC November event. You will know when the longest casts are made by watching the back cast. Back casts with large loops, too early or late forward application of power, sag, 180-degree rule violations, and ticking the ground will all be setups for poor final forward casts.

Watch your back cast during practice by placing your casting foot a little behind your other foot. This allows you to get a good look at what is going on behind you. If when you turn to see your back cast you rotate your body or wrist, your fly legs will not be parallel. To correct this, turn your head at the last minute to see the back cast. In fishing situations, you should keep your eye on the target.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

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

Captain's Corner: via Tampa Bay Times

Slow-moving water fishing tips

By Pat Damico, Tampa Bay Times Correspondent

As guides, we're often limited to a particular day and time when a client can fish. Are there ways to improve our odds on these less-than-perfect days? Slow-moving water is often answered by anglers by staying home. This means good fishing areas that are often crowded will be barren of boats and anglers. That presents an opportunity to visit some of your best spots.

Boat and jet ski traffic that scares and chases fish out of the shallows will be absent, so expect more relaxed fish to occupy those areas. Wind can really slow or accelerate a tide, and an understanding of that will help you find more active fish. On a large bay, wide, deep water will not be affected as much as areas where water is shallow and in narrows. Passes and constrictions between islands will have improved flow. Points are always worth investigating, especially those that start shallow and drop off into deeper water. Oyster bars, especially near mangroves, deserve attention. With water moving slow, it will stay in one place for a longer time and the sun will have an opportunity to make it warmer, always a winter attraction for southern fish. Fish areas exposed to the sun the longest. Pick an afternoon with a decent tide. Don't spend too much time in one place if unsuccessful. Head to your next spot. Cold-water fish like a deep, slow presentation.

Having two fly rods rigged, one with a floating line with a crab or shrimp pattern and another with a sink tip line and a weighted small size baitfish fly. Darker colors or those that match the bottom are a good place to start.

Bob Morrison: How-To

Spring has Sprung (sort of)



Slow down, you move too fast. Sea trout are coming on strong and responding to warming weather and water. Water temperatures are above 60 degrees so snook are becoming more active in shallow water. Nonetheless, you should take it slow when retrieving your flies. Vary your retrieval speed and style, along with trying various depths for the fly.

The pause that refreshes. Topwater flies such as poppers, crease flies, and gurglers should catch fish now. Let the fly sit still for half a minute or so after it hits the water; then retrieve. Try to create some noise and little splashes to attract attention.

How low can you go? Try retrieving lightly-weighted or weightless flies just off the bottom. Trout will be favoring grassy bottoms, so try to keep your fly just above the grass tops. Remember trout limits—only one fish in five may be over 20 inches long, and for your sake, I hope he is.

Velcro is a fly fishing tool. Here's a good tool tip. Cement a piece of Velcro, the one with the hooks, to the handle of a toothbrush. Use the toothbrush and the Velcro to fluff up hair, hackles, and dubbing that may get buried during the tying process. This also makes for a better, more natural-looking fly.

Go get 'em and good luck

Bob

Here are more tips from members

Need flies, need a guide? Call a fellow member. Our fly club membership, particularly new members, may not know of the commercially available fly tying available by Smitty. Want a dozen Clousers or other long-



This is why you should wear sunglasses or your glasses while fishing. (Al Pitcher)

time favorites? Have Smitty tie 'em for you. Ditto guides. Though most of the guide members have a "card" in the newsletter their specialties may not be mentioned...live bait and spin too, along with fly fishing, so call them when the kids come to town, etc. A lot of new folks go to retail outlets, not knowing the custom options. Some of our best fishermen, Bob Fischer for example, only use Smitty-tied flies. With the flies you get advice too, and Smitty's been around and hears of all the successful flies. (David Putnam)

Keep your hands dry. I just "invented" a use for elastic sweat bands used by tennis players and football players who want to keep sweat and water off their hands. If you wear one or two on your wrists, just behind where your rain jacket sleeve closes, it helps keep water from running down your wrist and into your jacket. Fly fishing in the rain, or doing any activity that calls for raising your arms in the rain can cause a lot of water to leak in. When I use cotton tennis wrist bands I squeeze 'em out every now and then, and I'm amazed at how much water they've soaked up. Walmart or Target for wrist bands, cheap. (David Putnam)

Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers

To place an ad in *On The Fly* please
email Karen Warfel at
kmwarfel@yahoo.com

1502 N. Westshore Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33609
813 681 1888
store@flintcreekoutfitters.com

www.FLINTCREEKOUTFITTERS.COM

➤ Rustic lodging at 90-acre mountain, creek & river paradise
➤ Guided fly fishing/drift boat packages
➤ Customized family tours & activities

1414 Robert Miller Lane Mineral Bluff, GA 30559
706-374-4489 • fireflylodge@tds.net • fireflyfishinglodge.com

ARCHITECTURAL METAL SPECIALISTS

WWW-METAL-FAB INC. COM

Capt. Pat Damico
2981 E. Vina del Mar Blvd.
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
Tel: 727-360-6466
Web: http://captpat.com
Email: flyguy@captpat.com

Guy Tillotson
President
Phone: (904) 347-3138
Email: guy@grandslamgroup.com

GRAND SLAM GROUP, LLC
Sales & Marketing
www.GrandSlamGroup.com

3806 Guilford Rd. #6 Naples, FL 34112

©Paula Cannon 1996

FLY FISHING
• Lessons
• Casting
• Fly Tying
• Fishing Trips

Dayle Mazzarella
(760) 703-0118
email: emailmazz@yahoo.com

3625 S. Manhattan Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33629
727-504-4062

Conserving. Restoring. Educating Through Fly Fishing

Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers





Dollar for Dollar
Alpen is your Best Optics Buy!

Alpen Optics – Winner of **7 Outdoor Life** “Great Buy” Awards. *More than any other optics company – EVER!*

 **877-987-8370**
alpenoptics.com

Call ALPEN, use code word “Fly” to receive FREE keylight & catalog.

 **JIM SWANN'S** 

Complete Fly Fishing Shop
Rods - Reels - Hand Tied Flies - Guide Service
Fly Tying Materials
Classes in Fly Tying and Casting

13650 S. 98 By Pass
Dade City, FL 33525

352-567-6029


Custom Built Saltwater Flies

CRAIG SMOTHERS PHONE: (941) 266-5209
5526 SHADY BROOK TR. EMAIL: SALTFLYS@GMAIL.COM
SARASOTA, FL. 34243 WEBSITE: WWW.SALTFLYS.COM



1-866-865-4695
WWW.ONOS.COM
Lifetime Warranty

Tampa Bay Charter Fishing
with
Capt. Dan Bumgarner
aboard
"Teacher's Pet"

Ph. 727-526-7565 Cell 727-422-9163
USCG Licensed



Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers



plantationoncrystalriver.com
800-632-6262

Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers

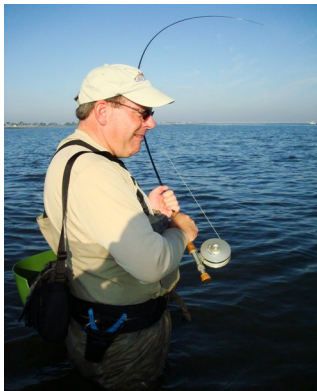


WWW.NUCANOE.COM
PHONE: 888.226.6310



Question of the Month

A lot of fly fishers say they catch more fish with spinning tackle, but they still prefer fly fishing. So, what is the essential appeal of fly fishing?



Tom Jones: For me it's the tying of my flies and even designing my own flies. And since I have chronic tendonitis in my elbows fly casting is more compatible. Spin casting aggravates the tendonitis more.

Dick Miekka: If you are not catching anything fly fishing is a lot more fun than spin casting, but the catch 22 is then you are less likely to catch a fish on a fly.

Anonymous: Feeling the strike in your left hand then feeling the fish on the fly

Anonymous: Tying your fly and getting the fish to strike it is a feeling that spin fishing rarely creates. The skill level of fly fishing is at least 10 levels above spin fishing.

Ron Hill: I enjoy the hunt, purpose and artistry of fly fishing. I get just as much enjoyment from designing and tying my own flies. I like having to figure out what is going on in the environment you are in.

Bob Morrison. Fly fishing is more challenging, requiring your skills.

Bill Scarola. The challenge of mastering the casting skills and the pleasure of catching a fish on a fly that I've tied.

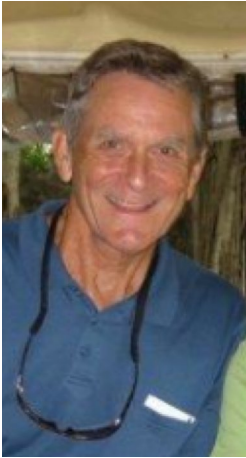
Alan Sewell: Catching fish is ok but the "look" is the most important part.

Duane Mertz (new) — fly fishing is more engaging than spin fishing. You are much more involved with the cast and the fight.

Jeff Heer: Fly fishing can get as complex as the fly fisher wants to make it. There is great satisfaction in mastering all the facets of the sport.

Andy Constantinou: Casting a fly rod is a beautiful feeling; no other method offers that. Playing a fish on a fly rod and the hand contact on the line when playing a fish is just special. I agree I would most probably catch more fish if I was spinning or bait fishing, but I don't care.

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Here snookie, snookie. Water's warming fast and the snook bite starts NOW. Are you ready? Don't delay., Snook season closes April 30. Remember, if you need a fishing license, to keep your snook you need a snook permit. Oh, and measure carefully. It must be between 28 and 33 inches. Or you could just give them your boat. [\(FWC\)](#)

Be Prepared: Here's how to help a Boy Scout get his fly fishing merit badge. He'll need to cast 30-feet, catch and clean a fish, know the important knots. Figure on about 18-20 hours plus a fishing trip. [\(IFFF\)](#)

Fly fishing's Annie Oakley. She "can still slice a piece of fruit with a cast." This is Joan Salvato Wulff, of course. [\(Angler's Journal\)](#)

Watch. Practice. Watch again. Lefty Kreh and Ed Jaworowski, patron saints of the magic wand crowd, have produced what some say is the best fly casting instructional video ever. *The Complete Cast* is, imho, the easiest to understand show-and-tell you'll ever see on a screen. Lefty and Ed teach 25 fly cast techniques. Here's my drill: I watch a lesson, then I practice it in the back yard. These two DVDs and my Blu-Ray are rather intimate. [\(Amazon\)](#)

Looking down from above. Manatees are doing well. A team of 16 observers from 11 organizations counted 3,292 manatees on Florida's east coast and another 2,958 on the west coast of the state. [\(The Fishing Wire\)](#)

Red snapper on the fly? No, not likely, but that doesn't mean we can't support our offshore angler brethren who are losing the sector separation battle with commercials and – this is the part that sticks in my gullet -- their new allies -- charter boats. Aaarrggghhh. Here's the sausage-making history and insights from Sport Fishing Magazine Editor Doug Olander and fisheries scientist Dr. Bob Shipp. [\(Coastal Conservation\)](#)

How to make your own fly tying glue. Craig Smothers, one Florida's most innovative fly tiers and one of our club's Special Friends, has posted a You Tube video explaining how to make our own Tying Glue for building flies. This is different from Finishing Glue used to put a shiny finish on the fly. Worth the watch. [\(You Tube\)](#)

Keep the heat on decision-makers. Polluted water and lack of clean flows of freshwater continue to make vast areas of South Florida vulnerable to algal blooms, brown tide, seagrass die-offs, fish kills and the list goes on. Al Pitcher has pointed us to a link with an update on the problems and what we can do about it. [\(Bonefish and Tarpon Trust\)](#)

Let us pause to give thanks to underwater video cameras and underwater LED lights. This going-viral video of sea trout feeding was recorded in one of our Gulf passes. Takeaway: speckled trout move lighting fast when they feed. Pat Damico sent this in. [\(Field and Stream\)](#)

Bill