

On The Fly

Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

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



Kids tie their first fly at MarineQuest. P13



Tom Jones' Secret Crab Recipe. P11. Caution: Not for human consumption



Joe Coor's catch-and-consume flounder. P15



Nemo is found. He's still not safe. P15

On The Fly

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SFF President Letter – November 2016



Welcome to our [website](#)

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers, a charter club of the International Federation of Fly Fishers. I am glad you are here. Did you meet some of our members tying at Marine Quest, Florida Sportsman or other event? We are there every year where we really cater to kids.

Did a neighbor take you along on one of our monthly outings: Pinellas Point, Weedon Island, Lake Maggiore, Fort Desoto, Hillsborough River, or night dock fishing for Snook? Did you share a club provided lunch with us? Or, did you just stumble upon us. Either way, you are welcome.

We promote member and visitor involvement in Fly Fishing, Fly Casting, Fly Tying, and Marine Conservation in a family fun atmosphere. We practice “catch and release” fish conservation. Spend a few minutes with us on this site.

Be sure to check out our club's new [Calendar of Events and Activities](#)

Ours is a form of fishing that differs from conventional spin or open reel fishing. The weight of the line is what casts the almost weightless fly to the fish. The coordinated movement of arm, rod and line is an art form unto itself.

Click on the menu items on the left side of the home page to get an overview of where and when we meet, who we are and what we do. You'll find that our newsletter is the best publication of its kind and our editor, Bill AuCoin, really presents a beautiful picture of fly fishing and those of us who enjoy it so much.

Then, come and see for yourself. But, BEWARE. Fly fishing is an addictive sport. There are vises, hooks, thread, feathers, fur, and other materials that may have a mesmerizing effect on you. You may find yourself wandering through a fly shop for hours looking at rods, line, flies, tools and materials. It may even get your son or daughter away from the video games for a while. If you're already infected then you'll love it here!

Our meetings always provide an expert presentation in conservation and restoration, locating, identifying and catching different species of fish as well as fly tying and casting before every meeting. We don't have a monthly dinner meeting but, twice a year we have FREE PIZZA. Oh, and our Annual Hog Roast Banquet! Food, fun, prizes, auctions, raffles, nationally known speakers; definitely a good time.

I promise that you will feel at home as we get the chance to fellowship and build lasting friendships. We welcome beginners and experts alike. Men, Women & Children. If you are working toward retirement fly fishing will give you something to do after retirement. If you are retired then it will get you off the couch and onto the water. And, no young person can get into trouble when concentrating on fly fishing. Mark your calendar. The third Thursday of each month. Come see us. We'll be looking for you. Question? Call, Text or Email. 727-423-8110 Cell & Text ghh343@aol.com

Never lose your sense of adventure,

George

George Haseltine
SFF President 2016-17

Calendar: Club Meetings & Outings

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

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

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

Thursday, November 17, Meeting

- Capt. Pat Damico is our speaker. Bring your questions. Pat will facilitate a discussion on topics that interest members. Topics will be listed on an easel, prioritized, and then defined or explained by members most knowledgeable on the subject. Examples: Preferred knots for different flies, casting problems, rod selection for different species, leader design, when to use different lines, etc. In the past, this has been a well-received program. Bring your questions or problems and we will help you with them.
- Pat is also our fly tyer. He will tie a "Snook 40" Fly, supposedly named by someone who caught 40 snook on this fly before breaking it off on the last fish. It is simple and has many applications in our area.
- Bring shirts, caps or other garments for SFF logo embroidering. \$10 per shirt or cap.

Saturday, November 19, Outing

- **Weedon Island Preserve**
- Lunch provided by John Craig

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Saturday, December 17, Don Coleman Invitational Outing

- **Fort DeSoto Park**
- \$100 for the longest fish
- Chili cook-off

Planning Ahead -- 2017

Thursday, January 19 Meeting (Trash 'n' Treasures. Announce nominating committee)

Saturday, January 21 Outing (Pinellas Point.)

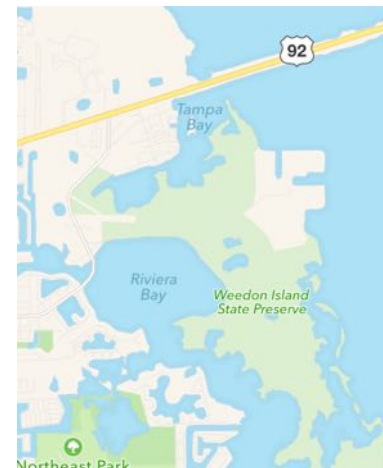
Thursday, February 16, Meeting (Tie-a-Thon. Free pizza. Slate of officers and board members announced; nominations from floor are welcomed.)

Saturday, February 18 Outing (Walsingham Park)

Thursday, March 16 Meeting (Dayle Mazzarella presents). Vote for new officers and board members.)

Saturday, March 18 Outing (Cypress Point, Tampa Bay)

Saturday, April 1. Hog Roast and Silent Auction.



Weedon Island Preserve.
Google Maps.

News 'n' Notes

The Hog Roast is Going Formal

We have decided it would be fun to step it up a notch this year and make the Hog Roast a formal event. All of the men and boys will sport tuxedos and all of the ladies will be elegantly dressed in evening gowns. We will also feature a red carpet entry into the event and each guest can expect to be photographed in their finest attire.



Bill AuCoin has arranged to have a local paper conduct interviews for publication and a video of the red carpet festivities will be featured on a local telecast. SFF is working with a number of outlets to rent formal wear and elegant jewelry at a Hog Roast Special Price. You can even have your tux or gown adorned with the SFF logo for the event.

Chico Fernandez will be our featured speaker and as usual we will have a spectacular array of fishing and non-fishing related items up for bid in the silent auction. We will be serving BBQ so don't forget those extra bibs and napkins to keep your formal clothing looking the best it can be for as long as possible.

Tickets go on sale at the November member meeting just \$20 per person. Kids 12 and under are free. This year the Hog Roast will be Saturday, April 1, 2017 so if you haven't figured it out by now.... April Fools on the formal wear. Make yourselves comfortable and come ready to have a good time!

Your 2017 Hog Roast Committee

April 1. (No foolin') Annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction, Treasure Island Municipal Center.

- Featured Speaker: Chico Fernandez
- Dress casual

More News 'n' Notes

West Coast Kayaks and Paddle Boards has a new store.

Grand Opening, November 19

West Coast Kayaks has moved to a new location and they will be having a Grand Opening on Saturday, Nov.

19. West Coast Kayaks sells NuCanoe and they have been a generous sponsor for SFF. Stop by and check out the gear.



New store for NuCanoe, West Coast Kayaks, has moved to 3350 Tyrone Blvd N. St. Pete. That's not far from our "clubhouse" at Walter Fuller Park.

GRAND OPENING



Meet the reps for our kayaks & paddleboards! Raffles, giveaways, and more!

Come check out our new 7000 SQ FT storefront in Tyrone next to Harold Seltzers Steakhouse for our Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony!
Family friendly event celebrating the Tampa Bay waterways and the water toys we use to explore them!

WHEN: November 19th 10am - 3pm
WHERE: West Coast Kayaks
3350 Tyrone Blvd N
St. Pete, FL 33710
PHONE: 727-954-8814
WEBSITE: west-coast-kayaks.com

Highlights:
- Food & Art Vendors - Music
- Activities for kids - Charity auctions
- Local nonprofits - Pro Staff Fishing
- Kayak & SUP Demos & Rigging Seminars

OCEAN KAYAK PAU HANA Crescent Kayaks
NUCANOE RIVER HAWAII SOLO Old Town

Big Gun Shootout, Sunday, November 20, Picnic Island Park

The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club hosts this annual competition starting at 9 am at Shelter 611. Experts and beginners alike are invited to test their fly casting skills. It's free and lunch is provided, but you need to let them know you're coming. Email Rick O'Hara -- flyguy47@verizon.net.

Saturday, December 3: Picnic Island Fly Casting Clinic. Shelter 614

Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club will host this year's Fly Casting Clinic at Tampa's Picnic Island Park. Next year, Suncoast Fly Fishers will be the host. Two Master Casting Instructors (MCI) – Dayle Mazzarella and Pat Damico -- will be assisted by other well-known casters and IFFF instructors in the Tampa Bay area including Leigh West and Steve Parker. It's free to IFFF members. Others can join IFFF at this event for just \$35 (\$25 seniors; \$15 juniors) and then the clinic is free. (NOTE: Clinics like this typically cost \$150.) We will have some equipment for those who need it. A 6-wt. to 8- wt. rod with a 7-8 ft. leader is recommended. *Bringing your own is recommended so the instructors can check to see if it is balanced.*

Picnic Island Fly Casting Clinic Schedule

- 8 am – Check in
 - 8:30 am – Basic casting principles and execution.
- DRILLS: Grass Drill, Pick-Up and Lay-Down, False Casting, Feeding Line, Roll Cast, Roll Cast to Pick Up and Feed. Each drill will have an advanced challenge for those pushing their limits.
- 11:30 am BREAK
 - 11:45 Split into groups. Introduction to the IFFF Casting Instructor Program - Saltwater Quick Casting, Double-Haul, Advanced Distance Casting, Accuracy and Mending
 - 1:00 LUNCH provided by Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club
 - 1:30 pm Repeat 11:15am Groups
 - 2:15 BREAK
 - 2:30 Fun Casting Drills - 4 Stations* One-legged casting - (Keep the boat from rocking,)* Accuracy - (Under mangrove and docks, and trout fishing) * Distance - (Get that Redfish!)* Quick casting - (Get that bonefish!)

News 'n' Notes continues on the next page

News 'n' Notes

November 28 and December 12: Introduction to Fly Casting Lessons, St. Pete Beach

Suncoast Fly Fishers is sponsoring a series of free fly casting lessons for on Monday nights at Egan field in St. Pete Beach. Course instructors are Brian Clark and Tom Gadacz. Classes are limited to 20 people. Sign up at the St. Pete Beach Community Center at 7701 Boca Ciega Blvd. or call 727-363-9245.



Google Maps

Thursday, January 25, 2017, Fly Tying for Newbies



Google Maps

Suncoast Fly Fisher Bruce Evensen will restart his monthly fly tying classes for beginners at 7 pm on Thursday, January 25. Fly

tyers will meet in the conference room at High Performance Plumbing Services at 4450 Morris Street in St. Pete. At the January meeting and each succeeding monthly meeting Bruce will let fly class students know the fly that they will tie next.



Fly class instructor Bruce Evensen. Photo by Raymond Smith

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

Vintage Circa 1945-52 Ebisu Split Bamboo Fly Rod Kit. Never Used, Set in Original box. Includes: 4 fishing



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

Bruce Evensen has a bunch of fly gear for sale. Call Bruce at 727-403-9010

- 7-8 weight Van Staal fly reel, brand new in the box; never used, \$430
- G. Loomis GL3, 9 -foot, 9-weight, Okuma CS reel, WF 9 intermediate line. \$150
- Remington outfit. 6-weight, 2-piece rod, Redington 6 weight reel, with WF floating line \$75
- Okuma fly reel. 7-9 weight. 2 extra spools. Reel and spools have 20# backing. \$75
- Thousands of flies from \$1 to \$6 each



Alan Sewell's collection of Suncoast Fly Fisher caps is not for sale.



SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

*NAME _____ DATE _____
 *ADDRESS _____
 *CITY _____ *STATE _____ *ZIP _____
 *TELEPHONE (____) _____
 **E-MAIL _____

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

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

IF A CURRENT MEMBER OF FFF, ENTER YOUR FFF NUMBER _____.

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

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

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

Amount Received \$_____. Date Received ___/___/____. Received By _____.

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

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

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

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

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

(REV. 4/26/2016)

Nanette Holland O'Hara: Seagrass is our friend

Tampa Bay Estuary Program makes our fishing so much better



The Tampa Bay watershed covers more than 2000 square miles. Tampa Bay and all of its surrounding water is the centerpiece in the lives of 2.6 million residents including, hey-hey, members of the Suncoast Fly Fishers. Nanette Holland O'Hara knows the importance of the bay to us. She is outreach coordinator for Tampa Bay Estuary Program. And, as it turns out, she is also a fly fisher, a member of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.



She has, you might say, a very high platform view of the health of our bay, looking down on the vegetation and the gamefish that depend on it. And the gamefish that

we depend on -- Snook. Redfish. Seatrout. And, also, the minnows, crabs and shrimp that they survive and thrive on.

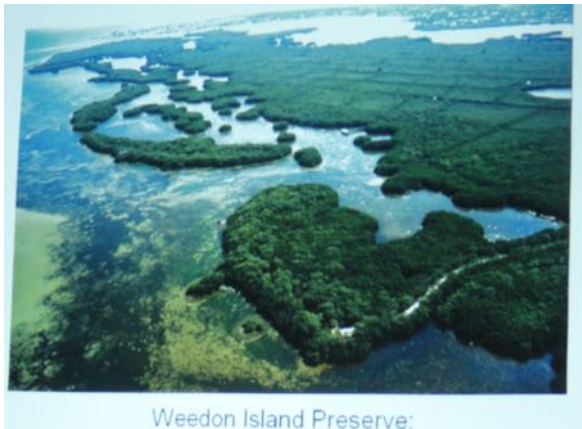
O'Hara shared information from a fly-fisher's perspective with members at the October meeting. The health of *Tampa Bay's Grass Flats* is what it's all about and that was the title of her presentation. The magic word is seagrass. Seagrass generates oxygen and keeps sediment in place.



Nanette Holland O'Hara

Seagrasses, specifically shoal grass, turtle grass and manatee grass, cover 40,295 acres. That's a lot when you consider that just one acre of turtle grass supports more than 40,000 fish --hey, seatrout love it -- and 50 million small invertebrates. More than 113 species of algae attach to its leaves.

Tampa Bay is relatively shallow and that's a really good thing if you're a flats fisher. Turtle grass will grow in water up to six feet deep. Here's the big if. IF the water is clear then sunlight can penetrate. TBEP watches to make sure our bay stays clean and the water stays clear so that sunlight keeps reaching deeper. That keeps the seagrass acreage expanding.



Weedon Island Preserve

TBEP is one of 28 national estuary programs created by Congress to help protect and restore estuaries with a special focus on collaborative problem solving and getting the public involved in the process.

Funding comes from the Feds but, collaboratively, funding also comes from Tampa Bay's surrounding counties -- Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee -- from Tampa and St. Petersburg, and from Southwest Florida Water Management District. All of us help pay for this so it's good to know our taxes are going to a good cause. Thanks, TBEP, from the fly fishers of the Tampa Bay area.

We are *Suncoast Fly Fishers*

Suncoast Fly Fishers

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

Club Officers

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

Board of Directors

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

Committees

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

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

Aims and Purposes

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

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

Directions to our meeting at Walter Fuller Park...From 22nd Avenue N turn North on 72nd St. N. Turn left (South) on 26th Avenue N. Then turn right into the rec center parking lot

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

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

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

Join. Renew. Application at
www.suncoastflyfishers.com



Tom "Truk" Trukenbrod

Suncoast Fly Fishers Outing Reviews and Previews and Annual Tournament Update

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



Bob Burkard

REVIEW:

Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament on the Hillsborough River

Saturday, Oct. 22 -- Finally a beautiful cool, sunny morning. A nice breeze was blowing and the Hillsborough was calling our names at the Rotary Riverfront Park. We had 15 members sign up to challenge the TBFFC to see who would catch the most sunfish that morning. We had 10 eager fishermen and women that arrived and entered the contest. TBFFC had one member attend who did not fish. But Denise Bruner did bring a delicious apple cobbler for our desert. Thank you. Bob Burkard provided a more than ample lunch that all enjoyed.

The contest was a bit one sided since SFF had the only participants. We had a tie with Layne "Smitty" Smith and George Haseltine catching 10 fish each. Each will be represented on the trophy and Smitty will hold the portrait for the year since he also caught a bass. This is the first time since Mark Hays won the trophy in 2012 that SFF has had possession of the trophy and portrait. Congratulations.

2016 OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS THROUGH SEPTEMBER			
Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing caught
Longest bass -			Walsingham Lake (March)
Longest sunfish	8-inches	Tom Trukenbrod	Chassahowitzka River (September)
Longest sea trout			Urban Outing (May)
Longest redfish			
Longest snook	23.5-inches	Ken Hofmeister	Dockight outing (June)
Longest ladyfish	18.5-inches	Mark Hays	Urban Outing (May)

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

PREVIEW Weedon Island Preserve

Saturday November 19, 2016

We are again back to one of the club's favorite fishing destinations, one of our best user-friendly outings. You can wade, kayak, or access the area by boat. The award this outing will be for the largest trout. You may also hook up a redfish or a snook just to brighten your day. John Craig has volunteered to provide our lunch at the pavilion. Don't miss it.

Directions:

Go East on Gandy Blvd. from Rte 275 or 4th Street.

About 1 mile turn right on San Martin Blvd N.E (just east of the Dog Track)

Turn left onto Weedon Drive N.E.

Launching a kayak? Drive past visitor's center to kayak launch turnaround.

Lunch is in the Pavilion near the main visitor's center parking lot.

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



Tie it with Sili legs



Or tie it with rubber band legs

*Cute little rascal, isn't he?
Wait 'til you see him fish. Tom*



Materials

Hook: Any #6 plain shank hook, barb flattened

Weight: Any dumbbell eyes

Thread: White flat wax nylon

Antennae: Grizzly hackle tips

Antenna Eyes: Make your own with 30 lb mono, plastic resin or epoxy, black nail polish. Instructions below.*

Beard: Tan Marabou

Shell: Lion Brand Yarn - Alpine Wool, color #223 Oatmeal

Legs: Sili legs or Office Depot size 16 rubber bands

Tying Instructions

Step one. Bend the eye of any #6 plain shank hook.



1. Bend hook eye

Step two. Tie on your preference in weighted eyes close to the eye.



2. Tie in dumbbell eyes for weight

Step three. Wrap thread to just into the bend of the hook and tie in two tiny hackle tips at an angle of about 25-30° from the hook shank.



3. Tie in tail hackle



4. Tie in mono crab eyes as shown. Dip tips in black nail polish.

Step four. Eye instructions: Bend an elbow in a piece of 30 lb mono and cut the length of both sides a little longer than the desired eye length. Hold each tip of the mono close (not touching) to the base of a flame until it swells to about twice the diameter of the mono. Dip each tip into a puddle of plastic resin and hang on a horizontal wire till cured. paint the eye with black nail polish.

Step five. Tie in a small pinch of tan marabou tips and trim off the rest of the feather.



5. Tie in tan marabou

Continued on next page



6. Tie in wool body

Step six. The body is made with short pieces of Alpine Wool from Lion Brand Yarn. Color: Oatmeal. I searched far and wide to find a color that approximates beach sand around Tampa Bay and bought a skein. So, if you'd like some of this color and workability, don't go any further. Just ask me and I'll give you a lifetime supply. This yarn is perfect for combing out smooth to create a shell (more on this below). Tie in 5 pieces using a figure 8 pattern to assure a right angle between the yarn and the hook. To maintain a distinction between the yarn segments I wet them (spit or water) and rolled them to a slender cord. This makes it very easy to negotiate the tight turns between the yarn segments and very easy to slip the 4 legs between them.

Step seven. Wrap each leg around the top of the hook shank and tie a square knot on the bottom. If your legs do not cross the shank at something like a 90° angle, you did not tie a square knot.

Step eight. Clamp all legs together to facilitate combing, trimming, and coating the shell.

Step nine. Comb the yarn fibers to blend them into the two halves of the shell.

Step ten. Trim the two sides to create a shovel shape. There's no such thing as a shovel crab but I have it on the authority of none other than Pat Damico that this shape will be aerodynamic while casting. The snook on the beach don't seem to care that they've never seen a shovel shaped crab. My first experience with this fly was a snook caught within a few feet of the surf's edge. (By the way, my apologies to anyone who knows of a shovel-shaped crab. I don't mean to upset your sensibilities)



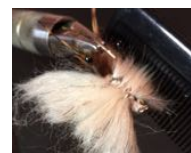
7. Add legs.



8. Clamp legs to trim shell



11. Coat the top of the shell. Don't let the glue touch the legs.



9. Comb shell



10. Trim shell to shovel shape

Step eleven. Coat the top of the crab shell with your favorite resin or glue and hang it up to dry. I like the side of a round toothpick for this. It allows me to really smooth out the top of the shell. (I should have left the legs clamped for this operation.)

Tom

Jeff Heer: Club fly tyers help kids tie their first fly at MarineQuest

An estimated 100 kids sat with Suncoast Fly Fishers to learn to tie a fly at the annual open house event at Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in downtown St. Pete.

Photos by Tom Gadacz



Hilton Bruch helped them tie Clousers and woolly buggers. Said Hilton, "It was a wonderful experience working with those kids and I look forward to next year."

Suncoast Fly Fishers set up in booth on the last day of the three-day event, helping close to 100 youngsters ages 6 to 15 or so tie their very first fishing fly. Rick Warfel, Hilton Bruch, Tom Gadacz and Jeff Heer sat glued to their tying vises for a little over 6 hours, providing assistance when needed to every kid wanting to take home their own hand-tied work of art. SFF has already been invited to attend MarineQuest 2017.

The institute held its first MarineQuest open house in 1995. The event was created to inform the public about the research performed at the institute and to introduce the community to the world of marine science. The

following year, MarineQuest expanded by adding a second day to provide local schools and students with an opportunity to visit the institute. Over the years, the event has expanded to a three-day program that now welcomes thousands of visitors.

During the School Daze event Thursday and Friday, Oct 20 and 21 the institute hosted 1650 students in grades 4-8 from local schools. Open House, open to the public and held on Saturday, brought an estimated 16,000 attendees!



Jeff Heer: "Girls took to the fly tying, too."



Rick Warfel (above) and Tom Gadacz showed kids how to tie the streamer, and let the kids pick the colors.



Jeff Heer with a new fly tyer. Jeff lined up SFF fly tyers and set up the booth for MarineQuest 2016.

Jeff

Tom Gadacz: Fun on the water with Project Healing Waters



October 19

Veterans from the Bay Pines Veterans Medical Center joined Suncoast Fly Fisher members, at the Arrowhead Picnic area in Fort DeSoto Park for some casting lessons, kayaking and wade fishing.

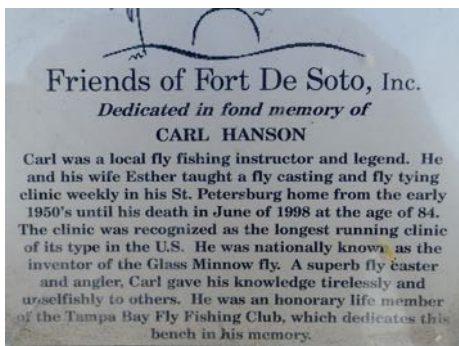
Representing Suncoast Fly Fishers was President George Haseltine, John Craig, Alan Sewell, Ted Rich and Tom Gadacz.

Several veterans used the rods that they built under Alan Sewell's guidance. Peter Jonsson, VA Recreational Specialist, organized the outing, transportation and an excellent lunch. Several spouses also attended and enjoyed the day at the beach.



We had a nice sunny day with temperatures in the mid 80ies and a moderate wind. We had a low tide and clear water. This was a good day to use a roll cast to keep those Clouser flies away from our backs.

We had lots of fishing, wading, kayaking and some great veteran stories. It seems that there was more joking and laughing at lunch than eating.



We had lunch near the bench dedicated to Carl Hanson, one of the early St. Petersburg fly fishing enthusiasts who had many members at his house where he held fly tying sessions.

Tom

Joe Coor: Big flounder for a big appetite. Catch-and-consume.



In mid-October Joe Coor had just the right recipe to fool this 23-inch flounder. He fly-cast a green and white Clouser from his dock in lower Tampa Bay.

That was no fluke. The flounder was in about three feet of water. The flounder pounced on the fly, of course, just like it was the real thing.

Joe won the tug-of-war. And as it turned out, he had just the right stovetop recipe for this delectable: Stuff it with shrimp. Float it in lemon butter. Cook it. Pounce on it.



Breaking News: Joe Coor has found Nemo ...



...on a fly fisher's vise.

Ron Kelley: Fiesty Silver Salmon, Yukutat, Alaska



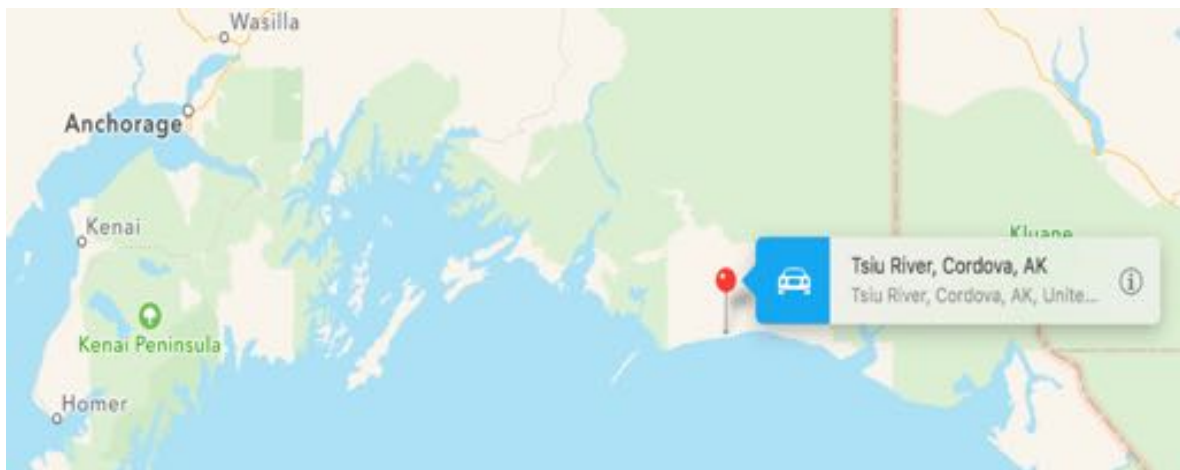
September 16, 2016

It wasn't cold enough in New Hampshire so Florida snowbird Ron Kelley went to Alaska to fish. This is the Tsiu River north of Yakutat, Alaska. Ron stalked and caught feisty silver salmon in the early morning.

In the background is snow covered Mount Stellar, which rises to 10,515 feet.

"An invigorating way to start the day. See you soon."

Ron



Courtesy of Google maps

Tom Gadacz: 2016 Fly Fishing Expo in Crystal River

The Florida Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers 2016 Fly Fishing Expo was held at the Plantation in Crystal River, FL. We had a great Expo with three featured speakers.

Blane Chocklett from Virginia and a Renzetti Legacy Fly Tyer highlighted his innovations with articulated flies. The articulations allow the fly to undulate in the water and increases the strike rate.



Andy Mill, tarpon on the fly Triple Crown champion.

Andy Mill gave us an impressive talk on how to attract, hook, and land tarpon. He shared the details of his successful practices in the pursuit of the silver king. Andy is the second angler to win 5 Gold Cup Tarpon Tournaments and a Triple Crown winner in tarpon fishing.



Blane Chocklett with Lily Renzetti.

Jon Cave runs one of the oldest fly fishing schools in the country. He is the winner of the IFFF Silver King award. Jon had two casting sessions which were well attended and helped many improve their casting skills.



Brittney Novalsky (R) showed female fly fishers how they have advantages.

Women were treated to great programs by Brittney Novalsky from Melbourne. She shared her fly fishing experiences and the advantages that women have in fly fishing.



Jon Cave(L) of the Jon B. Cave Complete Flyfishing School

We had a great group of IFFF Certified Casting Instructors who helped many attendees from first time initiates to those wanting to improve distance casting, casting into the wind, and those who needed specific casting remedies. We are very thankful to Captain Pete Greenan who organized a great team and included Captains Dave Olson, Pat Damico, Jimmy LeMert, David Lambert, and several others.



SFF'er Layne Smith was one of the Expo's stellar fly tyers.

Attendees had many additional benefits including great fly tyers, raffle items, silent auction items and several treasures at the live auction at the Saturday evening banquet.

Continued on next page



Tom Logan co-chaired the 2016 Expo along with Captain Dave Olson.

2016 Fly Fishing Expo in Crystal River/P2



Volunteers Patti Logan, Ann Hofmeister, and Suncoast Fly Fisher Rick Warfel.

The support from volunteers was incredible and made for a very successful event. Our thanks to Tom and Patti Logan, David Olson, Pete Greenan, Rick and Karen Warfel, Ron Winn, M.E. DePlama, Bill AuCoin, Ken and Ann Hofmeister, George Haseltine, Brian Clark, and Roger and Joanna Williams.

The contributions by vendors made our raffles and auctions a success. Plantation at Crystal River provided a relaxing venue for our event and the food was great.

Make your plans to attend our Fly Fishing Expo next year and enhance your fly fishing experience!

Tom



Suncoast Fly Fisher Alan Sewell at the Expo tying bench.



International Federation of Fly Fishers display



Innovative fly tyer Jim Swann of Jim Swann's Flyfishing Outfitters in Dade City.



The Renzetti display of vises and other DIY gear pulled in lots of Expo fly tyers and rod builders

Jeff Kopelman and Rick Yarn fish NC's Tuckasegee

Early November near Bryson City. Jeff K kept his iPhone camera busy



Jeff Kopelman caught this brown trout on a woolly buggler fly.



Tuckasegee gave up this native trout to Jeff's fly. Nice!



Tuckasegee rainbow



Rick Yarn changing flies

Below, water, water everywhere and, if you're a fly fisher, that's a good thing



Bob Morrison: Fly Fishing How-To

November: Time is right for the inshore slam.



Cooler weather = hot fishing. Here we are in November, a good month for Kingfish, Spanish mackerel, tuna, and bonito. If you have a boat, troll your flies slowly near structure and over hard bottom. Redfish are aggressive with cooling water. Try gurglers or poppers at dawn and sinking flies later in the day. You will also find sea trout, flounder, jacks, and ladyfish along with reds on the flats in shallow water.

Gurgle, gurgle, pop, pop, rattle, rattle. Snook are swimming upstream in the creeks. Search for them with poppers and gurglers, also with greenback or mullet baitfish flies. Under docks and along mangrove edges are also good spots to try. Also try rattling flies, and expect hits from all fish including flounders who seem to like rattlers and Clousers.

Sea trout bite is on. Sea trout are hunting the passes and spoil islands about now and are looking for scaled sardines (greenbacks) and pinfish. Try natural patterns for them along with white baitfish patterns for best results.

Redfish love crabs and shrimp. Hit the flats on the turn of the low tide at dawn and sunset: also for the first two hours of the rising tide. Crab and shrimp patterns will be taken by redfish here at these times. Watch for large rays since reds follow them looking for critters that the rays scare up off the bottom.

Go Get 'Em, Good Luck.

Bob

White pelicans have arrived. Photo by Andy Constantinou



Factoid: Brown pelicans dive for bait. White pelicans herd schools of bait then dip them up

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



First, train the casting hand, then the line hand

By Capt. Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor

When doing one on one instruction with someone who has fly fished before, I always ask them to begin by doing some casting for me. This gives me a quick insight into where to begin. Invariably they will be using both hands with their cast. I can't think of a single instance where their casting arm and hand didn't need some help. How would adding your line hand improve your technique if your hand that is controlling the cast is not performing well? If your cast has problems when using two hands, put the line hand in your pocket until you get things together with your casting hand. Now, add the hand handling the line.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

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

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

Baby tunny (false albacore) aplenty in passes

By Pat Damico, Tampa Bay Times Correspondent

Baby tunny, or false albacore, are perfect for fly rod fun. Large schools of these speedy predators are along our beaches and are easiest to find in passes where there's strong tidal flow and tons of baitfish. Both an incoming or outgoing tide trigger feeding action easily seen because terns and seagulls feed heavily on baitfish pushed to the surface. Use binoculars to scan a larger area. Once feeding fish are observed, position your boat ahead of the school and shut down the outboard. Leaving the motor on puts down the fish. The tide brings the fish closer to you so a quick saltwater cast can be made. Nine weight fly rods are needed with a good reel that has 150 yards of backing and an efficient drag. A 30-pound hard monofilament shock tippet is needed to prevent cutoffs from sharp teeth. Wire leaders spook fish and reduce takes. White or chartreuse/white flies that match baitfish size are used and must be stripped quickly to replicate fleeing baitfish. A sink tip or full sinking fly line, rather than a floating line, gets you deeper where the largest fish are often found.

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Thanks, Orvis, for getting Lefty to tell his story on video. Orvis is posting a series of interviews with Lefty Kreh about how he got into fly fishing. Interesting. Lefty also makes observations about today's fly fishing industry. Hat tip to Pat Damico for this link. ([Orvis](#))

Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's: Only in America. Bass Pro Shops has acquired Cabela's and promises to grow both brands starting at a deal valued at more than \$4 billion. Bass Pro's Johnny Morris, who founded the company in 1972, will be CEO and majority owner. "We have enormous admiration for Cabela's, its founders and outfitters, and its loyal base of customers," said Morris. "The story of each of these

companies could only have happened in America, made possible by our uniquely American free enterprise system." ([USA Today](#))

Fly fishing keeps you young. Get to know our Hog Roast speaker, Chico Fernandez. ([Hells Bay Boatworks](#))

Got a call from Captain Frank Bourgeois in Springhill the other day. No more offshore fishing, he said. But, flats fishing; oh yeah, from a Ranger flats boat. And bass fishing? Well, yeah, from a Ranger bass boat. Sounds like he has it all figured out. He's always fishing somewhere. ([Alwaysfishing.com](#))

What to do when you need a cleat right here, this very instant. This new cleat can be positioned where you want it, when you need it, on a runabout, kayak, canoe, paddle board, or inflatable boat. Instant gratification. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

I caught a bonefish fishing with Captain Curtis once upon a time. Way back when, circa 1970, when flats boats were just a novelty, Captain Bill Curtis was a big deal in his new Hewes flats boat, *Grasshopper*. He stalked skinny water predators in Biscayne Bay and the Florida Keys. And that was his thing for decades. Along the way he fished with Ted Williams, cussed out writer Tom McGuane (he later smoothed things out) and chatted up folks at Jimmy Buffet parties. But, always focused, Bill's main thing through all the years was flats fishing and he helped his clients sight fish and catch bonefish, permit and tarpon in those clear waters. I'm pretty sure that's what he's still doing ... from the poling platform of his brand new *Grasshopper* in the sky. RIP, Bill Curtis. ([Midcurrent](#), [Angling Trade](#))



Capt. Bill Curtis. Midcurrent photo by Marco Lorenzetti

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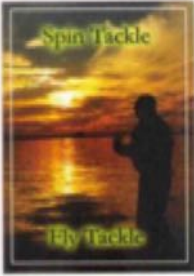
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