

On The Fly

Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

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

Join or renew membership at www.suncoastflyfishers.com



A beautiful morning on the Chaz



Tarpon pro Andy Mill headlines the Florida Fly Expo Nov. 4-5 at Plantation on Crystal River



Nathan Suedmeyer in Baja's Isla Espiritu Santo



Jeff Kopelman scores in Cherokee

On The Fly

September 2016 Volume 26, Issue 9

President George Haseltine	2
Calendar: Meetings & Outings	3
News 'n' Notes	4-5
Join. Renew. Application	6
Florida Fly Fishing Expo	7
Big Gun Shootout	8
BTT: Baby tarpon are a big deal	9
Tom Gadacz: Beautiful river. Beautiful day	10
We Are Suncoast Fly Fishers	11
IFFF Members get hotel, rental car discounts	12
Truk: Review and Preview	13
Tying Bench; Smitty's Freshwater Summers Tide	14
Jeff Kopelman: Thankful for "little" things in life	15
Jeff Kopelman: Cherokee, NC trout are hungry	16
Nathan Suedmeyer: Beautiful Baja	17
Bob Morrison: Fly Fishing How-To	18
Capt. Pat Damico: Casting Clinic. Captains Corner	19
Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover	20
Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers	21+

SFF President Letter – September 2016



The fulfilling life of fly fishing

Times and dates and places to be. Why, now that I'm older, do they trouble me?
I set the alarm and, to my dismay, wake up hours before time, fearing I'm late.

Hit the deck running to get it all done, youth gave me the strength from daylight till done.
That which I did the whole day long, takes me all day to do even one,
And then rest is required,
For soon I get tired,

So down for a nap I lay.

OK. I'll stay away from the poetry isle (for a while). Sorry that it rhymed.

Do you feel it? The change in the weather. Yeah, you know, the cooler breeze in the early morning. The change in the sky in the evening. Doesn't it give you a longing for something out of doors? How fortunate we are to have just the remedy for the call of the wild in the air this time of year.

Fly fishing. And just the right people in our club who can show us how to do it all the right way.

Just the sound of it brings visions:

Of cleaning a line, tying a leader,
And attaching a tippet or two.
Tying a fresh batch of my favorite flies,
Prepping the kayak or Gheenoe.

Oh, sorry, there I go again.

Anyway, we have a lot of things planned for the rest of the year from casting clinics, to big gun shootouts, to a chili cook off. Read all about it in this Superior News Letter. And hitch up your britches and put on your shoes (or not) and let's have a good time together. (Whoa, that almost rhymed)

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.

Project Healing Waters event, October 19, Fort DeSoto Park

- Fly fishing, kayaking, picnic. Volunteers needed. Talk to John Craig.

Thursday, October 20 Meeting

- Speaker: Nanette O'Hara, Outreach Coordinator for the **Tampa Bay Estuary Program**, will speak about restoring sea grasses and other habitat. TBEP is quite aware of the sewage overflows in St. Petersburg and elsewhere and has issued **policy statements** about it.
- Fly tier: Alan Sewell or Layne (Smitty) Smith
- Bring shirts or other articles of clothing for a high quality embroidered SFF logo; just \$10.

Saturday, October 22, Outing

- Carl Hanson Tournament Outing, Hillsborough River, hosted by Suncoast Fly Fishers.
- Lunch provided by Bob Burkard at Rotary Riverfront Park, Temple Terrace.

Thursday, November 17, Meeting

- Capt. Pat Damico is our speaker and fly tier.

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



Bill Scarola, Jeff Heer, and Rick Warfel chatted up show goers on Saturday.

Fly Tiers Needed ... Marine Quest, October 22, 10 am to 4 pm

Outreach chair Jeff Heer needs fly tiers for Marine Quest to help kids learn to tie their first fly. The Fish and Wildlife Research Institute is in downtown St. Pete. The address is 100 Eighth Avenue SE. Talk to Jeff at the October meeting or email him at JAZBOJW@AOL.COM

News 'n' Notes

Dues are due

- 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 October or November meeting or fill out the form on page 6 and mail your check to the club to continue to get the newsletter and enjoy other benefits and activities.

Introduction to Fly Casting

Suncoast Fly Fishers is sponsoring a series of two-hour fly casting lessons for beginners on Monday nights. Suncoast Fly Fishers is a charter club of the International Federation of Fly Fishers. Each session is from 6 to 8 pm at Egan Field, 9101 Blind Pass Road in St. Pete Beach. Course instructors are Brian Clark and Tom Gadacz. There is no fee for the session but the class is limited to 20 people and it is necessary to sign up at the St. Pete Beach Community Center in person at 7701 Boca Ciega Blvd. or by calling [727-363-9245](tel:727-363-9245).

The dates are

October 24

November 7 and 28

December 12

Want to learn to tie flies?

Suncoast Fly Fishers may sign up for free fly-tying lessons this fall in the meeting room at High Performance Plumbing at 4450 Morris Street in St. Pete. Bruce Evensen held a session on October 13 and he will lead another session on November 10. The focus is on basics for those new to fly tying. If anyone has any fly tying materials that they would like to donate, please bring them to the monthly meetings.

Mangrove Coast Catch-and-Release Fly Fishing Challenge, Oct. 29

Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers and Sarasota Chapter of CCA will hold their 12th annual **Fall Fly Fishing Challenge** on Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016. The catch, photo, and release fly-fishing-only event will consist of an Open Division for guides and guided anglers (all anglers are eligible to compete in the Open Division) and a Fly Angler Division (no guides).

Division winners receive an Orvis fly rod/reel outfit valued at \$750. Entry fee is \$50 and includes an awards luncheon following the tournament at The Meadows Community Association building, 2004 Longmeadow in Sarasota. For more information, call John Weimer at (941) 338-7883.

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

News 'n' Notes

November 4-5 **Florida Council** Expo at **Plantation Inn on Crystal River**

This is the main event for fly fishers in Florida. It's a new gear show with dozens of seminars on how we can be better at what we do – casting, tying, and catching – and insights from tarpon tournament sensation Andy Mill. Yeah, he's the same guy who skied in the Olympics. A winner is a winner.

Here is a list of presenters and their seminar topics, and there are more to come

- Andy Mill, how to catch big tarpon
- Jon Cave, fly casting distance and accuracy
- Blane Chocklett, how to tie innovative flies that catch trophies
- Capt. Pete Greenan – introduction to fly casting and Fly casting for distance
- Jim Valle - casting two handed rods
- Brittney Novalsky - women's outreach and DIY traveling
- Jimmy LeMert - learning the double-haul
- Capt. Pat Damico – emergency casting solutions
- David Olson, long distance secrets.
- David Lambert, catching redfish in marsh grass

Registration closes October 28. Details on the [Florida Council website](#) and [Facebook](#). If you want to attend the banquet, you must register on line. See the expo flyer on page 7.

Andy Mill



Blane Chocklett



Brittney Novalsky



Jon Cave



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.

Free Fly Casting Clinic, Picnic Island Park, Saturday, December 3

Master Casting Instructors Capt. Pat Damico and Dayle Mazzarella plus casting pro Steve Parker and others will provide expert fly casting instruction. It's free to all IFFF members. Not already a member of IFFF? You can join at the event and enjoy free lunch and drinks.



SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

*NAME _____ DATE _____

*ADDRESS _____

*CITY _____ *STATE _____ *ZIP _____

*TELEPHONE (____) _____ **E-_____

MAIL _____

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS (SFF) FOR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (SELECT ONE):

___ REGULAR MEMBERSHIP 1 YEAR - \$15

___ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 1 YEAR (INCLUDES MEMBER, SPOUSE AND CHILDREN UNDER 18) - \$25

___ BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP 1 YEAR (INCLUDES MONTHLY BUSINESS CARD NEWSLETTER AD) - \$100

IF A CURRENT MEMBER OF IFFF, ENTER YOUR IFFF 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:

___ INDIVIDUAL 1 year - \$35

___ FAMILY 1 year - \$45

___ INDIVIDUAL 3 years - \$85

___ FAMILY 3 years - \$100

___ SENIOR (age 65 or over; provide date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) ___/___/___ 1 year - \$25

___ YOUTH (under age 18; provide date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) ___/___/___ 1 year - \$15

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. 08/19/2015

IFFF Florida Council Presents The 7th Annual Fly Fishing EXPO

Friday, Nov. 04, 2016 - Saturday, Nov. 05

Plantation on Crystal River, FL

9301 W Fort Island Trl

Crystal River, Florida 34429

Registration closes Sunday October 28 at 6 p.m.

Your registration* includes 2-day access to all workshops, seminars, guest speakers and the Exhibition Hall . . . PLUS admission to Friday's Social on-site at 5:30 p.m. where pizza and beer will be served. Get your raffle tickets in advance to compete for some of the latest in fishing and outdoor equipment and merchandise . . . Drawings will be held throughout Friday and Saturday. Additional raffle tickets will be available for purchase during the EXPO.

EXPO Hours: Friday, 11/04/16 from Noon to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 11/05/16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

You are also invited to attend the IFFF Florida Council's Annual Banquet on Saturday, 11/05/2016 to be held on-site beginning at 6 p.m. This year's banquet will feature a prominent Keynote Speaker and a live auction. Seating is limited and **banquet tickets will ONLY be available for purchase on-line** until registration closes on Sunday, 10/28/2016.

RESERVE YOUR BANQUET SEATS TODAY!

Register here for all of the above and be sure to check the [Florida Council's main website](#) for all the latest details.

* Kids 16 and under admitted FREE to the Fly Fishing EXPO.

Big Gun Shootout

Sponsored by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Sunday, November 20 at 9:00 a.m.

Picnic Island Park, Tampa (Shelter #611)

Lunch Provided!

Experts and beginners alike are invited to test their fly casting skills at the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club's annual "Big Gun Shoot-Out" casting competition!

Individuals and teams of 3 are welcome!

Plaques will be awarded for highest scoring individual, highest scoring teams, and the "Big Gun," the overall distance casting champion.

Contestants will participate in competition stations that mimic the challenges of fly fishing, such as casting under the mangroves, into a cup of water, or through a hoop suspended a few feet off the ground. Come out and give it a try - you'll be hooked!



The competition will run from 9 am - 12 pm. There is NO entry fee, and lunch will be provided to all contestants. You may use your own rod for all competition stations except the Big Gun distance contest. *Volunteers also are needed to help set up the course and score contestants.*

CONTACT: Rick O'Hara (flyguy47@verizon.net)

Please let us know if you are coming by so we can order adequate food and beverages

Bonefish & Tarpon Trust: Help us find juvenile tarpon

Loss and degradation of juvenile habitat is the single biggest threat to tarpon populations

By JoEllen Wilson, Manager, Juvenile Tarpon Habitat Program

Bonefish & Tarpon Trust needs Suncoast Fly Fishers to help find juvenile tarpon habitats in the Tampa Bay area.

BTT is mapping juvenile tarpon habitat to 1) determine the habitat characteristics that are best for juvenile tarpon and 2) protect healthy habitats and identify other areas for habitat restoration.

BTT has already been involved with three juvenile habitat restoration projects and we will use this data to expand the restoration and protection effort.

If you are aware of any locations that hold juvenile tarpon that are 12 inches long or less, please contact JoEllen Wilson at jwilson@bonefishtarpontrust.org. You will be asked for an exact location to better assess the habitat characteristics for that spot. Don't worry, all information is strictly confidential and WILL NOT be disseminated to the public in any way.

Loss and degradation of juvenile habitat is the single biggest threat to tarpon populations worldwide, and they have been classified as "Vulnerable" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, meaning there has been at least a 30 percent decrease in the population in the recent past. Protecting and restoring critical juvenile habitat is the best way to preserve tarpon populations for the future. We appreciate your assistance in protecting the future of the tarpon fishery.



Our September meeting speaker was JoEllen Wilson. She is Bonefish & Tarpon Trust's Juvenile Tarpon Habitat Program Manager. JoEllen grew up fishing Charlotte Harbor and has worked in fisheries conservation and management for over 10 years. She has worked directly and indirectly with BTT for seven years.



Tom Gadacz: Beautiful day on the beautiful Chassahowitzka

The 90 minute drive was well worth the time for this scenic spring river and great SFF comradery



Oh what a beautiful morning. John Craig paddles out on The Chaz.

Wow. What clear water. Not only were we looking at the fish but felt they were looking back. Chassahowitzka, an Indian name meaning "land of hanging pumpkins" is a spring fed river originating in southwest Citrus County and is fed by many sister springs by underwater caves. Farther down, the river mixes and empties into the salty gulf. The shore line was filled with old southern homes and plenty of put ins. The shore is lined with oaks, cedars, pines and palms. Truly a beautiful river. There is a great variety of fish in this river with fresh water bass and bream plus, in the brackish water, reds, sea trout and snook. Downstream the channel narrows with many structures and presents a hazard to fast moving vessels.



It was a BYOL event and it worked out great. Pres. George Haseltine (L) made sure of that.



This river is full of aggressive bream. This one gobbled up Tom Gadacz' Clouser. Tom Trukenbrod had the longest of the day (and the year so far) with an 8-inch bluegill

We had a good turnout of 20 some members and most caught fish, but they were not huge. It was a beautiful day with a mild breeze and shade in the narrow channels.

We arrived just after sunrise and beat the late morning crowd.



Predator. It was only the length of a finger but this bream attacked Tom's spider like a prize fighter.

I went up stream and caught finger to hand size brim on spiders and small Clousers. Kayaks were shared thanks to Alan. Everyone had a personalized lunch – their own bag lunch. We met some new and prospective members during lunch. It was a 90 minute drive but well worth it - a scenic spring river and great SFF comradery.

Tom



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

Travel. Protect. Save.



Check out these exclusive offers

As a member of IFFF you can save more with these member discounts!



WYNDHAM
Save up to 20% off the
"Best Available Rate"



AVIS / BUDGET
Save up to 25% off
your next car rental



RED ROOF INN
15% discount on all
stays



MOTEL 6
10% discount on all
stays



RX SAVINGS CARD
Free prescriptions
savings card

VPI PET INSURANCE
Get up to a 15%
discount (or more for
multiple pets)



OFFICE DEPOT / OFFICEMAX
Up to 80% off preferred
products



LONG TERM CARE RESOURCES
Exclusive discounts on LTC plans



LIFE LINE SCREENING
Preventative health screenings
at an affordable cost



AUGEO
Health insurance marketplace,
and coverage based on
your needs



For more information, visit: www.fedflyfishers.org

Photo by Brian O'Keefe Photography



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: Chassahowitzka River

Saturday, September 17, 2016

As advertised, our Chassahowitzka River outing was a great success. The weather was good and the water was clear. It was a busy weekend on the water. The springs themselves were surrounded by visitors. A lot of fish were caught. An 8-inch bluegill and a 9 inch bass were both caught by Yours Truly Truk. This outing was a BYO lunch and we heard no complaints about the food. This was another great outing to the Chassahowitzka River. We had 20 sign-ups (double last year) and a total of 24 attendees.

PREVIEW Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament on the Hillsborough River

Saturday, October 22 --Rotary Riverfront Park/Fowler Avenue Boat Ramp/Temple Terrace

It is again time to honor Carl Hanson the mentor to the club for fly fishing and fly tying. It was a weekly event to stop by his house to be with friends learning, casting, and tying. Carl loved fishing fresh water and in his honor we meet with TBFFC and fish the Hillsborough River and compete to see how many sunfish can be caught by any one club member. The tournament trophy is awarded to the winning club to display for the coming year. Members can fish anywhere on the river wading, kayaking, canoeing, or boating. Lunch will be served at noon at the Fowler Avenue boat ramp in Temple Terrace. Come celebrate Carl even if it is just for lunch and memories. The member who catches the largest fish is awarded a portrait of Carl to keep for the year.

Directions to Rotary Riverfront Park for launching and lunch

- Rte. 275 from St Petersburg towards Tampa (Approx. 23 miles)
- Keep right to take EXIT 45B to I-4 towards Orlando
- Stay Right on I-4 (Approx 7 miles)
- Take EXIT 9 to MERGE onto I-75 North towards Ocala
- Take EXIT 265 to MERGE onto FOWLER AVE FL-582 W/E
- 1 MILE Turn RIGHT onto MORRIS BRIDGE RD
- Turn left into Park

Truk

2016 OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing caught
Longest bass -	24-inches	Bruce Carlton	Walsingham Lake (March)
Longest sunfish	8-inches	Tom Trukenbrod	Chassahowitzka River (September))
Longest sea trout	17.75-inches	Bruce Carlton	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.

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



Freshwater Shiner or Shad Imitation

This is a modified color variation of my saltwater Summer's Tide. It is a great fly for largemouth bass. It has two variations to imitate either the Golden Shiner or the Tennessee Shad ... Tie one on... you'll like it.

Materials

Hook: Claw 245N, Mustad C70S D or Mustad 34011 bendback style size 1 - 2/0

Thread: Black Flat-waxed Nylon

Tag: Holographic Red Body Braid

Body: Holographic Gold, Silver or Pearl Body Braid

Underwing: Badger Hair or American opossum. (See note)

Flash: Polarflash Gold or Silver/Pearl. (See note)

Wing: Russian Black Squirrel Tail (or Black Bucktail or Black Bear Hair)

Coating: UV Resin

***NOTE: Use gold flash and badger hair to imitate a shiner or use silver/pearl flashes and opossum to imitate a shad ***

Tying Instructions

Step 1: Prepare bendback hook and insert in vise (hook point down). Tie in Red Body Braid using 2 to 4 turns for tag.

Step 2: Tie in choice of Body Braid depending on version you are tying (Shiner or Shad) and wrap forward to bendback portion of hook, secure and cut off remainder. Coat Body Braid thoroughly with UV resin for a longer lasting fly.

Step 3: Invert hook in vise (or if you have a rotary vise, just turn over) so it is in the standard bend back position and tie in Badger or Opossum Hair (Shiner or Shad) 1½ to 2 times hook shank length.

Step 4: Tie in choice of Polarflash (Shiner or Shad) using V-style method to distribute it evenly over top and sides of Badger or Opossum.

Step 5: Tie in Russian Squirrel Tail, Black Bucktail or Black Bear Hair wing. Keep it sparse.

Step 6: Tie a nice head and coat with favorite UV Resin. You can add small eyes if you like before coating with UV Resin.

Jeff Kopelman is thankful for the “little” things in life



“Little” grouper caught off the dock a fly few weeks ago by Kope. “I hope he has gotten a lot bigger. Dittos for the mangrove snapper shown on the right.” Yeah, Kope so you can eat ‘em!



Treasure Island sunrise. Carpe the camera.



Life is good. Woody Miller (who just retired from the Sheriff’s Dept after 27 years) is fly fishing in Colorado. We’ll have his report in the November issue.

Jeff Kopelman: A new report from Cherokee N.C.



And a good time was had by all. Not.



About 100%. What are the chances this trout gobbled up a wooly bugger?



This could be the most amazing catch of all time on a fly rod. I snagged a 1 1/2 inch trout on a nymph



Answer no. Is there anything a wooly bugger can't catch?

Jeff

Nathan Suedmeyer. Fishing Baja's Isla Espiritu Santo

In Mid-September Suncoast Fly Fisher Nathan Suedmeyer and his cousin fly fished and snorkeled the beautiful waters surrounding Isla Espiritu Santo (Translated, Holy Ghost Island) off of Baja California Sur. Nathan said fishing was just so-so – mostly jacks and reef fish – but the scenery was magnificent. His pictures prove it.



Bob Morrison: Fly Fishing How-To

'Tis the Season to be fly fishing



Reel good advice. Please remember, when you hook a fish on a fly rod, play the fish using the reel to gather up line while you bring the fish in. Do not just strip in line and let it pile up at your feet. If you do, the line could become tangled and get you into trouble if the fish runs hard and you need to give it line. I've seen line get tangled in the guides so that the fish cannot take line, resulting in a lost fish. Worse yet, a hard-running charge by the fish could result in a broken rod tip. So, use that reel--that's what it's for.

Go dark. Go deep. Now that the "big storm" is over and hopefully the raw sewage has dissipated, maybe we can go fishing again. Fish that laid low while the winds and waves were high have started feeding again. Try for them at the tail end of an outgoing tide just before sunrise. The spoil islands along the intracoastal waterway are producing fish. Look for them on the side of an island that is closer to deeper water.

Get the smoker ready. Spanish mackerel are numerous over hard-bottom areas near mangrove shores. Watch the birds for clues as to the location of feeding schools. Bigger mackerel can be found out to four miles. Remember to use the steel leader tip that I mentioned earlier in a length from 8 to 12 inches long.

My, what big eyes you have. Snook have been biting in the passes along with some trout. Try flies resembling grunt baitfish, rather drab, with big eyes; also crab patterns. Crabs are swimming on the surface in the early morning and deeper, on or near the bottom later in the day. Finally, remember that when measuring a snook to keep, the size of 28 inches to 33 inches should be measured to the tip of the tail, not the fork.

Go Get 'Em, Good Luck.

Bob

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #82

Line leader failures cause casting problems

By Capt. Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor

A properly designed tapered leader transfers the energy from our fly line to the fly resulting in a smooth delivery. At a recent Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Event, several participants had a very weak, thin, flexible or soft piece of monofilament attached to their fly line with a proper nail knot. The length varied from a few inches to a foot. Either a loop or a straight piece of leader was on the end. This then attached to their tapered leader. A hinge was created that destroyed their attempt to cast the fly well. The part of the leader attached to the fly line should have the same flexibility or bend as the end of the fly line itself.

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

As water cools, flats fishing heats up

By Pat Damico, Tampa Bay Times Correspondent

Shallow water fishing for trout, reds and snook continues to accelerate as our area water begins to cool. Daily late afternoon thunderstorms are diminishing and evening fishing will become more attractive. As long as the water is moving, fish will be active. To become one of the 10 percent that catch 90 percent of the fish, use a fishing log for each trip. Water temperature and clarity, tide information, wind direction and speed, location of feeding birds, either diving or wading, and successful baits or flies used will give you a good start on choosing your fishing location as well as tactics. Going every time to the same spot where you once had a great day is a prescription for failure. Mullet schools have been a good indicator for finding redfish as well as large trout.

James Kenefick, one of my companions, fishing in Yellowstone Park with a spectator



Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Manatees play golf? Well, actually, during Hurricane Hermine some found their way to a pond on a golf course at Plantation on Crystal River. (Looking for golf balls, maybe?) Anyway when the rain water receded some of the manatees got stuck in the pond and there was nothing to eat. All's well that ends well. Experts from different agencies, public and private, put their heads and hearts together and figured out how to save them. Attaboys. You-go-girls. Or, whatever. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

Speaking of Plantation on Crystal River. The Florida Fly Fishing Expo is returning to our neck of the woods, central Florida, West coast. Nov. 4-5. I went two years ago and it was terrific. The best and the brightest in our world of fly fishing will be there leading sessions on casting, tying, and (best of all) catching. Check out the details and, importantly, long discount links. ([Florida Council, IFFF](#))

"Pure gold from Lefty. Why he is the BEST." Great Orvis link below from Capt. Pat Damico with the following note: "Lefty Kreh needs no introduction, of course, but hearing him tell his own story in an unrehearsed fashion is simply fascinating. In this first part of Eric Stroup's interview with Lefty, Lefty describes the very beginning of his life in fly fishing, including his friendship with Joe Brooks. He even relates the story of buying his first reel... He moves on to talk about the fly fishing industry of today, about which he has some reservations. And did you know that Lefty survived a bout with anthrax? Very cool stuff. ([Orvis](#))

Uh Oh. Scientists at the University of Florida have discovered a deadly bacteria that feeds only on fly fishers. Just teasing, of course, but if you're a fly fisher it's a good idea to check out the quality of water before you wade in. Vibrio, you know. It's a killer. If you have any open sores on your body (including your hands) and/or if we've had heavy rains then be especially careful. We have a club member -- his initials are RK --who got a serious infection after wade fishing at Weedon Island a couple of years ago. It looked worrisome so he went to the ER and he was admitted. The doctors told him if he had come to the hospital a day later they would have had to remove his leg. If he had come in two days later he would have died. Really, this is serious stuff. Fortunately, Tampa Bay counties do sample and report. ([Pinellas County](#). [Hillsborough County](#)).

Tampa Bay is amazing. Let's keep it that way. Our bay is a lot cleaner now than it was back in the 1970s. In those not-so-distant days our municipalities didn't really treat sewage. They just dumped it in the bay. Well, of course, the bay water clouded up. Then sea grasses died. Then fish populations declined. The bay is a lot better now -- a lot better -- but we all need to keep paying close attention, especially since the quantity of storm-water runoff from Hurricane Hermine was so large. I'm glad that the Tampa Bay Estuary Program is watching and working the case. Seagrasses have expanded greatly since they've been on the job. TBEP's outreach coordinator, Nanette O'Hara, will give us a report. She's our October meeting speaker. ([TBEP](#))

Coupla books to recommend: Doug Kelly, who I've known for a long while, has written a book about *Alaska's Greatest Outdoor Legends*. It's terrific. One of his outdoor legends is Chris Batin, a remarkable man -- fishing guide, editor of *Alaska Angler*, *Alaska Hunter*, and an author of many books including *Advanced Alaska Fly Fishing*. I am proud to say I've fished (in Florida) with both of these guys and heartily recommend their books. I've never been to Alaska, but it's at the top of my whatchamacallit list. ([Amazon, Chris Batin](#))

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This advertisement for Fly Fishing Western Wyoming features a large, detailed illustration of a rainbow trout on the left. On the right, text lists services: 'WYOMING Guided Fishing Trips Casting Lessons Group Rates June - October' and 'SAN DIEGO Casting Lessons November - December TAMPA Casting Lessons January - May'. At the bottom, it identifies 'Dayle Mazzarella' as a 'Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Master Casting Instructor' and provides the website 'flyfishingwesternwyoming.com'. A circular logo in the center shows a fly fisher on a lake with mountains in the background, surrounded by the text 'Fly Fishing Western Wyoming .com' and 'Guided Trips - Casting Lessons'.



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