

On The Fly

Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

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



Maggiore. Great ribs (and cookies), fishing. P7



Hammin' it up. Harlan Kehoe and Dayle Mazzarella on the Hams Fork River. P13

On The Fly

September 2016 Volume 26, Issue 9



September outing. Chassahowitzka is calling. P10-11



Jan Bailey-Bruch and Hilton Bruch battle big trout. Dayle's on the case, too. Ham's Fork and Smith Rivers. P16

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SFF President Letter – September 2016



The fulfilling life of fly fishing

Henry David Thoreau wrote: "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them."

The fly rods in the air were moving like many batons conducting a symphony. The people were conductors and instrumentalists at the same time, striving to create the exact harmony of rod and line, to present a fly with the sound of silence and delicately drop it to the ground.

There was no quiet desperation as we took a break around the coffee and donuts and shared our victories, frustrations and promises to practice more.

We were releasing the "song" inside ourselves through training and practice; wanting to develop good habits and muscle memory which in turn would allow us to present the line without having to think about it.

Then we can take these skills to those remote places where nature provides the background music as we enjoy the freedom of being one with nature and sing to our hearts content.

It is funny how the things that spook us disappear as we concentrate on not spooking a worthy water-born adversary and tempt him to take our newly tied hook, feather and fur illusion.

Don't let your song expire on the shelf. Join us at the general meetings, outings and casting clinics. Live life to the fullest.

If you are not attending our outing because you don't have a boat or kayak, or can't drive that far, or whatever, come see me. Our Board of directors is searching for ways to make it possible for anyone who wishes to fish with us to do so. I would gladly meet you at a certain time at any of our outings and assist in any way I can.

We come from many diverse backgrounds with various skills and experiences, and that adds to the enrichment as we share those things and develop new ones along the way.

What an excellent opportunity to stay active after retirement or learn a skill which can be a diversion from the everyday grind of work, and just generally enrich each other's lives. Come see us.

Never lose your sense of adventure

George

George Haseltine
SFF President 2016-17

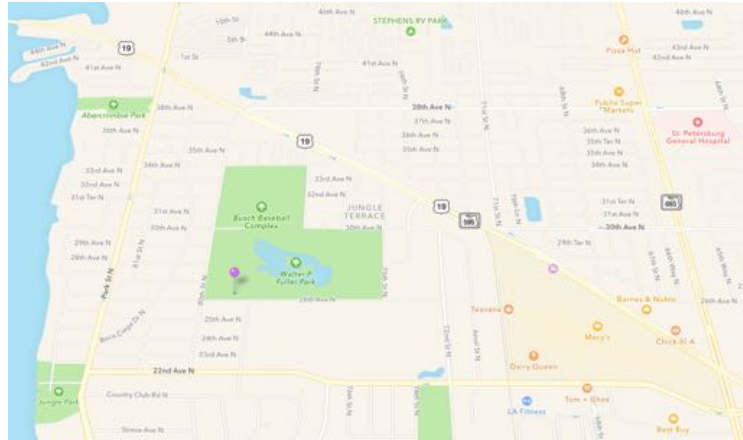
Calendar: Club Meetings & Outings

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.

Thursday, September 15 meeting

- JoEllen Wilson of **Bonefish & Tarpon Trust** will share a Powerpoint presentation of B&TT's project to map juvenile tarpon habitat for more targeted conservation.
- Our designated tyer will tie a fly to catch mangrove snapper in the Chassahowitzka River



Directions to our meetings at Walter Fuller Park Rec Center
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

Saturday, September 17 Outing

- Chassahowitzka River. Launch and BYO lunch. Directions and details in *Reviews and Previews* on pages 10-11.

Need a 'yak for the Chaz?

Good news from club President George Haseltine:

The club will reserve up to five kayaks for our members who want to go but do not have a kayak or boat. You may have to provide your own whistle and life vest, but we can work that out. We need to hear if you are going ASAP because they do not take early reservations but we can reserve them at 8:00 the morning of the outing. Call or text George Haseltine at [727-423-8110](tel:727-423-8110) to confirm and if you need a ride. We will do everything we can to find you a ride. We really want you there.

Thursday, October 20 Meeting

- Nanette O'Hara, Outreach Coordinator for the **Tampa Bay Estuary Program**, will speak about programs and progress restoring sea grasses and other habitat. Someone surely will ask about all the municipal discharges of stormwater sewage into Tampa Bay, Boca Ciega Bay, and estuary rivers.

Saturday, October 22, Outing

- Carl Hanson Tournament Outing, Hillsborough River, hosted by Suncoast Fly Fishers

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

Thursday, November 17, Meeting

- Capt. Pat Damico is our speaker and fly tyer

Saturday, November 20, Outing

- Weedon Island Preserve

Saturday, December 17, Don Coleman Outing

- Fort DeSoto Park
- Chili cookoff

News 'n' Notes

We're a growing club

- We now have 145 members including 24 family memberships and five honorary members. Membership dues are due in September for 2016 - 2017. Mail your check to the club or pay at the September meeting to continue to get the newsletter and enjoy other benefits and activities.

Introduction to Fly Casting.

Seven free classes this fall

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. The dates are

September 12 and 26

October 10 and 24

November 7 and 28

December 12

There is no fee for the session but the class is limited to 10 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).

Tampa Bay Boat Show, Florida State Fairgrounds

September 23-25 4800 U.S. 301, Tampa, FL 33610

SFF will be tying flies and talking with interested participants about Suncoast Fly Fishers and the local fly fishing scene. Can you help? Please contact Jeff Heer (jazbojw@aol.com) or Rick Warfel (rh_warfel@yahoo.com).

Friday Sept 23, 10 am-6 pm.

Saturday Sept 24, 10 am-6 pm

Sunday Sept 25, 10 am-5 pm.

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 will lead monthly sessions in September, October and November. The focus is on the basics for members who are new to fly tying. If anyone has any fly tying materials that they would like to donate, please bring them to the monthly meetings.

Big Gun Shootout, Sunday, November 20

The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club hosts this annual competition at Picnic Island Park. How far can you cast? How accurately can you cast? Here's your opportunity to compete with the best and learn from the best.

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. You can join at the event if you're not already a member. Lunch and drinks.

Rest in Peace, John Adams

Former Suncoast Fly Fisher John Adams of Jacksonville's First Coast Fly Fisher passed away Saturday, September 10 while on a cruise. SFF members will remember John's meeting presentation on catching redfish in the spartina grass of St. Augustine. Fly tiers will confirm the effectiveness of John's patterns including the "Adams Shrimp" which was a **Tying Bench** pattern in the February, 2014 issue of *On The Fly*. Several SFF members have fished the St. John's River from John's home. His death was very unexpected because John's multiple myeloma was determined recently to be in remission. John's legacy of a passion for fly fishing and experimentation will live on. We mourn the loss of a friend and a fellow fly-fisherman. *Ken Hofmeister*

Question (and Answers) for Suncoast Fly Fishers

How do we get more young people seriously interested in and committed to fly fishing? What's the best age for a young person to start to learn fly fishing? (August question)

Ken Hofmeister

Eight-year-olds can tie flies and cast well. Make it fun, let them catch fish like ladyfish and bluegill. Games help.

Bob Burkard

As soon as they can walk. Food, fun, casting lessons.

Bill Scarola

10-12 years. More casting clinics, more outings. Bring some young women fly fishers in bikinis!

Will Sollars

Anytime. Young people need to influence other young people because they would listen to the younger kids instead of some old farts.

Quin Berry

10-12 years old. Bream fishing would be a good start. If in North Arkansas – dry run Creek – spectacular. 16-years and younger!

Layne Smith (Excerpts from a longer email message. Well done, Smitty)

Start a young person's fishing experience as young as possible, say 3 or 4 years old ... the thing is do not start them with fly fishing !!! Start them with something as simple as a cane pole with worms and crickets...and start with catching bluegill !!!

Once the young person's interest in fishing is firmly entrenched THEN you introduce them to the fly rod ! Start with lawn casting with basics. ... Next practice session start with short casts, maybe 20 or 30 feet. Once they get that down, take them out to the old bluegill hole.

So present the child with the best opportunity to catch a lot of fish first ... then guide his likes to other "opportunities" such as ...

Most fish ever caught in one outing

Enough fish for a meal or two

Different species

Larger species

Largest fish

A fish that hardly anyone has caught

Return the fish safely to be caught another day ...

By this time, the "youngster" will probably be old enough to appreciate those days when catching is hard to come but the time in the outdoors on the water spent with good friends or family or just time alone with good ole' mother nature makes a fish-less day seem just fine !

Think about your answer for our clipboard pass-around at the September meeting:

What is your favorite place to fly fish in the St. Pete area in the fall?

Snapshots from the August meeting

Tie-a-Thon and Free Pizza

*Photos by
Al Pitcher and Bill AuCoin*



Fly Swap guru Myron Hansen displays members' subsurface freshwater flies.



Ron Hill. Along came a spider



Ken Hofmeister, Bruce Evensen and Smitty tied flies at this table. Capt. Dan Bumgarner demonstrated his amazing fluoro-to-braid connection knot.



Smitty ties "Redfish Fodder."



Bruce Evensen's production line.



Paul Sequira and Marianne Hays and May (aka Mayhem), the smoothest, sweetest Labrador retriever in the whole world.

Snapshots from the September outing

Bill AuCoin: Great fishing and food at Lake Maggiore outing in August



Brian Clark's son rated the chocolate chip cookies two thumbs and eight fingers up

Bob and Carol Burkard served lunch, a terrific spread of ribs, ribs, and more ribs with all the fixins -- potato salad, beans, slaw, cornbread, chips, cookies and Carol's amazing deviled eggs.

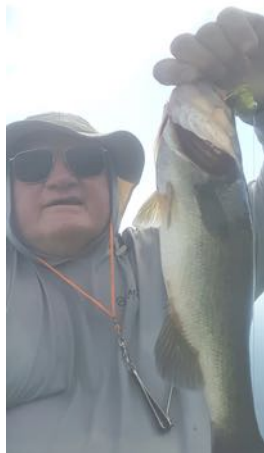
Yes, ribs were on the table three different ways. Because, Rib Challenge. Ribs are a Burkard grill specialty, so duh. Dittos for Quin Berry who was raised on Memphis ribs. And out of the backstretch Myron Hansen came in with ribs prepped and cooked the way his son the chef makes them.

The official judges were Bruce Evensen and Bill AuCoin. They agreed this was one of the hardest decisions they've had to make in their lifetimes. Finally, Bruce used his mathematical skills to determine the winner. And the winner was...

See below.

Before lunch members fished Lake Maggiore and when they came back in they all agreed this south St. Pete lake was a darn good fishing lake. Some said, "We gotta come back here."

Bill Scarola and Layne Smith were two on the gotta-come-back side of the balance sheet. Scarola caught the biggest bass, a 14.5 inch, which he caught on a "bass toad" similar to but smaller than the tarpon toad. He picked up the recipe and techniques at a Bruce Evensen fly tying clinic at Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure.



Bill Scarola shot a selfie with his prize winning Lake Maggiore bass.

Smitty's bluegill was 7.5 inches, long enough to win the outing prize and take the lead in the annual tournament. But, is it long enough to hold off winners at the Chassachowitzka and Hillsborough River outings?

Oh, right, who won the Rib Challenge? That would be Myron Hansen. He earns some big bucks (\$25), attaboys, and a darn good grilled-in memory. Of course, he'll be required to bring these ribs to a future outing, to be determined.



Joe Dail decided it was important to eat all three Rib Challenge entries



Former President Kirk Burton(right) flew in from DC for a surprise visit and chatted up president George Haseltine and other members.

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: Lake Maggiore

Saturday, August 20, 2016
Lake Maggiore Park

It was a first. An outing on Lake Maggiore. At least it is the first time in recent history. Twenty four fearless souls signed up to go play in a lake with a reported residency of numerous alligators. I think I heard them grunting at each other, but no sightings reported.

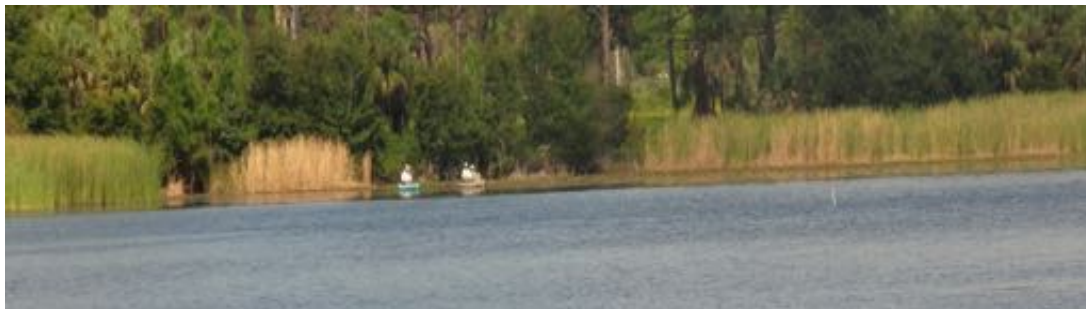


There were quite a few suggestions as to if there were fish in the lake and also as to the number of species that were there. The targeted fish were bass and sunfish. Smitty (aka Layne Smith) caught the largest sunfish at 7.5 inches, and Bill Scarola caught the largest bass at 14.5 inches. Congrats.

It was a really nice day, if not seasonally warm and the boaters and kayakers all enjoyed the outing. I will be fishing there on my kayak again looking for that large snook I heard about.

Another great lunch experience. (Remind me, did we fish?). Bob Burkard was accompanied by his wife Carol, (caterer in chief) in presenting the first BBQ Rib Challenge. Beside the awesome ribs they provided delicious beans, potato salad, rolls, deviled eggs, cookies, etc. etc. A huge thanks to them. The challengers were Bob Burkard, Quin Berry, and Myron Hansen. Brian Clark also brought some ribs but, alas, they were too late for the competition. Judges

Bruce Evensen and Bill AuCoin declared them all winners and gave Myron Hanson's ribs the best tasting award. Again, thanks to all who participated from all of us who had the pleasure to feast on a great selection. My hope is that this becomes another tradition. We had 24 sign-ups and a total of 28 attendees.



Preview: Chassahowitzka River, Saturday, September 17
Chassahowitzka River Boat Ramp (County Park), 8690 Miss Maggie Drive , Chassahowitzka, Florida



Mapquest.com satellite image (left) and road map (top) show route to the campground and launching ramp on the river. From W. Ponce de Leon Blvd (Hwy 98) cross over Hwy 19 to W. Miss Maggie Drive and continue west to the campground and the river launching ramp. **BYO lunch at noon. Visit Chassahowitzka River Campground and the Southwest Florida Water Management websites for information. There is a launching fee, payable at the campground store.**

To quote, "This outing has always been one of our favorite trips." This crystal-clear river is spring fed and the river runs three miles to the gulf. There are many tributaries coming away from the boat ramp. This is a wonderfully scenic park and all should try to attend. **THIS WILL BE A BROWN BAG LUNCH EVENT.** We will be eating lunch at noon. The club will provide drinks. Tournament-eligible fish for this outing will be bass and sunfish.

If you want to join us and you do not have a kayak Alan Sewell will bring three extra, and the club is paying for up to five 'yaks. First come, first served. Call Alan at 470-4570 or George Hazeltine at [727-423-8110](tel:727-423-8110). There are kayaks, canoes, and jonboats without motors that can be rented for \$35 a day. Parking is \$5 or, with trailer, \$7.00. Again, first come, first served.

Directions from St. Pete to Chassahowitzka River. Driving time about 90 minutes.

Drive east across the Howard Frankland Bridge (I-275). Exit 39 (airport ramp) to SR 60 then merge onto Memorial Highway. Continue north then merge left onto the Veterans Highway (589). Continue north on 589 which becomes the Suncoast Parkway. Take the US 98 WEST exit toward Crystal River. Go 1/2 mile and turn left on US-98 NORTH/SR 700/Ponce de Leon Blvd. Go 4.5 miles then cross over Highway 19 and bear left onto state road 480/W. Miss Maggie Drive. Proceed to the Chassahowitzka River Campground and boat launch.

Truk

2016 OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS THROUGH AUGUST

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing caught
Longest bass -	24-inches	Bruce Carlton	Walsingham Lake (March)
Longest sunfish	7.5-inches	Layne Smith	Lake Maggiore (August)
Longest sea trout	17.75-inches	Bruce Carlton	Urban Outing (May)
Longest redbfish			
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.

We are looking for volunteers to bring/provide lunches for our outings on; October 22nd at the Hillsborough River Outing, November 19th at Weedon Island outing, and December 17 to lead the CHILI COOK-OFF. Call Tom (Truk) Trukenbrod if interested @ [727-363-1638](tel:727-363-1638)

Alan Sewell: You're going to enjoy the Chassahowitzka River

The Chaz is one of the most beautiful rivers in Florida. Crystal clear water flowing out of many springs make it a great river to float and observe the real cracker Florida. No amusement parks, just nature.

Glide along overgrown banks, mazes of cypress knees, half-digested logs, and giant ferns poking out of the shorelines. Fish, manatees and dolphins swim in the clear water. Look for otters and eagles. The fish are abundant in the clear water, and will hit any popper or small deceiver.

The Chaz campground has a great boat ramp and kayak launching area. A good general store is at this spot and a small launching fee is required. This lagoon is the head spring area and is really good to snorkel in.

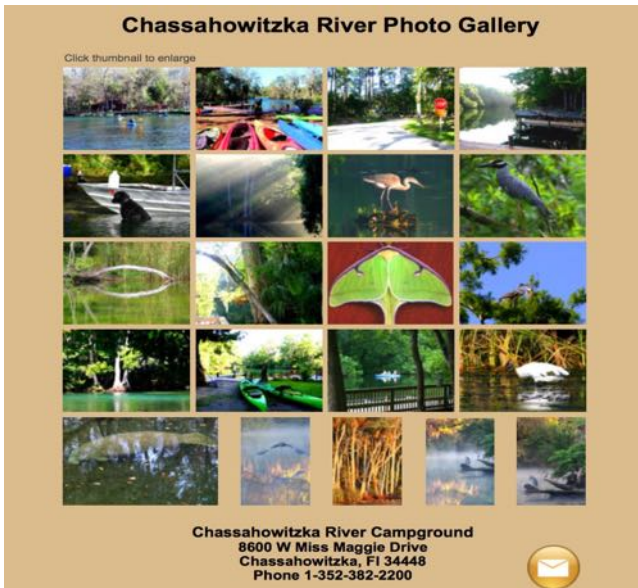


Mapquest.com

If you paddle or boat east of the spring, you will find good canals for fishing. If you paddle west, or toward the gulf, after a couple of miles the river opens up to dramatic changes. Vast areas of sawgrass take over. You can paddle all the way to Crystal River through the backcountry paths. DO NOT TRY THIS.

If you boat out to the vast flats, watch out for shallow water and oysters and limestone. There is a bathroom and dock about three miles from the spring. Close to the spring launch area, there are many side spring runs that are worth exploring. The store does have maps of the river. I do fish when I am at the Chaz, but just exploring makes for a great day.

If you boat out to the vast flats, watch out for shallow water and oysters and limestone. There is



Go to Chassahowitzkaflorida.com and click on "Photos.". Amazing sights await

I will be pulling four sit-on-top fishing kayaks to the outing. They will be fully rigged for fishing or exploring. If anyone would like to use these please call me at 470-4570. This will be a trip you will remember.

Alan



This bass toad is a derivation of the 'Tarpon Toad' pattern. I learned this from Bruce Evensen at Bill Jackson's in a Monday night tying class.

(This is the fly that Bill tied and used to catch the 14.5-inch bass that won the bass category at the August outing on Lake Maggiore., Editor)

Materials

Hook: Size 2 stinger type. Or your choice.

Body: Craft foam, yellow, light & medium. Chartreuse Green. Stack onto each other. Alternate colors. Leave a darker green at front...Note I used sticky back type, but you can glue non-sticky back together. Length of body should match hook shank length

Tail: Marabou, yellow/chartreuse

Legs: Silly legs, yellow-striped.

Eyes: I used small craft bubble eyes, but most any will do. Glue to front sides just behind hook's eye. I used E-6000 glue

Spots: Green marker spaced around foam.

Thread: Green flat waxed 210 denier

Tying Sequence

Step 1. Wrap hook shaft from behind eye to the bend. Then tie marabou on tail in front of hook bend

Step 2. Trim glued foam into a tapered wedge shape, about 1 X ¼ inches thick. and ¾" at front, tapering to 1" at rear

Step 3. Heated my bodkin and pushed it thru foam body. Re-glue to allow for hook .

Step 4. Drop super glue on hook shank and push on foam body, widest end at rear. Leave hook eye exposed.

Step 5. Add silly legs. There are several methods to attach them, I used a sewing needle with a large eye, and insert 1 or 2 legs into eye, then push thru the body. Then add a dab of glue where they protrude. In this fly you can see I used 3 legs about 2 1/2" -3" long so about an inch or so hangs out each side. I spaced them about 1/4" apart.

Step 6. Spots. I used a green marker all around the foam body.

Bill

Harlan Kehoe and friends on Wyoming's Ham Fork River



Underwater photo shows the 23-inch rainbow. Quite a catch on 6X. Dayle said it was a "hog" and the largest Ham's Fork rainbow of the season!

Harlan Kehoe and his brother-in-law fished with SFF member and guide Dayle Mazzarella on the Ham's Fork River in Wyoming in August.

Harlan writes,

"We had many strikes and hooked nearly 40 rainbows. Twenty were netted and 10 of those were 10 to 15 inches. The other 10 were 16 to 23 inches! Dayle worked hard to find the right fly or nymph that the trout were eating. He screened the water and checked the stomach contents. All the trout were caught on 6X with a #24 mayfly on a dropper below San Juan worms or leeches.



Say cheese



Harlan and Dayle team up against another large Hams Fork rainbow trout.



Chapter three...

Bob Burkard: Honeymoon Island keeps on keeping on



Duane Mertz with a Spanish mackerel that didn't break the line

Bob Burkard found beach snook this summer. They were consistently on the north end of Honeymoon Island State Park. Two secrets: Get there before daybreak. And throw a jig. A jig? OMG. Ok, or fly-cast a heavy-eyed Clouser but be sure you throw it 90 feet or so.

Some snook are still there. Others have left for the spawn, apparently. It's okay. Other fish are taking their place. Bob and fellow SFF'er Duane Mertz made the two-mile beach walk to the north end on Sunday, August 28.

"Great morning fishing on Honeymoon Island. We caught large numbers of crevalle jacks, pompano, and lady fish on both fly rods and spinning rods, and we each lost a big snook," said Burkard.

"Duane solved one mystery. What kept biting through our lines? He caught this Spanish mackerel. We saw large spinner sharks chasing some fish and Duane was able to land it despite the sharp teeth. After he landed this fish, we also saw schools of larger Spanish mackerel just beyond where we could cast. I think that I will bring a wire leader next time."

Al Pitcher's grandkids are fly fishers. Of course they are.



While on a recent motorhome excursion Suncoast Fly Fisher Al Pitcher was careful to bring fly gear and a camera. Because grandchildren. These are shots of Alex and Olivia Pitcher with bass and bluegills they caught at Round Pond Campground near West Point, NY. On the left, that's Alex practice casting at Lake Marion, SC.

Good Fun. Suncoast Fly Fishers and Veterans Enjoy Fort DeSoto Park

By Tom Gadacz, President, Florida Council, IFFF

Veterans from Bay Pines VA Medical Center and members of Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF), an International Federation of Fly Fishers Charter Club, had an outing at Fort DeSoto to fly fish, fly cast and kayak on August 17. We had a great turn out of veterans and some spouses.



The weather was great with lots of sun and little wind. Catching was a little sparse but several of the veterans got a chance to try out the new rods they built under the guidance and strict specifications of master rod builder Alan Sewell. Congratulations to all those who put in a lot of hard work building those beautiful rods. Wow! It was awesome – fly fishing with a rod you built and with some flies you tied. Can't get any better than that.

This was our club's second PHWFF outing this year. SFF members John Craig, Terry Kirkpatrick, Ted Rich, Alan Sewell, and Tom

Gadacz were kept busy helping veterans in and out of the kayaks, giving casting instructions, and working at catching on the fly rod. (Everyone got lots of casting practice that day.)

Peter Jonsson, VA Recreational Specialist, organized the outing, transportation and an excellent lunch. Peter provided a great lunch and we enjoyed trading fish stories (Lies? Maybe.). Several vets and club members continued fishing into the afternoon.

It was a special day for our veterans fly fishing with rods they built and it was a pleasure for us fly fishers to support the men and women to whom we owe so much!



Alan Sewell (right) and vet work on fly casting distance and accuracy



No fish today. Is lunch ready?

Hilton Bruch and Jan Bailey-Bruch Fly Fish Giant Trout in Wyoming

Dayle Mazzarella guides them to giant trout on tiny flies on Smith and Hams Fork Rivers



April's pig roast resulted in Jan and me winning a day's guided fly fishing with Dayle Mazzarella out of Kemmerer, Wyoming. We made the trip out West in mid August and ended up spending three full days on the Smith and Hams Fork rivers in southwestern Wyoming.

The trip was memorable for the austere landscapes, giant fish and gracious hospitality.

The guiding Dayle provided was not like anything we had experienced before. Despite our obtuseness, Dayle really wanted us to understand his teaching points. Other guides we've experienced have repeated instructions a few times

but then moved on if we didn't get it. Dayle would persevere until we DID get it. A teaching point has a much better chance of staying with you when you DO understand it. This allowed us to build to some finer points as we moved to some very technical fishing with very picky giant trout.

We were literally wading with giants! There were many fish in the pool that were easily 12 inches from snout to dorsal fin. The water was maybe knee deep and many times we felt as if we were amongst a feeding pod of redfish because there were so many backs and tails out of the water. Hooking them, however, was not easy as they seemed intent on midge larvae in the 26-30 range. When we did manage to hook a fish on 6.0 tippet, landing the monster became an intense exercise in line control, running through the pool, and guiding them through weed beds to a safe place on the shore. Several broke off but we were happy to land a few.

The days were full and we slept very well. Barbara graciously provided a home cooked meal each evening. On our last evening, we met several casting students who hoped Dayle could help them pass their Master Casting Instructor exams. We were surprised to learn how difficult it is to obtain Master Casting Instructor credentials.

We came away remembering the fish we lost more than the fish we caught. We were, however, much more confident in our skills and travelled to rivers outside of Fort Collins, Colorado where we spent several very pleasant days in gorgeous surroundings pursuing the wily trout.

It was a fine break from Florida's summer.

Hilton



Jan Bailey-Bruch fights a big Wyoming trout. Guide Dayle Mazzarella enjoys it, too.



Success

Jack Collins: Pink Salmon in Alaska. Bears? Yeah.

Attached are a couple of pictures of Pink Salmon that my wife and I caught last month while in Icy Straight Point, Hoonah, Alaska. The third picture shows the remains left from one of our competitors.



Jim Shipley: Brown trout on the Truckee. Rainbows on the Eagle



Jim's grandson Jonathon Shipley with a rainbow trout caught on the Eagle River near Vail.

Jim Shipley writes, "I have been a member for a few years but rarely attend meetings due to my schedule.

"I have attached a couple of pictures that might be of interest. One is a brown trout caught on the Truckee River the end of August (Truckee is near Lake Tahoe)—The guide is holding the trout---I'm the camera man. The other is a rainbow caught by my grandson, Jonathon Shipley the first part of August on the Eagle River near Vail, Colo.

Jim



Jim's guide held the brown trout.. Jim shot the picture.

Andy Constantinou: I didn't go carp fishing this month. Baa, baa.
I'll be in Florida on Saturday, can't wait



Bob Morrison: Fly Fishing How-To



Lacey Reds, Rusty Flies, Twisty Herl, and Rippy Tides

Redfish move into fresher water, and here's why. Redfish have been coming into fresh water in an effort to rid themselves of sea lice which reside on the skin of the fish. Sea lice cannot live in fresh water and consequently will fall off and die. So, look for reds up river in the fresh.

Mayflies get rusty, too. Going out West for some freshwater trout? If so, take some rusty-bodied spinner dry flies with you. A good number of mayfly species will turn into rusty spinners once the egg-laying phase of their hatches are completed. Use a rusty or red dubbing material for the fly body, together with three strands of bucktail hair for a tail, and white hen hackle tips or other filmy white material for the flat-lying wings. That's it. This pattern has often worked for me during the "spinner fall" as it is called.

Twists and turns of herl. For some reason dark green peacock herl is very appetizing to freshwater trout. When several herl strands are twisted together to form dubbing for building a fly body, the result can be very successful. Patterns such as caddis worm larvae, Zebra Midge, Prince, and Coachman all have peacock dubbing bodies, so make sure that you have some with you when you are out west or up north. Use several herl strands twisted together with double thread to make a durable dubbing body. Try it: you'll like it.

Don't wade so deep. When wading in the surf you can sometimes get caught in an undertow, or riptide, and pulled out to sea. If this should happen to you, go with the pull, and swim or wade parallel to the shoreline, gradually moving toward the beach. When you feel the pull decreasing, get out fast. Better yet, avoid this kind of danger by always wading shallow, in water two feet deep or less.

Go Get 'Em, Good Luck.

Bob

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



When casting, think, “I am casting with the rod tip only.”

By Capt. Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor

Have you ever watched Lefty Kreh use the tip of a 4 piece rod to throw the entire fly line?

I just returned from a week fishing in Montana with a group of fly fishers, some whom were very new to the sport. When I helped them with their casting, everyone was using entirely too much power and strength, even gripping the rod too tightly. Using too much line is frequently a beginner’s problem, so only work with a length of line that is manageable. Do some false casting with a very short line until you are able to control the loop size, adding line in one foot increments. Think, "I am casting with the rod tip only." It may help to shorten the rod by removing the butt sections one at a time with a multi-piece rod to help you realize how important the tip is.

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**

Don’t let fly gear collect dust

By Pat Damico, Tampa Bay Times Correspondent

I am always surprised by the number of fly-fishers who have their equipment from a former location and never touch it while living in Florida. Many are retired with plenty of free time on their hands. How close are you to a pond? It's hard to find a body of freshwater, large or small, that isn't teeming with fish that attack a fly, which looks like available food. Bass, pan-fish and occasionally snook and baby tarpon are as close as the pond in your development. If your fishing history includes freshwater trout, you have everything needed to relive your youth and enjoy the excitement of catching large numbers of fish with your long rod. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to the outdoors. Some ponds are on private property where permission is needed, but many are public and easily accessible. The best fishing is in mornings and evenings, with more comfortable temperatures for both you and the fish. An afternoon shower will not only cool the water a little but will wash food into the pond. Duplicating forage with small ant, beetle, crickets and hoppers, especially with floating patterns, will trigger explosive strikes. When using surface offerings, after the cast, wait until the surface rings have disappeared before imparting a little twitch to the fly. Looking like a stunned insect that is recovering will entice a strike. Most fish will be around structure, trees, docks, floating plants or a dam breast. Probe all structure with careful casts. Cast close to shore. A 4- or 5-weight fly rod with a floating weight forward line, using a 7-foot leader tapered to 6-pound test, will handle most fish easily. Use flies that imitate small baitfish or use a white or yellow popper in sizes 6 to 10 and cover water quickly. If you find fish that are too small for your equipment or too large, adjust gear to be better prepared on your return visit. Be careful where you step. This is Florida.

David Putnam: Fly Fisher Reflections



The name of this new fly line should get your attention....

RIO has a new fly line called... *Big Nasty*.

Yeah, *Big Nasty*. The name interested me so I read more.

The cover of the box the line comes in has a picture of a pair of flies that look like bedroom slippers, and being one of those tyers who's gone through my big fly phase, it caught my eye. Throwing big flies seems counter to the sport's ethics, somehow. Isn't it all about "dries" and Pale Morning Duns in size 20? Tight, lovely loops, don't you know...

I arranged to try one these new lines that are "designed to cast large and heavy flies with exceptional ease." Officially, Rio calls it *InTouch Big Nasty*. The dynamics of the line are shown on the back of the box. It's mostly head, with a 15-foot "handling section." Sounds a bit weird for a fly line, but someone in marketing at RIO is catching on.

I thought, "Ok, it's about time line companies woke up and put all the energy in the first ten feet of the line, for us guys who're looking to cast only forty feet. Who have we been kidding? If this line would help get a size 6 Clouser out to forty feet, maybe I could sit in my kayak and cast without rocking the boat.

The line is intentionally a little "heavier than the industry standard," so I don't have to over-line my rod? Sounded good. I like it when my rod loads with distinction.

Anyway, out I went to try the new line, prepared to have it fall like a lead core shooting head, knowing it would cast like, well, something *Big* and *Nasty*.



I was pleasantly surprised. I tied a deer hair snook fly in size 2 that looked like a bedroom slipper, with a mousy-looking rabbit strip tail. I've actually caught fish on it. I put the eight-weight line on my Scott graphite rod of the same size, and tried it from my kayak.

I haven't checked to see what a few of these lines will cost me, but I need 'em badly on all my rods, from size 4 thru 10. One backcast, then zingo, out to fifty feet, I swear.

If you know anyone who'd like to buy a nice 10-wt. Sage rod and reel and line, lemme know. I need some cash.

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Quick return to ICAST/IFTD, the big fishing trade show in Orlando in July:

- How 'bout this new keep-the-water out gear for the boat? A lot of brainpower obviously went into this and I think it should have won all the awards. Can you say zipperless? Also, look at the way they engineered the bottom to keep the sloshing water away. You can't buy it yet. It'll be in stores in the Spring 2017. ([Plano Molding](#))
- There's a new fly fishing magazine, soon to be in print as well as online. *Tail*, it's called. Damn clever the way they got Lefty, Chico, and many of our fly fishing heroes to pose for a picture in front of their ICAST booth sign, yeah? Click bait, they call that. ([Tail Magazine](#))
- Fly Tyers, check out this innovative new device. ([TyWheel](#))

Dirty water flows into Lake Okeechobee, then into the St. Lucie River and into the Caloosahatchee River and still more into the Everglades and into Florida Bay. Isn't the best, quick solution to buy some sugarcane land and store the dirty water? There's still more to be done, but it's a darn good start, imho. ([Bull Sugar](#))

Bonefish and Tarpon Trust is on the case, too. Watch this short animated video that describes the mistakes we made, when we didn't know any better. Isn't it time to *Fix Florida*? ([BT&T](#))

Fly fishing's trade organization is sharing some money with conservation causes. That's a good thing. But can't we get them interested in helping Florida? Floridians buy a lot of fly tackle, too. ([AFFTA](#))

All of us fly fish. But some fly fish with bamboo rods and they wouldn't have it any other way. And why is that? Our member Cliff Nigh knows a thing or two about it. Heck, Cliff makes bamboo fly rods. Click on "Why Fish Bamboo?" ([Cliff Nigh Bamboo Rods](#))

This is now my go-to knot for building leaders and, don't tell anybody, for connecting braid to my fluorocarbon leader on conventional tackle. Thanks, Pat Damico, for the link. ([Lefty Kreh Leader Knot](#))

And speaking of fluorocarbon, which brand do you use? This article is about tippets for trout but the testing gives us some insights into which brand we should choose for our stronger saltwater bite tippets. ([Yellowstone Angler](#))

Piers are habitats, too, you know. The light bulb over my head lit up when I saw fellow member Ray Markham catch a big snook off a pier while wade fishing near the Fort DeSoto Park entrance. Anyway, member Brian Clark just finished a book on the subject which he recommends. ([The Living Dock](#))

Actually I caught a grayling. Once. On an ant fly. But for this *best-fly-for-grayling* survey my vote goes to Schollmeyer's parasol emerger. Is this not the strangest-looking fly ever tied? ([IFFF Flyfisher Magazine](#))

Labrador retrievers are the smartest dogs in the world. We report; you decide. ([You Tube](#))

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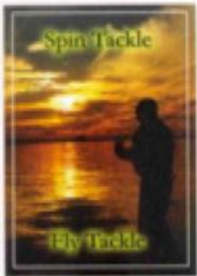
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