

# On The Fly

## Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

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



**TYING BENCH** -- At the April meeting Smitty will tie Dave Johnson's "Petticoat Streamer" to help you catch the longest bass on the Hillsborough River Outing April 22. Page 20



**THE OTHER TYING BENCH**  
Bruce Evensen teaches hands-on fly tying every month. 6 pm Thursday, April 27. Page 4



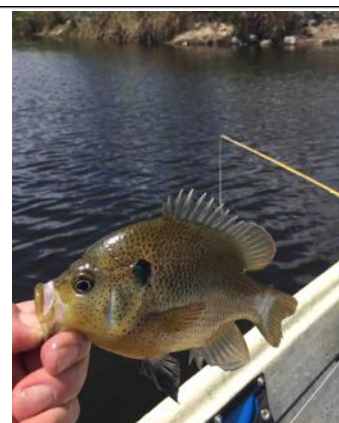
**HOG ROAST WINNER**  
Saltwater fly fishing pioneer Chico Fernandez talked about his extreme adventure fishing expeditions as a Miami teenager with pals Little John Emery and Norman Duncan. Pages 5-6-7



**CYPRESS POINT PARK**  
Jon Hoegstrom was one of many park-and-wade anglers. Page 13



**SODA STRAW SHRIMP**  
Tom Jones "tied" these shrimp with a pair of sharp scissors. Yes, they catch fish. Proof on page 16



**EGLADES CANAL OUTING.**  
It's not too late to get in on the action, plus a new "Tall Tales" contest. Page 12



## ***SFF President Letter – April 2017***

Hello everyone,

They say a camel is a horse designed by a committee. Well, I'm here to tell you there are lots of committees, but no camels on your Board of Directors.

Amazing. I'm still SFF President and they haven't impeached me yet!

I think it's because the dedicated and talented people I work with, (on the Board and in the General Membership), have done an amazing job all year long. These wonderful people do a lot of things behind the scenes without wanting any recognition. You know who you are. I personally thank you for it.

After many years of exemplary service, Tom Gadacz & Tom "Truk" Trukenbrod both rotated off this year. I am truly indebted to them for their tireless contributions to the benefit of all of us. Thank you so much, gentlemen.

Rick Warfel returned as VP and Karen Warfel returned as Treasurer (Thank God). Together they put in hours and hours of preparation to pull off the grandest event of all times: our Annual Hog Roast. They even enlisted Chico Fernandez to speak to us. What a great evening!

April 1st was the best Hog Roast yet. No foolin'. Be sure to thank them and their committee whenever you see them.

Tom Gadacz received the "Vision & Values" award. You deserved it, Tom. This was the hardest decision I had to make as President, because there are so many dedicated members. Everywhere I looked, Tom was there.

Ken Hofmeister put together an unequaled bucket raffle with a lot of good stuff! The Lettering on the cake said "SFF Flog Roast." I think they were referring to Andy Constantinou. He cracked a pretty mean whip over his crew who helped set up the tables starting at 2:00 PM. Thanks to you all.

Dick Miekka returned as Secretary (Thank God Again), I count so much on his accurate record keeping.

Bob Burkard returned (with more ideas to entertain and amaze us), to head up our Outings Committee, John Craig returned to represent Project Healing Waters, Bruce Evensen returned to head up our fly tying classes, Jeff Heer returned to organize our fly tying at community events, provide drinks and audio equipment at our meetings, Rick Yarn returned to head up our Website Committee. We all returned to continue to honor the traditions and work on new ideas that will make us grow in membership and enjoyment. We welcome Ryan Sollars and Cliff Nigh to our Board. Thank you gentlemen for stepping up! Please feel free to express your opinions and present any ideas you may have.

I look forward to working with our Board and General Membership for another great year! Please get involved. Remember, we are a fishing club, so join us in the Everglades this month and at all of our outings and events that Bill AuCoin so adequately and expertly displays in Our Award Winning News Letter.

To all I say, please feel free to speak up. I welcome constructive criticism as well as confirming comments.

Never lose your Sense of Adventure,

*George* George Haseltine, Proud to Serve as SFF President 2016-17

## Calendar: Club Meetings & Outings

### Thursday, April 20, Meeting

- New officers and board members take office
- Walt Durkin: Fly fishing the Amazon River for peacock bass
- Layne (Smitty) Smith ties *Petticoat Streamer* for bass and bream
- Club survey results will be announced

#### Newly-elected officers and board members



Left to right. Secretary Dick Miekka, new board member Ryan Sollars, Treasurer Karen Warfel, returning board member Jeff Heer, and new board member Cliff Nigh. Special thanks to Tom Gadacz and Ken Hofmeister for their work on the board the previous two years.

### Saturday, April 22, Outing

- Lower Hillsborough River Wilderness Trail
- Put in at Morris Creek Bridge Park
- Lunch at noon at Trout Creek Park
- Need a kayak? Talk to Alan Sewell at the meeting
- More details in "Previews" on page 6

### Saturday, April 29, Everglades Canal Special Outing

- Fish where you want but be sure to meet for lunch at noon at I-75 (Alligator Alley) Mile 35, Miami Canal rest area boat ramp shelter for the second annual *You catch 'em, You clean 'em, 'We cook 'em"* lunch
- *If in the area* earlier be sure to meet fellow members Friday night at Giovanni's Pizza on Highway 27 in Davenport.

### Thursday, May 18, Meeting

- Speaker: Capt. Shawn McCole
- Bruce Evensen ties a ladyfish fly for the Emerson Point outing
- Details about the Emerson Point outing.

### Saturday, May 20, Outing

- Emerson Point in Bradenton

## *Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg*

#### 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.

#### Membership

We currently have 127 members including 19 family and 5 honorary members. Members who have not paid their dues have been removed from the active list unless they have indicated they will renew.

#### FFI Charter Club.

Suncoast Fly Fishers is a charter member club of Fly Fishers International (FFI)

[SFF outing calendar](#)

[SFF website](#)

[SFF Facebook page](#)

## Spreading the Fly Fishing Fever

Suncoast Fly Fishers want to help more people become involved in our sport. We want to create more active and educated stewards of our resources. And we want to grow our club. Fly fishing is for everyone, especially if you live in Florida, the Fishing Capital of the World.

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### ***Introduction to Fly Tying Classes with Bruce Evensen***

Free monthly fly tying lessons for members only



*Bruce Evensen,  
Instructor*

*Thursday, April 27 – 6 pm*

Join, jive and tie flies with fellow club members on the fourth Thursday of every month. Your instructor is Suncoast Fly Fisher Bruce Evensen.

High Performance Plumbing Services, 4450 Morris St N. in St. Pete.

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### ***Introduction to Fly Fishing Class with Dayle Mazzarella***

Saturday, April 29. Everybody – men, women, girls, boys -- are welcome.



*Dayle Mazzarella,  
Master Casting  
Instructor*

*9:30 Coffee and donuts*

*10 am - 2 pm Instruction*

*2 – 3 pm: Lunch 2 pm*

*Learn from the best -- Master Casting Instructor Dayle Mazzarella*

Master Casting Instructor Dayle Mazzarella will lead an *Introduction to Fly Fishing* class on Saturday, April 29 at Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure at 9501 U. S. 19 North, Pinellas Park.

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### ***Introduction to Fly Casting Clinics with Tom Gadacz and Brian Clark***

*Free lessons in St. Pete are open to everyone. Class size is limited so be sure to sign up*

*6 – 8 pm, April 24--May 8--May 22*

*Egan Field, 9101 Blind Pass Road, St. Pete Beach. Class sizes are limited so call 727-363-9245 to sign up.*

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### ***Summer Youth Casting Programs in June with Tom Gadacz. Volunteers needed.***

Four great events in June in which we introduce youths to fly fishing and instruct them in fly casting.

June 7 (Wednesday) and June 14 (Wednesday), 10 am to Noon -- FWC Program in Apollo Beach

June 12 (Monday) and June 26 (Monday), 1 pm to 3 pm -- E.G.Simmons Park in Ruskin

*Volunteers: See Tom Gadacz at the meeting or contact him-- [thomasgadacz@yahoo.com](mailto:thomasgadacz@yahoo.com) 706-726-7899.*

## We Have Another Winner: Hog Roast and Silent Auction



TV host and author Chico Fernandez signs his *Flyfishing for Redfish* for Mark Hays.



Shiny objects. There was lots of interest in these decorated denim caps.



The 2017 Vision/Values Trophy was awarded to Tom Gadacz.

### ***Last chance...***

**\$1200 Cliff Nigh bamboo rod. Only \$20 for a Raffle Ticket**

This is an opportunity to own a custom built Cliff Nigh bamboo rod with two tips in a custom built mahogany rod tube. It's valued at more than \$1200.

**This could be your last chance!** Only 15 more tickets need to be distributed to draw the winning ticket for this very exciting raffle. Let's have the drawing at the SFF member meeting on April 21. Get your tickets now! Contact Karen Warfel at 813-505-3162 or email [kmwarfel@yahoo.com](mailto:kmwarfel@yahoo.com) to request tickets or get your tickets while they last at the meeting.



Saltwater fly fishing pioneer Chico Fernandez talked about his extreme adventure fishing expeditions as a Miami teenager with pals John Emery and Norman Duncan. Kevin Kelly photo



Peter Cline won this members-only \$700-plus outfit, a TFO 10-wt with Ion Reel and AirFlo Tropical line



Last minute silent auction entries and lots of good deals.

Continued...Snapshots from the Hog Roast and Silent Auction



*Al Pitcher ponders a bid on Carbon Marine's Line Lair, fly line stripping mat.*



*Icing on the cake -- Tampa Bay's Sunshine Skyway.*



*Fly rods, reels and outfits like this Cabela's RLS 6-weight combo were big draws.*



*"Fern Tree with Jade Leaves" caught lots of looks and dollar signs on the bidding sheet, too.*



*You say Hog. But some say Flog.*



*Capt. Dan Bumgarner and grandson check out the contents of the soon-to-be-raffled buckets.*



*Buck Knives multipurpose "Splizzors" got our attention.*



*Buck Knives donated its famous 119 Special 6-inch blade with sheath memorializing Hoyt Buck's first knife made in 1902.*

*Take the Hog Roast survey on the next page*

Did you go to the 2017 Hog Roast? Take this survey

**SFF Survey on 2017 Hog Roast and Silent Auction**

**Suncoast Fly Fisher: Please do not sign your name. Print your survey and bring the completed surveys to the April or May membership meeting or mail it to: Suncoast Fly Fishers P.O. Box 40621, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0621**

Please circle the best answer from the available choices for each question. Please enter any additional comments at the bottom of this sheet or on the reverse side.

**Ex= Excellent VG=Very Good G=Good F=Fair P=Poor**

How would you rate your overall Hog Roast Experience?	Ex VG G F P
The Hog Roast lasted 4 hrs. How would you rate the length of the event?	Good, Too Long, Too Short
How would you rate Treasure Island City Hall as a location?	Ex VG G F P
How would you rate the appearance of the room?	Ex VG G F P
How would you rate the music that was played throughout the evening?	Ex VG G F P
How would you rate the overall program?	Ex VG G F P
What did you think of our featured speaker, Chico Fernandez?	Ex VG G F P
How would you rate the award presentations?	Ex VG G F P
How would you rate the overall quality of the food that was served?	Ex VG G F P
How would you rate the Pulled Pork?	Ex VG G F P
How would you rate the Ribs?	Ex VG G F P
How would you rate the BBQ Chicken?	Ex VG G F P
How would you rate the Smoked Wings?	Ex VG G F P
How would you rate the side dishes – Beans, Slaw and Bread?	Ex VG G F P
How would you rate the SFF Decorated Cakes?	Ex VG G F P
How would you rate the Alan Sewell custom 8WT Member Only Door Prize?	Ex VG G F P
What would you like to see for the Grand Prize Raffle item?	Rod/Reel Kayak Other
How would you rate the Silent Auction items?	Ex VG G F P
Did the variety of silent auction items have appeal to all guests?	Yes No
How would you rate the guided trips and casting lessons?	Ex VG G F P
How would you rate the Bucket Raffle?	Ex VG G F P
How would you rate the Member Tied Files?	Ex VG G F P
What would be the best price for the Hog Roast Ticket? (Children under 13 are free)	\$15 \$20 \$25 \$30

**COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS:**

## Suncoast Fly Fishers visit Swann Flyfishing Outfitters in Dade City



*Bill Scarola, Jim Swann, and Bruce Evensen. Photo by Ray Smith*

Ray Smith, Bruce Evensen, and Bill Scarola drove up to Dade City recently to visit Swann's Fly Fishing Outfitters and to say hello to proprietor Jim Swann, a long time, special friend of Suncoast Fly Fishers. "Quite an interesting guy. Very knowledgeable about fly fishing and tying," wrote Scarola. Of course, they all bought some "materials." Of course.

(Editor: Check out this interesting 2012 article in the [Tampa Bay Times](#) about Swann's Flyfishing Outfitters.)

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### Used Gear for Sale

#### **Duane Mertz will trade his spey rod for a traditional 6-weight rod**

9-weight 3-piece, 14' Scott Spay Rod in excellent condition (used 3 times). Will trade for 6-weight fly rod of similar quality and condition. Retail price was \$400. Call Duane Mertz @ [203.981.9243](tel:203.981.9243).

#### **Joe Dail is selling his sit-on-top kayak**

Sit-on-top Snap-Tap kayak by Point 65N, "Tequila" model, equipped for fishing. Breaks apart for easy inside-your-vehicle transport. \$200. Joe Dail 727-803-6644

#### **Ken Doty is selling his Gheenoe**

Gheenoe, 15 foot Highsider. Galvanized trailer. Boat cover. 55-lb thrust Minn-Kota trolling motor with auto pilot. 8 hp Mercury outboard. \$2200. Never in saltwater. Call Ken at 526-4753.

#### **Bruce Evensen has fly gear and flies for sale. Call him at 727-403-9010**

- 7-8 weight Van Staal fly reel, brand new in the box; never used, \$430.
- Okuma fly reel. 7-9 weight. 2 extra spools. Reel and spools have 20# backing. \$75.
- Thousands of flies from \$1 to \$6 each



# ***We are Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg, Florida***



## **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 - - Jeff Heer - Bob  
Burkard - Bruce Evensen -  
Rick Yarn - Ryan Sollars -Cliff  
Nigh

## **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 -Bob Burkard  
Project Healing Waters -- John  
Craig, Terry Kirkpatrick, Alan  
Sewell  
Outreach, shows - Jeff Heer  
Raffles -- Dave Barson  
Programs -- Bd of Directors  
Newsletter -- Bill AuCoin  
Publicity - Bill AuCoin

## ***Aims and Purposes***

*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.*

*Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) is a non-profit 501(C) 3*

**<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 Fly Fishers International (FFI) SFF is a member of the Florida Council of FFI.

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

***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

**[www.suncoastflyfishers.com](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com)**

## Club Outing Reviews and Previews

### **REVIEW--Cypress Point Park Saturday, March 18**

Thirty-three of us met at Cypress Point Park for a morning of fishing, food, coffee, and plenty of fishing stories. I really enjoy hearing about the history of the club and of the many fishing adventures undertaken by our members.

One of the strengths of Suncoast Fly Fishers is the willingness of our members to share information about past experiences, best flies to use, different techniques and just about anything to help make all of us become better fly fishers. This day did not disappoint!

The weather was fantastic, sunny with a mild breeze and comfortable temperatures. Fishing was OK.... Not a large number, but a good variety of fish were caught. Among the recorded catches were ladyfish, needlefish, trout, lizard fish, grunts and many, many puffers. There was one "Parrot Faced Balloon Trout" recorded, but so far no pictures of this strange fish...

Our targeted fish for the outing was trout, and the largest trout caught was a 19 inch trout caught by Peter Cline on a Bend Back fly: congratulations. Bill AuCoin caught a 19 ½ inch Ladyfish on a Clouser which puts him in first place for the annual ladyfish category.

Flies used were bendbacks, Clousers (mostly chartreuse and white), and shrimp patterns.

Coffee and cookies/donuts were available for people who arrived early, and the sandwiches and fruit salad really hit the spot with this discerning crowd.



*Bob Burkard, chairman of the SFF Outing committee*

*Bob*

### **UPDATED: 2017 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS**

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing
Longest sunfish	8-inches	Ken Hofmeister	Walsingham Park
Longest black bass	15-inches	Mark Hays	Walsingham Park
Longest snook			
Longest redfish			
Longest ladyfish	19.5-inches	Bill AuCoin	Cypress Point Park (March)
Longest seatrout	19-inches	Peter Cline	Cypress Point Park (March))

**Monthly outings:** For each monthly outing there will be a designated species of fish that will be assigned. The club member who catches the LONGEST designated fish on a fly at that outing will receive a gift certificate. If the designated fish is not caught at that outing there will be no prize for that outing.

**Annual Tournament:** The categories are: sea trout, redfish, snook, ladyfish, bass, and sunfish (bream). At EVERY outing the longest fish of any of those species caught on the fly by a member in good standing will be entered into the annual tournament. The tournament concludes with the December outing.

*Bob*

*Continued...*

# Preview: Lower Hillsborough River Wilderness Outing

## Preview—Lower Hillsborough River Wilderness Preserve

Saturday, April 22

*The longest black bass wins the outing. Measure sunfish, too, for the annual tournament.*

Our April outing is a float trip down the Hillsborough River through the Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve. This is one of the few remaining “wild” areas left near Tampa Bay and it provides both a fly fishing experience and the opportunity to see wildlife that includes turtles, wading birds, alligators, deer, and maybe even an otter or two.

We will launch canoes and kayaks at Morris Bridge Park in Thonotosassa then float and fish the four-mile stretch to Trout Creek Park. Be sure to bring some foam spider flies.



Lunch will be served at Trout Creek Park at noon. Please don't rush, make sure that you enjoy the scenery along this beautiful part of the Hillsborough River.

Maps and the sign-up sheet will be at the meeting.

Fishing partners will need to coordinate their drop off and pick up at the respective parks.

Several of our members have extra kayaks, so we should be able to get everyone in a boat.



**Directions**

Take I-275 or I-75 to Fletcher Ave.

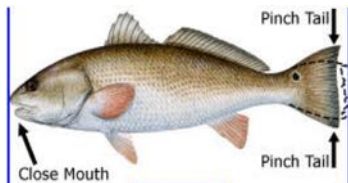
Drive East on Fletcher which becomes Morris Bridge Road.

Both Morris Bridge Park and trout Creek Wilderness Park are on Morris Bridge road.

### Helpful links

- SW Florida Water Mgmt District
- Florida Park Service
- Club Kayak
- Florida River Fishing
- Canoe Escape

## How to measure fish for outings and the tournament



Total Length is measured from the most forward point of the head, with the mouth closed, to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail compressed or squeezed, while the fish is lying on its side.

## Ken Hofmeister: Eglades Canal Outing will have a Tall Tale Contest

*The first liar doesn't have a chance....*

OK, we know there will be stories. And one fellow brought a picture that weighed three pounds! Expect tales of gators taking the biggest fish. But this year's Everglades foray will feature a tall tale contest.

Who can tell the most outrageous Python story? Special award and newsletter publicity will go to the winner. If you can work a fish into the fable, so much the better.

Stories will be swapped at Giovanani's Pizza (coal fired!) on Highway 27 Friday night at 6:30 pm (954-835-1499) and/or at the 2nd Annual "You catch 'em, You clean 'em, 'We cook 'em" lunch Saturday noon at Miami Canal boat ramp. Other clubs are probably not as proficient at fibbing so SFF braggers should do well.

Incidentally, restaurant options for other nights include, but are not limited to, Lester's Diner, and Chipotle. At least, those establishments agreed to let us come back. Others complained about fish scales to be cleaned up after dinner.

*Ken*

## Ray Smith and Bill Scarola: Pre-fishing Eglade Canals.

Bill Scarola and Ray Smith made a pre-April scouting trip to fish the Everglades canals off Rt 27 on March 29-30 in advance of the club outing in late April.



*Mayan cichlid*

Weather was great: Bright sunny skies, air temp in the high 80's and a south wind 5-10 mph. Canal water temp was 80F

They caught bass, bream, oscar, Mayan cichlids and even bowfins. The go-to flies were black woolly buggers, and spinner combos, mop flies (thanks, Myron), white and black spiders cast close to the lily pads. Sinking flies seemed to catch bigger fish.

Eating was good, too. Says Ray, "Good luck to all" at the Everglades Canal outing



*Eglades canal bream*



*Bill Scarola's oscar*



*Bowfin*



*Mr. Woolly Bugger, is that you?*

## Outing Snapshots: Cypress Point Park



Somebody counted 15 wade fishers and that put Cypress Point Park in the lead as the members' favorite outing for wading. Fishing was good (lots of puffers and lizardfish)-but gamefish catching was slow. **Peter Cline** won the event with the longest seatrout – 19 inches.



Outings chairman **Bob Burkard** stopped at Publix' deli and picked up a very welcome spread of wraps, veggies, fruit, chips, cookies with hot coffee and cold drinks.

Photos by Tom Gadacz and Bill AuCoin



Visiting from New Mexico honorary member **Michael Lachance** logs in his catch.

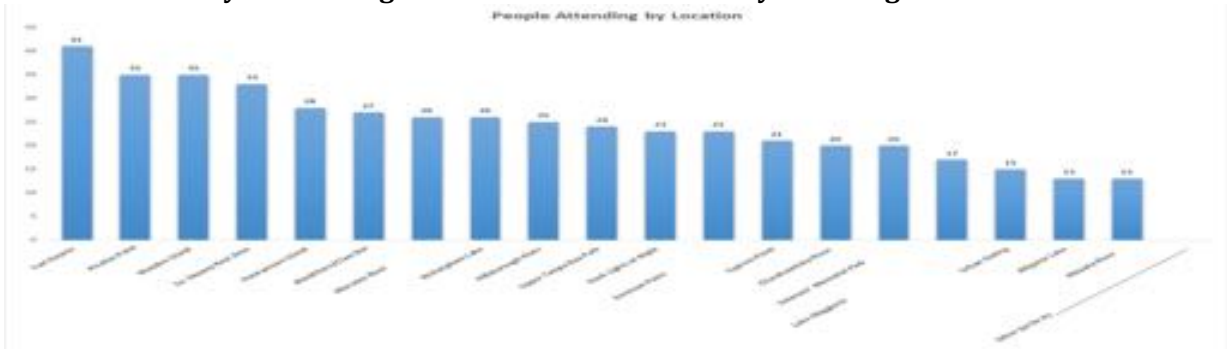


**Duane Mertz** finished this cast perfectly and worked the fly enticingly. A huge, over-the-slot snook rose up and lunged at the fly but, sadly, missed. (Editor's note: this didn't happen.)



**Jon Hoegstrom**, ready for duty on a beautiful day. Tom Gadacz photo.

**Very interesting bar chart shows our history of outing attendance**



**Tampa Bay Boat Show -- Tropicana Field**

Members of Suncoast Fly Fishers demonstrated fly-tying to show goers at the Tampa Bay Boat Show March 10, 11, 12. Outreach Program Chairman Jeff Heer arranged for the demonstration and enlisted SFF members to help the cause.



*Bill Scarola, Bruce Evensen, Ted Rich, Alan Sewell*



*Rick Warfel, Jeff Heer, and Ken Hofmeister*

**Photos by Tom Gadacz**



*Dan Bumgarner and John Craig*



*Tom Gadacz and ??*

## Dayle Mazzarella Shares Insights at March Meeting



Dayle Mazzarella

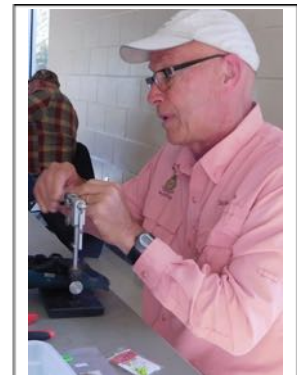
When it comes right down to it fish are pretty much the same whether they're "freshwater" fish or "saltwater" fish or whether we're fishing a drop-off, a pier, a flat, a riffle, or a whatever.

Dayle Mazzarella sees 'em all in a year's worth of guiding and fishing from Tampa Bay to Wyoming to Baja and points between. If they are going to eat a fly they will react to what he calls "catalysts for strike" -- size, shape, color, motion, smell. You've got to keep 'em all in mind.

Sometimes fish are feeding ONLY on one kind of prey, maybe a school of tiny minnows. You might have the right size, but maybe you're working it all wrong like when you're casting a crab fly but you're stripping it too fast. Also, when a gamefish is making a move for your crab remember to let the crab sink and "hide" on the bottom.

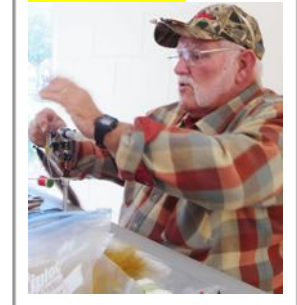
Flies don't have to be perfect imitations. Impressionistic flies work as well or better. But sometimes shape deserves closer consideration, Dayle said. We've all had fish follow our fly then turn away. Why is that? Shape. But consider shape from the POV of a trailing fish. Does your fly have the top-to-bottom contours to match the prey it represents?

Dayle gives his flies another strike advantage not often thought about – *translucence*. That is, he wants gamefish to be able to see through certain body parts of a fly like, perhaps, say the wings of a dragonfly. The magic word is *sparse*.



Dayle tied flies, too.

Below, Dan Bumgarner tied flies with imitation human hair from **Doctoredlocks**.



< Left, going into the meeting Ken Hofmeister met up with honorary member Michael Lachance who now lives in New Mexico. Lachance brought a lot of flies he tied for the Hog Roast auction. Ken credits a Michael Lachance fly for the first snook he caught on a fly rod.

### Damico wins ECHO ION outfit

Tom Trukenbrod announced the winner of the Ion fly rod-reel-and-line outfit. His name came out of a jumble of tickets, one for each member who filled out the annual club survey. And the winner is...Capt. Pat Damico



Capt. Pat Damico, winner, Echo Ion fly rod outfit

Tom Jones: "Tying" the soda straw shrimp fly...with scissors



You can "tie" this fly. You'll need an articulated drinking straw, sharp scissors, plus a little time and patience.



It really works. Here's Tom with a 22-inch dock-light redfish he caught on a shrimp that he scissored from a soda straw.

Tom writes....



Choose your color. Flexible straws come in a variety of colors. Some have stripes, too.

The very best way to show the process to someone is to point them to the [YouTube video](#) where I learned it.

Straws? Actually, if you don't care about the color, you can buy them at just about any grocery store. They are the ones with a flexible section.

*Tom*

(Editor: And you can fill them with Gulp shrimp scent!)



Pat Damico: Big red on an EP fly. Baby manatee at the stern



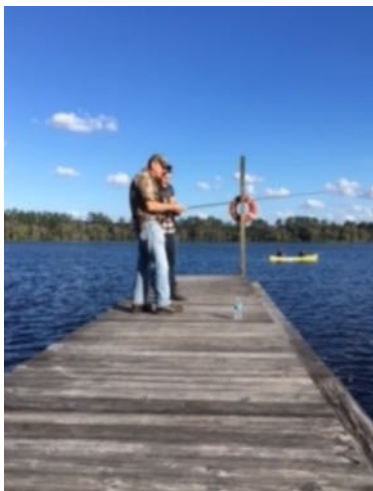
(LEFT) Pat writes, "That's kayak guide Barry Grady with a monster red caught with my EP Baitfish pattern on low incoming tide.

(TOP) Suncoast Fly Fisher Frank Moss has a moment with a curious baby manatee.

*Pat*

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George Haseltine: Always have a fly rod in your vehicle. Here's why



We were in Ocala for the Traditional Bow Hunters of Florida State Archery Contest. Seventeen year old Becky Besel, the daughter of one of our newer family members, Mike and Joanne Besel, asked about fly fishing and I just happened to have a fly rod in my truck. Doesn't everybody?

There was about a 40 mph wind, but we had a good chance to introduce her to this fantastic sport. She really enjoyed it. I think we just hooked another young person.

Funny thing is: the guys in the canoe behind us were fly fishing too. What a hoot!

*George*

## Andy Constantinou: Fly Fishing Tampa Bay with Hans of Frankfort



*This is just one of several snook that Hans caught on the docklights of Apollo Beach.*

Hans is a keen fly fisherman and was visiting from Frankfort, Germany.

I took him out for a few hours on Friday. Unfortunately, the winds gusting over 20 mph and fishing was very difficult.

In the canal near my dock Hans managed to connect with a nice jack.

Monday night I took him dock light fishing in Apollo Beach and Hans cast to and landed several snook.

It's so satisfying when a guest comes away with an enjoyable memory.



*Tampa Bay was riled up but Hans hooked up with an aggressive jack crevalle in Andy's canal.*

*Andy*

*Catch and consume...*

## Dennis Marquis: Seatrout recipe

I caught some very nice sea trout on the spoils between Weedon Island and the channel.

I took a recipe for sword fish and modified it for the lighter sea trout by swapping red balsamic vinegar for white.

1. Sauté two seatrout filets in liberal amounts of butter until done. My sauté pan is on the larger side. Keep adding butter as needed, you don't want the pan to go dry. Remove filets to a serving dishes.
2. Add Pinot Grigio to sauté pan and then equal amounts of white balsamic and reduce. Maybe a quarter cup of each. As it is reducing, add a quarter cup of drained capers. Reduce further, then pour reduction over filets and serve.

It is a variation on a sweet and sour sauce. Typically, it generates satisfied eaters. We serve it with rice and salad.



*Dennis Marquis, seatrout on the fly*

*Dennis*

## **Tying Bench**

### *DAVE JOHNSON'S PETTICOAT STREAMER*

*Tied by Layne (Smitty) Smith*

*Smitty: Tie it right and the marabou comes alive in the water.*



This pattern was shown to me by Dave Johnson, a good friend of mine and the fly creator. This fly is as good in saltwater as it is in freshwater, catching a multitude of fish species from freshwater bluegill and bass to snook and tarpon in saltwater. The technique for attaching the fluffy marabou makes it come alive in the water.

*Smitty*

#### **Materials**

Hook: Mustad 3407 or 34007 size #6 to #6/0 Thread: Danville Flat waxed Nylon white

Tail: Pearl Flashabou

Body: Mylar Tinsel or Flashabou over-wrapped with clear 15 lb mono

Wing: Marabou

Adhesive: Solarez UV Resin or SHHAN

Misc.: Dubbing Twister and Marc Petitjean's material clip or similar (i.e. bulldog clip)

#### **Tying sequence**

Step 1: Start the thread at hook eye and wrap back 1/8" and tie in the clear 15lb mono on the underside of the hook shank then wrap thread back to just past hook point in closed wraps and half hitch to secure wraps. Tie in tinsel with a couple of half hitches and wrap thread forward to 3/16" from hook eye. Palmer tinsel forward in over-lapping wraps to thread position, tie off and remove excess tinsel.

Step 2: Make an overhand knot in the mono around the hook shank with the tag end of mono pointing toward eye of hook and snug down tight. Wrap mono forward in consecutive wraps to standing thread and tie off. Trim excess mono and coat body and thread wraps with thin coat of UV Resin and cure.

Step 3: Wrap thread toward bend of hook to measure 1/4" from hook eye and then double two pieces of Pearl Flashabou around thread and extend back over hook shank as a tail and tie off. Pull out enough thread to create a 4 to 5 inch dubbing loop and finish with two thread wraps around hook shank to complete the loop. Post the two legs of loop with two wraps of thread to close loop. Advance thread to the spot 3/16" from hook eye and lock down with a half hitch.

Step 4: Using a Marc Petitjean Magic Tool, cut marabou from quill so the marabou is about 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 inches long and if bunched together, would be the size of a pencil. Hook the thread loop with the dubbing twister and place the marabou in loop so butt ends protrude about 1/16" past loop. Leave about a 3/16" gap between the marabou and the hook shank. Pull down on the twister to close loop.

Step 5: Keeping pressure on the loop to keep it closed, rotate the twister clockwise about 30 or 40 turns. The loop will begin to shrink in length and the marabou quills will be locked in place.

Step 6: Palmer the marabou-dubbing loop forward, blowing the marabou back toward the hook point with each wrap (personally, I use a small hand-held fan attached to a base saves on lung power!) Once you have reached the eye of the hook, tie off the loop wrapping back over marabou slightly with tight wraps.

Step 7: Whip finish, cut away the thread and then apply a thin coat of UV Resin to secure.

## Bob Morrison: Fly Fishing Tips Plus One Fishy Factoid



### Schools of redfish in middle Tampa Bay

**My, what large claws you have** -- It's spring, and small thumb-nail-size dark crabs are appearing, about one-half inch in size. It's best to fish these little dark fellows on the bottom so put on lead accordingly. Your fly should have large claws, either hair or feathers, or like mine which I cut from the plastic carriers that hold beer can six packs together. I cut these to shape and attach them to the crab body with Krazy Glue.

**Don't throw away those plastic juice carton plugs** -- For swimming crabs on the surface in early morning, I use the plastic plug from a juice carton cap and cut it to crab shell shape. For the bottom, I wrap the hook shank with chenille, glue, then wrap Estaz around the chenille shank. I glue all of this to the top shell with Krazy glue or Fletch and then glue on the claws and legs. Legs can be chenille or Sililegs. Finish the bottom with white foam to make it all float. Cut to match the top shell in shape. Tie the fly with the hook bend curving down from the hard plastic top. Use a Sharpie or colored Sally Hansen glue to color the top shell either blue, tan, green, and you're done.

**Root beer is a color, you know** -- Migrating shrimp are beginning to appear in darker colors, and will often appear somewhat reddish. Root Beer and similar shades of material will do the job. Lighter colors for crab bodies such as tan, green, and light blue will also work palmered with Schlappen hackle and trimmed to a round cross section when viewed from the rear. Tie in black, olive, brown, or tan colors with Schlappen palmered over a chenille body. An all white bugger also works very well. You can also add eyes for effect. Use dumbbell eyes, beadheads, or bullet heads to add weight for deeper water.

*Watch those tides. Fish moving water. Go get 'em and good luck!*

*Bob*

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### Bob's Factoid of the month

One adult moose in one year can liberate 45,000 cubic feet of methane gas from his front and rear openings, not realizing that he is contributing to global warming. "Pew!" as moose hunters often say.

## Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #86



### What weight rod is it?

*By Capt. Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor*

An excited client told me he was bringing his custom made rod on a recent trip. He showed up with a beautifully made 2 piece graphite rod that had only a hand written, "7 Weight," designation on the blank. A nice reel was mounted with a 7 weight, weight forward line. Having cast many fly rods thru the years, I can generally guess the weight just by the feel. This rod, though beautiful, was very heavy and didn't even bend at the tip when I false cast 40 feet. I asked him to cast it, and he struggled. Then I put my 7 weight in his other hand. He was astonished at the difference! He then cast my rod with ease. Don't believe everything you see.

*Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach*

*Capt. Pat Damico charts in lower Tampa Bay. Contact: [captpat.com](http://captpat.com) (727) 504-8649*

## Tampa Bay Times : Captain's Corner

### Taking on the trout/redfish/snook challenge

*By Pat Damico, Tampa Bay Times Correspondent*

Catching a trout, redfish and snook on the same outing with a fly rod can be challenging. Concentrate on lighted docks and bridges. We go out a few hours before daylight and often don't see another boat, especially on weekdays. Trout and reds have been the primary targets; snook are appearing in greater numbers due to warming water. A moving tide produces feeding frenzies and doubles when two fly casters are covering an area. Position one caster on each end of the boat. Lights near marinas and bridges have produced baby tarpon — use a stealthy approach and longer casts. Your first cast is always the best, working the outside shadow before casting into the lighted area. Long slow strips work best and are often interrupted with a strike that causes an immediate hookup. When you see a fish follow, speed up your presentation duplicating an escaping baitfish. Size 4-1 synthetic patterns are selected to match the plentiful baitfish the fish are chasing. Use a 25- to 30-pound shock tippet to prevent leader wear and breakage. White flies are best. A bow mounted electric trolling motor will position the boat parallel to the structure and help get large fish away from barnacle encrusted pilings which will break leaders and fly lines. Crimp all barbs to make releasing easy.

## Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



**"I will bring the Cuban sandwiches and we will swap the pole."** -- If you missed the 2017 Hog Roast you missed a great talk by Chico Fernandez, one of the pioneers of saltwater fly fishing. Nevertheless, read this terrific interview Chico had a few years back with Marshall Crutchin. ([MidCurrent](#))

**Still, she persisted** - Karenia Breis, better known as red tide. Will it affect the fishing at our May outing at Emerson Point in Bradenton? Probably not. But, hey, I just want it to go way. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

**Flower's bloom. Alas, so do some rivers** – It's going to take a lot of money and political will to solve the algae-bloom problem on the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Rivers. Legislators proposed one small step for mankind which was to buy agricultural land south of Lake Okeechobee to make a "lake" to store nutrient-rich water. Now, though, Florida legislators are backing away from that interim step. They want to use state-owned lands near Belle Glade. ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

**The lovely blue-green Gulf of Mexico. The ugly blue-green St. Lucie River** -- Blue-green sounds beautiful except when it's an adjective for algae. Exhibit one is the St. Lucie River which carries nutrient-rich water from Lake Okeechobee and downstream farms to Stuart. For anglers, especially, it ain't like it used to be. Captain Mike Conner and other guides are working hard to try to bring pressure on the Florida legislature to make things right. This requires our attention. ([Angler's Journal](#))

**They had me with the word "free"** -- The first issue of *Southern Saltwater Fly Fishing* quarterly magazine is now online. You can subscribe to this new e-zine for free and they'll email you when each issue is ready. Let's give 'em some page views, y'all. ([Southern Saltwater Fly Fishing](#))

**In Dixieland I'll take my stand ... in a trout stream** – Trout fishing in the southland is a bigger deal than we realized. Aren't you curious about the where-when-and how? Check out this new book by Jimmy Jacobs who, incidentally, is also the editor of *Southern Saltwater Fly Fishing*. If you do decide to fish for brook trout, though, leave your 10 weight at home. ([Brook Trout in Dixie](#))

**I only tie complicated fishing knots in the comfort of my garage** – But when I'm on the water I prefer simple knots; ie. surgeons knot and double-daisy. Here's one for adding a bite tippet to the fly leader. It also works for connecting fluorocarbon to braid (said the anonymous spin fisher). ([Lefty Kreh Leader Knot](#))

**Speaking of Lefty Kreh** -- True or false, Lefty is left handed? Take the Phil Monahan Trivia Challenge. ([Orvis](#))

**Name change** – International Federation of Fly Fishers is now Fly Fishers International. ([FFI](#))

**Pavlov's tarpon** – On this Florida dock if you dangle a baitfish over the water a tarpon will come along and gobble it up. Some will even gobble up your arm. H/T Jimmie Carroll. ([You Tube](#))

**Don't take us too literally, Dennis.** H/T Pat Damico ([Dennis the Menace](#))

***Special friends pages - to  
come***