

# 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*

*Stormy: Blackthorn Memorial Outing. 9*



*Harlow Kehoe in Wyoming. 12*



*Constantinou's 15 lb Koi carp. 13*



*SFF helps FFI at big fly show. 16*



*Burkard's mixed bag in the bay. 15*



*Tying flies with Bruce Evensen. 11*





## ***SFF President Letter – August 2017***

Hello everyone,

It was 90 degrees outside that particular Thursday afternoon with a “feels like” temperature of 101. It was just plain hot. After working out there all day, I’m too exhausted to go to the fly tying class tonight. All I want to do is sit in the A/C in front of a fan and drink iced tea.

They just put in all new duct work, A/C condenser and air handler in my house and the place is in disarray to say the least. I can’t even think straight when it is this way.

How can I go to a fly tying class when I can’t even get to my tools and materials?

Oh well (heavy sigh) I can’t stay home. I promised Bruce Evensen that I would be there and it is my obligation to honor my word and also support our Club. And, after all, John’s conference room at High Performance Plumbing Services is air conditioned. Thanks John.

I think I’ll just show up and sit in the corner and observe. Yeah, that’s what I’ll do. Good plan.

Actually, I don’t want to embarrass myself by letting them see how badly I tie. No reflection on Smitty whose class taught me mounds of stuff. I can tie enough to catch fish, but not in Bruce’s or Smitty’s league. I’m just not the fine detail kinda guy. Give me a full-sized jack hammer, a 12-pound sledge hammer, a pile of cast iron pipe and fittings or a pick and shovel a set of plans and I’ll show you something.

As planned, I got there early and promptly sat myself in a corner. But Bill AuCoin, Ken Hofmeister, and Dennis Marquis were not going to let me sit quietly. With great resolve, they moved the chairs around, opened a seat for me at the table and started handing me materials. Ken gave me a vise and bobbin, Bill gave me materials, and Dennis let me use his epoxy and blue light. Thank you, Gentlemen.

Words alone can’t describe the fellowship and fun we had. Some were excellent tyers, like Bruce, and some were brand new beginners. There were at least twelve of us and what a great night it turned out to be!

We all learned something. Do you know what a “Green Trout” is? What is the best tool to thin out that Clouser you tied with too much bucktail? How does the epoxy and blue light work? How do you get that material to stand up like that? What’s the best way to attach eyes?

Well, to sum it all up, I got so worked up that I went out the very next day and bought a portable tying station, some Steve Farrar material (hope I spelled that right), other tools and started to set myself up for the next class on the Thursday night following our General Meeting. Come join us. It may just change your life. I’ll look for you. Remember, there’s always room for one more.

And speaking of our next General Meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup>, we’re tying flies. Please don’t shy away if your new to it or maybe didn’t do so good in the past. Myron Hansen has a program planned for us that will involve new and experienced tiers. And! We have free pizza! Bring a vise or we’ll provide one. The Club will provide all the materials thanks to Bruce and Myron. I invite, encourage and challenge you to be there (or be square.)

Never lose your Sense of Adventure,

*George*

George Haseltine, Proud to Serve as SFF President 2016-17, ghh343@aol.com, 727-423-8110

## Calendar: Club Meetings and Outings

### Thursday, August 17 Free Pizza Meeting

- Tie-A-Thon led by Myron Hansen. See below.
- Fly Swap. Create and bring your own "Urban Fly." Just one.
- Smitty ties the Pencil Popper

*Note from Myron Hansen...*

Bring your vise and an extra vise if you have one. The extra can be shared with members who are new to tying. The first half of the Tie-A-Thon will give our members the opportunity to tie their personal favorites. The second half of the program will be to tie a "Mystery Fly." The fly will be introduced and samples in various stages of completion will be passed around. Tying materials will be supplied by the club. This a simple fly to tie and effective on the water. Everyone who ties the Mystery Fly will receive a free raffle ticket for the monthly raffle. The longest fish caught on the "Mystery Fly" at the Urban Outing wins a prize.

There is a "Fly Swap" at our August meeting. The fly to swap is what you think an "Urban Fly" should look like. Our outing this month is the Urban Outing." This is a chance to be very creative. One fly is all that is needed for the swap. If you missed the signup, you can still participate. Just bring your fly and signup at the meeting.

### Saturday, August 19 Outing

- Urban outing, Flora Wylie Park on St. Pete's waterfront. A prize goes for the longest fish caught using the mystery fly.

*The Florida Council will have its annual meeting Saturday, August 19 from 1 to 3 pm at [Plantation](#) on Crystal River. All FFI members are invited to attend. More info at [FFI](#) and [Florida Council](#) websites.*

### Thursday, September 21 Meeting

- Our speaker is expert fly caster [Dan Lagace](#), known for skill in casting equally well with either hand. Fifteen minutes to teach yourself to cast a fly both left-handed and right-handed
- Smitty ties the Double Barrel Popper for Lake Maggiore outing

### Saturday, September 23 Outing

- Lake Maggiore, St. Petersburg

### Thursday, October 19 Meeting

- Our speaker is [Capt. Rodney Smith](#), Anglers for Conservation
- Smitty ties the Kinni Jig/Flash Minnow

### Saturday, October 21 Outing

- Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament on the Hillsborough River
- Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club is our host

## *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 138 members including 20 family members and 5 honorary members.

### FFI Charter Club.

Suncoast Fly Fishers is a charter member club of [Fly Fishers International](#)  
[SFF website](#)  
[SFF Calendar](#)

## Continued...Club Meetings and Outings

### Thursday, November 16 Meeting

- Our speaker is **Capt. C. A. Richardson**, host of Flats Class TV

### Saturday, November 18 Outing

- Weedon Island Preserve

### December (no meeting) Don Coleman Invitational

- Plus, the Chili Cook-Off at Fort DeSoto Park
- Final opportunity to catch the longest annual tournament fishes

*Save the date for the 2018 HOG ROAST: MARCH 24*

## 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 the Tampa Bay area, the Fly Fishing Capital of the World.

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

*Free monthly fly tying lessons for members and guests*

When: Thursday, August 24 – 6 pm

What: Learn to tie new flies with fellow club members.

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

### ***Introduction to Fly Casting with Tom Gadacz***

*Free lessons in St. Pete are open to all. Class size is limited so be sure to sign up. Call 727-363-9245*

When: 6 – 8 pm Monday, September 11 (second Monday of each month)

Where: Egan Field, 9101 Blind Pass Road, St. Pete Beach.

### ***Tarpon Springs' Mini-Maritime Festival***

*Suncoast Fly Fishers will teach fly tying to festival attendees*

When: Sunday, November 5

Fly tiers needed. See Bob Burkard at the meeting or email him at robertburkard9@gmail.com

### ***Florida Sportsman Show***

*Suncoast Fly Fishers teach fly tying and fly casting*

When: October 7 – 8

Where: Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa

### ***Master Casting Instructor fly-casting clinic***

*Expert fly casters from Suncoast Fly Fishers and Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club*

When: Tentatively, Saturday December 16

Where: Maximo Park, St. Petersburg

Lead instructors: Pat Damico, MCI; Dayle Mazzarella, MCI



*That's our club's Pat Damico on the right. In this picture Damico, an FFI Master Casting Instructor, leads a fly casting lesson at Evening Hatch Fly Shop in Blakeslee, Pennsylvania.*

## December 14: Fly fish FWC's tarpon and redfish stock ponds

Florida Fish and Wildlife has invited Suncoast Fly Fishers to visit and fly cast to tarpon and redfish in FWC's stock research ponds on Thursday, December 14

Tom Gadacz has arranged the visit and is compiling the guest list. The group maxes out at 15 so be sure to see Tom at the meeting to get your name on the list.

We need to arrive by 8:45. At 9 FWC's Gina Russo will explain the goals of the stock enhancement ponds, and the rules for fly casting to the fish.

We'll fly cast to the ponds until noon. Bring your own lunch.

### Directions

FWC Stock Enhancement Research Facility  
14495 Harlee Road  
Palmetto, Florida 34221  
(941) 723-4505

Located at Port Manatee on Highway 41 – 7-miles north of Palmetto, Florida

### From Tampa:

- I-75 south to exit #229 (Moccasin Wallow Road)
- Moccasin Wallow west to U.S. 41 (approximately 4 miles)
- U.S. 41 north to Port Manatee (2 miles) (Piney Point Road)
- Piney Point Road west to Harlee Road (1/2 mile)
- Harlee Road north to hatchery on left (3/4 mile)

### From St. Pete:

- I-275 south across Sunshine Skyway Bridge to exit #2 (U.S. 41)
- U.S. 41 north to Port Manatee (3 miles)
- Piney Point Road west to Harlee Road (1/2 mile)
- Harlee Road north to hatchery on left (3/4 mile)

## Used Gear for Sale

### Mitchell Tri-Hull

Mitchell 1982 16' tri-hull with a completely rebuilt 1982 50 hp Johnson outboard. The trailer has been rebuilt: new wiring, winch & strap, wheels & bearings. Asking \$2000. Contact Phil Thigpin: [727-822-5053](tel:727-822-5053).

### 16-foot Bass Tracker and trailer

Evinrude 25 hp. New trolling motor (45# thrust). Two new batteries. New tires and rims. Dolly wheel and hitch coupler. \$4000. Call Ken Doty at 526-4753.

### Stripping basket used only two times

LineKurv stripping basket; used 2 times. Paid \$70 new; sell for \$40. Contact Barry Salzman 321-4993; [salzman@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:salzman@tampabay.rr.com)

### Rods and flies, never used

8 wt and 12 wt Martin and Redbone, fly stretcher and carrying case, 17 billfish/ tarpon flies assorted colors all IGFA approved, 23 tarpon flies. Call Bill Arthur at 813-727-3225.

### 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. Also, flies for sale.

*\*Classified ads will run for up to three months but may run longer if text is changed. Ads from non-members are also welcome but should be submitted through a member.*

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



## **Suncoast Fly Fishers**

P. O. Box 40821  
St Petersburg, FL 33743  
[www.suncoastflyfishers.org](http://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. Speak to any  
officer or director at the meeting*  
Casting Skills -- Pat Damico, MCI,  
Dayle Mazzarella, MCI  
IFFF Liaison -- Pat Damico  
Conservation -- Cliff Nigh  
Fly Tying -- Myron Hansen  
Membership -- Karen Warfel  
New Members -- Rick Warfel  
Webmaster -- Rick Yarn  
Hog Roast Karen+Rick Warfel  
Outings -- Bob Burkard  
Project Healing Waters -- John  
Craig, Terry Kirkpatrick, Alan  
Sewell  
Outreach, shows -- Jeff Heer, Bob  
Burkard  
Raffles -- Dave Barson  
Programs -- Board of Directors  
Newsletter editor-- 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

*What can the Suncoast Fly Fishers club do for you and for other members? Email your ideas to club president George Haseltine at [ghh343@aol.com](mailto:ghh343@aol.com)*

**Join. Renew. Application at  
[www.suncoastflyfishers.com](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com)**

## July Outing Review: Blackthorn Memorial



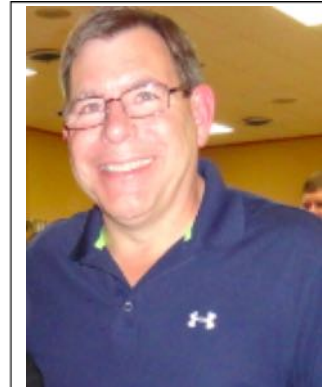
*Hilton Bruch, SFF  
Outing Committee*

### REVIEW—Blackthorn Memorial Saturday, July 22



Our July 22<sup>nd</sup> Blackthorn Memorial / Clam bar outing was one of the most enjoyable outings that I have been to. Which is strange, since the severe thunderstorms and rain forced us off the water very early in the day.

A group of us (32 people) assembled under the shelters where we swapped stories and had an early lunch.



*Bob Burkard, SFF  
Outing committee*

The fishing knowledge shared was tremendous. Some of us newer club members were really blown away by the comradery and open/free exchange of area history, fishing techniques, and discussions of fishing, and life in general. An observation from one of our members was “I can fish on my own any time that I want, but getting together like this with a group of friends is really special. I can learn more from this group in an outing than in years of trial and error fishing around Tampa Bay”.

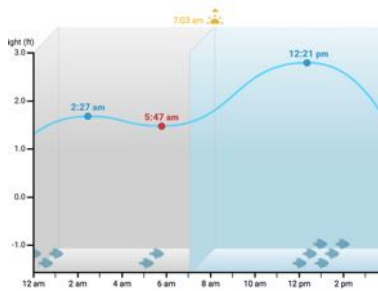
Two of our braver (or is it craziest members) Jeff Kopelman and Rick Yarn defied the lightning and continued to fish during the storms. They caught catfish, grouper, mackerel, and a 16-inch trout. I would be remiss if I did not tell you that, those of us who remained in the safe areas, were amazed at this display of courage and fishing dedication in the face of brutal rain, wind, and electricity, and were also a little jealous that they caught fish while we did not...

*Bob*

### UPDATED: 2017 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing
Longest sunfish	9-inches	Mark Hays	Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve
Longest black bass	15-inches	Mark Hays	Walsingham Park
Longest snook	27-inches	Adam Hays	Docklight Weekend
Longest redfish			
Longest ladyfish	19.5-inches	Bill AuCoin	Cypress Point Park (March)
Longest seatrout	19-inches	Peter Cline	Cypress Point Park (March)

## Outing Preview: Urban Outing, St. Pete's North Shore Park



We'll have a fairly steep and high incoming tide for the urban outing. ([Tides4fishing.com](http://Tides4fishing.com))

*Our next outing is our urban outing and it will take place on Saturday August 19 with lunch at noon at Flora Wylie Park in downtown St Pete.*

Our designated fish award goes to the member catching the longest seatrout. Also, the annual tournament contest is still in play. The fishing boundary extends from the entrance to Coffee Pot Bayou

on the north to Demens Landing Park on the south. You can fish as far to the east as you want so long as you can see North Shore Park.



*Satellite image of North Shore/Flora Wylie Park and adjacent bay water. (Apple Maps)*

In previous outings in this location our members have caught ladyfish, trout, snook, redfish, mangrove snappers, and sheepsheads. On the flats my first choice for flies would be EP minnows or my favorite deceivers in Chartreuse and white. And no one can go wrong by using Clousers. If it is calm you might try some top water poppers.

The flats right in front of the park and just outside of Coffee Pot Bayou provide good fishing for trout and ladyfish. The marked channel out of Coffee Pot Bayou and the deep dredge holes along the western edge of the flat are good areas to try for redfish and snook. The docks, seawalls and mangroves in Coffee Pot are great habitat for snook and reds. Snook and mangrove snapper are known to frequent the rocky jetties and shorelines around the yacht basin and the airport. We will have different sized fly rods for members to cast. Tom Gadacz will provide casting tips and instructions. This was a real hit last time, and I hope that everyone will take a turn at casting 3-weights through 10 weight rods.

*Bob*



*Fish between Coffee Pot Bayou on the north and Demens Landing Park on the south. You can fish as far to the east as you wish but must keep North Shore Park in sight. (Apple Maps)*





**Blackthorn Memorial Outing: Lightning storms come and go**



*Keep fishing or seek shelter? The balloon over Dennis Marquis' head reads ... "I'm thinking, I'm thinking."*



*Oh good; a roof over our heads. Dave Barson, Karen Warfel, Dennis Marquis and (seated) Duane Mertz.*



*Road Ranger Rescue -- Jeff Kopelman and Rick Yarn braved the weather but forgot that cars need gas.*



*Luncheon Maestro Tom Trukenbrod slices watermelons. Bob Morrison shares fishy factoids.*



*Left, Rick Yarn's unexpected grouper on the fly. Alas, grouper was not the designated species for this outing.*

## Captain Nick Angelo: The Art of Feeding Fish on the Fly

What does “feeding fish” mean?

Captain Nick Angelo put it this way at the July meeting. Feeding fish means making an educated guess on where to place the fly and how to retrieve it to have the highest chance of getting a fish to bite.

In a series of slides, a guide who has paid his dues with many long days on the water, told it like it is for when you’re fishing inshore for the grand slam – tarpon, redfish, snook, speckled trout.

Basics: You’ve got to learn where to place the fly. You have to know the kind of retrieve that gives you the highest chance of getting that fish to bite. Practice. Then practice some more.

Fly Fishing Technique: You must not slap or splash the water. Put the rod tip near the water and remove slack from the line. Spend some time watching how your fly looks in the water when you strip the line.



differences – shapes, colors, water pushes. Also, you must have good polarized glasses.

Prepare. Do your best. The memories last a lifetime. Most importantly, perhaps, have a great time.



*Capt. Nick Angelo, our July meeting speaker.*

*Visit his website –*

[Shallowwaterflyfishing.com](http://Shallowwaterflyfishing.com)

Fishing with a guide or a friend: Establish some common ground. A 40-foot cast. How far is that, actually.

Spotting the target: You can do some blind casting, some prospecting, but it’s critical that you learn how to spot the fish. Look for

**Contact**  
Captain Nick  
Angelo  
Tampa FL,  
813-230-8473

[Fishonthefly25@aol.com](mailto:Fishonthefly25@aol.com)

## Fly tying lessons with Bruce Evensen



*Bruce Evensen leads club member fly tying lessons once a month.*

*By George Haseltine*

One of the best things about fly fishing is catching a fish on a fly that you tied. Anglers who buy their heavy lures off the shelf never get that special reward.

Even if a fly you tied never gets wet you still get satisfaction tying it in the first place, and tying it again and again until it is close to perfect.

For these reasons, plus camaraderie, Suncoast Fly Fishers get together once a month to tie flies in a free class led by master fly tyer Bruce Evensen.

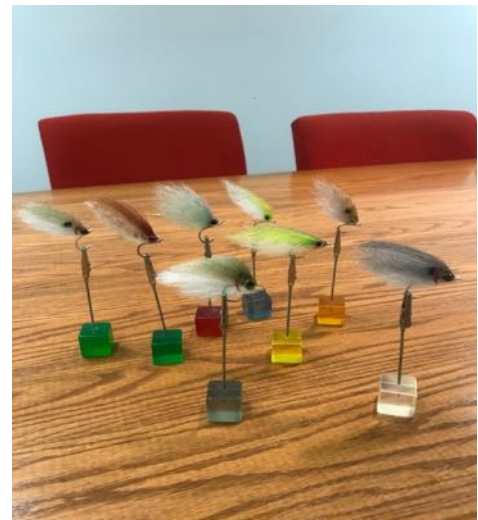


This class is for tyers at all levels and most certainly includes those who have never ever tied a fly, but want to learn. That's why the sessions are called *Introduction to Fly Tying*.

We meet from 6 to 8 pm on the Thursday after the club meeting at High Performance Plumbing Services at 33340 Morris Street N in St. Pete.



*Suncoast Fly Fishers meet in the board room at High Performance Plumbing Services on the Thursday after the regular club meeting.*



*These are Bruce-tied baitfish patterns which members learned to tie at the July class.*

*George*

## Harlow Kehoe: Fly Fishing Wyoming's Hams Fork

*Wyoming's SFF member Dayle Mazzarella was Harlow's guide and photographer*



*On my two day trip I had over 60 hits on nymphs, dries and streamers. Resulted in over 40 hookups and over 20 (16 to 20-inch) rainbows netted! The smallest nymph was a 28, with 6x tippet! A great trip.*

*Harlow*

## Jeff Kopelman: A good "half" day on NC's Cherokee River



*This picture was taken early in the morning in April but within a few hours I had double that amount -- 11 keeper trout. Most of them went for the woolly bugger.*

*Jeff*

## Andy Constantinou: Big Koi carp on the fly in the UK



*July 19: I caught my first Koi carp; about 13-pounds, from Manor Farm today. Andy*

## Andy and friends from UK fly fish Tampa Bay

Brits John Batter and Harley Smith visited their friend Andy Constantinou in Apollo Beach in April and had an opportunity to fly fish Tampa Bay at night for tarpon, snook, and trout. With Capt. Ethan Kiburz they cruised and sight-fished tarpon along the shadow lines under the bridges. Batter got a pick up from a 100 pounder who peeled off more than 100 yards of backing. It jumped and threw the hook. Snook and trout under the dock lights weren't so lucky.



*John Batter with a hefty snook caught under the docklights while fishing with Capt. Ethan Kiburz.*



*Harley Smith caught this hefty seatrout under a dock light in Apollo Beach. Then they decided to go indoors to shoot a well-lit photo.*

## Chris O'Byrne and His Dad Fly Fish Tampa Bay



*Jeff O'Byrne, visiting from Jacksonville, with a speckled trout, one of many fish he and son Chris O'Byrne caught fly fishing Tampa Bay.*



*This jack crevalle was Jeff O'Byrne's first saltwater fish.*

*We left out of Fort DeSoto Park, fishing with Captain Barkley Daniel. It was a tough day for fishing but Barkley got us on about 15 fish, seven different species.*

*Chris*

## Join Rick Birnbaum and April Turpen in the Smokies

*Want to fish the Smoky Mountains this fall?*

**September 26-30**

**Johnson City, Tennessee**

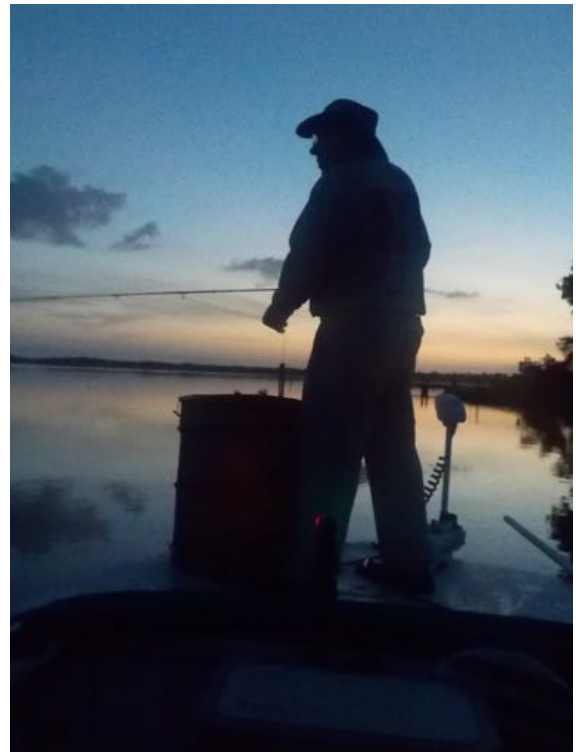
*We are extending an invitation to anyone who wishes to join us. I will be glad to coordinate. We are not sponsoring this so each is responsible for his own costs. The dates are scheduled for Sept 26 - Sept 30, 2017; we are fishing three days; individual modifications can be made. Trip can be a mix and match affair with or without guides; just a chance for a group trip. Carpooling is also an option. If there is interest, feel free to call or email me (727-363-0780, rsbirnbaum@msn.com), or see me or April Turpen at the August meeting.*

*Rick Birnbaum*

Bob Burkard: Jacks, bluefish, trout and more



*Fast moving schools. The trick was to move the boat (quietly) into position to cast to the nervous water.*



*The magic hour. An early start gave Burkard and AuCoin a chance to sight cast to snook on the docklights on a residential canal.*



*Success. One of Bob's Spanish mackerel*

*In late July Bob Burkard and Bill AuCoin moved around middle Tampa Bay fishing docklights, sunken spoils, and the Picnic Island grass flats. Fly rods were kept quite busy. While wade fishing around Picnic Island Park a 4-foot fish (amberjack?) followed AuCoin's fly almost to the rod tip. Then it spooked.*

## 2017 International Fly Tackle Dealer Show in Orlando



*The Fly Fishers International exhibit anchored rows and rows of displays of the latest fly fishing gear that will be on retailer shelves next year. Among those who worked the FFI booth were, from left to right, Tom Logan, chairman of FFI's board of directors, Suncoast Fly Fishers Karen and Rick Warfel, and FFI President Len Zickler*

*By Bill AuCoin*

In mid-July Orlando hosted what is probably the biggest sportfishing show in the world. And it's just for people in the biz – retailers, buyers, reps, and so forth.

IFTD was the fly fishing show at one end of the hall. ICAST was everything else, and it was huge.

This is the show featuring fishing products that will go on dealer shelves in 2018.

Buyers and media representatives got to vote on what they considered the best gear.

### **Some of the winners from the ICAST Best of Show competition...**

Fly Reel – Pure Fishing, Inc. --Pflueger Supreme QRS Fly Reel  
Fly Fishing Rod – G. Loomis IMX-Pro Fly Rod  
Eyewear – Costa Sunrise Mirror Lens  
Boating Accessories – Yeti Coolers' Load Out Bucket  
Lifestyle Apparel – Frogg Toggs Prym1 Series Pilot II Jacket & Bibs  
Electronics – Johnson Outdoors SOLIX 15 CHIRP MEGA SI GPS  
Fly Fishing Accessory – Simms Fishing G3 Guide™ stockingfoot wader



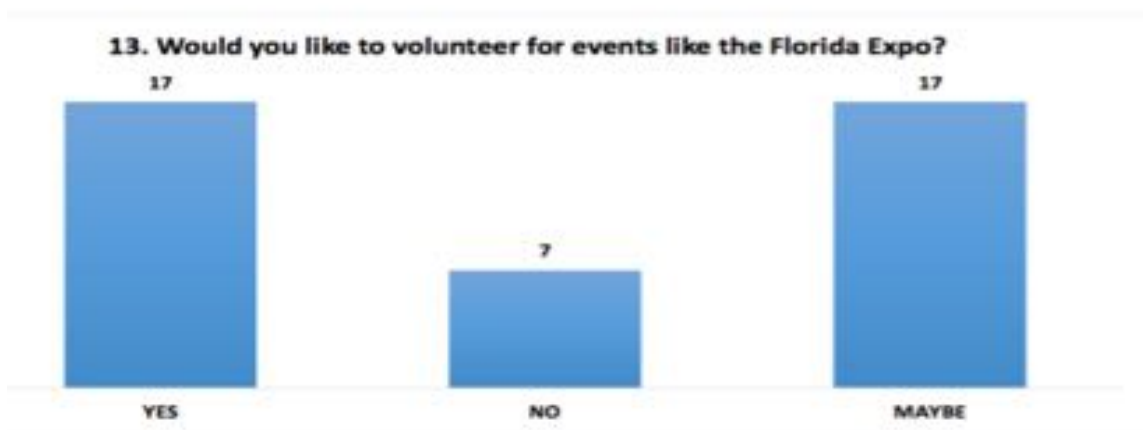
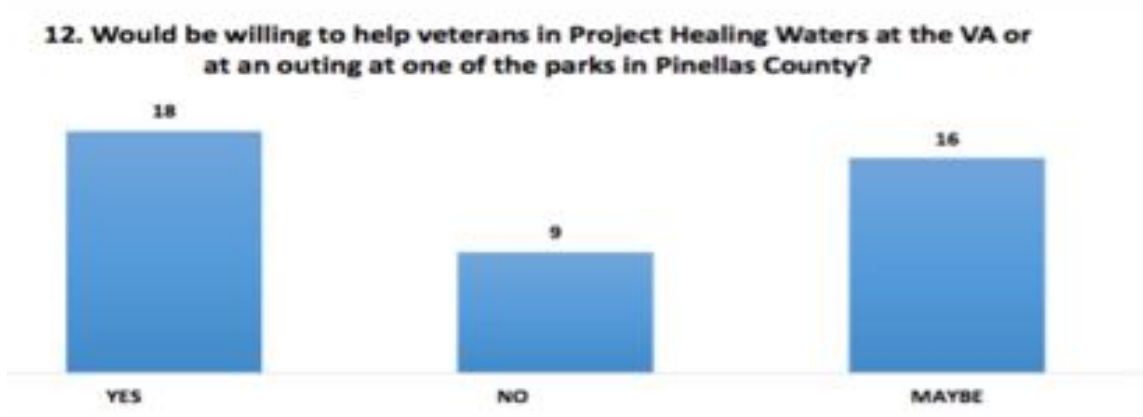
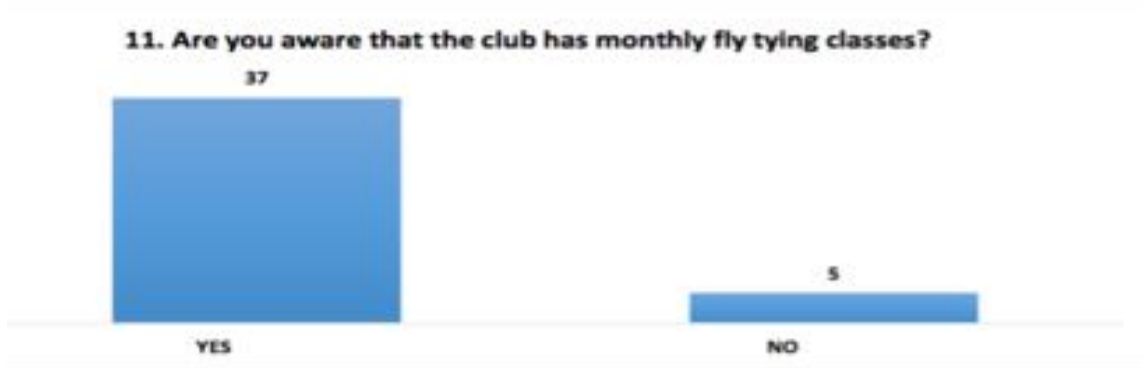
*Going offshore?  
Humminbird's new Solix 15  
Chirp Mega SI GPS.*

### **Here are some of the winners from the IFTD Best of Show competition...**

IFTD Best of Show--Sage – Salt HD fly rod  
Women's Wading Boots: Korkers, LLC — Women's Dark Horse Boot  
Fly Rod — Freshwater: Scott Fly Fishing — The G Series  
Fly Reel – Saltwater: Nautilus Reels — GTX  
Women's Waders: Orvis — Women's Ultralight Waders  
Fly Line — Saltwater: RIO Products — Direct Core Flats Pro  
Accessories Under \$100: Fishpond, Inc. — Quickshot Rod Holder  
Fly Pattern — Saltwater: Umpqua Feather Merchants — Chicone's Tuscan Bunny  
Boat / Personal Watercraft: Creek Company — T. Rex 9.8 Mini Drifter



Member survey answers at a glance. Part 3  
*Bob Burkard has put member survey results into these handy bar charts*



*More survey results will be presented in future issues*

## **Tying Bench - Pencil Popper - tied by Layne Smith**



Pencil Poppers have a justly deserved reputation for catching warm water predators in fresh or salt. Smitty will tie this fly at our August "Tieathon" meeting. Keep a couple in your fly box for all of our upcoming outings -St. Pete Urban Outing, Lake Maggiore, Hillsborough River, Weedon Island Preserve, and Fort DeSoto Park.

### **Materials**

Hook: Lightning Strike popper hook size #2 - #4

Thread: Danville Flatwaxed Nylon white

Tail: Pearl Krystal Flash (optional white marabou w/ Silver Krystal Flash)

Body: Perfect Popper hard foam pencil popper

Eyes: Posted animal eyes or 3D molded eyes

Cement: FletchTite Platinum

Overcoat: Solarez UV Resin

Misc: Red Sharpie marker, Mylar tubing sized to fit over popper body

### **Tying Sequence**

Step 1: Place hook in vise and lay down a base wrap starting at hook bend and wrapping forward to an eyes width from hook eye. Wrap backward over base wrap to original tie-in point.

Step 2. Attach Pearl Krystal Flash or equal portions of marabou and silver Krystal Flash mixed together as tail.

Step 3. Measure foam body to hook. If need be, use thin file to widen slit in bottom of foam body to accommodate wrapped hook. NOTE: Skip this step if you are using a pre-drilled popper body.

Step 4. Coat base wraps with FletchTite and slide on popper body making sure it is aligned properly. For best results, try to end with hook eye close to the bottom side of popper (It imparts better casting and retrieval from the surface of the water).

Step 5. If you are using the slit-type popper bodies, fill in exposed gap with FletchTite and smooth out. Set aside to dry and start another if you are doing several.

Step 6. Optional choice is to slide Mylar tubing over body and stretch to form a taut layer over the popper body. Over coat this with UV Resin and cure, trimming frayed ends.

Step 7. If you choose, you can skip over step 6 and just overcoat plain popper body after you colored the head of the popper with the red Sharpie as shown in photo.

Step 8. Attach eyes, depending on which eye option you want (3D molded - apply with FletchTite, or posted eyes - trim post to half its length, poke hole in sides of popper head with heated bodkin, fill with FletchTite and insert post). Allow to dry. Then over-coat with UV Resin and cure.

*Smitty*

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



### You might have to move about for the grand slam

**Got sand fleas?** -- In the surf, sand fleas are plentiful and fly imitations will take reds, sea trout, and snook as well as the occasional Spanish mackerel. Try at sundown low-tide or early morning high-tides.

**Fish the jetties** -- Flounders are working jetties and around structures. Try finger mullet patterns in 4-inch or longer sizes. Shrimp patterns also work here.

**Offshore bonanza** -- When fishing offshore, remember that blackfin tuna and king mackerel can be caught on flies. They seem to like combinations of red and black colors. Try a Seaducer in these colors. These fish will be in deeper water, but can be brought up by chumming. They can also be caught on the surface with bugs and gurglers.

**Where are the snook?** -- Snook are in the passes and around structures, such as bridge columns. There are also some on nearby grassy flats. Greenback and other sardine patterns will bring them in as well as will pinfish and jigs with yellow tails. Over sandy bottoms, snook have been taking pink-and-white and chartreuse-and-white Clousers, as well as fly rod jigs in these same colors.

**Looking for redfish?** -- Redfish are around river mouths chasing bait fish up the creeks. They will take almost anything including swimming crabs on the surface, especially in the morning. Chartreuse colored bugs are also a good bet.

**Go for the grand slam** -- Tarpon are in water up to 20 feet deep and are schooling around holes and drop offs. Use bright mullet and ladyfish patterns; also swimming crabs.

**Ups and downs are a good thing** -- Finally, mangrove snappers are being taken on worm patterns, both in red and in tan-and-orange. These fish are 8 to 20 feet deep but they will come up for a fly that sinks and rises on the retrieve.

### Bob's Fishy Factoids

- The sea lamprey, that freshwater, slimy, eel-like predator on trout and other fish, has been found fossilized exactly like it looks today in 300 million year-old rocks. That's 100 million years before the dinosaurs came up. The lamprey spawns in freshwater and dies afterward. After hatching, young lampreys go to sea for a while, but come back to spawn and complete the life cycle. Otters, raccoons, and mink eat lamprey when they can catch them, which helps out the fish that lampreys attack in freshwater. Interesting.
- People in the USA, Canada, and Europe eat no less than 2 billion pounds of oysters every year.

*That's it. Go get 'em and good luck, and thank you for your cards and phone calls while I was recovering from my injuries from that bad fall that I took last month!*

**Bob**

## Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #90



### **Stream Fishing? Learn "slack line" casting techniques**

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

*The fish in this river will only take a dry fly if you are positioned above them!*

When fishing for selective fresh water trout, this is a comment I frequently hear from fly fishers. The reason is that if directly above a fish facing you, the fly will be the first thing he sees as it drifts into his feeding zone. Heavily fished trout streams and rivers with stream bred larger fish that refuse floating offerings fall into this category, especially when in smooth water. Is this true? Yes, even when using the right fly if the presentation is flawed by casting over fish from below, lining them, having the fly land unnaturally, putting it in the wrong position, but mostly not being able to control, "drag." If your fly is floating differently than other small objects, like bubbles or small leaves, faster, slower or sideways, it will be refused. You must learn different slack line casts such as a reach cast, curve cast, pile cast, putting controlled large and small waves

in your cast at the proper location, etc. Our casting clinics deal with this and is another reason that you should take advantage of this club membership benefit.

*Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach*

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

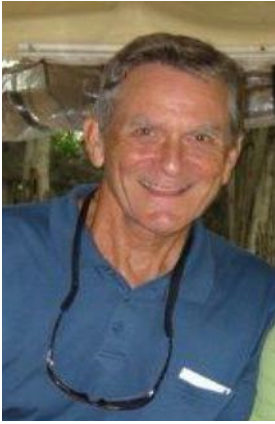
## Tampa Bay Times : Captain's Corner

### **Redfish, trout, snook in locations you wouldn't normally find them**

*By Pat Damico, Tampa Bay Times correspondent*

Stable weather conditions are usually necessary for consistent fishing success. That certainly has not been the case lately. During the summer, higher tides have redfish, trout and snook in areas that are high and dry during other times of the year. A good example is flooded mangroves, docks and other structure creating a place for fish to find food and feel secure, well-protected from overhead predators and bright sun. A bait fisherman will cast a live offering close to structure, and the unsuspecting baitfish will swim under the structure into the waiting mouth of a finny predator. With a fly rod, a cast must be made within inches of flooded mangroves and structure or back into narrow openings where fish can see or hear it. Use larger flies that cause a disturbance, often drawing fish to the edge of cover. A good choice are poppers in white, yellow or black that float and have a flat surface in front. A slight pull on a tight line creates a "pop," often bringing your intended quarry out of hiding to attack its dinner, resulting in violent, exciting surface action. Cast with the rod held vertically for pinpoint accuracy but move the rod horizontally to cast close to the water to get under structure. If floating grass is a problem, use flies with weed guards.

## Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



**Will you wet-wade the urban outing?** -- On July 31 water quality was rated “good.” We should check it before the August 19 outing. BTW, if you don’t want to get into the water you can also sight cast to fish from the seawall along St. Pete’s North Shore Park. It’s like standing on a poling platform, but more stable. Watch your back-cast. Trees, people, etc. ([St. Pete.org](#))

**Guitar players make good fly fishers.** Or something -- Eric Clapton ‘s 28-pound salmon is the biggest on a fly rod in Iceland so far this year. Now, that’s a bigger high than doing dope, right? Eric Clapton can speak to that issue, too. ([AXS](#))

**Remember when you could fly cast with one hand?** – We all started as one hand casters. But now my left hand doesn’t feel right if it’s not being double-haul helpful.

Nevertheless, this is by the guy who doubled as the fly caster in *A River Runs Through It...* ([Anglers Trade](#))

**This fly reel only costs \$1300.** I saw this new Nautilus GTx reel on display at the recent International Fly Tackle Dealer show in Orlando. It holds up to 500 yards of 60# braid backing. You can apply up to 25 pounds of drag pressure because it has a carbon fiber drag on one side and a cork/Kevlar drag on the other side. That means when you tell the tarpon to stop, it does what it is told. If you are a guide with customers paying good money to catch the fish and the memory of a lifetime – tarpon, marlin, tuna, giant trevally -- this reel is a very good deal. ([Venturing Angler](#))

**How to discourage boat sales** – You know those massive algae blooms we’ve been reading about? They’re hurting the sale of new boats. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

**Mangrove shorelines versus salt marsh shorelines** – And the winner is? Interesting study shows mangroves give much better coastal protection than the reedy salt marsh shorelines north of Pinellas County. The good news for Florida’s “Big Bend” is that mangroves are heading north. Well, they do call it the “Walking Tree.” ([The Fishing Wire](#))

**The perfect fillet** -- One of the most amazing feelings in the world is the feeling you get manipulating a very sharp fillet knife over the ribs and down the spine of a gamefish and then removing the skin...and only the skin. Fish flesh is just too valuable to leave any behind, you know. PS: It’s okay to throw some bits and pieces to the egrets that have been waiting patiently in your yard, Ken Hofmeister said. ([Buck Knives](#))

**Eagle eyes** – This bald eagle is flying over Dubai. H/T Pat Damico. Hey, if we can’t get an osprey to wear a camera there is a fun alternative -- a drone. From our luncheon pavilion someone could fly it around and shoot video of our members fishing the outings. ([You Tube](#))

**Who knew?** The question is, “What fly fishing stuff did you buy today?” One fly fisher said he bought gasoline for his car to go on a fly fishing trip. Good answer. Another wrote, “a toilet flapper.” Wha? It kinda makes sense, though. Fixing the toilet was at the top of his “honey-do” list. Some things necessarily come before you head out on a fishing expedition. ([Fly Fishing Forum](#))

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