

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



Smell those shrimp beginning to boil. 10, 12



Captain C. A. Richardson, host of Flats Class TV 5



Woody Miller meets Marlboro Man. 16



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Bring it on sun. David Redd is ready. Weedon outing. 10



SFF President Letter – December 2017

Happy Holidays, Everyone.

It's the season to eat too much, talk too much and spend quality time with family and loved ones!

If you're traveling, **stay safe** and don't forget to bring your fly rod. If you're visiting that un-favorable family member, it will make your trip a whole lot

better.

Remember, you don't just pack the fly rod, it's the reason you pack everything else. Your fly fishing gear doesn't just come along, it takes you where you are going. Fly fishing is the reason to go many places. You go there because there's a place to fish.

We have no general meeting in December, but If you're staying home, be sure to join us for the many activities we have planned. All the details are in this world-renowned Newsletter.

The end of the year also means tax season will soon be here. If you're looking for deductions, certain donations to our Annual Hog Roast Banquet are tax deductible. Maybe your employer is looking for deductions too. Check with your tax advisor, your company and talk to Rick or Karen Warfel. Remember, this is how we fund all of our other activities throughout the year. Thanks to Rick and Karen for all the hours they put in to make it a success every year.

Looking toward next year, we have our Annual Trash 'n Treasures Auction Extravaganza at the January general meeting hosted by none other than our own Alan Sewell. There will be plenty of laughs and good buys. Bring your "trash" (not literally, just good things that you don't use any more), and it may be someone else's treasure.

We will also be introducing our nominating committee who will present candidates for the Officers and Board of Directors positions. They will present a slate of nominees at the February Meeting and then we will vote at the March meeting after nominations from the floor. The newly elected members will assume their Duties at the April Board of Directors meeting. If they ask you to serve, please say yes. It will add a lot of meaning to your life.

A personal thank you to all who have done so much for our club this past year. There are too many to mention here, but you know who you are. You truly have enriched my fly fishing experience and my life.

Never lose your Sense of Adventure,

George

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

Club Meetings and More

Saturday, December 9 Outing, Don Coleman Invitational

- Note earlier date to keep holidays free
- This is also our annual Chili Cook-Off at Fort DeSoto Park.
- For those who don't fish or quit early Tom Gadacz is setting up a fly casting target accuracy contest.
- Coffee at 10:00. Lunch at 11:45. North Beach Pavilion 5. Tampa and Sarasota club members are invited to join us on this one.
- It's our last chance to catch the longest outing tournament saltwater fish.

Thursday, December 14

Fly cast to tarpon and redfish at FWC's research ponds

- Location: 14495 Harlee Road, Palmetto.
- Be there by 9 am. Fish 'til noon. Bring your own lunch.
- Fly cast to tarpon and redfish

Saturday, December 16, Professional Casting Clinic

- FFI master casting instructors-- Pat Damico, Dayle Mazzarella.
- Egan Field, 9100 Blind Pass Road, St. Pete Beach
- 9 am to Noon
- Hosted by Suncoast Fly Fishers
- Clinic is free for members of Fly Fishers International (FFI). Non-members can participate by joining FFI. \$35/year, \$25 (seniors and members/veterans of the armed forces), or \$20 (22 or younger). Free to residents of St. Pete Beach.

Thursday, January 18 Meeting

- Trash 'n' Treasures with auctioneer Alan Sewell. Donate gear you don't use. Bid and get a good deal on items you need.
- Nominating Committee announced. Be thinking about who should serve as officers and board members.

Saturday, January 20, Outing

- Pinellas Point, St. Petersburg
- Lunch: Brisket

Friday-Saturday, February 9-10, 2018 - Florida Fly Fishing Expo - Plantation on Crystal River

- Volunteers needed for fly tying, registration, raffle, and more. See Tom Gadacz for more info.
- Seminars and demos by the best fly tiers and casters in Florida
- Top guide presentations on fly fishing local waters.
- See page 7 for up to date details and registration.
- [Register now](#) for discounts.
- Follow EXPO news on Twitter -- [@ffflyexpo](#) , [#2018EXPOFloridaCouncil.FFI](#) -- [#SeedtoStream](#)

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 143 members including 21 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](#)

Catch the Fly Fishing Fever



Mike Larkin and son

Heckuva discount deal for Suncoast Fly Fishers. New member Mike Larkin will be at the Fort DeSoto Park Outing. Winston Rod deadline is Dec. 17.

I am pro staff for Patagonia and Simms. This basically means I can get their stuff for a discounted price. I am happy to offer my discount to any of the fly club members. Through my Simms membership I got a holiday deal with Winston rods. So I can get up to 4 Winston fly rods for a discount but the order has to take place before December 17, 2017. I am happy to order any rods for any of our fly club members as long as you contact me soon. Mike

Introduction to Fly Tying Classes with Bruce Evensen

*Free monthly fly tying lessons for members and guests on the fourth Thursday of each month except December
Next class, January 25*

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, December 11 (second Monday of each month)

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

Final Results: 2017 Big Gun Shootout at Picnic Island Park

Longest Cast, Dave Olson, Tampa Bay Fly Fishers, 132.5 feet

Highest Accuracy score, tie

Dave Olson, Tampa Bay Fly Fishers, 85

Bryon Chamberlin, Tampa Bay Fly Fishers, 85

Best Through-the-Hoop, tie

Dave Olson, Tampa Bay Fly Fishers, 100

Greg Peterson, Tampa Bay Fly Fishers, 100

Nick Angelo, Tampa Bay Fly Fishers, 100



David Olson won the longest cast contest – 132.5 feet

Best V-Fish score, Greg Peterson, Tampa Bay Fly Fishers, 100

Best Mangrove score (Low to the ground), Greg Peterson, Tampa Bay Fly Fishers, 100

Best Overall score, Greg Peterson, Tampa Bay Fly Fishers, 480

Second Place Overall, Dave Olson, Tampa Bay Fly Fishers, 445

Third Place Overall, Keaton Anderson, Carbon Marine, 443

Participants, Suncoast Fly Fishers, overall score/rank

Rick Warfel, 255/10, Ken Hofmeister, 205/16, Tom Gadacz, 189/20, Andy Constantinou, 170/23

Captain C. A. Richardson: Host of Flats Class TV

By Bill AuCoin

Catching little spotted seatrout isn't the issue. Find one; find a dozen. The real question is where do we find and how to we catch those fat, 25-inch, yellow-mouthers? Captain C. A. Richardson, host of [Flats Class TV](#), told us at the November meeting of Suncoast Fly Fishers.



*Capt. C. A. Richardson, host of Flats Class TV, shared his tips for catching big spotted seatrout.
(Kevin Kelly Photo)*

First off, we need to acknowledge that the grass flats of Tampa Bay are heavily fished, overfished actually. So, find some grassy flats that don't get so much pressure. Like the lee side of Caladesi and Honeymoon Islands in St. Joseph Sound.

Secondly, even where there are plenty of trout, the big ones are clearly spooked in our usual places like Weedon Island's grass flats. It's not unusual to count 50 boats and 100 anglers working that area on any given weekend day. What to do?

- Fish them in the cold months. February and March may be the best time to sight fish the shallow water for big seatrout in Tampa Bay.
- Fish seagrass in 18-inches of water. Seatrout will come up on the flat when the sun is high and warming the water. They'll go for the warmest water they can find, often close to the mangrove shorelines. Dark bottoms hold the heat.
- They don't eat often. A little wind is good. So is a change of tides. Fish the big moons.
- Sight fish only. C. A. quietly poles his Hells Bay flats boat from a tall poling platform. He's tall, too, 6-foot-5, like a great blue heron with keen eyes.
- Find the mullet. They're like moving structure. If you don't see them, circling ospreys will tell you where they are. Big trout like the siltier water stirred by the mullet.
- Often big trout will be in a sandy pothole, a prop scar even, but hugging, hiding alongside the grass.
- Fish a big fly, a very slow sinking fly; i.e., EP Minnow. Work it slowly. Tic-tic-tic it a bit so that it breathes and try to keep it just above the top of the seagrass. Trout will look up.
- If you see a trout suddenly zoom out and move to another spot, say goodbye. He knows you're there.
- C. A. said sometimes he'll find the big seatrout in a certain pattern but can't get them to bite. He'll stick the Power-Pole and he and his client will quietly slip out of the boat and wade fish.
- Your best tool is confidence, and that'll get a big boost when you catch a trophy. Often, you'll feel two takes. Feel the jerk? Wait a second for the second one. He's hooked. Got hemostat?
- Let the big ones go. They spawn every two weeks or so and we need more just like them. Trout don't migrate. They live 15 or more years. Let 'em live a full life and produce more biggies for your favorite flat. Hey, maybe you'll get a shot at fly fishing record.

There's a lot more we can learn about finding and catching big trout which we can learn from watching *Flats Class TV*. Season 12 of *Flats Class TV* starts soon and two episodes are fly fishing shows. You can watch episodes on the [Flats Class](#) website. You can also read and watch CA on [Saltstrong.com](#) and the [Guy Harvey Academy Outpost blog](#).

November Meeting Snapshots

Photos by Bill AuCoin, Tom Gadacz, Kevin Kelly



Bill Scarola ties the Midnight Special



Here's the fly that Bill tied. Typically, it's tied white with grizzly hackle on the tail. Bill tied some with olive over white.



Carl Hanson Outing. Dick Miekka (right) awarded Peter Cline this drawing for the longest bass, a 17-incher at the Carl Hanson Outing



President George Haseltine with the trophy he and Alan Sewell earned for catching the most sunfish at the Carl Hanson outing.



Anne Hays with speaker Capt. C. A. Richardson.



Capt. C. A. Richardson told Suncoast Fly Fishers some of his secrets for finding and catching big seatrout.



Cliff Nigh wasn't at the meeting but he was happy to learn he won the guided fly fishing trip with Capt. Pat Damico.

Register now for the 2018 Florida Fly Fishing Expo

*LEGENDARY GUIDE **STEVE HUFF** IS THE FEATURED PRESENTER*

What: 2018 FFI Florida Council Fly Fishing Expo

When: February 9-10, 2018

Where: Plantation on Crystal River, 9310 W. Fort Island Trail, Crystal River, FL 34429

How: Register **online now and get 15 free raffle tickets.**

Join us at the Plantation on Crystal River. What a great place to spend a winter weekend! Bring your family. Meet old friends and make some new ones.

Canoeing and kayak trips are available as well as manatee watching tours, 27 holes of championship golf, scuba diving, tours of Kings Bay, boat and kayak rentals, and spa.

Reserve your spot now and receive 15 raffle tickets. Banquet tickets must be purchased at the time of pre-registration as well as registering for the small group lessons.

Registration fee is \$25 for both days. Children 12 and under are free accompanied by an adult. General programs are included in the admission fee and also small group sessions to sharpen your fly tying and casting skills are available for a fee.

We will have a Friday evening reception which is included in the registration fee. Saturday evening banquet is \$45.

There will be raffles, silent, and live auctions so you can pick up some great bargains, some superb flies, trips with fly fishing guides and many other items. Saturday evening banquet tickets are \$45. Live and silent auction follow Saturday's banquet.

Banquet tickets for Saturday \$45.00. Small group casting and fly tying sessions \$20.00/session. 4 sessions each (morning and afternoon on Friday & Saturday)

Fly tying limited to 6 registrants per session.

Casting limited to 5 registrants per session.

[Florida Council, Fly Fishers International](#)

[Florida Council, Fly Fishers International, Facebook](#)

[Plantation on Crystal River](#)

[Discover Crystal River](#)



IGFA Hall of Famer Steve Huff is Expo headliner

Professional Fly Fishing Classes

"Casting Challenge" Fly casting to the "V", under the dock, through the hoop. John Hand and Jim Patchet

Paddle Board Fly Fishing with David Olson

Fly Fishing the Flats with Leigh West

Fly Fishing for Tarpon. Florida East Coast and Mexico by Jim Harter and Jen Ripple

Small Class Fly Casting and Tying. \$20. Led by Eric Cook, Pete Greenan, Leslie Holmes, David Olson, Tom Rueping

Introduction to the FFI Fly Casting Instructor Certification Program, with Dayle Mazzarella, Master Casting Instructor.

Fly Casting Programs for Women with Jen Ripple and Mona Brewer

Freshwater Fly Fishing – How to catch freshwater fish including peacock bass, with Tom Logan

Saturday Youth Program. 9-17. Fly tying, knot tying, fly casting. Saturday. David Lambert and staff

Fly Fishing the Everglades with Ed Tamson

Emergency Casting Clinic. Pat Damico and staff

Best catch-and-release practices presented by Bonefish & Tarpon Trust

Used Gear for Sale

J.R. Dubler's Action Craft

1996 Action Craft 2020 Flatsmaster with Evinrude 200 hp. Prime condition. \$27,500 but discounted for Suncoast Fly Fishers. Call JR at 813-843-3737 for an inspection and a water trial.



Alan Sewell's transom-mount trolling motor - 55-lb thrust - never used

55-lb thrust . 42 inch shaft. Bass Pro Prowler. In-line circuit breakers. 12-volt. See Alan at the Jan. meeting.

Ted Rich selling his Heritage Featherlite kayak

Heritage Featherlite fishing kayak. 39 pounds. Boat, life vest and paddle for \$250. 941-764-8089



Chris O'Byrne's Fly Tying Kit

Orvis Cahill Bench/Box with Wasatch Tools and Renzetti Traveler Vise. \$300. obyrec@yahoo.com

Phil Thigpin's Mitchell Tri-Hull boat, motor and trailer

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 \$2,000. Contact Phil Thigpin: [727-822-5053](tel:727-822-5053).

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. Got something to sell? Email Bill AuCoin at wmaucoin@verizon.net*

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg, Florida



Suncoast Fly Fishers

P. O. Box 40821
St Petersburg, FL 33743
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 3 organization

<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 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

Join. Renew. Application
Membership renewals in September
www.suncoastflyfishers.com

November Review: Weedon Island Preserve, November 18



Hilton Bruch, SFF Outing Committee

It began as a picture perfect day. Cool morning temperatures, minimal wind, lots of sun. With the dawn, the fly fishers assembled and set out to flail the waters on foot, in canoes, kayaks and whatever else would float.

All manner of flies were offered and fish were caught! Jan and I had a banner day in our canoe bringing to hand maybe 15 trout, ladyfish and the perfunctory catfish.

The ladyfish were hitting aggressively even though porpoises were very busy stirring up the water.



Bob Burkard, SFF Outing committee

The targeted fish, however, was the elusive redfish. It was sighted but not caught, hence, no prize this month. Ken Hofmeister caught the longest fish of the day, a 20-inch ladyfish.

By 10:30 folks had assembled for coffee and conversation. By noon, this picture perfect day got measurably better as Miriam, John and Mark Craig began laying out their low country boil. The aromas had been tantalizing the group comparing their morning's exploits and when finally consumed, boy, did it go down good! Many were not shy about lining up for seconds. The group voted for the boil to become a yearly event.

Many kudos to the Craigs!

Our perfect fall day evolved into telling fish tales with old friends. Then, post fishing ritual of cleaning and stowing of gear. I find it almost as satisfying as the preparation phase. A mid afternoon nap caps off a day well spent.

Hilton

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	17-inches	Peter Cline	Carl Hanson tournament/Hillsborough River
Longest snook	27-inches	Adam Hays	Docklight Weekend
Longest redfish	<i>OPEN</i>		
Longest ladyfish	20-inches	Ken Hofmeister	Weedon Island Preserve (November)
Longest seatrout	19-inches	Peter Cline	Cypress Point Park (March)

December 9 Outing: Don Coleman Invitational and Chili Cook-Off

- **Meet up at Pavilion 5 in North Beach area. Coffee at 10:00. Chili lunch at 11:45.**
- **The target fish is the longest of any of our annual tournament species.**
- **Last chance to catch the longest fish to win any of the annual tournament categories.**

This year we have two contests planned 1) our annual Chili Cook-off and 2) a fly -casting contest}

1: Suncoast Fly Fishers 2017 Chili Cook-Off

Suncoast Fly Fishers (and members of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and the Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers) are invited to compete in our club's second annual Chili Cook-Off at our outing on December 9th at Fort DeSoto Park.

If you want to compete in the 2017 Chili Cook Off email Bob Burkard at RobertBurkard9@gmail.com (or text him at [610-256-7781](tel:610-256-7781) to let him know). You will need to prepare your chili in advance and bring it to the lunch at Pavilion 5. The pavilion has electrical outlets so you can plug in a crock-pot to warm up your chili.

Chili entries will be judged by members and guests who taste each of the different chili dishes. Each person gets one vote. Prizes will be awarded to the top two entries.

The lunch and the chili tasting competition start at 11:45 AM. (Coffee at 10:00 AM)

This is a competition where anything goes. This is where you strut your stuff with your favorite chili. This chili contest (unlike other competitions) can include beans. You may cook it with a variety of meats, beans, veggies, whole tomatoes or whatever you wish. Sweet or Hot or Extra Hot ... your choice!

2: Fly casting target contest

You get three tries to place a fly (in this case a piece of yarn), with three or fewer false casts to a three-foot target 60 feet away. Tom Gadacz will provide coaching and help people practice before they "Step Up to the Line." Each winner gets to select one of Bruce Evensen's flies. Entrants can use their own fly rod, but we will have some additional rods of varying weights available.

Bob

REMINDER: Here are our guidelines for awards for outings and the tournament

- **Monthly outings:** For each monthly outing there will be a designated species of fish that will be assigned/targeted. The club member in good standing who catches the LONGEST targeted fish on a fly at that outing will receive a gift certificate. If the assigned fish is not caught at that outing there will be no prize for that outing.
- **Annual Tournament:** The species 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 prize will be presented at the annual hog roast.
- **Add mackerel and bluefish?** We had decided that we could not include all species of fish in the Annual tournament, and identified trout, redfish, snook, ladyfish, bass and sunfish as the fish we wanted to acknowledge. Based on recent member feedback, I think that we should include a question at the next meeting asking if we should add other species including mackerel and bluefish for 2018 annual tournament. Think about it.

John Craig's Low Country Boil Recipe

The amazing outing lunch at Weedon Island Preserve

Use this recipe for 10 people. We triple this recipe when we plan for 30 guests at our outings and still have a little left over.

The shrimp can be cooked separately if people have shell fish allergies: Cook the potatoes, corn and sausage first, and remove to a serving pan, then cook shrimp in the save seasoned water.

Don't worry about the exact amount of water, just use enough to cover the ingredients.

We cook the Low County Boil in a Turkey Fryer pot.

Some versions of this recipe add a quartered sweet onion, the juice of two lemons, cayenne pepper, cloves, and bay leaves to the water: you can experiment and adjust to your personal taste.



John Craig stirs the pot

Smell those shrimp, hey, it's beginning to boil. (Jimmy Buffett)

Ingredients:

- 4 pounds small red potatoes
- 5 quarts of water
- 1 (3-ounce) bag of crab boil seasoning: recommend Zatarain's Crab and Shrimp Boil
- 4 tablespoons of Old Bay Seasoning
- 2 pounds Kielbasa or hot smoked sausage, cut into 1 ½ inch pieces
- 6 ears of corn, halved: frozen corn on the cob works as well as fresh whole ears
- 4 pounds large shrimp: recommend frozen with shell and heads on, but peeled and deveined is optional
- Cocktail sauce

Directions:

1. Add potatoes to large pot, then add 5 quarts of water and seasonings
2. Cover pot and bring to a rolling boil; cook 5 minutes
3. Add the sausage and corn, and return to boil
4. Cook 10 minutes, or until the potatoes are tender
5. Add Shrimp to pot, cook 3 to 4 minutes until the shrimp turns pink

John



Team Sollars at the buffet table. Darryn Manley waits his turn. (Tom Gadacz photo)

Tom Gadacz: Suncoast Fly Fishers at VA Wellness Fair

Our Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing volunteers demonstrated their fly tying skills for other VA employees.

Alan Sewell, Ted Rich, John Craig, and Tom Gadacz staffed the event. We shared our contributions to the care of the veterans at the Bay Pines Veteran Administration Medical Center.

The event was held on October 31 and the treat was on us. We had the opportunity to explain how fly tying helped veterans cope with their physical and emotional combat related problems.



Some of the other VA Wellness Fair displays.



This is what we do. John Craig, Ted Rich and Alan Sewell tied flies and explained how our club helps veterans come back to a fulfilling life.

Other parts of our program include rod building, fly casting and fly fishing. We introduced several employees to fly fishing and invited them to not only send their patients to our activities but also for them, a family member, or friend to attend one of our meetings.

Tom



If I see mullet pushing water in the shallows, this is the first fly I'll tie on. Tabory's books are absolutely chock full of good information and I highly recommend them along with his snake fly. I like to tie snake flies on short shank hooks and I found Mustad C68SZ work particularly well. For this fly I'm using a 2/0. Because of the spun deer hair head, I like to use heavy tying thread. Danville Flatwaxed Nylon on a large bobbin allows me to apply a lot of pressure to the wraps.

Materials

Hook: Mustad C68SZ, or Gamakatsu SL12S size 2/0

Thread: Danville Flatwaxed Nylon white

Tail: White Ostrich herl

Flash: Silver Krystal Flash and Pearl Flashabou

Body: White marabou, wrapped

Collar: White deer hair, stacked

Head: White deer hair, spun

Adhesive: FletchTite Platinum, Zap-A-Gap or favorite CA Cement

Tying Instructions

Step 1: Start your tying thread at about the hook point and work your way back to secure it to the hook. Snip 5 or 6 ostrich herls free from one side of the stem. Measure them to form a tail 2 to 3 times as long as the hook and tie them in on top of the shank.

Step 2: For flash, just a few strands of silver crystal flash, doubled over, and then attached to the top of the hook seems to be enough. You can do the same with 2 or 3 strands of flashabou as well. This adds that iridescent fishy look to the pattern. Top these with 5 or 6 more strands of ostrich herl.

Step 3: Marabou goes on next, and if properly tied in, adds a ton of motion to the fly. Plumes or blood quills will work. Strip the nasties off the stem to leave about a two-inch marabou segment. Leave enough room at the butt to attach hackle pliers. Find the tip and pull the fibers back to expose the stem. Then snip the tip off. While still holding the fibers back, tie the feather onto the hook shank. This will result in a surprisingly robust connection. Even so, be gentle with this next step as marabou stems are fairly delicate.

Step 4: Get a grip of the butt end with hackle pliers and pull the feather up. Using the back of your scissors, rub the stem which will help to point the marabou fibers rearward. Pull the fibers back more with your thumb and index finger. Wetting your fingertips really helps this process. Then begin wrapping the marabou in a spiral around the hook shank, pulling the fibers back as you go. Although this process might seem time consuming, I feel it's really worth it in the overall look and action of the fly.

Step 5: Tie the stem off with a couple of good tight wraps and then reorient any fibers that have gone astray. With that done you can snip the tip off close and give a few finishing wraps.

Tying instructions for Smitty's version of the Tabory Snake Fly continues on the next page

Step 6: Now here's the fun part. Snip a clump of white deer hair, about a pencil's width in diameter. So it will spin correctly, fan and remove the fuzzies from the butt ends. Flicking them often helps to shake the fuzzies loose. Use a large diameter hair stacker to even the tips and then carefully remove them from the stacker. Place them on the top of the hook shank so the tips extend just beyond the bend of the hook. While squeezing your thumb and index finger, take a single wrap and work it down under pressure. Take a second wrap to flare the deer hair even further and then take one more for good measure.

Step 7: Then run your thread through the butt ends at a 45-degree angle and pull tight to lock the bundle into place. Now, I like to add a few loose wraps behind my initial wraps to decrease the flare on the rearward pointing tips. Although this isn't necessary, I like the way it looks. Now run your thread forward with a couple of wraps. Advance your thread to in front of the deer hair as best you can and use a ball point pen with it's guts removed or a similar tube to push back and pack the deer hair. Then take wraps of thread in front to build up a dam to hold the hair back.

Step 8: Snip another similar sized clump of deer hair and repeat the fanning, flicking and plucking procedure to get rid of the fuzzies. Then snip the tips off the deer hair. On this one, you want to really spin the deer hair so take one wrap and then on the second wrap, ease up on your fingertip pressure and allow the hair to spin around the hook shank. The hair should stop spinning as you take another wrap or two. Once again, pack the deer hair rearward and take wraps to form a dam in front. Repeat this whole procedure until you have spun deer hair all the way up to just behind the hook eye. How many clumps you need will depend on how long your hook shank is.

Step 9: Now, here's a weird little trick that allows you to finish the head of the fly without trapping a lot of hairs. When you're ready to finish the head, push the fibers back and hold them in place. Take a bunch of wraps, trying your best not to trap hair as you go. Repeat the process until you're no longer trapping hair. While holding the hair back, apply a small amount of zap-a-gap to your tying thread with your bodkin. Then take a few wraps with the thread. Using a knife or scissors, you can now cut the tying thread free without it unraveling.

Step 10: To trim the head to shape, I like to first cut the bottom hair off flat and parallel to the hook shank and then go from there. I've seen all different shapes and I think this really is a matter of preference.

Step 11: Now, to really seal your final thread wraps, add head cement all the way around, and I like to add head cement to the flat part of the head to lock it in place and make the fly more durable.

Step 12: The final fly should look something like this (photo at right). Although some people like them in olive, others prefer chartreuse, straight white has always worked well for me.



Smitty

Woody and Ann Miller Tour Utah's National Parks and Fly Fish, too

Ann and I traveled to Utah for a two month visit to the national parks in southern Utah. I had made arrangements with Freemont Anglers for a guided trip for the two of us while in Capital Reef National Park in late September.

The morning we arrived at the outfitters it was cool and clear with just a breath of air moving. Standing outside the building was the Marlboro Man, cowboy hat, boots, jeans, a vest and big ole bushy mustache and all. In his hand was a Camel unfiltered cigarette, smoke wafting from the long ash. As we approached, he reached out his hand and asked if we were the clients that were fishing this day, and introduced himself as our guide Vince. Ann and I looked at each other with a somewhat puzzled look thinking this was going to be an interesting day.



Ann Miller and a cutthroat trout.

With gear loaded into his older GMC SUV, off we went to an undisclosed location where Vince stated there were big (*censored*) fish. As we headed up into the Fishlake National Forest, Vince regaled us with stories of big fish unpressured by most fishermen due to the location of UM Creek. We turned off Freemont River Road at the north end of Fish Lake and headed back into the wilds of the forest on FR-015.



Woody with his Tenkara rod, a cutthroat trout, and a glimpse of that productive UM Creek near Torrey, Utah.

Six miles in on a very dusty and bumpy road we came to UM Creek located in one of the most beautiful valleys we had seen. We rigged up, climbed a wooden log fence and headed through a well-used (euphemism for *Cow Poo*) pasture to a narrow creek no wider than our travel trailer. All the while I'm thinking this is going to be the most expensive walk amongst cow poo I have ever paid for. Boy was I wrong.

UM Creek held some of the most beautiful and largest Cutthroat Trout Ann and I have ever caught. This stream was loaded with 12-inch-plus fish. Under Vince's tutelage, we caught numerous fish on dry flies, fished on our Tenkara Rods.

I would not make Utah a destination for fishing but if you're going to be there, by all means fish it and if you're in Torrey, Utah visit Freemont River Anglers and ask for Vince. You will be pleasantly surprised.



Woody sets the hook on another cutthroat.

Bill Scarola: Chassahowitzka River Seatrout, Jacks, Mangoes



One of 11 plucky mangrove snapper that Bill landed.

Bill Scarola fished the Chassahowitzka River November 9-10 and caught jack crevalle, a 17-inch seatrout, and 11 mangrove snapper.

Bill



Bill Scarola fished Chassahowitzka State Park in early November. This 3-plus pound jack crevalle was just one of many rewards.

Dennis and Ben Marquis: Weedon Macks, Ladies, Trout



Ben Marquis with a sharp-tooth mackerel. A 40-pound test bite tippet helped, too.



The little lizardfish really wanted the Clouser

My son Ben, on his way to becoming a U.S. Navy pilot, is visiting from Pensacola. On a recent Saturday we fished the spoils and deep grass of the Weedon Island area and caught one trout, a mackerel, and four ladyfish on a small olive-over-white Clouser that I tied. Oh, also a lizardfish.

Dennis

Bob Morrison: Fishy Factoids



A large 40-pound octopus can squeeze through a hole the size of a quarter. How 'bout that?

England produced 292 million tons of CO2 in 1913. Wonder what it is today?

A jaguar has the largest canines and jaws strong enough to pierce a bowling ball. Watch out turtles.

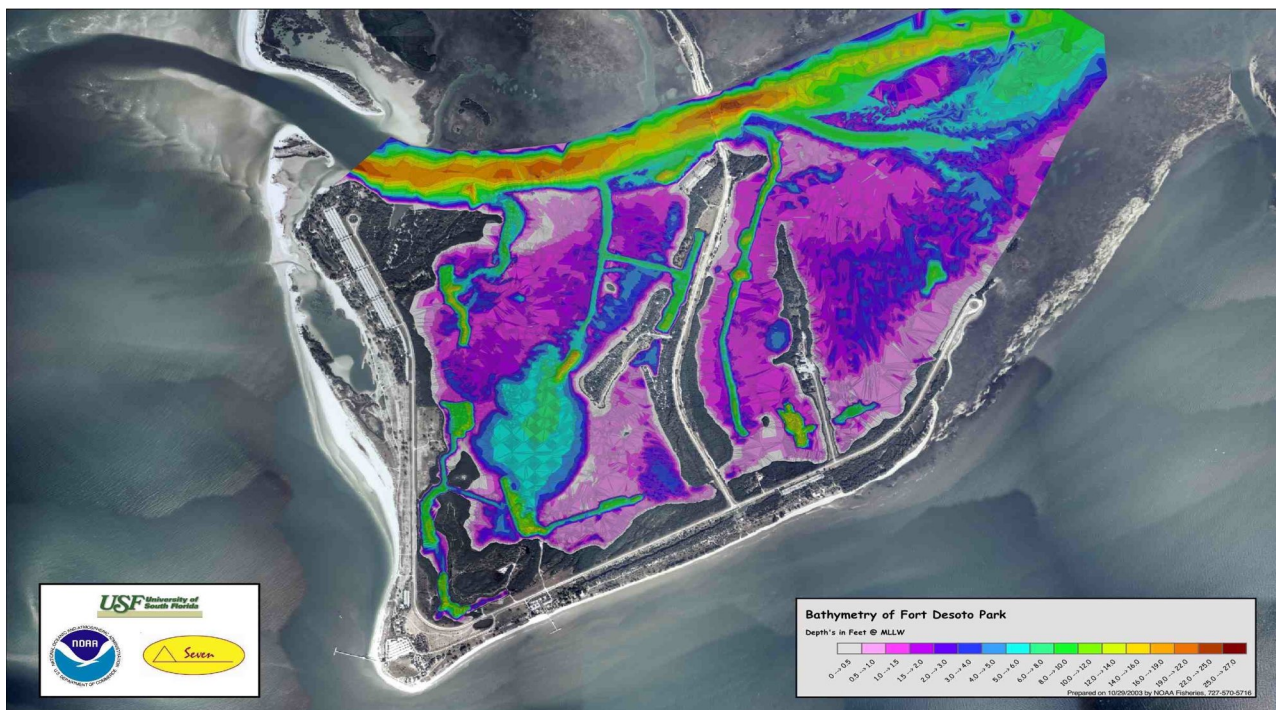
In Yellowstone Park there is a pool of superhot volcanic magma lying under the surface of the park that is equal to 2.5 times the volume of all the water in Lake Michigan. Things should warm up at some point, but hopefully not soon.

What's the difference between up north and down here? It's all in the salt. Up north they put salt on the icy winter roads. Down here we put the salt on the rim of the Margarita glasses.

Raise one for me this holiday season,

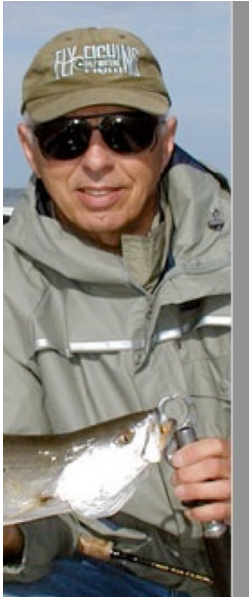
Bob

Aerial water-depth photo of Fort DeSoto Park



*There are many places where you can park your vehicle, wade in and fly fish.
We'll have a falling tide on the morning of December 9*

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #93



Long leaders and heavy flies hurt distance

By Capt. Pat Damico, FFI Master Casting Instructor

When I recently met two candidates for a follow up casting lesson, they wanted me to do it on their flats boat to simulate fishing conditions. They had two high end balanced outfits and the first rod they were casting would not allow them to get a straight line layout from fly to rod tip. There was some wind. I first shortened their 12-foot leader to about 7-feet getting rid of about 5 feet of the very light tippet end. The 1/0 bulky deer hair body fly was light when dry, but when wet and water logged was like casting a miniature feather duster. I put on a smaller synthetic fly. Those two changes allowed them to get a nice layout of line without any other adjustments.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

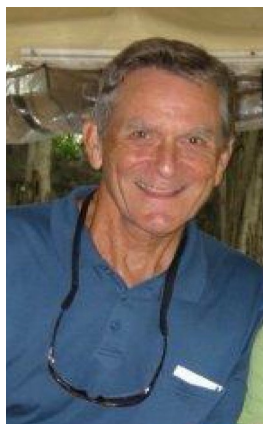
Capt. Pat Damico charts in lower Tampa Bay. Call 727-504-8649 www.captpatdamico.com

Tampa Bay Times : Captain's Corner

Fly fishing success is possible, even in the wind

When your day to fly fish arrives, do you hope for a day without wind? Knowledgeable fly fishers know there are many ways to deal with different wind situations. Avoid open water, and select an area that offers protection. Stay close to shore and use many of our bays, the high banks as we see on some rivers, trees, mangrove shorelines, buildings and canal systems. Check wind conditions the day before and plan your trip on paper. Morning easterly winds are frequently followed by winds from the west. A large narrow bay that runs north to south often provides protected fishing all day. Begin on the eastern side in the morning and fish the west side in the afternoon. Explore docks and canals, concentrating on points where tidal flow is optimum. Know where there are grass flats with sand holes and dropoffs. A bow-mounted electric motor controls speed and direction. Employ your preferred anchoring system carefully when a concentration of fish is found. Use a fast action rod, a 7 1/2-foot or shorter leader with a 20-pound tippet. Downsize flies and reduce their weight to make casting and turnover easier. A chop on the water will allow you to get closer to the fish. If the wind has affected water clarity, use darker flies. Baitfish patterns size 2-4 are best.

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



February is redfish month in Crystal River – The 2018 Fly Fishing Expo in February offers lots to see and do, including fishing for redfish. Here's a link to a report from a year ago in February. "Historically the month of February is usually considered a transition month for redfish. Typically, large schools of redfish begin to congregate as the warmer days of March approach. Potholes on sun drenched flats as well as oyster bars are prime areas..." ([Cyber Angler](#))

Plantation on Crystal River – Still thinking of the Fly Fishing Expo. We get so focused on fly fishing that it's easy to forget that others in the family may prefer to do something else. Like take a manatee tour? Hey, there's an app for that, so to speak. ([Plantation on Crystal River](#))

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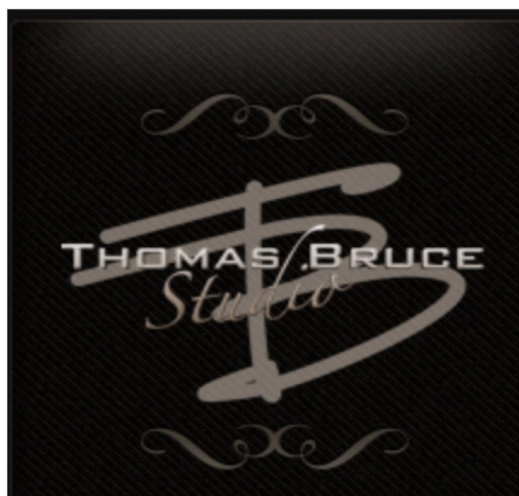
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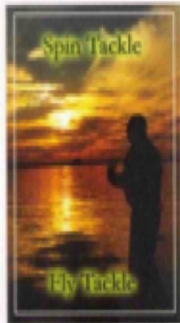
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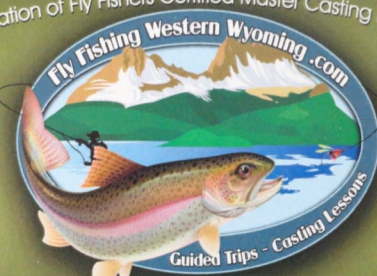


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