

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



Fishing's over. Let's eat. Good food and fellowship at the Pinellas Point Outing. Dan Bumgarner, Dave Barson, and Kevin Kelly were among 33 at lunch.



Robert Fischer got some big redfish - very carefully -- on a clear, calm day. Page 14

On The Fly

February 2017 Volume 27, Issue 2

President George Haseltine	2
Calendar: Meetings & Outings	3-6
Print and complete this new club survey	7-8
We are Suncoast Fly Fishers	9
Review: January's Pinellas Point outing	10
Preview: February's Walsingham Park outing	11
New leaders in our 2017 annual tournament	11
Snapshots: January's Pinellas Point Outing	12
Snapshots: January's Trash 'n' Treasures	13
Robert Fischer scores big reds on a bluebird day	14
Fly fishing option for Youth Conservation Center	16
Bob Burkard and brother Al fish the middle bay	17
Dennis Marquis and son Ben score blues, macks	17
Snowbird Linda Lapin gets some nice seatrout	18
Check this big jack caught by Pat Damico's friend	18
Tying Bench: Smitty's Masked Bandit for bass	19
Bob Morrison: How to tips and one fishy factoid	20
Pat Damico: Casting Clinic and Captain's Corner	21
Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover	22
Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers	23++

Print and complete the anonymous Member Survey on pages 7-8. Bring it to the meeting.

SFF President Letter – February 2017



I never was,
Am always to be,
No one ever saw me nor ever will,
And yet, I am the confidence of all who live and breathe.
Who am I?

“Imagineers,” (not the answer to the riddle) that’s what Walt Disney called his animators. With imagination, Disney went from a 1 car garage to an entertainment empire.

Well, your Board of Directors doesn’t want to build a large empire, just provide the best fly fishing education and experiences they can imagine. And imagine they do.

You may have already noticed the new things that are happening because of what they imagine.

I realize that we need to maintain the delicate balance between tradition and innovation. We will guard the tradition of the club and to do so I encourage all of you long time members to stay active and continue to nudge me if we stray too far. I hope that by now you realize that I am always open to comments: good and bad. Let’s continue to communicate.

Please keep in mind that it is hard to keep such an active and friendly club a secret. Because of our superior website, newsletter and your friendly greetings, we are getting more and more inquiries about who we are. With these new members come new ideas. Some we will discard immediately, others we will consider and run ‘em up the flag pole and see who salutes.

The newest will be the imagination of our Board in co-operation with Myron Hanson, our fly swap specialist. Myron came up with some great new ideas to organize our fly tying, pizza eating tie-a-thon. I urge you to bring your vises (fly tying vises that is), set up and tie some flies and also learn to tie the fly that is turning the fly tying worlds upside down. See more details in this awesome newsletter. I am calling on and counting on you experienced tiers to help and for the inexperienced to get involved. I guarantee it will be a lot of fun.

And look forward to the June meeting: Wait until you see the team of experts we have to answer questions and provide experiences and advice on night dock fishing. One is a teenage member who is already an expert in his own right.

See you at the meeting on the 16th and the outing on the 18th.

Never lose your sense of adventure,

George

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

PS: Don’t forget to complete the club survey in this issue and bring it to the meeting.

Calendar: Club Meetings & Outings

Thursday, February 18 Meeting.

Free pizza + Tie-a-Thon + Slate of nominees

Turn in your survey. Tie the "secret" fly



6:00 Fly casting outdoors

6:30 Meeting.

- Give completed survey to Tom Trukenbrod. Get raffle ticket for the **Echo lon** outfit. If you can't attend, mail your survey to SFF, PO Box 40821 St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821. Keep it anonymous.
- Slate of officers and board announced; nominations are welcome. If you would like to be considered as a candidate call Tom Trukenbrod at 727-643-9294. Officer positions open are treasurer and secretary. Three board positions are open.
- Members pick up shirts with Suncoast Fly Fisher logos.
- SFF iron-on patches now available. High quality. Embroidered.
- Buy tickets for the Hog Roast and Silent Auction on April 1. Just \$20. Credit cards are accepted.
- Free pizza
- Tie-a-thon has two sessions. The first session is from 7:15 to 8:00 pm for members to show-and-tell their favorite fly. Tyers turn in one fly for a fly swap at the end of the meeting. The second session is from 8:00 to 8:30 for new fly tyers and – please, don't tell anybody – fly guru Myron Hansen is going to introduce his *secret* and *controversial* "Mop Fly." He'll provide materials, a hook, eyes and mop stuff. If you tie this fly you'll get a raffle ticket for a drawing for a the end-of-meeting raffle. Club vises and fly tying materials will be available and fly tyers will help you if you haven't tied a fly before.
- Sign up for the February outing at Walsingham Lake. Outing co-chair Truk Trukenbrod will announce the winner(s) of the January outing (designated species: ladyfish).
- Layne (aka Smitty) will tie the "Masked Bandit" fly he recommends to catch lunker bass in Walsingham Reservoir. Smitty is our "designated tyer" at every monthly meeting. See Tying Bench on page 18.
- Fly Swappers bring three flies for end-of-meeting fly swap.

Saturday, February 18 Outing

- Walsingham Reservoir County Park, 12615 102 Avenue N., Largo. Check details on page 11.

Thursday, February 23, *Introduction to Fly Tying*

Learn to tie Smitty's worm fly. Perfect for oscar, bream and bass in E-glades canals



Bruce Evensen

Suncoast Fly Fisher Bruce Evensen teaches fly tying on the fourth Thursday of every month. Fly tiers will meet in the conference room at High Performance Plumbing Services at 4450 Morris Street in St. Petersburg. Bruce announces the name of the fly to be tied at the meeting a week earlier.

- Meet at High Performance Plumbing Services at 7 pm
- Bruce will bring the rubber tails. Fly tyers should bring sized 12-14 hooks for small ones, 6-8 hooks for larger ones
- Fly tyers also will need beads. Go to Michael's and buy a tube of 6/0 beads for the small flies, 11/0 for the larger flies

Club Calendar, continued -- 2017

March 10-12 **Tampa Bay Boat Show at The Trop**

Fly Tyers Needed

Jeff Heer, chairman of our outreach program, has arranged for the club to have tables at the upcoming Tampa Bay Boat Show to demonstrate fly tying and help bring in more fly fishers to Suncoast Fly Fishers. Sign up at the February meeting.



Jeff Heer needs fly tyers

Thursday, March 16 Meeting.

- Dayle Mazzarella, speaker
- Election of new officers and board members. They'll take office in April.

Saturday, March 18 Outing

- Tampa Bay on the Hillsborough County side
- Lunch at Cypress Point Park, 5620. W. Cypress St. Tampa.

FREE FOR ALL. Fly Casting Lessons in St. Pete Beach

Beginners welcome. Suncoast Fly Fishers Tom Gadacz and Brian Clark give free fly casting lessons twice a month from 6 to 8 pm at Egan Field, 9101 Blind Pass Road, St. Pete Beach. Class sizes are limited so call 727-363-9245 to sign up.



Courtesy of Apple Maps

- February 27
- March 13 and 27
- April 10 and 24
- May 8 and 22

More about the 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.

Click on our **Club Calendar for up-to-date details about meetings, outings and other events.**

Dues are due.

We now have 150 members including 24 family memberships and five honorary members. Membership dues for 2016-2017 were due in September. See Karen Warfel at the February meeting. SFF now accepts credit cards on site at SFF events (meetings, outings, Trash and Treasures, Hog Roast, etc.) for payment of membership dues and virtually all other payments to SFF.

Club Calendar, continued -- 2017

April 1. Annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction

- Treasure Island Municipal Auditorium, 120 108th Avenue, Treasure Island
- Get tickets (\$20) at the February meeting

Meet Chico Fernandez

You'll meet him in person on April 1. Chico is our Hog Roast speaker

Chico Fernandez has fly fished for over 40 years. He has broken several world records, most notably, the largest redfish taken with a fly rod, at 42 pounds, 5 ounces (I.G.F.A. record on 12-pound test tippet).

He was also one of the first (1980) to land a white marlin on a fly rod. Chico gets around. He has fished in most of the U.S., Alaska, Central America, South America, Cuba, Cayman Islands, Bahamas, Bermuda, New Zealand, Canada, Europe & others.

After working as an accountant and later Budget Director for Burger King Corp., he quit in 1974 to become involved in the outdoors field (articles, books, casting demonstrations, personal appearances, consulting and promoting). He talks personally with many boaters, fly fishermen and other anglers each year.



Hog Roast speaker Chico Fernandez

His articles – over 700 – have appeared in most major outdoor publication in U.S. and abroad (Japan, Argentina, Spain and France). He wrote *The FisHair Saltwater Tying Guide*, *Fly Fishing for Bonefish* and *Fly-Fishing for Redfish*.

The movie, "Chico and the Kids" (teaching kids how to fly fish) won the Outdoor Writers' Association of America's Award in 1980. He appears frequently on television fishing programs. At present he has five videos on the market (in English, Spanish, and Japanese) on fly fishing, fishing with kids and casting tackle.

Chico has consulted for many national & international firms on fishing and fly fishing tackle, skiffs and canoe designs. He is a Charter member of the Board of Governors, Emeritus status, and a lifetime member of the International Federation of Fly Fishers; Director at Large of the Florida Council Board; Advisor to The Snook Foundation; founding member Bonefish & Tarpon Trust [BTT] and on their Board of Directors Advisory Council; and the IGFA [International Game Fish Association] Representative for Miami and lifetime member. He is also on the editorial board of *MidCurrent*. He is a consultant for Hell's Bay Boatworks (Titusville, FL) and Costa sunglasses (Daytona Beach).

Hog Roast tickets will be available on a first come first serve basis at the regular member meetings and all club events or you can mail your ticket request to: Suncoast Fly Fishers, P. O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743. Members and guests \$20/person. Children 12 and under free!

Member tied flies are an important part of our silent auction. Please bring your member tied fly donations to Myron Hanson.

Club Calendar, continued -- 2017

Thursday, April 20, Meeting

- Walt Durkin is our speaker. Topic: TBD

Saturday, April 22, Outing

- Hillsborough River

April 27-30 -- Everglades Canal Outing

Reserve a discounted room by April 6 at La Quinta's Sunrise Sawgrass Mills

Ken Hofmeister has arranged for a discount at La Quinta's **Sunrise Sawgrass Mills**, 13651 N.W. 2nd Street, Sunrise, Florida; phone: [\(954\) 846-1200](tel:9548461200)

Arrival Date: 4/27/2017

Departure Date: 4/30/2017

Two-bed room rate: \$103.50 per night + tax. Everybody pays their own.

Contact the hotel directly or our Group Desk at 1-800-642-4239, Option 1 and ask for the special rate for Suncoast Fly Fishing. Reservations must be made no later than 4/6 to guarantee the discount rate.



*Dayle Mazzarella,
Master Casting
Instructor*

Introduction to Fly Fishing Class

New Date: Saturday, April 29, IFFF

Learn from the best -- Master Casting Instructor Dayle Mazzarella

Everyone is welcome

Suncoast Fly Fishers will be hosting an International Federation of Fly Fishers Introduction to Fly Fishing Class on Saturday, April 29 at Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure at 9501 U. S. 19 North, Pinellas Park, Florida. The class is from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. There is coffee and pastries from 9:30 to 10:00 and a luncheon from 2:00 to 3:00 PM.

Everybody – men, women, girls, boys -- are welcome. Suncoast Fly Fishers want to get more people involved in our sport. We want to grow our club. And we want to create more active and educated stewards of our resources. Fly fishing is for everyone especially if you live in Florida, the Fishing Capital of the World.

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:2039819243).

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

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

2017 SFF Anonymous Member Survey

1. Do you think Walter Fuller Recreation Center is a good location for SFF club meetings?

YES NO SUGGESTION _____

2. Should the fly tier at our meetings tie a fly for the next outing?

ALWAYS SOMETIME NEVER

3. Casting instruction is again available before the meetings, will you participate?

YES NO

4. How often do you buy raffle tickets at the meeting?

ALWAYS SOMETIME NEVER

Did you know raffle sales help pay for outing lunches? YES NO

5. Are the raffle prize items useful and /or enjoyable?

YES NO UNDECIDED

6. Which topics would you like to see covered in future meeting programs? Check as many as you like.

Talks by local guides Fly Tying Clinics Environmental Issues Kayak skills and safety
 Fish and Wildlife Research How to choose and buy fly rods, lines and reels First Aid/ Fishing Injuries
 Care and maintenance of fly fishing gear How to improve casting skills
 Members sharing their best flies, presentation for catching fish in local waters
 Other (write in) _____

7. a) Would you attend an outing at any of these locations? Check as many as you like.

Fort DeSoto Pinellas Point Weedon Island Manatee River Hillsborough River Dock Lights at night
 Veterans' Memorial Park Honeymoon Island Chassahowitzka River Emerson Point Walsingham Lake
 Upper Tampa Bay Park Alligator Lake Myakka River Blackthorn/Clam Bar Cypress Point Urban
Outing Lake Maggiorie South Skyway Rest Area Other (write in) _____

b) How far will you drive? 1/2 Hour 1 Hour More

c) I would attend more outings IF there was a "Fishing Buddy" signup sheet YES NO

d) There would always be the option for wading YES NO

8. Would you like the annual banquet meal to be "Hog Roast/ Barbeque" or a different menu?

Keep Barbeque Change (Suggestion) _____

9. What are your favorite auction items? _____

10. Would you be willing to teach fly fishing skills to school groups and kids at camp?

YES NO Maybe

11. Are you aware that the club has monthly fly tying classes?

YES NO

12. Would be willing to help veterans in Project Healing Waters at the VA or at an outing at one of the parks in Pinellas County?

YES NO MAYBE

Page 2: 2017 SFF Anonymous Member Survey

13. Would you like to volunteer for events like the Florida Expo?
Yes No Maybe

14. Did you know that IFFF provides our Charter Club with the status of a not-for-profit organization, legal advice, and representation at State Council events?
YES NO

15. Would you like to have more special outings like the Everglades trip that require traveling further and staying overnight?
YES NO UNDECIDED

16. Over the last eight years or so the club has built up a nice cash reserve. The Board want to use these amounts to enhance the membership's experiences. We would like your suggestions. It could be special outings, speakers, tiers, or authors.

17. Would you be willing to participate in environmental improvement projects like Coastal Cleanup, fish habitat restoration? YES NO UNDECIDED

18. Do you use our website for Fly Tying Instructions? YES NO

19. How often do you use/look at the SFF website?
Often Occasionally Never

20. How often do you use/look at the IFFF website?
Often Occasionally Never

21. What % of your fishing is salt or fresh water? Saltwater ___% Freshwater ___%

22. Which of the following do you own? Check all that apply.
 Boat Kayak Canoe Waders None of above

23. What question would you like to see in the next survey? _____

24. For the annual largest fish tournament should the winners come from A) the largest targeted fish caught from each outing, or B) the longest fish in each category --Bass, Sunfish, Sea Trout, Snook, Redfish, or Ladyfish from any outing?
A____ B____

###

Thank you for completing the survey. When you turn in the survey, you will be entered in the raffle for an Echo fly rod outfit.

This information will help club officers and the board of directors plan meetings and activities to match your interests.

Tom Trukenbrod

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 -Tom Gadacz - Jeff
Heer – Bob Burkard – Bruce
Evensen – Rick Yarn -- Tom
Trukenbrod

Committees

*Volunteers needed. Please
speak to any officer or
director at the meeting*

Casting Skills -- Pat Damico,
MCI, Dayle Mazzarella, MCI
IFFF Liaison -- Pat Damico
Fly Tying -- Myron Hansen
Membership -- Karen Warfel
New Members – Rick Warfel
Webmaster -- Dick Miekka
Hog Roast Karen+Rick Warfel
Outings/Lunches – Tom
Trukenbrod, Bob Burkard
Project Healing Waters -- John
Craig, Terry Kirkpatrick, Alan
Sewell
Outreach, shows – Jeff Heer
Raffles -- Dave Barson
Programs -- Bd of Directors
Newsletter -- Bill AuCoin

Aims and Purposes

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) is a non-profit 501(C) 3 organization and a charter member of the International Federation of Fly fishers.

Suncoast Fly Fishers are dedicated to sharing their total fly-fishing experiences and to developing interest in fly fishing in both fresh and salt water. We promote and teach both fly fishing and related subjects of fly-tying, rod building, fly-casting and knot tying. Through collaboration, fellowship, conservation and sportsmanship we help members become more skilled, have more fun, and be more productive in the sport. SFF supports the conservation of natural resources, boating safety and fishing regulations.

Directions to our meeting at Walter Fuller Park...From 22nd Avenue N turn North on 72nd St. N. Turn left (South) on 26th Avenue N. Then turn right into the rec center parking lot

<http://suncoastflyfishers.com/meetings.html>

The Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. (SFF) is an organization of fishing enthusiasts who love fishing with the fly rod. We welcome all people of all ages with similar interests, regardless of their fly fishing skill level. We enthusiastically teach those that wish to learn or improve their fly casting, fly tying and related fly fishing skills. SFF meets monthly where we talk fly fishing, tie flies and most months feature a speaker with a program highlighting local fly fishing opportunities. SFF is a non-profit, 501(C) 3 organization. SFF is a charter member of the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF). SFF is a member of the Florida Council of IFFF.

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

www.suncoastflyfishers.com



Tom "Truk" Trukenbrod

Suncoast Fly Fishers Outing Reviews and Previews and Annual Tournament Update

The SFF Outing Committee is co-chaired by Tom "Truk" Trukenbrod and Bob Burkard with support from John Craig and Dan Bumgarner

Pinellas Point Outing
Saturday, January 21, Bay Vista Park



Bob Burkard

Pinellas Point offers everyone a place to fish and meet. We had waders, kayakers and boaters from right there at the park to out on the eastern shore of the Sunshine Skyway. The day was the complete opposite of last year when we needed heavy weight polar fleece to stay warm. It was a beautiful warm day with maybe a bit of extra wind.

Thanks to Bob Burkard for offering early coffee and cookies to those who arrived just for the fellowship while we waited for lunch. As always there was a spirited contest of who had the best fishing stories.

There was a good crowd of 33 who made it to the picnic tables for lunch. Again, thank you Bob for providing the sandwiches, potato salad and other fixings so no one left hungry.

The targeted fish was ladyfish and Daryn Manley landed the longest, a 19 incher. There are straight talking fishermen in our club. Ken Hofmeister was second to call out his catch and it too was 19 inches. (Amazingly it was not 19.25 inches.) Congrats to both. Two winners for the price of one. Ken Hofmeister also caught a 15 inch seatrout. So, if I may, we will list Daryn's ladyfish and Ken's trout into the annual tournament.

Guidelines for awards for outings and the tournament

The Outings Committee has had many requests to clarify the guidelines for fishing awards at our outings and for our annual tournament.

- 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 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.

Truk

Walsingham Park Preview

Walsingham Park Outing Saturday, February 18

FYI, outboard motors not allowed

Walsingham Reservoir is for trolling motor boaters and paddlers; combustion engines are not allowed. Fishing from shore is OK, but keep a lookout for long snouts moving towards shore. The boat ramp is a good place to fish the lily pads. Lunch will be at noon and the targeted fish for this outing is largemouth bass. Bass and bream are eligible for the annual tournaments so measure yours carefully before you release them. The address for **Walsingham Park** is 12615 102nd Ave. N., Largo.



Walsingham Park in Largo. Apple Maps

Not fishing? Come to the outing. Here's why...

Coffee will be ready at 10:30. Donuts and cookies, too. Also starting at 10:30 am –We think that it would be fun to rig up different sized fly rods and experience what it is like to cast 3-wts through 12-wts side by side. It is pretty amazing how different sizes and actions of fly rods change the feel of casting.

So we will have a 3wt, a 4wt, a 5wt, a 6wt, a 7wt, an 8wt, a 9wt, a 10wt, an 11wt, and a 12wt available for our club members to try.

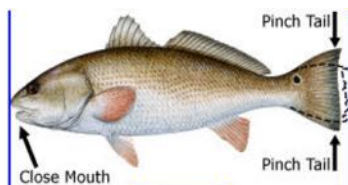
Tom Gadacz will set up targets and provide a small casting session for those who are interested. Thanks, Tom.

Bob

2017 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing caught
Longest sunfish			
Longest black bass			
Longest snook			
Longest redfish			
Longest ladyfish	19-inches	Daryn Manley	Pinellas Point Outing (January)
Longest seatrout	15-inches	Ken Hofmeister	Pinellas Point (January)

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.

Snapshots: January Outing at Pinellas Point



Let there be fire. Coffee coming soon. Outing chairs Bob Burkard and Tom Trukenbrod were on the case



Chowing down. Jon Hoegstrom, Joe Dail, Tony Piazza and Bill AuCoin



Left to right: Bob Morrison, Pat Damico, Will Sollars, Peter Cline, Ryan Sollars and Tom Trukenbrod



Treasurer Karen Warfel and VP Rick Warfel



Hilton Bruch, Arthur Birnkrant, Bob Burkard, Karen Birnkrant



Jack Collins is down there somewhere

Snapshots: Trash 'n' Treasures Meeting

Pictured are just a few of the many used items auctioned at our January meeting, reaping a generous \$791 for the treasury. Kudos to members who donated items, including top of the line like fly rods by Thomas and Thomas, Loomis, LL Bean. This will pay for our outing lunches all year. Enjoy!



Smitty tied and donated these flies



Bob Morrison offered to tie his Donald Trump fly for \$1



Alan Sewell auctions a thread rack for some very serious fly tying.



Orvis fly fishing vest.



Serious fish knife



Serious red wine, too



Smitty will safeguard the artwork of Carl Hanson for a year for catching the biggest bass in the annual competition against the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Teammate George Haseltine caught the most bluegills.



Robert Fischer flies

Robert Fischer: Big, fat, over-the-slot reds on a bluebird day

Three Tampa Bay redfish on the fly with a combined length of more than 90-inches

In late January I fished Tampa Bay with fly fishing guide Greg Peterson. After our 48-hour winter season this year the weather turned perfect. It was one of those days I've seen on TV but never happens whenever I go fishing. The wind was dead calm, temperatures from 55 to 75, no clouds and good incoming tides.

Would the full moon be a problem? I avoid fishing during the full moon, but Greg said it would probably be all right. We left the boat ramp in Greg's Maverick Mirage and flew across the bay. It was like running in melted butter, velvety smooth and dry with the 4 stroke Yamaha quietly purring along.

Our first stop was barren so we moved to another flat about 5 miles away. The sun rose a little and the visibility started to improve. Now if you've fished Tampa Bay redfish you know how spooky they can be, worse than any Bahamas bonefish. And if you've fished on dead calm waters you know how much worse that can make it. But I was using a 7-weight rod with a 12-foot leader and a Puglisi pancake fly that landed without any splash at all so I knew we had a chance.



This "shrimpy-crabby fly tied by Capt. Greg Peterson had the right look but it took some precise and quiet fly casts to present it properly to the spooky reds.



This was one of three over the slot reds Fischer caught on the grass flats of Tampa Bay in late January.

We began seeing fish and after a few well-placed casts we got several refusals. Greg suggested a different colored fly that sank faster. A nice fish showed up at about 60-feet and my lucky long cast landed perfectly. Two strips and the fish pounced on the fly.

The fight was on. The 7 weight bent into the cork and into the backing she went. There were big smiles all around as the big fat red girl ran and wallowed in the mirrored water. After 10 minutes, she came to hand, we took some photos, retrieved the fly from deep in her crushers and revived her a bit before sending her on her way. Over the slot, 32 to 34 inches of golden beauty. Wow. Perfect, textbook red fishing; the way it should be.

Moving to another flat we had several shots but some were too close; you know that impossible 10 to 15-foot cast when the fish appears out of nowhere and any movement would spook them. That's great for your adrenalin rush but not good for hooking up.

Continued on following page

Continued...Robert Fischer entices big redfish to the fly

Getting a little shallower revealed some tailing fish that allowed us to get set up and ready before getting too close. One fish, 50-feet away, let me make five casts but all were too far away from the spot he was grubbing in. After moving closer to 30-feet I made a cast that landed two feet away and the fight was on again. Lots of line had to be cleared as this fish took off like a scalded dog and got well into the backing also. Another good bulldog-like fight and we had our second redfish over 30-inches. Holy cow, this never happens to me, I thought, but I was sure glad it did this day.

A short lunch break and then we moved to the next flat. A high sun with no clouds or wind made the visibility spectacular. We saw lots of fish and got several good and some not so good shots; tough red-fishing for sure. A little deeper water (maybe 20-inches) and Greg suggested a different shrimpy, crabby pattern he ties that would hug the bottom. My next shot was a long one, about 70-feet. Two fish coming right at us, but a good cast and Greg's coaching on when to strip led to our third hookup in classic fashion. Of course, the smaller of the two fish got the fly but still she went into the backing. Another good long stubborn fight. This beauty was only 28-inches.

We got a few more shots but were snubbed. No matter. With three fish caught and a total of over 90 combined inches of redfish on a perfect winter day, I had no complaints. I've done a lot of fly fishing for reds and this was my best day ever. Greg is a great captain and very enjoyable to fish with. He has a beautiful high performance boat and he ties flies that work. If you want to catch redfish, call Greg (headshotcharters.com) at 813-601-4605.

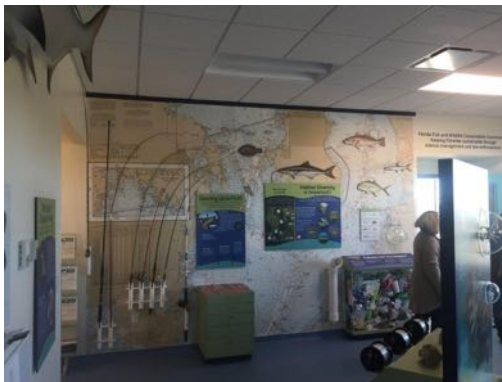
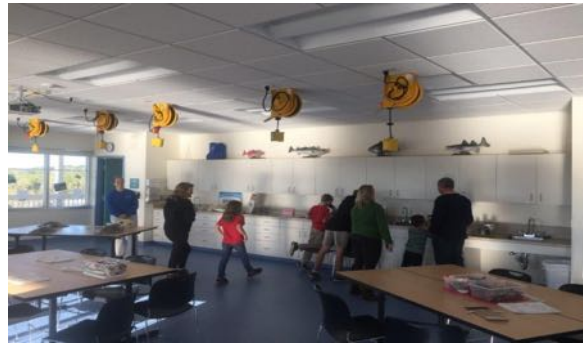


Capt. Greg Peterson with one of Robert Fischer's redfish caught on the fly. Greg "ties flies that work," says Fischer.

Rick Warfel: Suncoast Youth Conservation Center in Apollo Beach

I had the pleasure of attending the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center Open House on January 30. As you can see from the photos the Center has made a lot of progress since the opening ceremonies held last April. The Center has added interactive displays, kayak trails, mangrove and lagoon experiences, and they have built out a full classroom/laboratory to make a powerful show-and-tell impression on the next generation.

I met with Dr. Kathy Guindon, the director of the facility. She said she would be very interested in having SFF become involved with a fly fishing program as part of their summer camp series starting next June. The goal is to give youth the kinds of experiences that lead them to support fish and wildlife conservation for the rest of their lives. It's a good time to be a kid who loves being outdoors.



Rick

Bob and brother Al Burkard fish middle Tampa Bay

Bob Burkard and his brother Al from South Dakota joined Bill AuCoin for a January day of fishing in middle Tampa Bay.



Al discovered that sometimes it's hard not to catch a puffer.



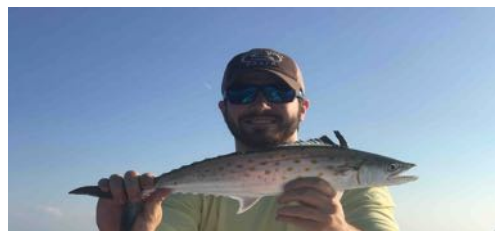
This bonnet head shark caused a bit of a commotion. We had to get it to pose for a commemorative photo, doncha know.



Bob is a fly fisher so, true to his moral compass, he stuck with the fly rod. This is one of his bluefish.

Dennis Marquis and son Ben score macks, blues

Dennis Marquis (wearing red) and his son anchored up on the Weedon channel underwater spoil islands and chummed a bit and, sure 'nuff, the action started shortly thereafter. Dennis and Ben scored multiple bluefish and Spanish mackerel casting chartreuse and white Clousers with 8-weight rods.



Snowbird Linda Lapin Clouser entices Tampa Bay speckled trout



January 27

Finally, I can say I caught fish in Tampa Bay. I caught half a dozen this morning. I used a Rhode Island-tied fly, oddly enough.

Thanks to Suncoast Fly Fishers for letting me come to the January meeting. All these fish did happily swim away.

Linda



Capt. Pat Damico's friend Bob Finck with a huge jack crevalle

Here's a picture of Bob Finck, a fly fishing friend, who took me for a shallow water river trip recently. We caught snook, jacks and stung a baby tarpon.

Pat



Pat Damico: Can you spot the famous person in this photo?



In late January SFF member Pat Damico went to the fly fishing show in Somerset, New Jersey.

He snapped a picture of one of the attendees who we've seen on TV in a political context.

Yep. That guy in the blue shirt is Donald Trump, Jr.

Tying Bench

Masked Bandit ... Tied by Layne (Smitty) Smith



This is the February meeting fly that I have chosen for targeting bass at Saturday's Walsingham Reservoir outing. Fish this pattern as you would any baitfish pattern -- around cover with slow strips then a few *short*, quick strips to imitate a nervous prey (don't make *long* quick strips as this will pull it out of the strike zone). You can fish it deep by adding lead wraps to drop it down along drop offs. This fly can be fished in saltwater as well, though I would change the fur from squirrel to rabbit as it will create a larger profile for larger predatory fish like snook and reds.

Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu Octopus size #6

Thread: Danville flat-waxed nylon light gray

Belly: Pearl blue angel hair

Wing: Natural gray Pine Squirrel zonker strip

Collar: Natural gray Pine Squirrel cross-cut strip (if available, or regular zonker strip if not)

Head: 3mm Fish Skulls fish mask. You can prepare the head by attaching eyes ahead of time and setting aside to cure.

Eyes: 1/8" molded eyes

Cement: Zap-a-gap or your favorite CA cement and Solarez UV Resin

Tying Instructions

Step 1: De-barb hook and place in vise. Wrap thread on front half of hook, cut thread and then back-wrap to about 3/16" behind eye of hook and coat the back-wrapped portion with any type cement.

Step 2: Tie in clump of Angel Hair (approx. 1/8" thickness when tied down) onto hook making sure it remains on the top side of the hook. Pinching the material, take your scissors and cut the material up and rearwards at a 45-degree angle so it measures about 1/2" long at the bottom of the taper to 3/4" long at the top of the taper.

Step 3: Taper rear end of pine squirrel strip to a point and measure to twice hook length, and cut. If you are tying more than one fly at a time, pre-measure and cut zonker wings in advance. Attach strip on top of Angel Hair at the same tie-in point. Secure with several thread wraps.

Step 4: Take a piece of cross-cut pine squirrel (or zonker) and tie in securely on top of previous strip finishing your thread wraps in front on the bare hook. Palmer strip for one and a half turns, finishing on top of bare hook shank. Secure with thread wraps and cut off excess strip.

Step 5: Build up a decent tapered thread head, whip finish and cut your thread.

Step 6: Apply cement to top and bottom of thread head and slide on prepared fish mask (i.e. fish mask with eyes attached ahead of time with CA cement and over-coated with UV Resin). Re-attach thread and build small thread dam to keep the fish mask from sliding forward.

Step 7: Coat thread dam and eyes with UV Resin and cure.

Smitty

Bob Morrison: Fly Fishing Tips Plus One Fishy Factoid



Schools of redfish in middle Tampa Bay

Big schools of redfish -- The inshore water temperature is about 66 degrees, and fishing is improving. Schools of big redfish are being caught from Gandy Bridge south to Coffee Pot Point, and they are taking darker shrimp and crab patterns. Darker Clousers are also working.

Redfish like to hang with mullet -- These reds may be mixed in among large mullet, looking for small food items that the mullet stir up. Bounce your sinking fly across the bottom, retrieving slowly so that the fly kicks up little puffs of sand that attract attention. Try a little scent on your fly just to give it a bit more appeal.

Sea trout like to hang with spoil islands -- Seatrout are schooling on spoil islands along the intercoastal waterway, on the deeper-water side of the islands. Look for the edges where the sandy bottom meets the grass bottom at the edge of a drop off. Finally, use dumbbell eyes, lead wire wrapping, or small split shot up the leader to get the fly down.

Silver trout, too -- The beaches from Johns Pass north to Indian Shores are producing silver trout during nice weather. Whether boating or wading, try drifting more brightly colored shrimp and crab patterns off the bottom. Light tan, orange, pink, and chartreuse in your fly will work well. If the weather and water are a little rough look for the schools in 8 to 15 feet of water, again getting your fly down.

Go get 'em and good luck!

Bob

Bob's Fishy Factoid of the month

Gotta fly for this one?

A 90-foot long blue whale can weigh 150 tons. That's 300,000 pounds. What's more, this fellow has a tongue weighing about as big as a bull elephant, or 12,000 pounds. He also has a heart as big as a 2-1/2 ton truck.



Don't fly fish until you can cast a fly

By Capt. Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor

A casting client that I spent some time with a couple years ago called me recently to help a friend of his prepare for an upcoming trip to New Zealand. He kept saying he had his flats boat ready to launch so we could go out on the water. I told him we would go on the grass first. He said there wasn't any at his place. When I arrived, I handed his friend one of my practice rods with an orange line and we walked over to the private road going to his house. I usually use this outfit on the street in front of my house. We spent the whole session with him doing a pick-up and lay down cast, and false casting trying to maintain narrow loops. His assignment before the next casting session was to improve with some written suggestions. He was able to concentrate on the fundamentals necessary, watch his back casts and cast to targets, and make necessary corrections without any distractions. Three of us going out on a flats boat would have been a waste of time.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

Capt. Pat Damico charts in lower Tampa Bay. Contact: captpat.com (727) 504-8649

Tampa Bay Times: Captain's Corner

Cold makes fishing tougher, but not impossible

By Pat Damico, Tampa Bay Times Correspondent

Frequent cold fronts can make shallow saltwater species very difficult this time of year. Windy overcast days and unreliable tides make it hard to establish a pattern. Don't spend a lot of time at an unproductive location. Pick a grassy flat that has been productive in the past, or has a lot of bird activity, and work your boat in deeper water parallel to the grass edge. Consider wind and tide movement before beginning. A bow-mounted electric motor occasionally run very slowly helps boat control. Cast to the deep edges of the grass, allowing your fly, usually weighted, to sink close to the bottom and then retrieve slowly. Two experienced fly fishers can fish simultaneously at each end of the boat. Pay attention to accurately casting to any irregularities in the grass edge where trout and reds will wait for easy prey. These lethargic fish must have the fly in front of their face to react. If successful, repeat at the same depth. A sea anchor can be employed to move the boat slower. Repeat the drift, only this time drift the grass edge and cast shallower. Most casts will be over grass, but target sand holes, lighter colored areas in the grass that are a little deeper. Large trout and reds will use these as ambush points. Again, allow the fly to sink close to the bottom. Longer casts cover more water. Baitfish fly patterns with the hook pointed up, to avoid weeds, in chartreuse and white, chartreuse and pink, and black over red are good choices.

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Somebody was listening. Did you *hear* the one about the tarpon that traveled more than 300 miles in six weeks? There's so much we don't know about tarpon. Thankfully, FWRI and Bonefish and Tarpon Trust are on the case. ([Florida Today](#))

Pass the popcorn. The 2017 Fly Fishing Film Tour is on the road and before it is over it will have been to 100 different U.S. cities. But it is making only two stops in Florida. Sarasota on Feb. 23 and Melbourne on February 26. It's kind of a big deal, you know. HT to Rodney Smith (one of our speakers last year) whose [Anglers for Conservation](#) is co-sponsoring the Melbourne film showing with Harry Goode's Outdoor Shop. ([Fly Fishing Film Tour](#))

Problem, meet solution. Irula tribesmen from India are in the Everglades and they are doing what they do, finding and killing Burmese pythons. Oh, they get a big assist from dogs trained to sniff out these not-so-welcome exotics. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

A partial fix, it would seem -- Florida legislation would create a 60,000-acre lake south of Lake Okeechobee to store nutrient water so it doesn't provoke algae blooms in the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Rivers. There are ways fly fishers can get involved personally. ([Orvis](#))

You already knew this, right? Our favorite time of the year is nigh. March. April. Here snooky, snooky. ([FWC](#))

Eye candy. Check out the fly fishing in Alaska photos. Also, the photos of birds, gators and other Florida wildlife. ([Will Rice Photos](#))

Asombroso! More eye candy. Hey, I vote we have a club outing here. Designated species: Peacock Bass! Bring your 14-weight. ([Historia de Pescador](#))

Scroll down to #10. We all have something in common with Neil Gorsuch, the Supreme Court nominee. ([US News and World Report](#))

Fish a hole like a guide. In other words, don't show up at noon when the insects are hatching at 9. That's just one of the things we need to remember. Also, this one hit a home for me: learn from your fishless days. HT, Pat Damico. ([Post Fly Box](#))

Finally, a serious conversation about a serious subject (snort) – Should we *catch and release* or *catch and consume*? Also, maybe this is a good club Question of the Month? Tip of the fedora to Dennis Marquis. ([You Tube](#))

**Special Friends of
Suncoast Fly Fishers**



West Coast
KAYAKS & PADDLE BOARDS
St. Petersburg, Florida

Capt. Jerry Allen
6647 Central Ave. St. Petersburg, FL 33710
727.954.8814 • www.West-Coast-Kayaks.com
Jerry @ West-Coast-Kayaks.com



WWW.NUCANOE.COM

To place an ad in On The Fly
email Karen Warfel at
kmwarfel@yahoo.com



Key West Express

CERTIFICATE of EXCELLENCE
by J. J. Moran, III

keywestexpress.net 239-463-5733



plantationoncrystalriver.com
800-632-6262



CORTLAND
LINE COMPANY | SINCE 1915

CORTLANDLINE.COM
800-847-6787



High Performance
PLUMBING
SERVICES

www.hpps.biz

Mark Craig
Service Technician
Tel: 727.323.7243
Fax: 727.528.8528
Cell: 727.423.3195
mark@hpps.biz
FL LIC CFC1425678
4450 Morris Street N
St. Petersburg, FL 33714

**Special Friends of
Suncoast Fly
Fishers**



3100 4th Street N. St. Pete
www.boatersrepublic.com

ORVIS



1-866-865-4695
WWW.ONOS.COM
Lifetime Warranty



WWW.BILLJACKSONS.COM
727-576-4169

ANDY THORNAL COMPANY Since 1945

GATEWAY TO ADVENTURE SINCE 1945

(800) 499-9890

WWW.ANDYTHORNAL.COM

***Special Friends of
Suncoast Fly
Fishers***




The Fly Guy
Capt. Pat Damico
 2981 E. Vina del Mar Blvd.
 St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
 Tel: 727-360-6466
 Web: <http://captpat.com>
 Email: flyguy@captpat.com

GOODYEAR • TOYO • COOPER • MICHELIN



727-822-3981
TODD MURRIAN www.bobleetire.com
 1831 • 4th STREET NORTH • ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33704



JIM SWANN'S
 Complete Fly Fishing Shop
 Rods - Reels - Hand Tied Fls - Guide Service
 Fly Tying Materials
 Classes in Fly Tying and Casting
 352-567-6029 13650 S. 98 By Pass
Dade City, FL 33525



St. Pete
 FISHING OUTFITTERS
 3450 34th Street N. St. Pete
www.stpetefishingoutfitters.com



www.hydroglow.com



ECHO
www.echoflyfishing.com
www.rajeffsports.com



www.shop.carbonmarine.com

***Special Friends of
Suncoast Fly
Fishers***



WWW-METAL-FAB INC. COM

Dollar for Dollar
Alpen is your Best Optics Buy!

Alpen Optics – Winner of **7** Outdoor Life
“Great Buy” Awards. *More than any
other optics company – EVER!*

 **877-987-8370**
alpenoptics.com

Call ALPEN, use code word “Fly” to receive FREE keylight & catalog.



3625 S. Manhattan Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33629 727-504-4062



**To place an ad in *On The Fly* please
email Karen Warfel at
kmwarfel@yahoo.com**

Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers

edible
TAMPA BAY

www.edibletampabay.com

Tampa Bay Charter Fishing
with
Capt. Dan Bumgarner
aboard
"Teacher's Pet"



Ph. 727-526-7565 Cell 727-422-9163



SUNSECT
INSECT REPELLENT
+ SUNSCREEN

www.sunsect.com



Captain Shawn McCole

Inshore Fly Fishing and Light Tackle

Tarpon • Snook • Redfish

Phone: 863 • 608 • 3758

Email: captshawnmccole@gmail.com

U.S.C.G. Licensed & Insured

www.captainshawnmccole.com

CUSTOM ROD
BUILDING AND REPAIR



ALAN SEWELL
Owner

Phone: (727) 470-4570
Fax: (727) 344-0503
sewellalan@yahoo.com

SALT - FRESH - FLY




#SeeWhatsOutThere

costadelmar.com

To place an ad in *On The Fly* please
email Karen Warfel at
kmwarfel@yahoo.com

Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers



Custom Bamboo Fly Rods
www.nighflyrods.com



www.flyvines.com



#THINKOUTSIDETHEBOAT

www.simmsfishing.com



SIMPLE, RUGGED AND CLASSICALLY STYLED

www.galvanflyreels.com



GET IN TOUCH!

www.scientificanglers.com

