

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

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SFF President Letter – July 2017

Hello everyone,

How about those new name tags? Our thanks and gratitude go to April Turpen for researching, purchasing and receiving, and storing our new materials. She and Rick Birnbaum did a fantastic job of printing out the first batch for those who attended our June General Meeting. Thank you so much, April and Rick! And, thank you to our members who so enthusiastically took part in it.

And did you hear? After serving on our June Night Dock Fishing Panel, Adam Hays went out with his Uncle Mark on Friday Night and caught a 27-inch snook! I guess that solidifies his place in experienced night dock fishing. I went out with Mark on Thursday Night after the meeting on a spur of the moment occasion. We caught mangrove snapper, trout, snook and he caught a 31-inch redfish that night. Mark will always put you on fish.

And, wasn't that an informative meeting where Alan Sewell, Adam Hays and Dan Bumgarner shared their insight into the dark world of night dock fishing? It was really eye opening when Alan emphasized that you don't have to fish from a boat or a dock. You can fish from the beach! Stay out of the water and cast parallel to the shore, not outward. Who knew?

We on the Board need your feedback. We appreciate your filling out our survey and we are using it as a guide. But to keep things current, we need your response to what we do each month. Verbally is good, but how about a short paragraph and a picture for our newsletter? I'm sure Bill AuCoin would make room for it. He's magical.

Back to the fishing partner dilemma we face, I've been thinking. I know that's dangerous and it makes my head hurt. Has anybody come up with new ideas?

One thing did occur to me. When someone invites you out on their boat, be ready. Have your tackle set up and prepared and by all means practice before hand. I heard some horror tales about outings with people who did not do their homework. It's not only aggravating, it can be downright dangerous, especially if you're using Clouser minnows.

You don't have to spend hours at a time practicing. Set up a rod and, every once in a while, pick it up, go out into the yard, park or any grassy area and spend just 15 minutes or so at a time. It's a process my Music Theory and Piano Professor, Dr. Montague, used to call "as you go learning." Of course, he was talking about having a difficult piece of music open at the piano and every time you walked by, play the difficult parts for a few minutes.

And, don't forget to get involved with our club activities.

Cliff Nigh is our new Conservation and Marine Restoration Director. Thank you, Cliff. He's looking for some projects where, as he puts it so eloquently, we can "get our hands dirty". As he brings these things up, please join us in our effort to be environmentally responsible and helpful.

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, July 20, Meeting

- Our speaker is **Capt. Nick Angelo**
- Fly of the month: Smitty ties the **Murdich Minnow**

Saturday, July 22, Blackthorn Memorial (I-275 rest area) Outing

- Redfish is the designated species. (Redfish slot is 18-27")
- Lunch at 11 am

Thursday, August 17 Meeting

- Saltwater fly *Tie-A-Thon*
- Smitty ties the Pencil Popper
- Free pizza

Saturday, August 19 Outing

- Urban outing, Flora Wylie Park on St. Pete's waterfront

The Florida Council will have its Annual meeting on August 19 Saturday from 1:00 to 3:00 at the Plantation in Crystal River. All FFI members are invited to attend.

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 Fly Cast both left-handed and right-handed with equal ease
- Smitty ties the Double Barrel Popper for Lake Maggiore outing

Saturday, September 23 Outing

- Lake Maggiore, St. Petersburg

Thursday, October 18 Meeting

- Our speaker is **Capt. Rodney Smith**, Anglers for Conservation
- Smitty ties the Kinni Jig fly for the Carl Hanson Memorial

Saturday, October 21 Outing

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

Thursday, November 16 Meeting

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

Saturday, November 19 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

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 136 members including 20 family and 5 honorary members. Members who have not paid their dues have been removed from the active list unless they have indicated they will renew.

FFI Charter Club.

Suncoast Fly Fishers is a charter member club of **Fly Fishers International**

SFF website

SFF Calendar

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 (Layne (Smitty) Smith is your July instructor)

Free monthly fly tying lessons for members and guests

When: Thursday, July 27 – 6 pm

What: Join, jive and tie 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 July 17...

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

Used Gear for Sale

Oldie but goodie

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).

Ken Doty is selling his 16-foot Bass Tracker with trailer

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

**Classified ads will run for up to three months. Ads from non-members are welcome but should be submitted through a member.*

How can the Suncoast Fly Fishers become a better club for you and other members? Email your ideas to club president George Haseltine at ghh343@aol.com

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. Please 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 -- Dick Miekka
Hog Roast Karen+Rick Warfel
Outings -- Bob Burkard
Project Healing Waters -- John
Craig, Terry Kirkpatrick, Alan
Sewell
Outreach, shows -- Jeff Heer
Raffles -- Dave Barson
Programs -- Bd of Directors
Newsletter -- Bill AuCoin
Publicity -- Bill AuCoin

Aims and Purposes

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

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

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

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

SFF is a non-profit, 501(C) 3 organization. SFF is a charter member of the Fly Fishers International (FFI) SFF is a member of the Florida Council of FFI.

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

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

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 at
www.suncoastflyfishers.com**

June Outing Review: Docklight Outing



*Hilton Bruch, SFF
Outing Committee*

REVIEW—Docklight Friday, June 18, Saturday, June 19

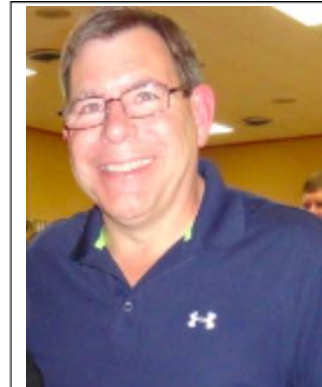
In response to the requests by many of our members during our June 15 general meeting our annual night snook or dock light fishing event was extended to two nights. So, the fishing times were from Friday sunset until sunrise on Saturday, and a second night that went from Saturday sunset until sunrise on Sunday. It was a little windy, but this kept the bugs away.

The largest (and only) snook reported was a 27-inch snook caught by Adam Hays. While

he is always one to share, I am not quite sure of the exact dock where he landed this prize winning fish. Maybe we can convince him to share what flies he used and where he fished.

Another recommendation from our membership is that next year we include a night beach fishing outing for our wade fisherman. We will meet as a group at an identified location. While this is a year out, we are also planning an early morning breakfast.

Bob



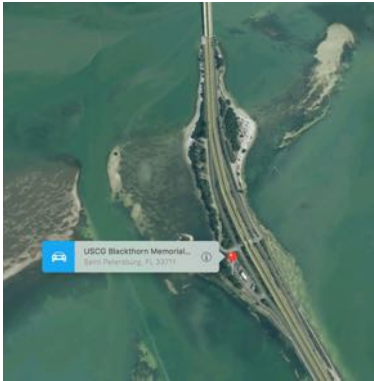
*Bob Burkard, SFF
Outing committee*



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: Blackthorn Memorial (Sunshine Skyway)



Apple Maps

Our next outing on July 22 is identified as the Blackthorn Memorial outing because this is where we meet for lunch. Participants can fish in Tampa Bay within sight of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. Lunch will be ready at 11 am.

This is a lot of water open for fishing. My favorite spot is the bay side of the rest area south of the bridge. I have caught snook and redfish on chartreuse and white closures, and trout on EP minnows at that location.

And, of course I have a story of a “giant” unidentified monster that got away. I am not sure what it was, but my best guess is that it was a very large Crevalle Jack that hit a reddish Half and Half and took me well into my backing before biting through my tippet.

Lunch will be at the Blackthorn Memorial rest stop north of Sunshine Skyway Bridge starting at 11 am with coffee, drinks, and donuts starting at 10 am. Our target fish is redfish.

There is an interesting history on the Blackthorn Memorial rest stop: The USCGC Blackthorn (WLB-391) was a 180-foot seagoing buoy tender which sank in 1980 in a collision near the Tampa Bay Sunshine Skyway Bridge, resulting in 23 crew member fatalities.

On 28 January 1980, while leaving Tampa Bay after the completion of an overhaul, she collided with the tanker SS Capricorn. Shortly after the collision, Blackthorn capsized, killing 23 of her crew. The cutter was raised for the investigation, but ultimately was scuttled in the Gulf of Mexico after the investigation of the accident was complete. She currently serves as an artificial reef for recreational diving and fishing 20 miles offshore.



Passing acquaintances -- *You never know what you might see while wade fishing on the western side of the Blackthorn Memorial rest area on I-275.*

So, while we enjoy our day fishing and eating with friends, we should spend a minute to acknowledge the 23 crew members of the Blackthorn who died on that day and all of the service men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our great county. It is because of them that we can enjoy days like this with friends on the water.

So, while we enjoy our day fishing and eating with friends, we should spend a minute to acknowledge the 23 crew members of the Blackthorn who died...



Bob

June Meeting: Docklight Insights, Special Friends,



Special Friends -- Chris Geib, VP of marketing for Sunsect, and his colleague Hannah Busby chatted up members. Chris spoke about Sunsect's long association with the U.S. Military and gave members samples to test in real life conditions.



Capt. Dan Bumgarner, Adam Hays, and Alan Sewell shared their dock light secrets before the club's June docklight outing. Major takeaways: docklights give us the best opportunity to catch big snook. But...be very quiet. Keep low. Use a 50# bite tippet. White lights are better than yellow lights. Often snook hide under circling catfish. More on page 9.

Photo by Tom Gadacz



Monthly outing Q & A...Hilton Bruch and Bob Burkard took and answered questions about the docklight outing. On the spot decision: schedule the docklight outing for two nights.



April Turpen brought and put member names on the club's new clip-on name tags.



Dave Barson has a seat at the shiny objects table. The raffle table, that is. Step right up folks, A measly \$5 investment buys 6 tickets. Your chances are very good.

Before and after the docklight outing.



Ken Hofmeister on June 25 – I missed the snook outing but he didn't miss this 24-incher a few days later.



Mark Hays and the 31-inch redfish he caught the night before our dock light outing.

More docklight sightfishing tips from the June panel

Capt. Dan Bumgarner – Get low. Watch for aids to navigation. Don't shine our spotlight into oncoming boats. Be quiet. Dogs barking?. Just leave. Bite your tongue. Yes to fluoro bite tippet. It makes a difference. Check your leader often. Cast under fish cleaning tables on docks. Glass minnows in the winter lies lower docks. Catfish circling. Snook below. Use trolling motor on low speed only. Drift if you can

Alan Sewell -- -Use a headlamp. Fish beefy short rods, 7 or 8 footers. White lights are better than yellow lights. Be ready to use your trolling motor to move your boat away from the dock if you hook a big snook or he'll head back to the barnacled pilings and break you off.

Adam Hays— The docks around Treasure Island are great. Watch the dock for few minutes and see what the fish are doing before you move in. do not move in too close. Don't get too close to them. Fish the Half and Half Clouser.



Dennis Marquis: Fishing Night and Day

Snook-redfish-trout-pompano-and TARPON on the fly.

My son Ben and I went fishing for tarpon on the fly with Capt. Dave Dant out of Gulfport on Monday, June 19th. We fished on the Gulf side of mullet key between Shell Key Preserve and Ft. DeSoto.

It was not a great weather day as we were bogged down with clouds and rain off and on. We had to quit early around 2 pm as a major storm came up on us. Still we managed to see near 50 tarpon come by and we got off some casts. Just as many tarpon were moving north to south as south to north. This was our first tarpon trip and we were anxious, which doesn't make for good casts.

Not having a great day, and knowing Dave, he invited us back for a free trip on June 29th. Dave is a great guide and becoming a good friend.



Success on day two. Captain Dave Dant estimated this tarpon to be 75-100 pounds.

Back at it again; this time we had experience. We were better equipped with lotion, better shade hats, more snacks and less anxious.

We saw tarpon all day but no takers on a black and purple fly. Black craft fur tail, chenille head with purple feathers of some kind. After lunch we switched to a bright orange fly of the same make. We were fishing with a 60 lb. bite tippet, on a 40 lb leader.

Dave wasn't sure if it was the color, or just luck. Ben was facing the port bow and a group of fish appeared from the starboard side. Dave and I both told Ben to drop a back cast fast, and he did. The fly went over the back of the lead tarpon. Ben turned, saw the school and started to strip back fast. As the fly came over the back of the lead tarpon, the second tarpon opened its mouth and went up on the first tarpon to take it. Thirty seconds later he was into the second hundred yards of backing. And thirty minutes later we had it by the boat. Dave estimated between it was between 75-100 lbs.

June 15: Docklighting on Boca Ciega Bay

Dennis wrote, "On June 15, I fished with a colleague visiting from New Jersey, Kevin Butler. We fished with Capt. Dave Dant and hit the lights all around Boca Ciega Bay.

Docklighting continued on next page



Ben (l) and Dennis fly fished for tarpon with Capt. Dave Dant on June 19 and June 29.

Dennis Marquis: Fishing Night and Day

Docklighting, continued...

The lights were packed with fish, the most I have seen. I landed four snook and two big trout. We also saw some baby tarpon but could not get them to hit.

It was a strong outgoing tide. I used my 9 weight, 9-foot TFO BVK rod with 25 and 30 pound leader. We caught everything on the same schminnow fly that Dave tied. That fly lasted all night from 9 pm till 1 am.

The lights were packed with fish, the most I have seen. I landed four snook and two big trout. We also saw some baby tarpon but could not get them to hit.

Picnic Island Pompano and seatrout

I fished Picnic Island with my son Ben on Father's Day. We anchored in about two feet of water near the top of the incoming tide. I used the same fly that Capt. Dave tied that I used on the dock lights. There were a few pompano following the one I hooked. Ben landed three sea trout on three consecutive casts throwing one of my chartreuse and white Clousers.



Dennis caught this fat pompano on the flats near Picnic Island Park at the top of the tide.



Dennis with a fat seatrout from the docklights on Boca Ciega Bay. Dennis and a friend from New Jersey fished with Capt. Dave Dant.



Dennis' hand-tied pompano fly

Dennis

Tom Gadacz: Fly Casting at the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center



Ken Hofmeister helps a new fly fisher learn to feel the rod load.

This year SFF added fly casting sessions at the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center in Apollo Beach. The facility is the result of efforts by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission partnering with TECO and the Florida Aquarium. The official name is the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network (FWC-FYCCN).

Kathy Guindon heads the staff at the facility and has initiated summer youth saltwater fishing camps. We had the opportunity to meet 21 youth (ages 10 to 12 years old) and had a planned program that depended on getting

outside and fly casting. Well, the weather on June 7th was not cooperative in the morning and rain, thunder and lightning crashed our best plan, which was to use 4 piece 8'6" 4 weight Redington Crosswater Youth Combo rods and reels for outdoor casting. We did have the use of a well-equipped room and a sheltered area under the classroom. Both places had a ceiling height of about 11 feet not nearly enough room to fly cast with an 8' rod. So we implemented PLAN B.

Fortunately, we also had some Redington form rods which are 2 piece 50-inch graphite rods with tapered Rio fly line but no reel. They are great indoor practice rods. There is a piece of yarn at the end of the line (no hooks). Using 12' of line they were able to cast horizontally inside. Some also casted along the covered walkway outside the classroom. Our program consisted of an introduction to fly fishing, fly fishing equipment, differences between fly casting and spin casting, demonstration of the casting stroke, practice with a paint brush and water (splash the paint), differences between fresh and salt water fishing, fresh and salt water flies, and several other topics. We also showed a video which demonstrated and explained the fly casting stroke and errors to avoid. Ken brought a large cork board filled with various flies. Rick had some very fancy tarpon flies on stringers tied by Cliff Nigh. The kids had many great questions during the two hours and they had plenty of time to cast indoors. Their enthusiasm was impressive.



Rick Warfel with a new fly fisher.



Memories are made of this. And there'll be more to come. Note Ken Hofmeister's big cork board filled with different flies.

The casting session was staffed by SFF members, Rick Warfel (SFF vice president) and members Ken Hofmeister and Tom Gadacz. We wish to thank Kathy Guindon, Director, Sam Teehan, Assistant Director, and Counselors Rebecca Lucas, Malachi Greaves, Danielle DeSilvestro and Hunter Murphy for their help. We had a great time and were impressed with the number of young ladies interested in fishing and conservation.

Tom

Tom Gadacz: E.G. Simmons Regional Park Fish Camp

The E. G. Simmons Regional Park Fish Camp in Ruskin, Florida offers youths a two-week experience of fishing and learning fishing skills. Suncoast Fly Fishers club provides fly casting instruction --instructions to two groups of youths – 9 to 11 and 12 to 15 years of age.

There are usually 40 anglers in each group and over the past 4 years the number of girls in each class has increased. We have a planned program of discussing several topics in the air-conditioned classroom including what is fly fishing, how it differs from spin casting, fly fishing equipment, safety, fresh and salt water fly fishing, different types of flies, casting instructions, and how to land a fish. Since fly casting requires a different technique than spin casting we spend most of the time practicing fly casting which requires a large open field and cooperative weather. Although we had rainy and at times windy weather, we managed to have good luck and spent considerable time outdoors fly casting. We set up two casting fields of 100 feet each with 10' spaces.



It's okay. Hooks have been removed.



Ready for action...Junior fly fishers ask, 'Has it stopped raining yet?'

to cast a narrow loop with the fly line, we rotated to each pair and assisted with the motions to make a good cast. We also asked the non-casting partner to observe and reinforce the elements of the casting stroke. Avoiding rotation of the wrist is the greatest initial challenge.

Most kids were casting a good loop after some coaching. After an hour of casting practice, we reconvene in the classroom and viewed a video on the techniques of the casting stroke and casting loop. Every youth received a Certificate of Completion of having completed the Junior Training for Fly Casting.

The kids are paired up and this accommodates 40 kids. The casting stroke is demonstrated using a paint brush and bowl of water. Each pair consists of a caster and a target. The goal is to splash water with the brush at your partner (the target) who is 8 to 10 feet away. After 10 strokes they alternated several times between being the caster or the target. After sufficient practice with splashing water, each pair gets a fly rod. The fly rods are 5 weight and are 8' 6" long.

After demonstrating the casting stroke with the fly rod and emphasizing the motion necessary

The youth fly casting session was staffed by SFF members Rick Warfel, SFF Vice-president, and members Ken Hofmeister, Bill Scarola and Tom Gadacz. We wish to thank E.G Simmons Director Linda Laudon and staff members Dan MacWhorter, Audrey Gaines, Jessie Brown, and Jack Reeder for their assistance.



Tom

Andy Constantinou in the UK: Rainbows plus a “Brownny”



Andy's "brownny" in the UK in mid-June



One of Andy's picky rainbow trout



Fish were fussy. But they did like Andy's gold-headed nymph tied on a tiny size 18.

June 16

I had a good day at Latimer on Friday (June 16). Fish were constantly rising but they were very fussy. I managed to land five fish by lunchtime and several got away.

Fish would only take a tiny size 18 gold head nymph with dark olive body. Amongst my fish I landed a beautiful brownny about 2 ¾ lb.

Carp, too. “This time I outsmarted the geese,” said Andy.

July 5

I had an interesting time at Manor Farm today. I started fishing at the top of the lake where there were plenty of fish, the problem was it was impossible with the amount of greylag geese and their broods eating all my dog biscuit pellets as soon as they hit the water, the fish never had a chance. I gave up and moved to the bottom end of the lake to get away from the geese,



unfortunately there were very few fish there, and of course the geese followed.

In desperation I started feeding the geese, swans and ducks drawing most of the fowl down to me. After a while I returned to the top again and, then, with no geese around, I caught two nice carp in about 30 minutes.

The geese and stayed put at the bottom of the lake. I felt very pleased with myself. I outsmarted the geese.

Andy



Andy threw dog food pellets at one end of the lake to keep the geese occupied so he could fish the other end of the lake without the fowl eating up the carp chum.

Rick Birnbaum - April Turpen: "September in the Smokies"

Last year, April and I took a trip to the Great Smoky Mounts to see the autumn foliage and get in a couple of days of fishing. All too often a trip seems to involve the phrase, "You should have been here last week." Well I am here to tell you that the days we fished was 'last week'. The weather was fantastic, brisk in the morning and warming up in the afternoon, sunny and light wind. I am not a great fisherman but we were catching monster browns and rainbows right and left on both days.



April Turpen, Smoky Mountain brown trout

We were fishing the Watauga River. The other main fishery is the South Holston River. Both are dependent on TVA dam releases. We drifted the Watauga both days with our guide Huck of Eastern Fly Outfitters of Piney Flats, TN (easternflyoutfitters.com), but you can easily wade as well. We chose to stay on the Watauga both days because it was so productive, fifty fish days. The

South Holston is known for its trophy fish but is not usually as productive. The scenery in the Smokies is beautiful, especially in the fall. For non-fishers, Asheville, NC is about an hour away.

The other nice thing about this area is the variety of fishing. Besides trout, there are smallmouth bass, striped bass, and gar trips. There is even a night trout fishing trip. Guide rates average \$400/day for two anglers, which includes equipment, terminal tackle and lunch. The shop has said they can handle a group of about 10-12 anglers.



Rick Birnbaum and one of his trophy brown

September 26-30 Johnson City, Tennessee

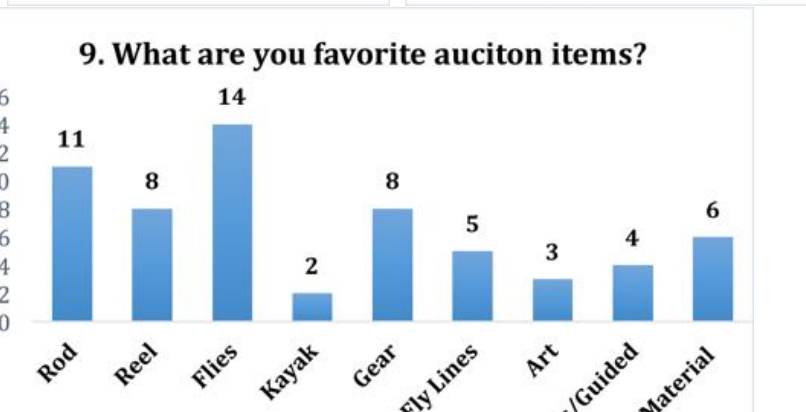
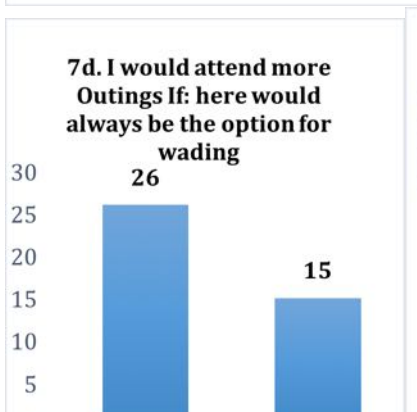
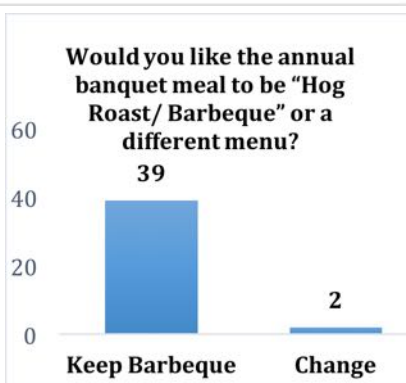
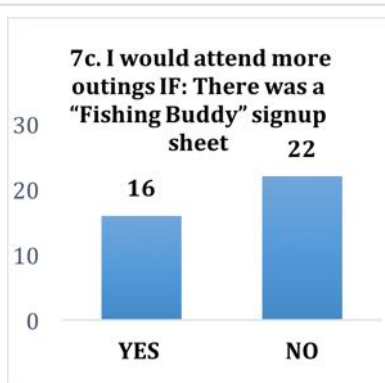
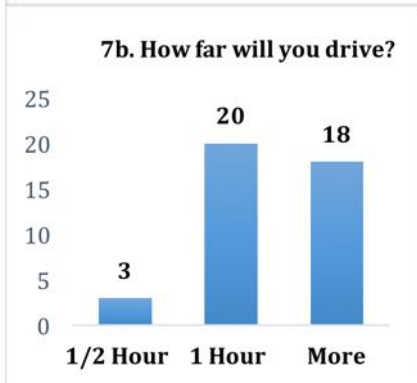
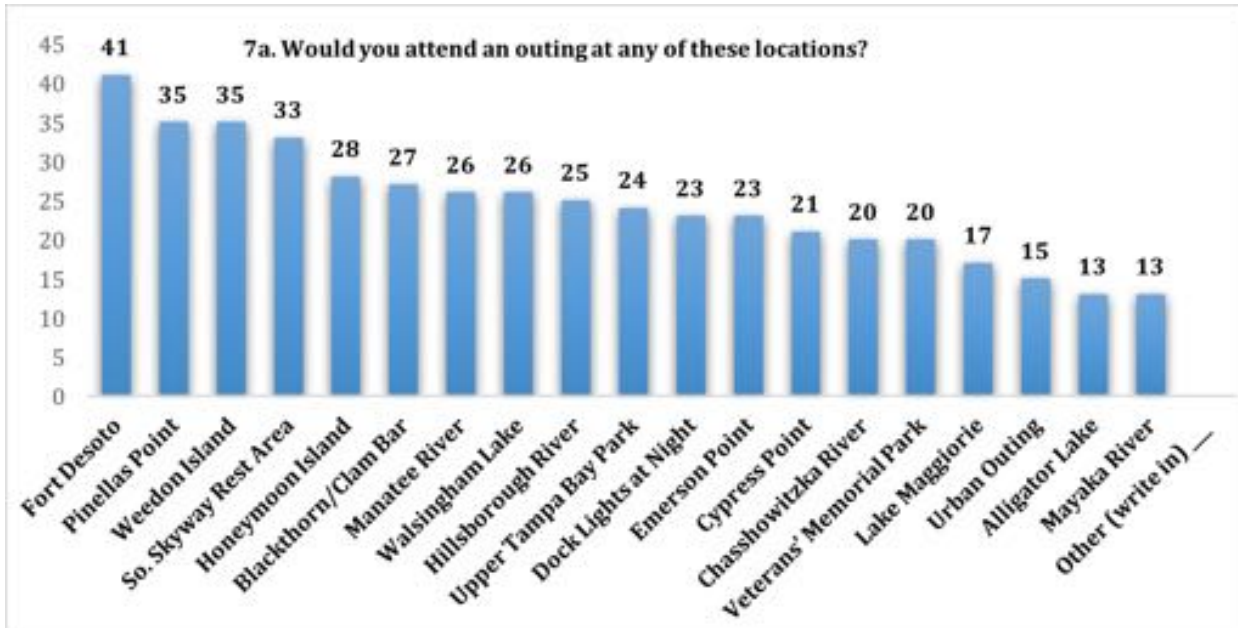
We are extending an invitation to anyone who wished to join us. I will be glad to co-ordinate. We are not sponsoring this so each is responsible for his own costs. The dates are scheduled for Sept 26 - Sept 30, 2017; we are fishing three days; individual modifications can be made. Trip can be a mix and 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 April or me at the next meeting.

Rick

We stayed at the Comfort Suites in Johnson City which has quoted a rate of about \$90/night with two queen beds which includes a hot breakfast. It is an excellent, recently renovated hotel. Rooms that sleep more are available. Many restaurants are within a short drive and quite reasonable.

Johnson City TN is near the TN/NC border and is about a 9-10 hour drive.

Member survey answers at a glance. Part 2
 Bob Burkard has put member survey results into these handy bar charts



More survey results will be presented in future issues

Tying Bench –Murdich Minnow – as tied by Layne Smith



The Murdich Minnow was created by Bill Murdich for Umpqua Feather Merchants for saltwater gamefish. Smitty has made some adjustments and he'll tie some at the July meeting. It's a good fly for our July outing at the Blackthorn Memorial at the Sunshine Skyway North Rest Area. [More info and pictures.](#)

Materials

Hook: Do-It 455, size 4 to 2/0, Eagle Claw 254, Gamakatsu SS15 or similar hooks 1XL.

Thread: Danville 6/0 monofilament

Tail: Layered clear white Unique Hair, Flashabou Ice Blue Pearl and Flashabou Silver

Belly / Sides: Wing'n'Flash Ice Blue Pearl and silver

Head: Pearl Wapsi Palmer Chenille or Orvis Trilobal in 1 1/4" size for a 2 to 1/0 hook Back: Prismacolor Premier Cool Grey 80% marker

Adhesive: Fletch-Tite Platinum

Eyes: 5/16" Molded holographic eyes for hooks size 2 to 1/0

Tying Sequence

Step 1. Place the hook in the vise and lay down a solid base wrap. With mono thread you want to ensure a good grip on the hook to keep the final fly from spinning on the shank. Bring the thread back to a point about 2x the hook eye back in open spirals.

Step 2. Tie in the Unique Hair. Sparse is an important attribute! The original fly used bucktail, I like the synthetic for its improved translucency and ability to shed water and keep the working weight of the fly down.

Step 3. Tie in the clear pearl Flashabou. There shouldn't be more than 20 strands on a size 2 fly. Trim the Flashabou just a little bit longer than the Unique Hair.

Step 4. Tie in the silver Flashabou. Use the same about as you did on the clear pearl. Trim this bunch just a little bit longer than the clear underneath.

Step 5. Tie in a short, thick bunch of Wing'n'Flash Ice Blue Clear material to form the belly.

Step 6. Tie in a second bunch of the Wing'n' Flash on the opposite side of the hook.

Step 7. Tie in the same size bunch of silver Wing'n' Flash on top of the silver Flashabou.

Step 8. Tie in the Palmer Chenille and start to wrap the head. I like to have the head get progressively denser as it comes forward.

Step 9. Here the basic structure of the fly is complete.

Step 10. Using a Cool Gray 80% Perma-Marker, color in the top of the head.

Step 11. Using a toothpick, work the adhesive into the material deeply.

Step 12. Put the eyes in position and wait for them to set.

Smitty

Ken Hofmeister -Let's Go Treasure Hunting

When our grandkids were younger, we took them by boat on a treasure hunt to nearby Weedon Island. We staged the whole thing. First, we picked up a bunch of beads, jewelry, and doubloons at a Gasparilla Pirate parade. Then, we sketched a map on some old fake parchment with corners burned. We buried the beads, fake gold pieces, faux jewelry, and cheap candy in plastic containers on the beach. For this crowd, GPS navigation system was set to "Buried Pirate Treasures." Kids hit the beach with a few shovels and buckets. Soon, sand was flying and cries of "I found it" were heard.

Of course, the "show and tell" stories at school were embellished and exaggerated.

A couple of alleged stories about José Gaspar, Jean Lafitte, and Henry Ross, local pirates, got everybody excited. A writer named Henry Duffy claimed that Ross Island, named for the pirate captain and located adjacent to Weedon Island in Tampa Bay, was the pirate's base of operations, and that Lafitte himself found the island and suggested its use as a stronghold.

Pirate Henry Ross is supposed to have buried a large chest filled with gold and/or filled a long boat with silver bars that he sank just off the shore from Ross Island. (Henry Duffy).

Alas, this treasure hunt was all a big hoax along with fake jewels, worthless doubloons, fraudulent map. The promised fortune was a prank.

But, for fly fishers, Ross Island and Weedon Island continue to hold treasures beneath the water's surface. Attentive fishers can enjoy the birds and the sights and sounds of all sorts of marine life. We can turn up the volume on nature as we really focus on marine life and aquatic messages.

Wouldn't it be a shame to go on a treasure hunt and focus solely on how many fish? How big? And on what?

I've fished Weedon Island since 1965; but, never discovered Ross's buried gold filled chest nor his longboat filled with silver. Yet I have seen manatees, sharks, dolphins, and mullet. I have marveled at huge snook and hooked more than a few reds and trout.

Stunning sunsets have captivated me and magnificent sunrises have evoked profound gratitude. Roseate spoonbills always inspire awe and skimmers are a joy to behold. Crabs and mollusks catch attention and baitfish entice predators. Something is always going on down there, up there, that leaves a mark in here.

Let's not just go fishing. Let's go on treasure hunts.



Ken Hofmeister

Ken

***“Many men go fishing their entire lives
without knowing it is not fish they are after.”***

Henry David Thoreau

Bob Morrison: Fly Fishing Tips Plus One Fishy Factoid



Chartreuse can do no wrong

See color like the fish -- Chartreuse is a color that shows in bait fish when they are beneath the surface of the water. However, chartreuse does not show in a bait fish when it is above the water surface in white sunlight. When tying flies, you can mix yellow and green materials to get various shades of chartreuse, or simply use chartreuse hair or feathers as tying material. You can also use blue or black on top of the chartreuse to lend shape and shade to your bait fish, making it look a little more realistic.

And it's weedless, too - Carl Hanson's favorite fly was the bendback. The bendback body featured a bent hookshank, leaving enough space behind the hookeye on which to tie the wing material. The body can be tied using various shiny materials, including kitchen aluminum foil cemented in place on the hookshank. The wing usually consists of darker colored bucktail tied over a white bucktail lower wing. This wing also lends a weedless feature by covering the point of the upridding hook. Carl recommends tying the head with red thread. Eyes are optional but I like to include them.

Points to remember:

Thumbs are important. Remember, your fly line follows your rod tip; the rod tip follows your thumb direction. Make sure your thumb is pointed in the direction you want your fly to travel as it moves toward your target.

Remember, make your backcast to 1 o'clock and your forward cast to 10 o'clock. The result will be a nice tight loop as you cast. Go farther than these limits and you will get a loose loop and you will lose distance as well. So, keep it tight and move your loaded rod forward with all possible speed to get the distance that you want.

Keep your elbow close to your body as you cast to maintain best control of power and direction.

Bob's Fishy Factoids

Global warming has been heating up inshore ocean waters in California, and baitfish have moved into deeper water to escape the heat. The result has been that young seals and sea lions that cannot dive deeply are starving to death. Animal rescuers are now unable to save all the young seals and sea lions that are in trouble. This is a serious matter.

Most birds know that Monarch butterflies taste very badly, and don't eat them. Oddly enough, the Viceroy butterfly also seems to know this fact. The Viceroy imitates the Monarch in size and color pattern and so, birds leave it alone, believing it to be a Monarch. Clever, eh?

Recently, a huge female Burmese python was captured in the Everglades. This snake had 226 eggs in its belly. If these eggs had hatched and half were female and eventually produced 226 eggs, we would be up to our necks in pythons. Therefore, we must do all we can to control python populations.

That's it. Go get 'em and good luck!

Bob

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #89



504-8649

Want to fly cast more accurately?

By Capt. Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor

When asking casting students to identify what they want to learn from the experience, I rarely get the answer, "I want to improve accuracy!" In either fresh or saltwater, this is extremely important. Accuracy requires consistency, a quality needed in any sport. If you can perform the Essentials needed for any good cast, a focus on hitting a target becomes easier. If every cast you make is flawed, accuracy is impossible. Sight casting requires accuracy, just ask any fly fishing guide about their efforts to get a client to a redfish or tarpon and watching the client repeatedly not make the proper cast. Successful stream fishing for rising trout requires a careful placement of your fly in the proper spot. Practicing on the grass at targets under all conditions will pay big dividends. Your first cast is the one that counts. Those of you that have participated in our Big Gun Shootout are all too familiar with the frustration of the Hanson Cup.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

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

Tampa Bay Times : Captain's Corner

Weak tides presenting challenge to early morning anglers

By Pat Damico, Tampa Bay Times correspondent

If early morning trips have not been productive, weak tides may be the reason. After checking weather, head out to some of your usually productive shallow water locations. One close to an inshore bridge, with improved tidal flow, would be a good choice. The absence of normal-sized baitfish that help concentrate predators may have trout, pompano, redfish and other shallow water fish scattered. Have an 8-weight fly rod rigged with a floating line and a popper that imitates a baitfish. White is the best choice, switching to darker colors in low light. Make sure your tapered leader does not have fluorocarbon components as this will sink and pull the floating popper's nose under the surface, causing it to not work properly as well as making casting more difficult. The noise of the popper disturbing the surface will attract gamefish similar to a popping cork used by bait fishermen. Don't let it sit too long. This will make it seem like it is trying to escape from the large fish. Put an artificial eye on the side that floats instead of on each side of the head. This more clearly represents a struggling baitfish lying on its side.

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Lefty Kreh and other shiny objects -- Just back from ICAST/IFTD sportfishing trade show at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando to look at new fly fishing gear that we'll see in stores next year. Karen and Rick Warfel were working the FFI booth. I spotted and had a brief hello-how-are-you with Lefty Kreh; that was a great way to start the day. I sought out and thanked some of our club's Special Friends. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

Isn't the "cloud" amazing? -- Online magazines are just a click away. ([Southern Kayak Fishing Magazine](#))

More click bait -- ([Southern Saltwater Fly Fishing](#))

Score free fly tying materials with this one weird trick -- Did you know that your clothes dryer produces dubbing material? Of course, it's not entirely free. You may be asked to mow the grass or something. ([Global Fly Fisher](#))

Thank you, Sunsect -- Here's a Suncoast Fly Fishers tip of the hat to Sunsect's Chris Geib and Hannah Busby for coming to our June meeting and for the samples which will be put to good use. The Sunsect backstory is very interesting; Sunsect has been the U.S. Military's go-to insect repellent/sunscreen for years. Now it's available to the public. ([Sunsect](#))

Hey, Mr. Congressman -- Fishing, boating groups unite to keep the pressure on Congress. Did you know that Florida has more than three million anglers who generate \$9.6 billion in economic impact, support more than 128,000 jobs and contribute \$53.3 million to state conservation efforts through license fees and special taxes on motor boat fuel and equipment? ([The Fishing Wire](#))

Wade fishing bacteria -- My plan is to check these sites before I go wade fishing. I'd rather not have to wear waders in the summer. But, Doc, I'm curious. if we have an open skin on our wet hands, isn't that also a pathway for nasty bacteria? So we need to wear waterproof gloves, too? Anybody? ([Pinellas](#), [Hillsborough](#))

Sight fishing reaches new heights -- How about sight fishing for snook from a third-floor balcony. H/T Layne Smith. But, Smitty, they were using a spinning rod. Just teasing. ([Fox News 13](#))

Scene capture by Tom Gadacz -- "Tell her the flies were tied by a veteran," he said to the VA nurse as he was wheeled away. Well, you know, every fly we tie gets a little piece of our heart. ([Project Healing Waters](#))

I love happy endings -- Bear surprises anglers on a trail. Eleven-year-old shoots it dead. My daydreaming brain just pictured a murderous alligator on a Florida trail about to attack some fly fishers. Oh, look, there's a good man with a gun -- that would be Ken Hofmeister -- shooting it dead. Expect the unexpected. ([Juneau Empire](#))

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