

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



April Birnbaum and 20 or so other members came to the Emerson Point outing. A good day on the water and a great lunch too. P 9



Pat Damico fly-fished the famous Beaverkill in the Catskills. Beautiful. P 11

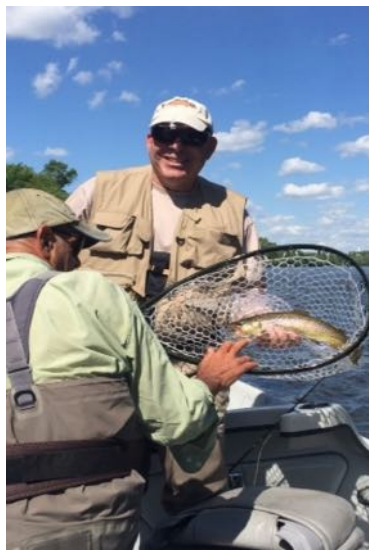


Toni Fernstrom and Shawn McCole fished for tarpon on the beaches. Toni's pants got in the way. P 10

Docklight outing info on Page 6



Mark Hays caught the biggest bass at the Eglades outing. P 12



Bob Burkard and son fly fished the Lehigh River in Pennsylvania. P 13



Jeff Kopelman fly-fished the Cherokee River and Jonathan Creek in the Smokies. P 14



SFF President Letter – June 2017

Hello everyone,

I do believe that we are the friendliest fly club internationally. Our attendance is up. Our members are volunteering for all kinds of positions. The roar of the laughter and conversation before our meetings indicates that we are making introductions, sharing stories or trying to out-do the first liar who doesn't stand a chance.

But when it comes to finding a fishing partner, it's more complicated than one might think. Two or more people get together and go fishing. Right? How hard could it be?

Then why are so many (new members especially) having a hard time finding someone to fish with?

Your Board of Directors has addressed this issue for many months now. The answer is not simple.

So far, this is something that we cannot appoint, legislate, mandate or brow beat people into (yet).

Let me share some personal observations. I would love to hear yours. Let me know what you think.

First off, don't take it personally. We are not stuck-up, conceited individuals. (Not all of us anyway :) We don't necessarily covet ALL of our favorite fishing spots. But, like people everywhere, many of us have "fire walls" that we put up to protect us from embarrassment or fear of giving people the wrong impression of who we are. Time spent interacting starts to bring this wall down or at least open a door. Enough said? This is a whole topic unto itself.

Relationships have to be established before you go fishing. They will grow from there as you fish together, but you have to know your fishing partner first. It all has to develop naturally.

How do you do this? Spend time together in a public gathering: [Our monthly General Meetings](#), [Our Monthly Outings](#), [Our Annual Hog Roast](#), [Our monthly Fly Tying Classes](#), [Our Project Healing Waters Program at the VA](#). Call someone on the phone and just talk. Basically, get involved.

There is something bonding about tying flies, sharing a drink (even a bottle of water or iced tea) or especially a meal together (our outing lunches, and the Annual Hog Roast Banquet) or helping a Vet. Don't be afraid to listen or join in on a conversation. Strike up a conversation with someone you don't know.

A question is the best introductory tool. Will you join us for an outing, even if just for lunch?

A hand shake is a sign of trust and truth; "I come in peace, there is no weapon in my hand."

I hope our name tags will make this easier. Thank you, April.

"To have friends, one has to be friendly."

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 & Outings

Thursday, June 15, Meeting

- Fly panel with Adam Hays, Tom Jones and Capt. Dan Bumgarner
- Fly of the month: Smitty ties Norm Ziegler's Fuzzy Schminnow
- Bylaws vote to change name to Fly Fishers International
- June fly swap fly is the *Dock Light Swapper*. See note below

Note from Myron Hansen

Attention SFF fly tiers. In case you missed the sign-up for this month's swap. It is three dock-light flies ("Dock Light Swappers"). They may be three of the same flies or three different. Just bring in your flies and sign-up the night of the meeting. I'm looking forward to seeing your creations.

Saturday, June 17, dock light outing

- Snook is the designated species
- Report results to outings chairman Bob Burkard

Thursday, July 20 Meeting

- Our speaker is Capt. Nick Angelo
- Smitty will tie the Murdich Minnow

Saturday, July 22 Outing

- Blackthorn Memorial/North Sunshine Skyway rest area
- Designated species is redfish

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

Thursday, September 20 Meeting

- Our speaker is Dan Lagage
- Smitty will tie the Double Barrel Popper for the Lake Maggiore outing

Saturday, September 22 Outing

- Lake Maggiore, St. Petersburg

Thursday, October 19 Meeting

- Our speaker is Capt. Rodney Smith, Anglers for Conservation
- Smitty will tie the Kinni Jig fly for the Carl Hanson outing

Saturday, October 21 Outing

- Carl Hanson Memorial on the Hillsborough River
- Host is Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

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 and chili cook-off at Fort DeSoto Park

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 131 members including 18 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 outing 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

Free monthly fly tying lessons for members and guests

When: Thursday, June 29 – 6 pm

What: Join, jive and tie flies with fellow club members. Your instructor is Suncoast Fly Fisher Bruce Evensen

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, Wed. June 7...Monday June 12...

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

Youth Casting Programs with Tom Gadacz

Volunteers needed: contact Tom Gadacz

When: June 26 (Monday)

Where: E. G. Simmons Park in Ruskin

Used Gear for Sale

Stripping basket used only two times

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

Rods and flies, never used

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

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

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

Ken Doty is selling his 16-foot Bass Tracker and 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.

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

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

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg, Florida



Suncoast Fly Fishers

P. O. Box 40821
St Petersburg, FL 33743-0821
www.suncoastflyfishers.org

Club Officers

Pres: George Haseltine
Vice Pres: Rick Warfel
Secretary: Dick Miekka
Treasurer: Karen Warfel

Board of Directors

John Craig -- Jeff Heer -- Bob
Burkard -- Bruce Evensen -- Rick
Yarn -- Ryan Sollars -- Cliff Nigh

Committees

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

Casting Skills -- Pat Damico, MCI,
Dayle Mazzarella, MCI
IFFF Liaison -- Pat Damico
Fly Tying -- Myron Hansen
Membership -- Karen Warfel
New Members -- Rick Warfel
Webmaster -- Dick Miekka
Hog Roast- Karen+Rick Warfel
Outings-Bob Burkard,Hilton Bruch
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

**Join. Renew. Application at
www.suncoastflyfishers.com**

Suncoast Fly Fishers Calendar

May Outing Review: Emerson Point Preserve



Hilton Bruch, SFF Outings committee

REVIEW—Emerson Point Preserve Saturday, May 20

Well, the weather was great with a cool breeze on the water that made the high 85-degree temperature very comfortable. The tide was moving well with a high tide around 9 AM, and 21 of us followed our fly fishing passion by casting for the elusive snook on Emerson Point.

So, with all of these experts pursuing our quarry, it was a mystery as to why the fish seemed to be absent, or at least had a case of lockjaw. Yes, there were a few lizard fish and needle fish caught, but even the ladyfish avoided our well-placed flies.



Bob Burkard, SFF Outings committee

There was a late entry (Darryn Manley) who did catch a 15 inch snook so we did have a winner in the *designated species* category.

In spite of the slow fishing, it was a very enjoyable day. Maybe, I just like eating and sharing stories with our club members, or maybe, I appreciate the casting lessons and fishing advice provided by my friends. Any day that I can get pointers from Tom Gadacz on casting into the wind is a good day! What a great resource for “upping your game” and improving your casting.

Alan Sewell provided smoked hot dogs and lots of sides. Hilton Bruch and I made sure that we had plenty of coffee and cold drinks.

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	15-inches	Darryn Manley	Emerson Point
Longest redfish			
Longest ladyfish	19.5-inches	Bill AuCoin	Cypress Point Park (March)
Longest seatrout	19-inches	Peter Cline	Cypress Point Park (March)

June Outing Preview: Docklight Snook Outing

Friday Night June 16 into Saturday Morning June 17

Our June outing is our annual night snook or docklight fishing event. You can fish anywhere in Tampa Bay area including the residential canals from Friday sunset until sunrise on Saturday and the target fish is the largest snook. Keep in mind that we still need a redfish entry for the annual contest, and also report ladyfish over 19.5 inches and seatrout over 19 inches. To report your catch, you can email me at robertburkard9@gmail.com, text me at 610-256-7781, or call and leave a message at 610-256-7781. I don't think that I will be picking up my phone until 5:00 AM, but feel free to text or leave a message anytime.

Bob

Captain Shawn McCole Shares Tarpon, Permit, Redfish Secrets

By Bill AuCoin

At the May meeting of Suncoast Fly Fishers Captain Shawn McCole shared some of his hard-earned secrets for catching tarpon, permit and redfish on the fly in the Tampa Bay area.

This is the season for all:

- Tarpon are moving up and down the shallow gulf beaches. Shawn favors the sandbars just off the passes.
- Schools of permit are moving into the bay on incoming tides and will approach the flats from adjacent, deep drop-offs. (Hint: Picnic Island flats). Use a 10-weight rod with a 12 to 15-foot leader. You'll feel it twice, once when he sucks in the fly and again when he crushes it.
- Tailing redfish are ready, willing and able to grab your crab fly on isolated grass flats. Use heavy crab flies and puff up the muddy bottom. You can even cast behind the tail. He'll spin around and suck it up.



Captain Shawn McCole: When a tarpon flares his pectoral fins it's a sign he is ready to pounce. Entice it with short tic-tic-tic strips of the fly. To set the hook hold the line lightly. Let him run for a bit then pull hard for a solid hook set.



McCole likes to pole his clients on shallow gulf waters to put them in the best position to cast to migrating pods of tarpon. Tip: Do not cast to the lead fish. Throw the fly over her back and slide it carefully back toward the smaller (competing) tarpon in the back of the line.

Hurry: They're here today and gone too soon

The tarpon clock is ticking. McCole is rigged and ready with one piece Loomis and Hardy fly rods, 11 and 12 weights, and reels loaded with an Airflo tropical line.

The leader conforms to IGFA record specifications with two feet of class line and one foot of bite tippet. Motto: "Go light for the bite."



Some of Shawn's favorite things. His tilt is soft-landing flies tied with marabou, hackle and flash. He ties most on a 1/0 Gamakatsu or Mustad Big Game hook.

Captain Shawn McCole
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Tarpon • Snook • Redfish
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www.captainshawnmccole.com

May Meeting Snapshots



April Birnbaum researched name tags for members to wear at the meetings.



Mark Hays caught the biggest bass on the Eglades outing and won this 6-wt fly rod made by Alan Sewell.



Tom Gadacz was presented with Suncoast Fly Fishers 2017 Vision and Values award for all of his continuing contributions to our club and to the cause of fly fishing.



Bruce Everson, left, tied his Snook Snagger. Smitty did the honors for the Flute Fly

*On The Fly tip of the hat to...
Bob Morrison*

Bob tied a fly for a friend who used it to catch a 10-pound bass on Lake Seminole.



Capt. Shawn McCole (right) took members outside to demonstrate some of his on tarpon tips.

Snapshots: May Outing at Emerson Point
A beautiful day for fishing. (but too beautiful for catching?) Lunch was amazing.



April Birnbum wades in



New member Matt Audus double hauls it just so.



Luncheon chef Alan Sewell. Well done, Alan.



Hog Dog! Lunch is ready



Ken Hofmeister yaks around the point

*Photos by Tom Gadacz
and Bill AuCoin*



Left and right, members and guests chew and also chew the fat.

Toni Fernstrom: I caught my pants instead of the tarpon

Fernstrom went tarpon hunting with Capt. Shawn McCole, our May meeting speaker. Here's what happened.

Well, most (or even all) fishermen eventually end up becoming experts in finding excuses, so here's my condensed account of what transpired the following day:

We launched about 9 o'clock in the morning which was obviously way too late, since the prime spots were already taken. We were faced with an outgoing tide which made the water somewhat dirty and murky. The murky water in combination with an overcast sky made for difficult fish spotting conditions. A southwesterly 10-15 mph wind created a choppy surface which didn't make finding fish any easier.

Enough with excuses! Around 10.30 I got my chance, as Shawn spotted a daisy chain of tarpon and called out "Tarpon 10 o'clock 150 feet!" As he poled the skiff into position while the pod was approaching, I waited for the command.

Eventually, with the fish some 40 feet away, I was told to deliver my cast. I started my back cast and let go of the fly which I'd been pinching between my now cramping left thumb and index finger.

As the short line extended out behind me in the stiff tailwind, I started my forward cast and within less than a second the fly was firmly planted in my rear...

Two minutes later I had found my pliers, pinched the barb and finally removed the fly from my pant leg. By then the tarpon were long gone (and as it turned out, that was the only chance I got that day...)

Anyway, half an hour later, we decided to break for an early lunch hoping conditions would improve as the day went along. We ended up enjoying a nice lunch at "The Wharf" in Pass-a-Grille. Around 1 o'clock we went back out on the water; the tide had indeed started to turn, the wind had died down a bit and the sun had started to break through. However, there was still no sign of any tarpon. I'm told it's an elusive fish.

After a couple of hours of intense observation without being able to spot any fish, we decided to call it a day. And that ended my very first day of fishing for tarpon. One shot, that was it, and I failed. But, as I said earlier I still did have a great time. Actually, I think I'll try it again. Now, that being said, next stop will be the Catskills in early June for some browns, rainbows and brookies. Then later in the month onto northern New Mexico for some Rocky Mountain cutthroats.

Toni



Toni Fernstrom on the bow hot seat of Capt. Shawn McCole's Hells Bay skiff.

Pat Damico: Dry Fly Fishing the Beaverkill



Pat fly fished the famous Beaverkill in New York in May. "Had a ball," Pat said.

Andy Constantinou: Big carp on Smitty's "Dog Biscuit"

I'm back in the UK and carp fishing again. I caught a nice 13 - 14 pound common carp on Smitty's dog biscuit fly.



Look closely. Andy writes, "Sorry for the poor photo, we are not allowed to take the fish out the water unless we have an unhooking mat which I don't have yet."

I had one on earlier which I lost when the fly line came away from the backing.

The line was still floating around the lake attached to the fish when I left.

The lake owners will have to get a boat out to retrieve it. I still could get my line back.

Andy



Smitty's dog biscuit fly



Goose on the fly? "I hooked a couple of baby geese which I released unharmed. They kept going after my fly," Andy said.

Mark Hays: Everglades Canal bass ”



Mark Hays caught this huge bass on a snake fly. He landed it in a small clear circle of water inside a dense field of lily pads. "I don't know how he got that bass out of that mess," said his Gheenoe mate Rick Tripolino, who shot this photo.

Mark Hays and Rick Tripolino teamed up to fish April's Everglades Canal outing.

The bass Mark is holding was the biggest -- he estimated it weighed six pounds -- and it earned him a 6-weight Alan Sewell fly rod presented to him at the May meeting. Alan crafted this rod years ago for Mike LaChance. LaChance, an honorary member who now lives in New Mexico, donated it back to the club.



Lou Tabory snake flies tied by Suncoast Fly Fisher Paul Sequira.

Mark and Rick were fishing the canal along Highway 27 a little north of Fort Lauderdale. Mark was using his 6-weight rod and throwing a snake fly that he placed in a small clear area inside a carpet of lily pads.

Whoosh.

The bass slurped up the fly then ran to the middle of the canal and, luckily, didn't drag too many lily pads with him. The rest was just a battle between Mark and the lunker.

We have a winner.



For catching the biggest bass on the Everglades Canal outing Mark won this 6-wt fly rod that was hand-crafted by fellow member Alan Sewell.

Bob Burkard and Son: High on the Lehigh”



Bob said the trout were finicky but he did manage to catch a few on a size 18 parachute Adams that he had tied.

One of my favorite freshwater fishing spots is the Lehigh River in eastern Pennsylvania. It is a beautiful river that flows through the Pocono Mountains of northeastern PA and it is a favorite to trout fisherman and whitewater rafters alike.

The Lehigh Gorge State Park begins at a large dam (Francis E. Walter Dam) which provides cold water throughout the summer maintaining a healthy trout population, including both stocked and wild trout. On most trips I have caught brown, rainbow, and brook trout.

According to Wikipedia: The Lehigh River, a tributary of the

Delaware River, is a 109-mile-long river located in eastern Pennsylvania, in the United States. Part of the Lehigh, along with a number of its tributaries, is designated a Pennsylvania Scenic River by the state's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. "Lehigh" is an Anglicization of the Lenape name for the river, Lechewuekink, meaning "where there are forks".

I was lucky enough to spend a day on the river with my son during my visit to Pennsylvania the first week of June. It is a very hard river to wade, so we hired a friend and guide, [Joe DeMarkis of Rivers Outdoor Adventures](#). I have known Joe for years and have enjoyed many hours with him on the river.

Magic time on this river is in May – June a few hours before the sunset. It was a little windy, but we did get a good hatch of sulfur mayflies that brought the trout up to the surface. These are very finicky fish, but I did manage to catch a few on a size 18 parachute Adams that I tied.

I do find it challenging switching from a 9 foot 9 wt fast action saltwater fly rod with 25 lb tippet to an 8 foot 5 wt medium action freshwater fly rod with 5X tippet and small flies. However, after a few saltwater hook settings where I broke off, I got back to the soft lifting of the rod required to set a tiny fly into a trout.

As an aside, my son who does not have the fishing passion, spent over nine hours fishing both in and out of the guide boat and seemed to enjoy the experience.

Bob

Jeff Kopelman: Smokin' Hot Trout in the Smokies

Rainbows and Brookies from the Cherokee River and Jonathan Creek



A view to remember. Fish to remember, too.



Jeff caught this brook trout in Jonathan Creek near Maggie Valley.



Catch your breath and get out of here.



Thanks to a wooly bugger. Thanks for the memory.



Terry Kirkpatrick: "The Fly"

Fishing was slow for a couple of days on this clear lake in the Ocala National Forest. Then, on day three, Terry tied on "The Fly." OMG. And ever since...hmmmmm.

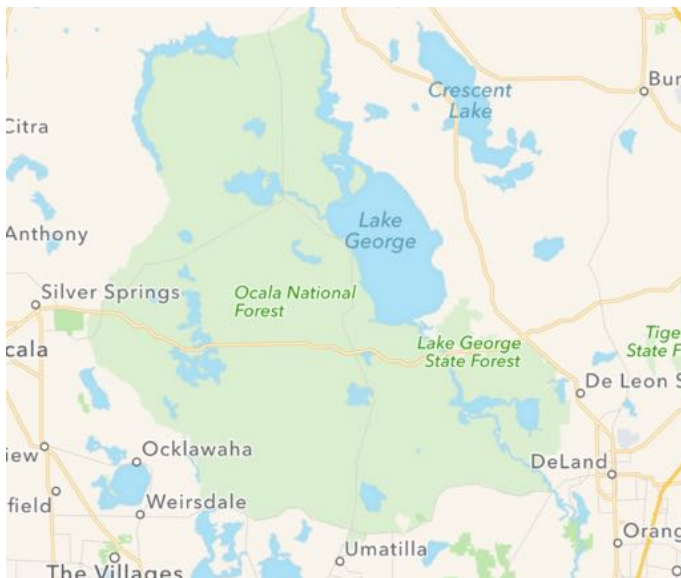
"Holy Cow! It works!" That was the first thought that went through my mind. The next thought was, "is this guy as big as the last one?"

This guy was a nice size bass. The second in just a few minutes of fishing, after I'd changed to the new streamer. I've got to admit that everything else was working for me.

It was a cloudy day, and I knew where the bass should have been, but after two days of fishing and only three panfish and one small bass to show for it, I wanted to say that I owed the turn of events to the streamer.

We were spending the weekend on a small lake in the Ocala National Forest. The weather was almost perfect, the location ideal. The only thing missing was - as I said - the fish.

When I changed to the streamer, I'd been using a sponge spider that's popular as a brim and bass fly. I'd lost a good fish Friday evening using a modified Rat-Faced McDougal. The bass had been feeding on top and rose to the dry fly like any gentleman trout. I'd seen bass around all weekend -- the water was very clear -- but couldn't get any interested at the varied diet I presented them.



Some of the best bass fishing in the state is said to be in the many ponds and lakes of the Ocala National Forest. Map courtesy of Apple Maps.

The woman who had invited us, Mrs. Charlie Fee, likes to troll the lake and the evening before I ran the little jon boat for her. While we didn't catch anything (lost another good size bass) we did discover a spit of land that caught her plug each time she passed over it. I marked the spot and suggested she drift over it, with a minnow, the next day.

After an early start that yielded one brim and a pause for breakfast my wife and I returned to the lake. She and I both believed it was too late in the morning to do any serious fishing but the one bass on the sponge spider encouraged me to keep trying. We were actually headed back to the cabin when I tied on the new streamer.

The Fly continues on the next page

Continued...Terry Kirkpatrick: "The Fly"

I didn't have long to wait. I dropped the streamer into 6 to 10 feet of water, let it sink and started a slow retrieve. It only took two or three casts for the first guy to jump my bait. My wife was mindful of the nice bass we'd lost the night before but I knew I couldn't horse this one around for fear of breaking off the 4-lb. test leader I was using. (I like to fish a 5 or 6 weight outfit and use light leaders. I feel I have better control of almost anything except the biggest hair bug, or salt water flies.) When we got him up to the boat, he wasn't quite as big as I'd thought, but still a good size bass.

I'd just returned to the serious business of placing bait in front of fish's eyes, making only two or three casts when the second bass took my bait. It was a slightly scaled down version of the first go around. This fish was smaller than the first. I disposed of this fish and continued casting for a few more minutes. However, the jon boat had drifted off of the grassy area, and I decided to return, up wind. This time it was a large bluegill.

Domestic Tranquility or keep fishing? That is the question

My wife was looking at her watch, now. She doesn't fish, but had joined me for a quick trip around the lake on a beautiful Sunday morning, before we headed back home. But it was getting late and I was into fish. That's not a recipe for Domestic Tranquility. I took one more bass before we drifted off the grass bed.

My mind was on one more drift over the area but a glance at my wife said it wasn't a good idea. I reeled in, snipped the fly off the leader and tucked it away. I turned the handle on the trolling motor and headed for the landing. One last look at the grass bed. "I'll be back, boys. And next time I won't have my wife in the boat."

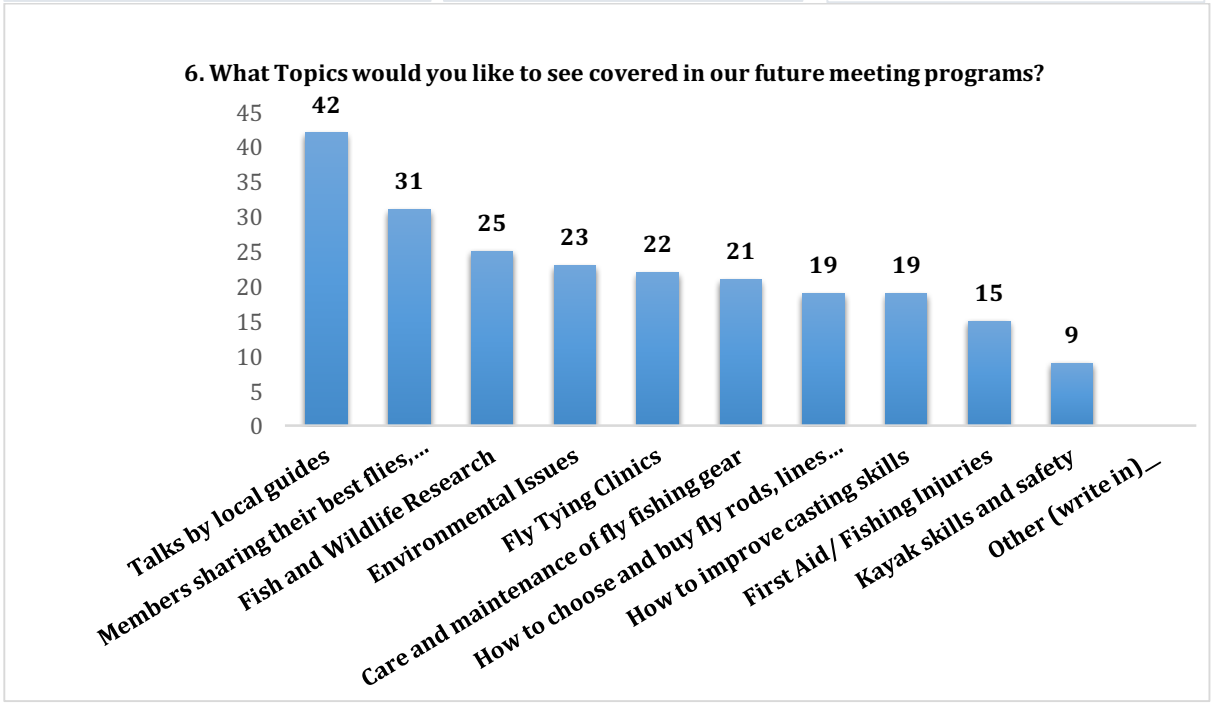
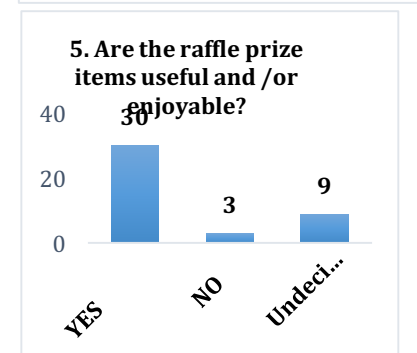
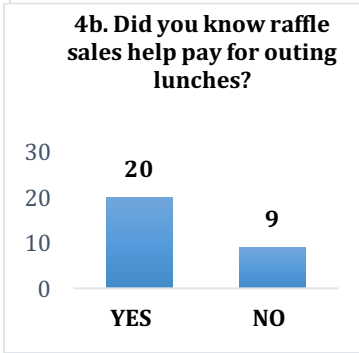
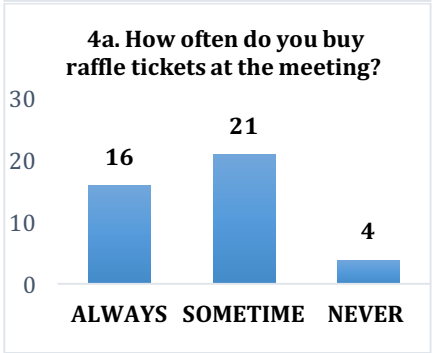
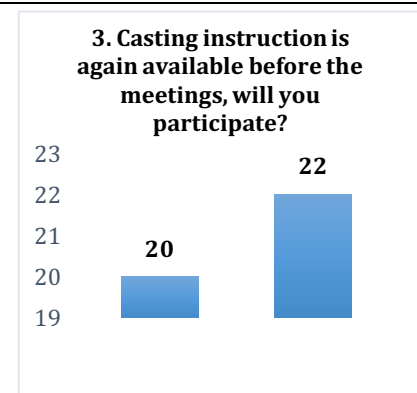
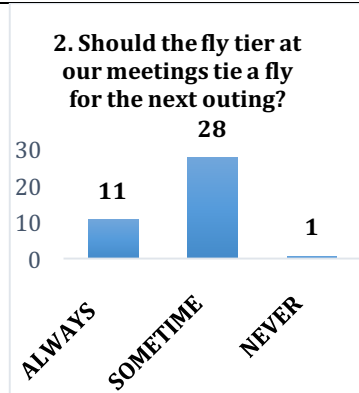
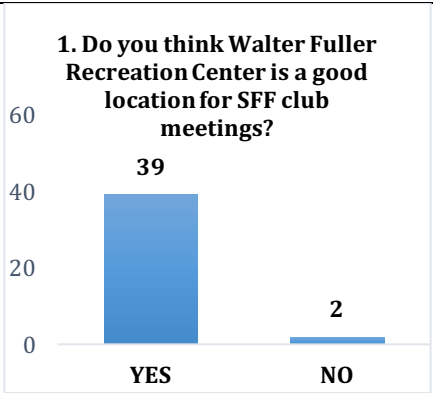
It's funny about flies. A little change of color, a different size hook, a different material or technique in tying and suddenly something you dreamed up becomes a winner. Over the three decades I've been seriously fishing I've designed about three flies that actually work. I've got fly boxes full of flies that I've made that don't.

I've fished that fly, off and on for years now, but never caught another fish on it.

Terry

Life's been good, except for those few bursts of automatic weapons fire.

Member survey results at a glance. Part 1
Bob Burkard has put member survey results into these handy bar charts



More survey results will be presented in future issues

Tying Bench -- *Fuzzy Schminnow* -- by Layne Smith

Smitty will tie this fly at the June meeting



This version of Norm Ziegler's Schminnow is made to suspend better in the water by utilizing very closely-palmered saddle hackle. The tantalizing attitude of the hovering morsel drives the snook (or whatever fish you are targeting) absolutely BONKERS. It then become a game of nerves. Whoever moves first loses.

The fly (left) with the marabou tail is the one described in the text .. I also tie it with a hackle tail ... that's the one I hooked and lost my largest snook with (forgot to sharpen the hook) ... he

sent it flying back at me with hook shank straightened out like an arrow !!!

Materials

Hook: Mustad 3407 or 34011 size #2 (or your favorite saltwater hook)
Thread: White Danville Flatwaxed Nylon
Eyes: Large black monofilament or plastic. If you need to weight the fly (for strong current or deep water) use small or medium black bead chain eyes.
Tail: White marabou blood feathers
Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash Body: Pearl Estaz Hackle: 2 White saddle hackle (the longer the better)
Anti-foul loop: 25 lb mono (optional)

Tying Sequence

Step 1. Insert hook in vise and attach thread 1 hook eyes width behind hook eye making 2 stacked thread bases to form "saddle" for the mono eyes. Attach eyes with figure of eight wraps and then wrap thread base to bend of hook.

Step 2. If you are using anti-foul loop, attach at this time, making sure to keep loop on sides parallel to hook by flattening the mono ends with a pair of serrated pliers to help thread get a secure "bite" on the mono.

Step 3. Advance thread to hook point and tie in marabou equal to hook shank length. Bind down tightly.

Step 4. Tie in 2 or 3 strands of pearl Krystal Flash to extend backwards past tail. Trim to just beyond marabou.

Step 5. Tie in one end of Pearl Estaz and let hang off to the side. Next tie in 2 well barbed saddle hackles by their tips and let them hang.

Step 6. Retrieve Estaz cord and begin to palmer forward starting with 1 wrap behind the 2 saddle hackles (this will make it easier to wrap the hackles when the time comes) and then proceeding with closed wraps to the barbell eyes and tie off with 3 or 3 thread wraps (DO NOT trim off excess Estaz at this time).

Step 7. Palmer saddle hackles forward to where you tied off the Estaz. If you feel that you can comfortably palmer both feathers at the same time. If not, do them one at a time, just remember to keep the wraps very tightly spaced by laying the stems as close together as you can (the denser the hackle wraps the more this fly will suspend in the water column). Tie off at same point as where you stopped the Estaz and then trim excess hackle.

Step 8. Take Estaz and finish head of fly with a couple figure of eight wraps around the mono eyes and end with 1 or 2 wraps in front of eyes. Tie off and whip finish. Cement thread wraps with SHHAN or UV Resin of choice.

Smitty

Bob Morrison: Fly Fishing Tips Plus One Fishy Factoid



Throw away your hula hoop

Espresso. The gift that keeps on giving -- When practicing fly casting, use a small brightly colored target to encourage accuracy. I use the yellow plastic cap from an instant espresso coffee jar. This cap is about 4 inches wide and is visible at some distance, making it not only a useful target, but it forces me to refine my aiming technique. I have found that the smaller target is better than the larger hula hoop which does not encourage accuracy in casting. I have some of these target caps available for anyone who wants one.

Full moon in June -- June is tarpon month. You will find them in the surf, on the flats, and often up in the residential canals where you can fish for them under the docklights. Make sure you have strong leaders and shock tippets. Rods and line of nine-weight or above should do the trick for long casting as well as fighting some pretty big fish.

Catch and consume -- Pay attention to pompano this month especially in shallow surf and around bridges. Shrimp and crab pattern flies are a good bet here. A Clouser bounced along a sand bottom will also draw a pompano's attention, as will sand flea patterns. Check your identification features and minimum length for both pompano and permit. You don't want to be taking an illegal permit home thinking you've got a pompano. Finally, you may want to take them home because both pompano and permit are very excellent eating.

Experiment, or go with what you know? -- I like to try new and unusual fly patterns, but I also try to remember that it's best to stick with a few of the old reliables to get the best results. In five years here in Florida, I have caught fish on Clousers, mullet, and woolly buggie patterns. That's it, just three patterns, and I must have 100 patterns in my collection. It seems that the best approach is to stick to a few patterns that you know will work, including in your fly box those patterns in different sizes, colors, and weights. Tie the same fly with bead chain eyes for shallow running and lead eyes for the bottom.

Here we come, ready or not -- Note that live critters try to frequent bottoms that help them to conceal themselves from predator fish. Light colored crabs tend to like sandy bottoms, but darker crabs look for grass, rocks, and oyster beds for concealment. Interesting.

Magic flies + Magic hours = Success-- If you fish fresh water, try small weedless flies such as insect and worm patterns for blue gills, crappies, and such in the lily pads. Small poppers and spiders are good right now for fishing on the surface. For bass, bigger poppers, gurglers, crease flies, and the old favorite woolly buggie will work. Finally, try minnow patterns in gold or silver, make them weedless, and get them down to where the bass are lying. I like dawn and dusk as the best times to fish.

Bob's Fishy Factoid of the month

I read an article stating that the Green River in Utah has approximately 22,000 trout per mile. How about that!

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

Bob

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #88



Turning the line over too early? This could be the problem.

By Capt. Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor

Your casting form may be perfect, but the cast collapses at the end. Trout fishing with a companion recently, I was asked what the problem was with his line turning over. He had one of the add on, "Chinese handcuff loops," at the end of his fly line and used a loop to loop connection with his leader which was not helpful, but the part of the loop that ended a couple inches from the loop had lost a circle of line finish and had developed a hinge. When I held the fly line horizontally, the end section and leader hung vertically at a right angle to it. Another fly line had a factory installed loop with worn fly line finish and exhibited the same problem. The solution was to cut both off and make a 5 turn nail knot directly to the leader butt section. Another positive result of this solution was that both lines floated better when dipped in dry fly dressing.

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

Fly fishing on Florida's West Coast

By Pat Damico, Tampa Bay Times correspondent

Minimum wind and cloudless skies elevate a fly fisher's chance for a good fishing day on our west coast. The wind makes casting more difficult, unless you're experienced. Clouds interfere with sight-casting opportunities because you can't see the fish in the shallows where we do most of our west coast fishing. Dirty water and rough boating conditions add to the issue. We're fortunate to have many rivers that empty into Tampa Bay as well as the gulf. A boat or paddle craft is necessary to allow mobility. Rivers get narrower as you head upstream and offer wind protection from tree-covered banks. Most fish we're interested in are structure-oriented. Casting will be to fallen trees, undercut banks, points of land, sandbars, mouths of small creeks and tree cover close to the water surface. Any interruption in normal shorelines should be investigated with accurate casts. Outgoing tides are generally preferred, but I've seen many exceptions. Moving water is always important to success. Equipment is similar to fishing the flats. An 8-weight rod rigged with a floating weight-forward line is the first choice rigged with a popper or shallow-running baitfish imitation that duplicates available forage in size. Baby tarpon, snook and redfish are the top targets.

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Putting the curves back into a river -- Back in the 1960s they thought it would be a good idea to straighten out the Kissimmee River. (To prevent flooding, doncha know.) But all that did was speed the flow of cow dung and fertilizer into Lake Okeechobee. Big mistake. Now they're putting the curves back into the river to slow the flow and let the soil and shoreline vegetation filter the icky stuff before it is dumped into the big lake. It will help the cause a lot. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

Let the sun shine in -- More beachy shoreline with thick vegetation will be good for gator populations, too, amiright? ([Treasure Coast Palm](#))

I'm liking this loop knot. Capt. Shawn McCole, our May speaker, is a Canoeman knot guy. Capt. Blair Wiggins does the show-and-tell. ([Seaguar Fluorocarbon](#))

Watch out for these "juveniles" – Bob Burkard and I saw (and Bob cast to) some 15-20-pound tarpon rolling in a deep, calm bayou area in middle Tampa Bay. On that subject, here's a pinch from a great article by David Brown... "Canals, ditches, bayous—even the occasional landlocked pond can hold baby tarpon. Typically, you'll find these fish frolicking in the arteries that link to larger saltwater bodies into which they'll eventually depart. But while they're tiny, tarpon enjoy the quiet, food-laden realm where limited access, dense cover and low oxygen shield them from predators of fin and feather." ([Florida Sportsman](#))

I'm not kidding -- Glue and smooth out your bulky knots with...wait for it...**Star brite** liquid electrical tape. It firms up in about five minutes so you'll have a chance to shape it. I use it on the nail knot connecting the fly line-to-the butt of the leader so that the knot goes through the guides smoothly. ([Ace Hardware](#))

I'm not kidding, part two – Clean and-slick-up your fly line with...with **Rain-X**. ([Global Fly Fisher](#))

Tips for the docklight outing -- Pay attention especially to the part about night time dock etiquette. And, if you do break the law and get on somebody's dock to retrieve a fly please don't tell them you belong to Suncoast Fly Fishers. Btw, C. A. is going to be our August speaker. ([Captain C. A. Richardson](#))

New name. New directors -- Vote for or against the nominees for the Fly Fishing International board of directors. They all look strong to me and I appreciate their dedication to the cause of fly fishing. ([FFI](#))

Trout fishing in Dixie – Fresh off the presses the Cloud, here's the June-July issue. ([Southern Trout](#))

Feel the Heat -- They call it a lunker bass rod but it also would be perfect for nighttime docklighting for big snook. It's lighter, stiffer. Big bonus: the shorter fly rod is easier to manage in the dark. ([Bass Pro Shops](#))

Hey, this is a twofer. Times two – Help clean up the bay. Feel good about yourself. Drink a free beer. Feel good about yourself. July 8. ([Tampa Bay Watch](#))

Master, is it a sin to add scent to my flies? -- No, my child. Humans enjoy the smell and taste of garlic. So why not let our beautiful gamefish get a taste of the good life, too. ([Cabela's](#))

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