

# 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*



**Marquis Bluefish, 17**



**Tie-a-Thon, 14**



**Walsingham Outing, 11, 13**



**Chico at the Hog Roast, 4-5**



**Scarola Bowfin, 16**



**Smitty's SF Baitfish, 19**



**Chassahowitzka Redfish, 16**



**Tony Piazza Seatrout, 17**



**Howdy Flip, 15**

**Did you take the member survey? 8-9**

**Hog Roast and Silent Auction. April 1.**



## ***SFF President Letter – March 2017***

We pulled into the boat ramp area, prepared our fly rods, and launched our boat. All within the drone of sirens and automobile traffic a short way away. What a noisy morning.

Then we're on the water and something magical happens. We enter another world where the ground is not solid beneath us. The water is gently rocking us to a new location. A mindset where there is no traffic, no due dates, no deadlines; only the age old battle of wits between you, with your fly rod and a fly that you tied, and a wily old Large Mouth Bass or 10" Bluegill. The duel is on. Your mind is at ease, your focus is on the water, the landscape, the presentation. Amazingly enough, equal motions of a single back cast, shadowed by a smooth forward cast and the traffic noise is wiped away and all that remains is the sound of silence. Your mind has been captured by the beauty of it all. The solitude that only a fly rod can produce.

DID YOU SEE THAT? That was the biggest bass I've ever seen! (Of course it was :). That thing must have been 24-inches long and big as my leg!

Two grown men scurrying in a Gheenoe, in danger of winding up in the drink. All over a fish coming out from under cover to strike at a 1" length of "near hair" tied to a hook with a little bit of flash on the sides, accented by a big round plastic eye.

What's wrong with these guys? NOTHING. Absolutely nothing. They are under the influence of a "force " that has affected men and women since the first cave man dangled a worm on a thorn, tied to a stick with a piece of sinew. (I just made that up :)

The difference here is: They were FLY fishing; an addictive, and artful, form of fish deceiving entertainment where you learn the basics at a morning casting clinic and the rest of your life trying to cast as smoothly as Dale Mazzarella or Pat Damico.

Oh, but what a wonderful journey it is. You find yourself entertaining your neighbors as you tangle up in your front yard practicing. You wrap your line around the trolling motor once or twice. Ugh! On a windy day, you may even hit yourself in the back of the head with a Clouser. Ouch!

And then there's fly-tying. Smitty, Bruce Evensen and others in our club make it look so easy. Many shy away from it because it seems so mysterious. Myron Hansen helped us at the February general meeting overcome some of the fears and take part in a practice that brings unequaled rewards. It takes time and practice, but take heart, my dear friend, I have seen some of the best fish caught on a gnarled, straggly looking fly.

Of course we should continue to practice tying because guys like Alan Sewell and Mark Hays always catch fish on the flies they tie. For perfecting your tying techniques, and then enjoying the thrill of catching a fish on a fly you made, come join Bruce Evensen on the fourth Thursday evening of each month.

Just remember, the level of satisfaction is in direct proportion to the frustration. But those times when it all comes together, it is nothing but sweet. And, if I can tie flies and catch fish on 'em, anybody can. Never lose your sense of adventure.

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

# Calendar: Club Meetings & Outings

## Thursday, March 16, Meeting

- Dayle Mazzarella, our speaker, will discuss ways to find fish and how to decide which fly to use in both fresh and salt water.
- Election of new officers and board members. They'll take office at the April 6 board meeting. Please thank the nominating committee for their time and diligence: Tom Gadacz, Truk Trukenbrod, Myron Hansen and Ken Hofmeister.
- Fly Tyers --Bring your flies to the meeting for Myron Hansen.

## Saturday, March 18 Outing

- Tampa Bay on the Hillsborough County side
- Lunch at noon at Cypress Point Park, 5620. W. Cypress St. Tampa
- Designated species: speckled trout

## April 1. Annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction

- 4 - 8 pm, Treasure Island Municipal Auditorium, 120 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Get tickets (\$20) at the March meeting.
- More information on the next page

## Thursday, April 20, Meeting

- New officers/ board take office at the April 6 BOD meeting.
- Walt Durkin will speak about fishing the Amazon River for peacock bass.
- Club survey results will be announced.

## Saturday, April 22, Outing

- Hillsborough River

## Saturday, April 29, Introduction to Fly Fishing

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.

### Visit the Club 's Online Calendar

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 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 123 members including 19 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.

*Free monthly fly tying lessons. All are welcome*

### Introduction to Fly Tying

*March 25 - 6 pm*

*Join other members on the fourth Thursday of every month to learn and perfect your fly tying skills. Your instructor is a pro, Suncoast Fly Fisher Bruce Evensen.*

*Meet at 6 pm at High Performance Plumbing Services, 4450 Morris St N. in St. Pete.*

### Free Fly Casting Lessons

*St. Pete Beach 6 - 8 pm*

*March 27*

*April 10*

*April 24*

*May 8*

*May 22*

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.

## April 1. 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction

- City of Treasure Island Auditorium, 120 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Treasure Island, FL 33706
- 4 to 8 pm
- Get tickets (\$20) at the March meeting

This is our premier club event of the year. It is our principal fund raiser and is a must attend event for every SFF member and guests interested in fly fishing or fun night out!

***Co-Chairs, Hog Roast and Silent Auction  
Rick and Karen Warfel  
Ken Hofmeister Bucket Raffle***

Our featured speaker is world renowned fly fishing legend Chico Fernandez.

Tickets will be available at the regular member meetings and at all club events. If you are planning to attend the Hog Roast and cannot be at a meeting, you can call Karen Warfel at 813-505-3162 or order them by mail. If you order tickets, you can pick them up at the next club event or at the door. Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to attend so we can plan for food and beverages. Seating is limited. Mail to: Suncoast Fly Fishers, P. O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743. Members and guests \$20/person. Children 12 and under are free with a paid adult. Menu is BBQ pulled pork, ribs, and chicken with all the fixings provided by *Smokey Bones*. Parking passes will be available at the member meeting or at the door.

### **Check out this door prize and raffle reward**

The Door Prize will be a custom-built 8-weight fly rod by Alan Sewell with matching line, reel and case. Only members are eligible for this one of a kind door prize. A ticket for each active member in attendance is included in the price of the event. Grand Prize Raffle will be for a 10-weight TFO Lefty Kreh TiCr, a nine-foot, four-piece rod. It comes with an Echo Ion10/12 reel with weight-forward 10 weight floating AirFlo Tropical Fly Line. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and this raffle is open to everyone.

We have some great products in this year's silent auction. Catch an opportunity for a professionally-guided trip by guys who know the best spots, bag some trophy flies tied by our best member tiers, and get your limit with gear and merchandise. We have the best in rods, reels, fishing equipment, trips and a host of other items.

A few of these items include professional quality polarized sunglasses by Onos, Alpen Optics spotting scopes, TFO Professional Series rods, parent and child rod combos from Cabela's and products from our other fine sponsors including Buck Knives, Star brite, Cortland, Carbon Marine, Andy Thornal, Seaguar and many more. The silent auction is open to all attendees.

### **Ask for the quantity discount**

#### **Bucket list**

Before you pursue the other items on your bucket list, you will want to visit the SFF Hog Roast bucket raffle. Valuable oil change certificates will assure that your vehicle will reach its destination. New fly line will enable you to reach that outlying snook. Fly tiers will be ecstatic about the abundance of fine materials. New tiers will try for tools. Hats and shirts are there to protect you. Such a deal.... \$1.00 per ticket, \$10.00 gets you 12 tickets, while \$20.00 gets you 26 chances to win wonderful stuff.

This year, we've been especially fortunate to have received goodies from a former SFF VP and honorary member, Michael LaChance.

Bring a bucket full of bills and have a blast! Remember, this event funds SFF's activities throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Hog Roast.

*Rick Warfel, Karen Warfel, Ken Hofmeister*



## Meet Hog Roast Speaker Chico Fernandez

**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 and 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).

His articles – more than 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.

Chico has consulted for many national and 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!



*Hog Roast speaker Chico Fernandez*

## Custom Made Bamboo Rod Raffle \$20

This is your chance to own a top quality custom made bamboo fly rod built by our own Cliff Nigh. Cliff will build the rod to your specifications in 3, 4 or 5 weight line. You get to pick the line weight, the length of the rod, the grip, hardware, wraps and many other options. Cliff will personally guide you through the process. For more details and options visit <http://nighflyrods.com/>. As an added bonus this package will include a custom made wood rod tube. This opportunity is part of our 2017 Hog Roast fund raising effort. Together the package is valued at more than \$1200. Raffle tickets will be \$20 each. No more than 100 tickets will be sold. We want to have the drawing at this year's Hog Roast but this can only happen if at least 50 tickets are sold by the end of that evening. You do not need to be present to win. Tickets are available now. Contact Karen Warfel by phone 813-505-3162 or email [kmwarfel@yahoo.com](mailto:kmwarfel@yahoo.com) to place your order or buy your tickets at an upcoming meeting or outing and at the Hog Roast on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Our thanks to Cliff Nigh and St. Pete Outfitters for making this possible.



*Cliff Nigh, bamboo fly rod artisan*

## April 29 Everglades Canal Outing: Fishing, Fellowship, Food, Fun



Ken Hofmeister with an "oscar" from last year's everglade canal outing.

By Ken Hofmeister

*"The first liar doesn't have a chance--especially if you toss in gators and pythons".*

I've been privileged to participate in the fantastic sport of fly fishing ever since I retired. What I discovered was that these fly fishers were a fraternity of folks who wanted to share their knowledge, skill, flies, and food.

How many times has a fly fisher handed you a fly and said: "try this?" My fondest memories have been those times when I fished with other clubs and then had the joy of eating and fellowshiping with them. In those exchanges I always learned something new.

On April 29 we have a great opportunity to fish and eat with members of fly clubs from Cocoa and Ft. Lauderdale. Randy Cleveland, Florida Fly Fishing Association, will once again fry the fish and hush puppies. A new IFFF club from Ft. Lauderdale, Gold Coast Fly Fishers, also will join us for the event.

As usual, the first liar doesn't have a chance--especially if you toss in gators and pythons.



Lunch is about to be served. Noon on April 29, I-75 (Alligator Alley) Mile 35, Miami Canal rest area boat ramp shelter. Be there.

This is a *you catch 'em, you clean 'em, we cook 'em extravaganza*. Many SFF members agree that oscars and cichlids are great tasting fish. Bluegill and bass will be on the table as well. Anything in your tackle box will catch these ravenous fish. Robert Fischer tried in vain to find a fly that wouldn't work.

Fish where you want to but remember everyone meets up Saturday, 4-29-17, at noon, Miami Canal rest area boat ramp shelter.

*Ken*

### If you're overnighting...

La Quinta Sawgrass Mills -- Double occupancy, two-bed hotel rooms are only \$103.50 per night if you reserve them by April 6. Rate applies April 27, 28, and 29. Contact the hotel directly (944-846-1200) or 1-800-642-4239 and ask for the special rate for Suncoast Fly Fishers.

## Introduction to Fly Fishing Class



*Dayle Mazzarella,  
Master Casting  
Instructor*

*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 will be 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.

## Tom Gadacz: Suncoast Fly Fishers needed to teach summer campers to cast a fly

*See Tom at the meeting or contact him via email [thomasgadacz@yahoo.com](mailto:thomasgadacz@yahoo.com) or phone 706-726-7899.*

We are participating in the E. G. Simmons Youth Fishing Camp and adding the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center's summer camps this year. These are four great events in June in which we introduce youths to fly fishing and instruct them in fly casting. We have all the equipment but need volunteers to help with the sessions. Show up 30 minutes prior to the start of the sessions to help set up the equipment and prep for the session. Help us introduce kids to the greatest outdoor sport – Fly Fishing.

*June 12 and June 26 from 1 to 3 pm*

E. G. Simmons Park  
2401 19<sup>th</sup> Ave N W  
Ruskin, FL 33570  
813-967-5988 813-671-7655

*June 7 and June 14 from 10 to noon*

Suncoast Youth Conservation Center summer camps  
6650 Dickman Road  
Apollo Beach, Florida 33572  
Phone: 727-235-3171

*Tom*

## 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:203.981.9243).

### **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

### **Ken Doty is selling his Gheenoe**

Gheenoe, 15 foot Highsider. Galvanized trailer. Boat cover. 55-lb thrust Minn-Kota trolling motor with auto pilot. 8 hp Mercury outboard. \$2200. Never in saltwater. 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

## 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.

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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](http://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*



Bob Burkard

### REVIEW Walsingham Park Outing Saturday, February 18

We all had a great outing at Walsingham Park. The predicted rain held off until we were just packing up at the end of lunch. There were plenty of boats and fishermen out on the lake and fish were caught by quite a few of our anglers. The targeted fish for this event was the longest bass and that was hauled in by none-other than Mark Hays with a nice 15 incher. We know that it was that length per witness George Haseltine, our president. Congratulations to Mark and also to Ken Hofmeister who caught the longest bream of the day, 8 inches. Mark wins the outing award and both bass and bream take the lead on our annual tournament leader scoreboard.



*Mark Hays' 15-inch bass won the outing prize and takes the black bass lead in the annual tournament.*

A special addition to our outing came from Bob Burkard our Outings Committee's co-chair with assistance from (as usual) Tom Gadacz. Bob thought it would be

interesting to have all different weights of fly rods on hand so we could compare how each felt while being casted. Tom set up targets to measure the same distance for each cast. Rick Warfel provided a helpful variety of rod weights. It was very interesting to experience the differences. A unanimous consensus was that the ten weight was not meant to be used for a full day of casting. Again, a special thank you to Alan Sewell for providing a marvelous lunch of sausage, hot German potato salad, and kraut. Delicious.



*Arthur Birnkrant and daughter try out some fly rods of different weights. Tom Trukenbrod waits his turn.*

*Continued...*

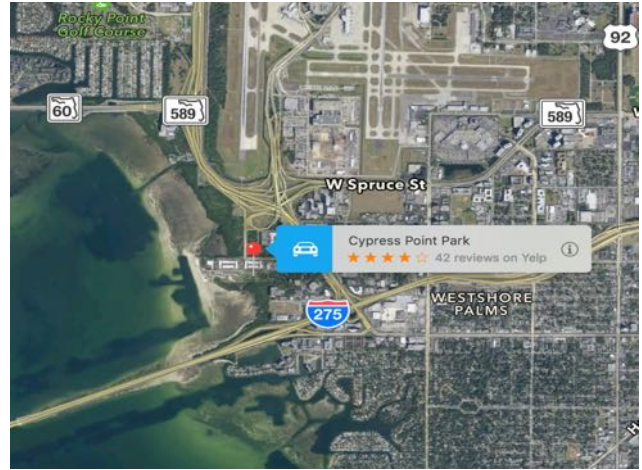
## Preview: Cypress Point Park in Tampa

### Saturday, March 18

*The designated species is seatrout*

Our next outing will be at Cypress Point Park near the Tampa Airport. This is one of the best locations for access to fly fishing by wading, kayaking, or boating. So, sign up and come on over. The targeted fish will be seatrout. Lunch will be at noon at a pavilion right there at the point.

Directions: Take I-275 across the Howard Franklin Bridge and use the airport exit. Take the first exit on right – Spruce Street. At the first light turn right on Obrien Street and go to Cypress Street. Turn right on Cypress and go to the end driving through the office park on the left to Cypress Point Park.

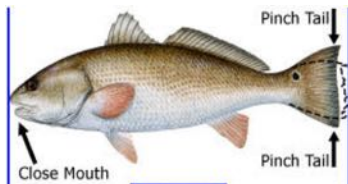


*Cypress Point Park in Tampa. Launch your kayak or just wade in and fish. Apple Maps*

### 2017 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing
Longest sunfish	8-inches	Ken Hofmeister	Walsingham Park (February)
Longest black bass	15-inches	Mark Hays	Walsingham Park (February)
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.

### 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*



## Snapshots: February Outing at Walsingham Park

*Photography by Tom Gadacz and Bob Burkard*



*Bob Burkard checks out the conclusion of an Alan Sewell fly cast.*



*Everybody duck*



*Smitty did what Smitty does*



*Alan Sewell served lunch, a delicious spread of smoked sausages, hot German potato salad, sauerkraut, and cookies.*



*Bob Morrison (l) our newsletter's How-To and Fishy Factoids columnist, is always willing to share a wealth of information about the fish we love to catch, salt or fresh.*



*Ray Smith proved that some members actually fished this event. Nice bass, Ray.*



*Karen Warfel and Joe Dail*

# Snapshots: February's Tie-a-Thon and Pizza Meeting

*Photography by Tom Gadacz and Bill AuCoin*



*Cliff Nigh's schminnow*



*Bob Hinzpeter, pizza anyone?*



*The Bob Burkard Clouser*



*This is the Toni Fernstrom Focus*



*Dan Bumgarner glues*



*Ken Hofmeister, multitasker*



*John Collins tied "The Birds", a beautiful Clouser-like pattern taught by Bruce Evensen. Gold barbels, Krystal Flash, bucktail and four hackles. Go for it*



*Ray Markham finishes up Myron Hansen's mop fly*



*Fly materials stowed away, Will and Ryan Sollars called it a (good!) night.*





## St Pete Fishing Outfitters opens new fly shop

*Photography by Tom Gadacz and Bill AuCoin*

Many Suncoast Fly Fishers met up Saturday, February Feb. 11 for the grand opening of the new fly fishing shop at **St. Pete Fishing Outfitters** which was put together by SFF member Cliff Nigh. Cliff will manage the new department. He has done an amazing job gathering and displaying the most useful and desirable fly gear for Florida fly fishers, salt and fresh.



*Cliff Nigh manages the new fly shop. Cliff is a long time member of Suncoast Fly Fishers*



*Suncoast Fly Fishers Ron Kelley, Pat Damico, Rick Warfel, George Haseltine and Bruce Evensen.*



*Oh, right, the shiniest object for the grand opening was the presence of **Flip Pallot**, TV star, author, fly fishing philosopher. That's Flip on the right, wife Diane Pallot on the left, with C.A. Richardson, host of Flats Class TV.*



*Alan Sewell and Bill Scarola chatted up Mr. Lee, center, owner of St. Pete Fishing Outfitters. Lee also owns sportfishing outfitting stores in Tarpon Springs and Tampa.*



*Guy Tillotson of Grand Slam Group which reps gear by Temple Fork Outfitters stands with Cliff (l) and store manager Daniel Kroegel.*

## Bill Scarola: Warming up for the Everglades Canal Outing



*Bill Scarola and a friend fly-fished the Holy Land area of the Everglades canal system two days in late February and easily caught more than 200 fish including many bass bream, oscars and Mayan cichlids on streamer flies, white spiders and Myron Hansen's now famous "Mop Fly." This four-pound bass struck a small minnow fly.*

*Tight Lines, Bill*



*Bill caught this 27-inch bowfin on a small minnow fly.*

## Andy Constantinou-Rick Warfel: Sightfish reds on the Chaz



*Andy Constantinou with his 28-inch red from Chassahowitzka Bay.*

Rick Warfel and I had a day out with **Capt. Bryon Chamberlin** sight fishing for big reds on Chassahowitzka Bay.

The water was very cloudy so it was hard to see the fish but I managed to connect and land a 28-inch redfish.

It went for a slow sinking shrimp that Bryon tied.



Dennis and Cindy Marquis fish the Weedon Channel Spoils



Cindy beat me. She landed five blues to my four. This was my first fish on a Clouser that I tied.

Dennis



Before -- Dennis' hand-tied Clouser before the blues attacked,



After -- this is what it looked like after the blues attacked.

Hefty seatrout like what Tony Piazza is throwing



Tony Piazza with seatrout caught on a small streamer he caught in the shallows near the Tierra Verde bridge fishing with Tom Trukenbrod



Using sink tip line, Piazza caught this nice seatrout on a shrimp pattern fishing with Capt. Pat Damico near the Corey Causeway

## Follow up to the FWC's January Snook Symposium



*Tom Gadacz, President, Florida Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF)*

*By Tom Gadacz*

This is a follow up to the FWC Snook Symposium I attended January 13, 2016 in Orlando.

The FWC is interested in hearing and discussing stakeholder views on potential changes to snook management through a series of small group meetings on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts.

The 2015 snook stock assessment results indicate that the population is healthy and the FWC is soliciting potential management options that would improve angler satisfaction.

The plan is for each group to have an initial face to face meeting and then further participation in person or by phone and/or webinar. Five geographical locations have been identified:

- St. Petersburg
- Fort Meyers
- Naples
- Melbourne
- West Palm Beach

The St. Petersburg meeting which I attended was held March 3 at the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) in downtown St. Petersburg on 8 Avenue SE. After a brief review of the data and discussions feedback from the Symposium was presented and the main four preferences for management goals on the Gulf coast were discussed:

- Management goal of 40% spawning potential ratio (SPR)
- Harvestability (more fish to eat)
- Conserve nursery habitat
- An abundant population (for a higher catch rate)

We also discussed current regulations, the survey of supported management tools, and the survey of non-supported management tools.

Our stakeholder group favored top management goals of establishing habitat preservation through education and a boat limit of two fish. Changes that would possibly affect SPR will be re-modeled by stock assessment biologists at the FWRI. There were some discussions among the attendees regarding the price of the snook stamp, increasing research funding, and closing the spring season that FWC staff documented.

*Tom*

Reviewed by: Nancy Sheridan, Biological Scientist IV  
Division of Marine Fisheries Management  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

## **Tying Bench**

### *SF Seatrout Baitfish ...Tied by Layne (Smitty) Smith*



This is a pattern originated by a friend in Norway, Daniel Holm, that does well on seatrout. It is tied with Steve Farrar (SF) synthetic fibers which really breathe and look real in the water. Tie them small in the spring when the baitfish are small. Tie them larger for summer when the baitfish are larger. You can vary the colors, too, to better match the "hatch" – white bait (scaled sardines), greenbacks (threadfin herring) or even mullet. Weight it with lead wire, or not, to fish it at different depths.

#### **Materials:**

Hook: Partridge CS 54 #2 shrimp hook or Mustad 34011 #2.

Thread: Danville Flat-waxed Nylon white or Clear Mono (medium).

Wire: Tie in three strands of .020 lead wire. Skip this step for fishing shallow water.

Belly: Tyler's favorite pearl dubbing like Gliss 'n Dub and Senyo to fish deeper. Skip for fishing shallow water.

Body: Steve Farrar Blend Off White

Flash: Silver Gliss 'n Glow or Flashabou

Wing: Steve Farrar Blend Mackerel (or Camo, Mullet Brown, Olive or Tiers choice)

Head: Pro Softhead size small or x-small or Fly Men's Fish Mask size #4 or #6

Eyes: 3D eyes to fit Softhead or fish mask

Cement: CA Cement and Solarez UV Resin

#### **Tying Instructions**

Step 1. Attach thread behind hook eye and wrap back on shank approx. halfway. Tie down lead wire.

Step 2. Coat thread with dubbing and cover the lead wire.

Step 3. Take hank of belly material (about 1/8-inch thick when stretched) measure to twice hook length and tie in with several wraps an eyes-width behind hook eye. Fold over towards hook bend and tie down. Trim excess.

Step 4. At tie-in point, tie in three strands of flash to fly length and then fold over and tie down as in step 3. Trim excess.

Step 5. Take hank of wing material (slightly less than body material) and tie in the same as step 3 but don't fold it back and tie it down. Let excess hang out over hook eye for the time being. Whip finish and cut thread.

Step 6. Eyes may be attached to Softhead or fish mask at this time or you can put them on when fly is completed. Either way, attach with small drop of CA cement in eye recess on head.

Step 7. Fold back excess wing material and coat with UV Resin and slide head onto hook. Re-attach thread and tie in thread dam to hold head in place Coat eyes and cure head and eyes with UV lamp.

Step 8: Taper wing and belly to baitfish shape in length desired ... and GO FISH.

*Smitty*

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



### Schools of redfish in middle Tampa Bay

**Rise and Shine** -- Rising water temperatures are waking up the snook, and they are on the move. Find them in creek mouths and just upstream in the creeks, also near any structure.

**Follow the mullet** -- Look for snook at bridge pilings and abutments. Fish the incoming tides with bait fish imitation patterns. Watch for mullet schools. Snook will follow them as will redfish. Use small Merkin crab patterns, as well as Clousers in brown over yellow.

**Slow down, you move too fast** -- In moving water, try free-lining your fly, letting it drift much as you would a live bait fish. Keep slack almost tight so that you can feel strikes.

**Take up the slack** -- Redfish will also follow mullet schools. Use bait fish patterns as well as small crab and shrimp to imitate these critters that the mullet stir up. Keep up slack as usual.

*Go get 'em and good luck!*

*Bob*

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### Bob's Fishy Factoid of the month

#### Fat is good for you (if you're a whale)

Recently, Inuit hunters in Alaska harvested a **bowhead whale** that had a bone harpoon spearhead in its blubber which was the type used until 150 years ago. A bowhead has to be about 50 years old to be harvested, so it is estimated that this whale was about 200 years old when it was taken recently. Think about it, this whale was alive when Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were still living. How 'bout that neighbors?

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### *The Angler (Poem submitted by Suncoast Fly Fisher Dave Barson)*

Bent rods do not an angler make, nor do the fish that he might take, nor fancy vest and wicker creel, Orvis rod or Hardy reel

Special waders up to his chest, nor the line, how light the test

Nor well brimmed hat with many flies, how well he casts, those that he ties.

It's but a thought, a state of mind, that makes him different from his kind.

Of many things that he must be, most important are these three:

- A. Gentleman: who does not boast of always having caught the most.
- B. Sport: that he may fish each day, and know it was the fairest way.
- C. Man: whose legacy will be, the many fish that he set free.

*Anonymous*



## Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #85



### **Still having trouble with a nice straight layout of your fly line?**

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

When fishing and doing casting lessons, a good straight line layout from rod tip to fly is needed in most saltwater fishing situations. "Why do I get all those waves in my cast," I am often asked. There are a number of reasons why slack is present. We have discussed them in previous tips. If still having the problem, reach for the line behind the stripping guide and pull the line toward the reel as the fly touches the water. This will remove slack giving you a better line layout. It will allow you to feel what is going on with the fly, as in feeling a strike, and also impart proper action to it as you strip.

**Pat Damico, MCI**

*Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach*

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

## Tampa Bay Times: Captain's Corner

### **Low tides right for redfish on fly**

*By Pat Damico, Tampa Bay Times Correspondent*

Many fly fishers have fished Tampa Bay for a while, but haven't caught a redfish. Is catching reds here that difficult? "We used to practice on Tampa Bay redfish to catch bonefish in the Keys; now we practice on bonefish in the Keys to catch Tampa Bay Redfish," a famous quote from fly fishing legend, Lefty Kreh. Unless you can find some area that is rarely fished, you have your work cut out for you because of how often they are chased by everyone with a rod. Finding a concentration of reds and chumming them into action with stunned live bait is much different than sight fishing with a small fly and scoring. Search the shallows during the lowest tides. Find areas where wading fish eating birds are concentrated and feeding. As the tide comes in redfish will use the same locations looking for shrimp, crabs, crustaceans and baitfish. Watch every bird that flies close to the water as they will spook reds into showing themselves by disturbing the water near them. Fish push water ahead of them and this will alert you to their presence. Water always has a surface pattern; when disturbed by fish movement it gives a nervous appearance. When reds in the shallows feed on the bottom, their tail will frequently show and break the surface with a slow wave.

## Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



**Are you documented?** We've got another month-plus left on the snook season. If you're under 65 you need a Florida saltwater fishing license and if you're going to keep a snook you'll need a snook permit, too. Non-Florida residents, even if over 65, still need the license and the permit. Be a good citizen. ([MyFWC](#))

**Yeah, like when you've spooked a snook?** This is about reading the *body language* of a bonefish but I'm pretty sure this applies to snook, redfish, trout, etc. ([Gink and Gasoline](#))

**I plead guilty to the "hemostats" issue.** This whole matter of fly fishing pet peeves should be one of our Questions-of-the-Month. Right? ([Orvis](#))

**Damn, I missed it again.** The Possom Trot Auction, of course. ([The Southernist](#))

**Out of sight, out of mind?** The Interior Department will offer 73 million acres offshore from Florida, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama for oil and gas exploration and development. The proposed region-wide lease sale scheduled for August 16, 2017 would include all available unleased areas in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The good news is that Gulf platforms will be 12+ miles offshore. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

**Here are some more fishing poems.** Dave Barson kindly sent me the text for *The Angler* (on the bottom of page 20) and IMHO it is far better than the ones I read on this site. I'm pretty sure real anglers did not write these. For example, one verse ends thusly ..."I toss and turn in bed like a fish on an angler's hook." Yeah, don't you love it when a fish does that? ([Hello Poetry](#))

**We report; you decide.** I thought Myron Hansen's Mop Fly was the easiest to tie. Then along comes Pat Damico with a link to the easiest fly to tie, the *Green Weenie*. ([You Tube](#))

**Brilliant branding, as marketers say.** In Florida we have boat shows and outdoor shows but in Texas they just held the "Texas Fly Fishing and Brew Festival." I'm betting the show goes spent more there, too. ([txflyfishingfestival.org](http://txflyfishingfestival.org))

**Put Pennsylvania on your fly fishing to-do list.** Start by buying this book. Pat Damico has called our attention to [Keystone Fly Fishing](#) which he describes as the "the definitive source of information for anyone fishing the Keystone State." A good portion of it was written by Pat's friend Gary Kell. Great pictures, tips, techniques, local fly patterns, and up to date info. ([Midcurrent](#))

**Ahhh, sleeping couple on Honeymoon Island beach. So sweet. Not.** The FWC's weekly law enforcement report is always educational. Officers catch folks with undersized fish, of course. They apprehend people with outstanding warrants. And sometimes they deal with non-fishery matters, like the couple they found pretty much zoned out on the beach at closing time on Pinellas' Honeymoon Island. Sad, actually. ([FWC](#))

**Sturgeon won't eat a fly but they'll take a spear in the gut.** Winter fly fishing in Florida and ice fishing in Wisconsin are like alternate universes. The contrast is even more dramatic during Lake Winnebago's sturgeon spearing season. This video is 20+ minutes long but, yeah, fascinating. ([You Tube](#))

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