

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



Darryn and Maria Manley
Honeymoon in Patagonia. P16



Adam Hays boats a mudfish
in Lower Hillsborough River
Wilderness Preserve. P9



Ken Hofmeister's mudfish.
Everglades Canal Outing. P11



Bruce Evensen's Snook
Snagger Fly. P21



Layne Smith's Flute Fly.P22



Annual Everglades Canal Outing. P13

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SFF President Letter – May 2017

Time; that element of measure that waits for no man or woman.

It crawls by the seconds and races by the years. Just a moment ago I was 17 and suddenly I'm retirement age. Where did the time go?

I challenge you to count how often you use a sentence with the word time in it. Time is our friend; time is our enemy. If you are a pessimist, you say that time starts running out the moment you were born. If you are an optimist, you say time offers you opportunity for a full and meaningful life.

We use the years of time to prepare and pursue a career, raise a family, prepare for retirement. Time turns that fresh young face in the mirror to a wrinkled old image, (speaking from experience) BUT, it cannot diminish the spirit within us if we refuse to be "under the circumstances" and keep our eyes on the horizon; ever seeking that next great experience.

William Ernest Henley wrote in "Invictus" (Latin for unconquered) "It matters not how strait the gate, how charged with punishment the scroll, I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul."

I believe there is a Fountain of Youth; right here in Florida. Men from Ponce de Leon on down have sought it for many years. But, men like Paul Sequira, Charlie Most, Ken Hofmeister, Alan Sewell and Mark Hays, to mention only a few, have found a way to discover it.

Ponce de Leon was using the wrong navigational instruments.

The map is not old and dog eared. It is refreshed with every publication of our Awesome Newsletter and visit to our ever-evolving, Inspiring Website.

Lefty says the fly travels in the direction the rod tip stops. So should we.

Young and old can find this fountain.

All you need is a fly rod, a fly you believe in, and your response to the "call of the wild." I guarantee that every body of water where you fish will become the Fountain of Youth.

Lefty says the fly travels in the direction the rod tip stops; so should we.

Open your eyes, awaken your senses, grab your gear and join us for life changing adventures on and in the water. Meet me at waters' edge. Let's fish, break bread together, and share a drink from the Fountain. I'll look for you there.

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, May 18, Meeting

- Speaker: Capt. Shawn McCole
- Bruce Evensen ties his snook snagger fly and Smitty ties his flute fly for the Emerson Point outing. Designated species: snook
- Membership discussion of Federation bylaws name change. See Name Change Amendment below.
- Information about the Emerson Point outing

Saturday, May 20, Emerson Point Outing in Bradenton

- Emerson Point Preserve west of Palmetto
- Snook is the designated species
- Lunch at noon at Pavilion 2

Thursday, June 15 Meeting

- How to, where to tips from club member panel

Saturday, June 17, Outing

- Dock light snook

NAME CHANGE AMENDMENT

NOTICE is hereby given that the following proposed amendment to the Bylaws of Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. has been approved by the Board of Directors of Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. The Board is requesting membership approval for the Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws of Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. The proposed amendment is for the name change to Fly Fishers International, Inc. from International Federation of Fly Fishers, Inc. No other changes are proposed to the current Bylaws.

The proposal will be discussed at the May, 2017 membership meeting and the Board will request approval at the June, 2017 membership meeting.

Current Title:

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS, INC.
(FEDERATION)

Proposed Change to Title:

FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL, INC. (FLY FISHERS)

Where International Federation of Fly Fishers, Inc. or Federation is used, replace with *Fly Fishers International, Inc.* or *Fly Fishers* as appropriate.

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 127 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.

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 Florida, the Fishing Capital of the World.

Introduction to Fly Tying Classes with Bruce Evensen

Free monthly fly tying lessons for members and guests

Thursday, May 25 – 6 pm

Join, jive and tie flies with fellow club members on the fourth Thursday of every month. Your instructor is Suncoast Fly Fisher Bruce Evensen.

High Performance Plumbing Services, 4450 Morris St N. in St. Pete.

Introduction to Fly Casting Clinics with Tom Gadacz and Brian Clark

Free lessons in St. Pete are open to everyone. Class size is limited so be sure to sign up

6 – 8 pm, May 22

Egan Field, 9101 Blind Pass Road, St. Pete Beach. Class sizes are limited so call 727-363-9245 to sign up.

Summer Youth Casting Programs in June with Tom Gadacz. Volunteers needed.

Four great events in June in which we introduce youths to fly fishing and instruct them in fly casting.

June 7 (Wednesday) and June 14 (Wednesday), 10 am to Noon -- FWC Program in Apollo Beach

June 12 (Monday) and June 26 (Monday), 1 pm to 3 pm -- E.G.Simmons Park in Ruskin

Volunteers: See Tom Gadacz at the meeting or contact him-- thomasgadacz@yahoo.com, 706-726-7899.

Used Gear for Sale

Stripping basket used only two times

Linecurve 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 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

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
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

www.suncoastflyfishers.com

Suncoast Fly Fishers Calendar

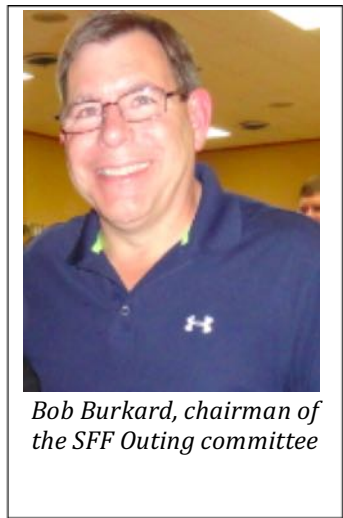
April Outing Review: Lower Hillsborough Wilderness

REVIEW—Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve Saturday, April 22

Who says that 13 is an unlucky number? Not me... 13 of our Suncoast Club members participated in the April outing at the Hillsborough River? I think a number of potential fly fishers were put off by the low water in the Hillsborough River, but those attending had a great time. Any day that you can fish in great weather and have good food with friends is a great day.

Truk provided sandwiches that kept the hungry crowd happy, and many great stories were shared by those who caught fish and enjoyed the wildlife seen on the days float. I am told that some of these stories were actually true.

Peter Cline caught the largest bass (16 inches) and Mark Hayes caught the largest Bluegill (9 inches), and a number of small bream and bass were also caught. One fish of note caught by Adam Hayes was a two pound mudfish. I think that Adam should share his secret "Mudfish" fly recipe with the rest of us!



Bob Burkard, chairman of the SFF Outing committee

Those fishing used small poppers, different sized spider patterns, and of course the secret Mudfish fly.

Hope to see you all at our May outing.

Bob

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

Outing and Tournament Rules

Outing Prize: For each monthly outing there will be a designated species of fish that will be assigned. The club member who catches the LONGEST designated fish on a fly at that outing will receive a gift certificate. If the designated fish is not caught at that outing there will be no prize for that outing.

Annual Tournament Awards: The categories are: sea trout, redfish, snook, ladyfish, bass, and sunfish (bream). At EVERY outing the longest fish of any of those species caught on the fly by a member in good standing will be entered into the annual tournament. The tournament concludes with the December outing.

Measure accurately: Measure 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 on its side.

Continued...

May Outing Preview: Emerson Point Preserve

Saturday, May 20, 2017: Emerson Point Preserve on Snead Island west of Palmetto
 Lunch at noon at Point Pavilion 2

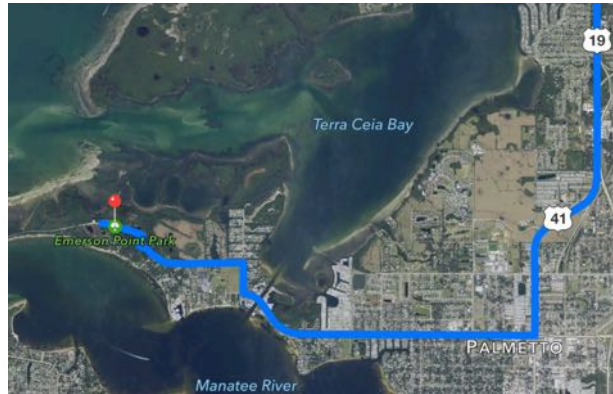
Emerson Point forms the south shore of Terra Ceia Bay and the north shore of the Manatee River.

Designated species: Snook

Our target fish is snook, but this is a great area to catch trout and redfish and, of course, ladyfish. Measure them, too, and for the annual outing tournament competition.

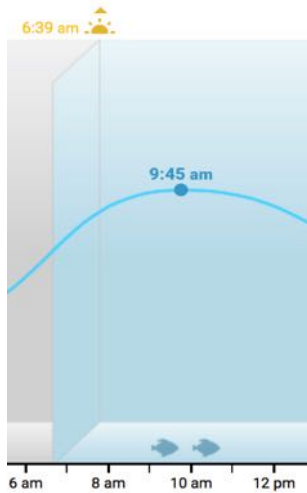
Terra Ceia Bay is on its mangrove-lined north coast. Manatee River is along its southern shore. If the wind blows from the north it is best to fish the south shore. If the wind blows from the south, fish the north shore.

This location has easy access to fish by boat, kayak, or canoe; or just park and wade fish from the shoreline of this remarkable water at the mouth of Tampa Bay.



Directions from Pinellas County: Take the Sunshine Skyway Bridge (I-275). Exit on US 19S. Merge onto US 41S. Exit 10 Street W in Palmetto. Right on Tarpon Road and follow signs to Preserve. (Apple Maps)

Emerson Point on 5/20
Incoming tide till 9:45



Tides4fishing.com

Suncoast Fly Fisher Capt. Ray Markham has guided fly fishers to gamefish in this area for years. Ray writes...

Most areas are fishable with an 8 weight rod with forward floating line. There are canoe and kayak launch areas, picnic areas, and rest room facilities. The north side on Terra Ceia Bay has a canoe and kayak launch. Other areas farther out west on Snead Island on the Manatee River side have good wade fishing for snook and trout mostly but pompano and flounder, redfish, and cobia. The northwest side goes out to an expansive grass flat with good trout, redfish, snook, and flounder action. Hit the western-most point for snook and ladyfish with a sink tip line and chartreuse-over-white Clouser



April Meeting: Peacocks in Amazonia. Bamboo Rod Raffle. Q & A.



Rick Warfel chose the winner in the Bamboo Rod Raffle. And the winner is ... April Turpen Birnbaum. April won a custom-built Cliff Nigh bamboo rod with two tips, along with a custom made mahogany rod tube. It's valued at more than \$1200.



Walt Durkin, our April meeting speaker. Subject: peacock bass



TBFFC member Capt. Frank Rhodes with a Rio Negro peacock bass caught on the fly. Another member shows the club flag. Rhodes is arranging another trip in September.



Home away from home on the Dimini River

Question of the month

Which monthly outings do you like the most and why?

Ken Hofmeister: *Blackthorn or Emerson Point. "Can fish kayak regardless of wind. Beauty of water. Lots of options.*

Truk Trukenbrod: *Fort DeSoto – so many options all day*

Tony Piazza: *Fort DeSoto offers multiple spots to wade*

Duane Mertz: *Fort DeSoto*

Ron Kelley: *Fort DeSoto: Variety of fishing locations regardless of wind directions*

Mark Hays: *Fort DeSoto: Something for everyone. And good grills.*

Arthur and Karen Birnkrant: *Park by Skyway Bridge*

Annie Hays: Hillsborough River Outing



Annie Hays

On Apr. 22, the Suncoast Fly Fishers braved traffic and low water levels to fish the Hillsborough River. Although some pre-outing reports suggested that the fish were not biting, the club members who came out did find fish and had excellent weather.



Rick Warfel did not want to say whether he or his wife Karen had hooked this bluegill.

I was expecting little more than a nice paddle but my dad, Mark Hays, is the eternal optimist of the family. His positive vibes translated into him catching the winning bluegill for the day. The fish was nine inches and was caught on a larger sized black and green spider.



Mark Hays caught a respectable 13-inch bass on a large, dark spider.



Adam Hays managed to get a two-pound mudfish into his kayak where he could admire the fish's incredibly sharp teeth.

Continued on next page...

P2... Annie Hays: Hillsborough River Outing

We caught that bluegill and most of our fish that day down-river of the launch ramp and dam. Normally this has been our most productive stretch of the river, but given the drought I doubt we would have had much luck if we had paddled upstream.

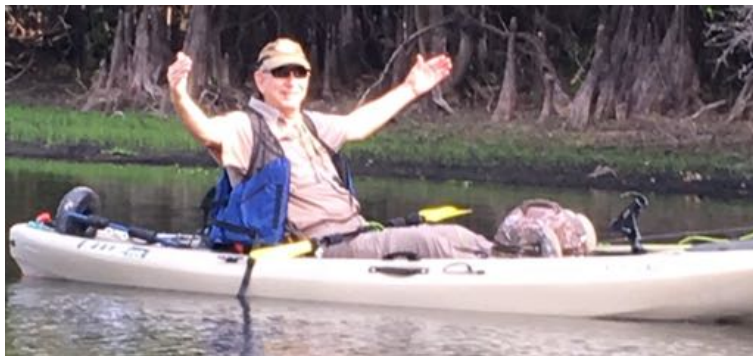
The Hillsborough River outing has been my favorite outing of the year for a few years now because no matter what the fishing is like, I always find something extraordinary along the river. A few years ago I found two baby rabbits hiding in a hole on the river bank.



Most of the fish caught that day were so small they could barely get the hook in their mouths. Mark Hays caught the biggest brim of the day – 9 inches.



Mark and Annie Hays spotted these foot-long baby gators sunning together. Momma swam close by.



George Haseltine claims he caught a fish "this big." The actual size was likely much smaller.

This year, Dad spotted three baby alligators laying on top of each other on a log. They could not have been two weeks old, and they each only measured about a foot long.

We would have gotten a better picture of them, but seven-foot-long Momma Gator was swimming ten yards away.

As Dad and I headed back to the launch ramp, we found Adam Hays standing up in his kayak fighting a monster fish. He managed to hook a two-pound mudfish on a yellow

streamer fly. We would have helped Adam with his fish, but as we paddled closer, we smelled the mudfish's stench and saw all its primeval teeth. On second thought, we told Adam we'd see him at lunch.

Although the Hillsborough River outing is usually more productive fish-wise and more heavily attended by members, those of us who did go had an excellent day on the water with friends.

Ken Hofmeister: Annual Everglades Canal Outing

Fish and hush puppies in python land for the "You catch 'em, you clean 'em, and we cook 'em" second annual event with the Florida Fly Fishing Association from Cocoa and Suncoast Fly Fishers



Ken Hofmeister prepping for pythons along the everglades canals.



Ken cleans fish for ~~lunch~~ the gator. Slip and fall, call Morgan and Morgan?

"I've got him!," said my fishing partner, Al Pitcher. He was referring to another nice Eglades oscar. But I was waiting for the dreaded "He's got me!" that signaled a python problem.

Actually, Al carried something better than a snake hook; but, we failed to find a winning entry in the FWC "Python Pickup Program." We fished and looked hard but didn't get a T shirt or a shiny new snake hook. Now gators were another story. A

gator did get one of the fish I was cleaning for the fish fry. When Myron (Hansen) and Kirk (Burton) called out to warn me about a couple of gators eyeing the rest of the fish to be cleaned, I got out of the water!



Hey mister, throw me something to eat. Or else!



Al Pitcher, a good man with a gun. Pythons? No worries, mon.

We caught lots of oscars and I cleaned some for the fire "You catch 'em, you clean 'em, and we cook 'em" second annual event with the Florida Fly Fishing Association from Cocoa and Suncoast Fly Fishers. Randy Cleveland kept the fish coming until 35 fly fishers were full. Jerry Wimberly did the hush puppies while Randy's dad cheered them on. George Haseltine

and Tom Trukenbrod ensured we had all the "fixins" --including plates, slaw, potato salad, and watermelon.

A good time was had by all. Tales were tall but not over the top because pictures were the currency of proof. First liar usually got topped.

Photos by Ken Hofmeister, Al Pitcher, Bill Scarola, Tom Trukenbrod and Ray Smith

Continued on next page

P 2...Ken Hofmeister: Annual Everglades Canal Outing



Oscar. Ray smith photo



Mayan cichlid. Ray Smith photo

Every fly is a go-to fly in the E-glades

As we swapped stories and tips, I noted that many different flies were labeled "go to." Actually, we could find no fly they would not hit. Ned Scheerhorn (FFFA) caught the biggest peacock bass, while Mark Hays (SFF) landed the largest largemouth bass. Ken Hofmeister (SFF) carefully landed a large bowfin without being bitten--with no offer to unhook the beast from Al Pitcher.



Al Pitcher with two more oscars for the fish fry



Smitty's Beetle was Ray Smith's "Go-To" fly.

Continued on next page

P 3...Ken Hofmeister:Annual Everglades Canal Outing



This is the entire Everglades canal outing turnout including members of Suncoast Fly Fishers, Cocoa Fly Fishers, and the Florida Fly Fishing Association from Ft. Lauderdale.

Suncoast had about nine fly fishers staying in Clewiston and twelve at La Quinta in Sunrise, where Gladys Jimenez was "at your service." Gladys was impressively service oriented--until she refused to let us keep our fish in the swimming pool until the fish fry!

Weather was fine, fellowship was great, a SFF dinner at Lester's Diner was memorable. George left with a gift box of pastries (how did he do that?) for distribution.



Suncoast Fly Fishers crowd together for a picture to remember the 2017 E-glades outing.



The "Clewiston Boys"—These guys stayed in Clewiston and fished the northern sections of the canals along Hwy 27. "Our name was given to us by Ken Hofmeister at the cookout," said Ray Smith, second from left.

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Everglades Canal Outing Snapshots



Dinner at Lester's Diner in Fort Lauderdale.



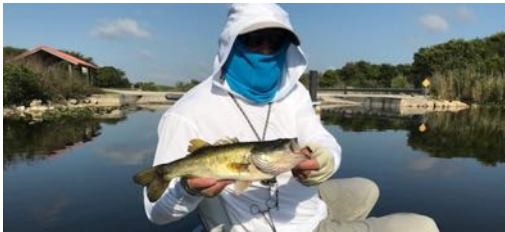
That guy on the right; his face looks mighty familiar. Kirk something. Oh, right, Kirk Burton, our former pres. Escaping DC, Kirk? Great to see you.



Fried fish and hush puppies are on the way.



The boats are asking, "Are we done?"



That's a bass posing with a mystery angler. Actually, Tom Trukenbrod.



Well-fed fly fishers tell their tall tales



George Haseltine and an E-glades bass

That's all folks

Tom Gadacz: Project Healing Waters at Fort DeSoto Park

On April 19 members of Suncoast Fly Fishers, a Charter club of Fly Fishers International (FFI), fished with veterans from the Bay Pines Veterans Medical Center at one of our favorite spots, Fort DeSoto Park.



We started fishing about 8 am and had a few strikes and fewer fish but one was a sea trout.

Several of our veterans were fly-casting with rods they built themselves in the PHWFF Program at the Bay Pines Veterans Medical Center.



A tan over white Clouser caught the trout. Wading was great with an incoming tide. Several tried some casting from a kayak but this did not improve our catch rate. After a great lunch, we got some more casting practice but all had tons of fun and enjoyment.

Tom



Tom Gadacz: Flies Tied by a Veteran



*Tom Gadacz,
President, Florida
Council, Fly Fishers
International*

Suncoast Fly Fishers has a very active Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) program at the Bay Pines Veterans Administration Medical Center in St. Petersburg. The veterans tie flies, cast, build fly rods, and go on fly fishing trips. It is very enjoyable and a gratifying experience.

Last week I had a very touching experience. Ted Rich and I were tying flies with two veterans in the late morning in the Long Term Care facility. The veteran I was helping is Air Force and I am Navy so we compared experiences.

He has fished in the past all over the world but never fly fished. His favorite place was Alaska and salmon was his favorite target. We talked about fly fishing and differences between it and spin casting. We also talked about the difference between salt and fresh water flies.



He chose to tie a spider fly. He forgot his glasses but was able to lay thread on the hook shank and tie in a circular piece of closed cell foam. He had a little trouble tying in the legs but he got it done. It looked respectable. The first fly he ever tied.

On his second spider we added some marabou at the tail. Two nicely tied spiders. I put them in a plastic bag and gave them to him. He said I could have them since he no longer fishes and does not fly fish. I convinced him to keep them and show them off to his buddies. He was off to lunch and thanked us for the experience and said he would be back next week. He had fun.

A nurse came by to wheel him to lunch and he showed her his flies. She complimented him on the two flies and said she also fishes but does not fly fish. But, she said she had a nurse friend who does fly fish and now lives in another state and they correspond.

He offered her the flies but she refused and replied that her girlfriend would be honored to have flies that were tied by a veteran. His eyes lit up along with a big grin as he asked her to please send his flies to her. "Tell her the flies were tied by a veteran."

It just doesn't get any better than this!

Tom



Welcome to Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc.™ is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings.

Projecthealingwaters.org

Darryn Manley: Fly-fishing honeymoon in Patagonia

I'm one of the newer members, the Coast Guard guy. I just went on my honeymoon and my wife Maria and I took a float on the river Limay in Argentina. I was just hoping to share a picture for the newsletter.



Suncoast Fly Fisher Darryn Manley and bride Maria on the Limay River in Argentina

We caught three rainbows and one brown. We didn't measure or weigh them.

We used stonefly nymphs, and deer hair mouse poppers. Water was crystal clear, but it was rainy, windy, and in the high 40s.



Maria Manley with a Patagonian rainbow



Darryn Manley (l) and guide Mario Cresevic with a nice Limay River brown trout.

If anyone is interested in a trip there here's the contact info for my guide:

Guide: Mario Daniel Cresevic

Phone: +52 294 154 419 546

Email: Info@fishinglife.com.ar

Facebook: fishinglife patagonia

Darryn.

Robert Fischer and buds: Andros Island bonefish on a budget

We stayed at Frankie's Two Boys Lodge near the North Bight and caught lots of big bonefish. The lodge was pretty basic, but clean and comfortable, food was adequate and tasty. Good trip for fishermen types.

There were eight of us from the Tampa Club including Ted Hagaman and Walt Durkin.

This was a real "budget" trip at \$2350 for the week – that's about half the rate for an average bonefish lodge -- so there weren't any luxuries but it was great if you were there just for the fishing. And we were.



Fischer with one of many Andros island bonefish



Robert Fischer releases another bonefish he caught on a weeklong trip to Andros Island March 25 to April 1. "Our plane got in too late for me to make the Hog Roast and I really missed it," he said.

It was windy so some of the rides in the bight were very rough but there are plenty of places to get out of the wind and fish.

Most fish were caught on Gotchas and Crazy Charlies but some people used shrimp patterns and even some MOE epoxy flies. Bigger flies in the 4 and 2 sizes seemed to get their interest easier. We all had a good time.

Robert



Fischer (third from left) and fellow bonefishers from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Report: Drifting, Fly Casting Weedon Channel Spoil Islands



Dennis Marquis with a late-spring bluefish caught with his 9-weight and a chartreuse-white Clouser that he tied.

When they dug the ship channel to the power plant near Weedon Island in Tampa Bay they dumped the spoil on the sides of the channel and created a dozen or so underwater islands that attract Spanish mackerel, bluefish, seatrout, ladyfish, and cobia. Sometimes you'll see a tarpon roll. Often a sea turtle pokes his head up above the surface as if to say, "And who are you?"



Satellite view of underwater islands next to Tampa Bay's Weedon channel.. Source: Apple Maps

Dennis Marquis and Bill AuCoin fly-fished the underwater islands in mid-April. Marquis' GPS/depth sounder knows the secret spots... and it's not talking.

Jeff Kopelman: Woolly Bugger Earns Cherokee River Rewards

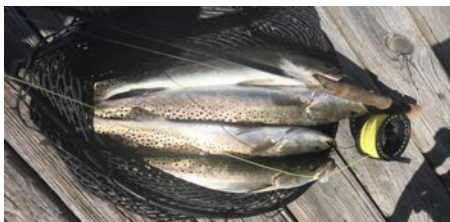


A good day in Cherokee unless you're a trout



Spoils for catching a trout with a special tag

Ken Hofmeister: Catch - Filet - Consume



May 9: This was a "catch and filet" morning. (Caught them) just off the edge of the channel.

Ken

Tom (Truk) Trukenbrod: Member survey results are here

I want to thank all of you who took the time to complete this year's survey. As always it gives your Board of Directors valuable feedback as to what you like and what you would like to see improved. It showed that the club is doing a pretty good job of meeting your needs and wants, but there is always room for improvement. You let us know that you want more programs to feature presentations from guides and our own members sharing information about our local fishing areas. You confirmed again that the Fort DeSoto Park area is the "Go To" destination. There is a want for more outings that have wading opportunities even if you have to drive an hour or more. There is an increased response that there be more environmental projects and that more of you are willing to get involved to volunteer. Please take some time to study the survey results. Bring comments and suggestions to the board that you feel will help us continue to grow the enjoyment and friendships we all share. Thanks,

Truk

	Yes	No/Never	Maybe/Some
1. Do you think Walter Fuller Recreation Center is a good location for SFF club meetings?	39	2	
2. Should the fly tier at our meetings tie a fly for the next outing?	11	1	28
3. Casting instruction is again available before the meetings, will you participate?	20	22	
4. How often do you buy raffle tickets at the meeting?	16	4	16
Did you know raffle sales help pay for outing lunches?	20	9	
5. Are the raffle prize items useful and/or enjoyable?			
6. Which topics would you like to see covered in future meeting programs?			
<i>Talks by local guides</i>	42		
<i>Fly Tying Clinics</i>	22		
<i>Environmental Issues</i>	23		
<i>Kayak skills and safety</i>	9		
<i>Fish and Wildlife Research</i>	25		
<i>How to choose and buy fly rods, lines and reels</i>	19		
<i>First Aid/ Fishing Injuries</i>	15		
<i>Care and maintenance of fly fishing gear</i>	21		
<i>How to improve casting skills</i>	19		
<i>Members sharing their best flies, presentation for catching fish</i>	31		
7. a) Would you attend an outing at any of these locations? Check as many as you like.			
Fort DeSoto Park	41	Walsingham Lake	26
Pinellas Point	35	Upper Tampa Bay Park	24
Weedon Island	35	Alligator Lake	13
Manatee River	26	Myakka River	13
Hillsborough River	25	Blackthorn/Clam Bar	27
Dock Lights at Night	23	Cypress Point	21
Veterans' Memorial Park	20	Urban Outing	15
Honeymoon Island	28	Lake Maggiore	17
Chasshowitzka River	20	So. Skyway Rest Area	33
Emerson Point	23		
b) How far will you drive?	<i>Half hour</i> 3	<i>One hour</i> 20	<i>More</i> 18
c) I would attend more outings IF: There was a "Fishing Buddy" signup sheet	16	22	
d) There would always be the option for wading	26	15	

Continued...Truk Trukenbrod: Results from the membership survey

	Yes	No/Never	Maybe/Some
8. Would you like the annual banquet meal to be "Hog Roast/ Barbeque" or a different menu?	39	2	
9. What are your favorite Auction items? <i>Rods 11, Reels 8, Flies 14, Kayaks 2, Gear 8, Tying Materials 6, Fly Line 5, Art 3, Guides 4</i>			
10. Would you be willing to teach fly fishing skills to school groups and kids camps?	15	10	17
11. Are you aware that the club has monthly fly tying classes?	37	5	
12. Would be willing to help veterans in Project Healing Waters at the VA or at an outing?	18	9	16
13. Would you like to volunteer for events like the Florida Expo?	17	7	17
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?	31	11	
15. Would you like more special outings like the Everglades trip traveling farther and overnights?	27	0	15
16. Over the last eight years or so the club has built up a nice cash reserve. The Board wants to use it to enhance the membership's experiences. We would like your suggestions. <i>Speakers 13, Outings 9, Authors 4, O'night 2, Tshirts, 2, Help youth 2, raffle trip drawings 2, donate IFFF 2, Tampa Baywatch</i>			
17. Would you participate in environmental projects like Coastal Cleanup, habitat restoration, etc.	31	5	5
18. Do you use our website for Fly Tying Instructions?	30	12	
19. How often do you use/look at the SFF website?	11	2	30
20. How often do you use/look at the IFFF website?	5	15	21
21. What % of your fishing is salt or fresh water?	<i>Saltwater 81.2%</i>		<i>Freshwater 18.1%</i>
22. Which of the following do you own?	<i>Boat 20, Kayak 22, Canoe 9, Waders 29, None of the above 3</i>		
23. What question would you like to see in the next survey? <i>Suggest "NEW" outing locations. Listing of members who want to hook up with those who have boats for outings. Have involvement in environmental, political groups affecting fisheries. What is the most important aspect of our organization? What should requirements be for SFF membership? A) no requirements. B) IFFF membership required. C) IFFF membership optional. What do you dislike about our club or meetings?</i>			
24. For the annual largest fish tournament should the winners come from			
A) the largest targeted fish caught from each outing.	8		
B) the longest fish in each category from any outing	32		

Tying Bench

Bruce's Snook Snagger -- by Bruce Evensen



This fly is primarily designed for snook. It should be fished around the mangroves or dock lights using slow or medium strips. Other colors or color-combinations also work well. Check out the action it produces!

Bruce

Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu SL12S 1/0 (99511-12)

Thread: Danville 210 Dernier White
Flat Waxed Nylon

Tail: 3" White Rabbit Zonker Strip

30# Mono for Loop & Hook Guard

Center Gill: Red Chenille (3 wraps)

Body: White Marabou

Head 3/4" piece of round white foam

Step 1: Wrap hook shank and tie in mono loop behind hook bend. Put remainder of mono through the hook eye and cut off just behind hook point.

Step 2: Tie on Zonker Strip -- Hair side up!

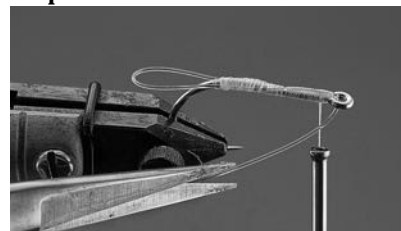
Step 3: Tie on red chenille. 3 wraps at end of Zonker Strip.

Step 4: Tie on 3 batches of Marabou - top, left and right sides (no bottom) - starting 1/4" back from hook eye

Step 5: Tie on 3/4" round white foam 1/8" behind hook eye. Add two wrap just behind hook eye to keep weed guard in place.

Step 6: Apply clear, thin epoxy on bottom of thread wrap.

Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5



Step 6



Tying Bench

Flute Fly -- Tied by Layne (Smitty) Smith



This is a favorite fly of Pat Damico for snook. Although it is a "popper-style fly," its construction makes it very different in that the "flutes" in the face of the fly cause water to spray out in different directions as a subtle indication of a wounded baitfish rather than the distinctive loud "POP" of a cup-faced popper (the sound of a baitfish under attack). This subtle difference seems to draw more strikes from the snook.

Pat favors a simple variation using just bucktail and a few strands of Krystal Flash for the tail and a collar of Estaz. Mine is a little fancier but not much!

Materials

Hook: Mustad #CK74S SS Signature Kink Shank Hook #2 - 2/0

Thread: Danville Flatwaxed Nylon white

Tail: White bucktail with splayed white hackle feathers or your favorite tail material

Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash (or your favorite pearl flash)

Collar: Palmered white hackle feathers. You can add an under-wrap of Estaz. I use hot pink/red under-wrap to give hint of gills.

Head: Flute head

Cement: Fletch-Tite Platinum

Tying Sequence:

Step 1: Place hook in vise and measure flute head length from hook eye to rear of head and mark on hook shank with either a few red thread wraps (my choice) or a permanent marker. This will give you a reference point on where your tying materials should end.

Step 2: Tie in your tailing material (i.e. white bucktail) just above the hook point with a set of tapered wraps to make transition for hackle feathers 2 or 3 each side. The feathers may be tied in splayed or concave sides facing each other depending on the profile you want for you fly.

Step 3: Tie in a half dozen strands of Krystal Flash in "Vee" configuration down each side of tail and trim slightly longer than tail.

Step 4: At this point tie in hackle (1 or 2 feathers depending how full you want the collar) and palmer forward to the mark on your hook shank. Tie off and trim excess. If you option to use the under-wrap of Estaz, tie in Estaz first followed by feather(s). Do one or two wraps behind hackle feathers then palmer forward to the mark on your hook shank and tie off. Trim off excess and then palmer feather(s) forward to the mark allowing the Estaz to show through somewhat and then tie off and trim.

Step 5: Wrap your thread forward to just behind hook eye in tight side-by-side wraps and then wrap thread back to mark on hook with the same type of wraps. Tie off and cut thread. This will give you a good base to lay down your adhesive for a solid set as you slide on the flute head.

Step 6: Slide head onto hook with one continuous push to meet the collar. An option here is to stop at collar for a nice full collar or you can push it slightly up onto the hackle to make it flare backwards (that would help in making it cast a little easier).

Smitty

Bob Morrison: Fly Fishing Tips Plus One Fishy Factoid



How to think like a bait fish

Think like a bait fish -- When casting to a fish you have seen and located do not drop your fly right on top of his head. If you do you will scare him away. Try to place the fly in such a way that it will drift by the fish with the tide or at least close enough so that the fish can see your fly. Finally, do not retrieve your fly toward the fish, but always away from him. Bait fish in their right minds will never go toward a bigger fish that could easily eat them.

“Seaduce” deep fish -- I have recently read an article that strongly recommends using yellow bucktail for many fresh- and saltwater fish. What the fish might think it is escapes me, but you can tie this lure as a jig or as a Seaducer fly. Fish this fly any way you want to, but make sure that you weight it or use sinking line to fish it down in the water column. Depth is very important because fish on the bottom will seldom come up several feet to take a fly on the surface. So, fish the fly deep if the water depth is over three feet, but with weight enough to get it down.

Gulf beaches are calling -- Big schools of bait fish are showing up in the surf on Gulf beaches, and all predator fish including tarpon are hunting them. You should fish from the beach out to depths of ten feet to find the best depth at which they are feeding. For snook that are active now, try finger-sized mullet and similar sized bait fish in the surf, including pinfish up to four inches in length. Greenback patterns are also working well for snook.

We are all lazy -- Remember the structures where you have found catchable fish. Not all structures will hold fish, since they look for places that provide both shelter from tidal current and which will also provide bait drifting by in the current. A hungry fish can shelter or hide behind a structure barrier protected from the current, and then slide out into the current and catch food items that are drifting by with minimal effort. Let's face it, we are all lazy.

Holes + Structure + drop-off = cobia -- Cobia are schooling around the deeper holes on the flats, most of which are reachable only by boat. Again, look for holes near structures and drop-offs. The cobia are taking all kinds of bait including crabs.

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

Bob

Bob's Fishy Factoid of the month

Near Aspen, Colorado there must have been a number of huge earthquakes about a hundred thousand years ago. These quakes caused great mudslides, one of which caught a herd of mastodons, the elephant of that day. In one place, the mud came so quickly that the herd was caught and buried alive while standing up. Their skeletons were found recently, still standing up. Must have been some quake, eh?

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #87



Do you do the "Chuck-and-Duck?"

By Capt. Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor

I walked into a fly shop recently and the owner was putting a used sink tip fly line on a new reel as a customer watched. I asked the client if he used this sink tip line a lot. He said he did using the, "Chuck and Duck," casting method. His cast was the, "Chuck," and his movement needed to prevent getting hit in the head was to, "Duck." He was a fresh water trout fisherman, often fishing rivers. He said once he survived the short cast, he would feed line to lengthen his water coverage. I asked what he would do if the fish was 40 or 50 feet away. His response was, "That fish will die of old age." Casting this line, especially with weighted flies, the same as you would a floating line, spells disaster. Learn a Belgium or Continuous Tension cast as well as slowing things down and opening your loop a little to cast this setup well and safely.

:

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

Tarpon ready to take advantage of bait migration

By Pat Damico, Tampa Bay Times correspondent

Warm water has triggered large schools of baitfish to enter Tampa Bay and move farther inland. Tarpon will take advantage of this annual spring migration and concentrate where baitfish are plentiful. Bridge structure fits the bill. If you fish for tarpon after dark, head for a bridge. Bridges with lights attract baitfish, and tarpon will feed aggressively within inches of bridge structure when the tide is moving. Make short casts to sighted fish that are large and acrobatic. Rather than tie or anchor your boat, use an electric motor to get in position and also to get you away from tackle-wrecking structure after hooking a large fish. Size 1 to 1/0 white flies with 40- to 60-pound shock tippet should be attached to a 20-pound class tippet. If you prefer day fishing, tarpon will roll and show themselves early and late. Their time spent on the surface is usually brief, so use a rod rigged with a full sinking line, leader as above and same-size weighted flies in darker colors. Flies that are black, purple and combinations of these colors are effective. Cast and allow the fly to sink before beginning a retrieve with short, tantalizing strips. Keep your offering close to the bottom using a countdown method popular with jig fishermen

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Fingers crossed -- It looks like that reservoir to store water from Lake Okeechobee is going to be built. Governor Rick Scott has signed the bill to provide more funds and to speed up construction of the Everglades Agricultural Area(EAA) to prevent dirty water from flowing to Florida coastlines on the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Rivers. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

Another piece to that Big O issue -- Moving water south from Lake Okeechobee into the Everglades and on to Florida Bay has been complicated by man-made dams, dikes and canals. One of the biggest hurdles to the success of Everglades restoration is the Tamiami Trail. ([Clewiston News](#))

Remember the Bay of Pigs? U.S. fishers in Cuba go to the infamous Bay of Pigs for a fly-fishing experience ([Washington Post](#))

And you're asking, what is the Bay of Pigs? I get it. You're young. Read this. ([Central Intelligence Agency](#))

Honeymoon in Patagonia– Argentina's Limay River was calling out to Suncoast Fly Fisher Darryn Manley and his bride Maria, also a fly fisher. Here are some of the scenes they saw. ([You Tube](#))

For men of a certain age. I'm pretty sure I saw some of these ads in the barber shop while waiting for a haircut when I was a kid. ([Field and Stream](#))

These too. And pipe smoking fly fishers. We don't see those anymore. ([Pinterest](#))

But, but... I can tie the double-daisy with my eyes closed. I like that knot. But, I have to say, the A2 looks like a stronger knot, the double daisy with a twist. H/T Smitty. ([You Tube](#))

It's a great cause – The Ed Alber Tarpon Rodeo, June 8-9, benefits Tampa Bay Watch ([The Fishing Wire](#))

Emerson Point Info – Directions, fishing info, kayak launching, do's and don'ts. ([Mymanatee](#))

Pass the popcorn – Yeti has released a video – *120 days* – that'll restart your heart. ([Fly Fisherman](#))

More popcorn please. Drift boating never looked so good. H/T Joe Corr. ([Fly Craft USA](#))

I always order the biggest popcorn -- Redfish tailing. H/T Pat Damico. ([saltstrong](#))

They had me at 50% off. Seems like I always need fly line. Thanks for the link, Smitty. ([Whitetail fly tying](#))

I like this. A lot. – The Florida Fish and Wildlife website now invites us to add our comments about fish and this will help them understand fishing issues and determine priorities for action. ([myfwc](#))

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