

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

Rodney Smith: We are field scientists. P13



April Turpen receives Cliff Nigh's hand-crafted bamboo fly rod. P4



MarineQuest: 174 Kids tie their first fly. P14



Walt Ruda and tailing reds. P16



111 baby tarpon.
From the shore. P19



Bill Scarola in N. J.
P11



Andy C: Xcalak sunset. P16





SFF President Letter – November 2017

As we enter November, the Thanksgiving month, I am truly thankful for all of you who have given so much to accomplish so much. May you have a joyous Thanksgiving, surrounded by family and friends.

We have a lot going on here. Because of the time donated by our members, our Club is growing as we help introduce people, young and old, to this Captivating Art of Fly Fishing. You all have created an atmosphere that makes people want to join us.

When they nominated me for President, I first said no. I was not an accomplished fly caster, tier or fisher. Even though my heart was totally into it, I was basically a newbie. I had managerial and leadership training and experience, but how could I be President of the Suncoast Fly Fishers? Overwhelming.

To make a long story short, I accepted and was elected. Who knew? But I could never have done it without the support and help from our Board of Directors and you, The General Membership. The experience has truly filled my life with joy and you all helped me overcome my many short comings.

Now, I said all that to say this: We need someone to lead our PROJECT HEALING WATERS Program.

Our men in uniform, for whatever reason, stepped up in service for our country. They are the reason we have our freedom and sleep peaceably here at home.

Some of them need a little help adjusting to civilian life.

Those of us who love this sport, know that Fly Fishing is a Perfect Therapy. Don't you feel so much better after even a few hours of fishing? I know I do.

You don't have to be a veteran. You don't need a lot of experience. The men who have been doing it for so long will gladly help. If you feel the calling, please consider it. I guarantee that your life will be enriched beyond any effort that you put forth. Visit a meeting or two and see if it's for you.

"These memories that haunt my soul, that steal from me my peace. How do I deal with them? How do I make them cease? I will go to the calming waters, the rushing stream, the open Gulf. These will put my mind at ease as I visit there by myself. I grip the cork and unroll the line and gently place the fly. The fish responds, my heart does too and this beautiful, scaly and finned friend of mine, calms my troubled soul. I thank you friend for blessing me as I gently place you in the water. Another time we may meet again, but you will always be my brother."

I look forward to seeing you all at the next General Meeting on November 16th and then at our Outing at Weedon Island.

Never lose your Sense of Adventure,

George

George Haseltine, Proud to Serve as SFF President 2016-17, ghh343@aol.com, 727-423-8110

Club Meetings and More

Thursday, November 16 Meeting

- Our speaker is **Capt. C. A. Richardson**, host of Flats Class TV, who has done as much as any one person to show-and-tell about how to catch our amazing inshore gamefish. Don't miss this one.
- Go to school: Bruce Evensen ties flies
- Drawing for ½-day guided trip with Capt. Pat Damico.
- Arrive hungry. We'll have free coffee and pastries at the November member meeting. Please join us and enjoy the goodies.

Saturday, November 18 Outing

- Weedon Island Preserve
- Lunch. Low Country boil by John Craig

Saturday, December 9 Outing, Don Coleman Invitational

- Note earlier date to keep holidays free
- This is also our annual Chili Cook-Off at Fort DeSoto Park.
- Tampa and Sarasota club members join us on this one.
- It's your last chance to catch the longest outing tournament saltwater fish.

Thursday, December 14, fish FWC's research ponds in Manatee

- Limited to 15 Suncoast Fly Fishers. Sign up with Tom Gadacz.
- Need to arrive by 8:45 am. Fish 'til noon. Bring your own lunch.
- Fly cast to tarpon and redfish
- Location: 14495 Harlee Road, Palmetto.

Saturday, December 16, Casting Clinic, Egan Field, St. Pete Beach

- Hosted by Suncoast Fly Fishers
- Two of the very best FFI master casting instructors-- Pat Damico and Dayle Mazzarella
- Clinic is free for members of Fly Fishers International (FFI).
- 9 am to noon at Egan Field, 9100 Blind Pass Road, St. Pete Beach

Thursday, January 18 Meeting

- Trash 'n' Treasures with auctioneer Alan Sewell. Donate gear you don't use. Bid and get a good deal on items you need.

Saturday, January 20, Outing

- Pinellas Point, St. Petersburg
- Lunch: Brisket

Friday-Saturday, February 9-10, 2018 - **Florida Fly Fishing Expo** - Plantation on Crystal River

- Volunteers needed for fly tying, registration, raffle, and more. See Tom Gadacz
- Seminars and demos by the best fly tiers and casters in Florida
- Top guide presentations on fly fishing local waters

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 143 members including 21 family members and 5 honorary members.

FFI Charter Club.

Suncoast Fly Fishers is a charter member club of **Fly Fishers International**
SFF website
SFF Calendar

*Save the Date.
Suncoast Fly
Fishers 2018 Hog
Roast. March 24*

Catch the Fly Fishing Fever

Introduction to Fly Tying Classes with Bruce Evensen

Free monthly fly tying lessons for members and guests

When: Thursday, November 30 – 6 pm

What: Learn to tie the Kwain Shrimp.

Materials: Mustad 34007 hooks #4 to #1, 1/2-inch brush brown, tan craft fur, small eyes, flat waxed brown, nylon thread.

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

Introduction to Fly Casting with Tom Gadacz

Free lessons in St. Pete are open to all. Class size is limited so be sure to sign up. Call 727-363-9245

When: 6 – 8 pm Monday, December 11 (second Monday of each month)

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

October Meeting Candid Camera

Bamboo Rod Winner



April Turpen gets the handcrafted bamboo rod she won in a raffle, a customized signature bamboo rod by Cliff Nigh, above. April is admiring the mahogany rod case that Rick Warfel made for this rod.

Smitty on the road to recovery



Layne Smith – AKA Smitty – is on the mend after suffering a combination stroke and heart attack. He came to the October meeting but he's not sure if he can make the November meeting.

Plan now to attend the 2018 Florida Fly Fishing Expo

What: 2018 FFI Florida Council Fly Fishing Expo

When: February 9-10, 2018

Where: Plantation Inn, 9310 W. Fort Island Trail, Crystal River, FL 34429

How: Register online now. Reserve your spot early and you'll get 15 free bucket raffle tickets.



Photo courtesy of Plantation Inn on Crystal River

Join us at the Plantation Inn on Kings Bay in Crystal River. What a great place to spend a winter weekend! Bring your family. Meet old friends and make some new ones.

The Florida Fly Fishing Expo features programs on fly tying, casting, and fishing skills conducted by experts with demonstrations and participation. Also local guides will lead sessions on fishing local waters.

General programs are included in the admission fee and also small group sessions to sharpen your fly tying and casting skills are available for an additional fee.

We will have a Friday evening reception which is included in the registration fee and a Saturday evening banquet for an additional fee.

There will be raffles, silent, and live auctions so you can pick up some great bargains, some superb flies, trips with fly fishing guides and many other items. Saturday evening banquet tickets are \$45. Live and silent auction take place Saturday following the banquet.

We will have a list of fly fishing guides so you can fish the local waters of Kings Bay. Canoeing and kayak trips are available as well as manatee watching tours, 27 holes of championship golf, scuba diving, tours of Kings Bay, boat and kayak rentals, and a full-service spa.

Reserve your spot now and receive 15 raffle tickets. Banquet tickets must be purchased at the time of pre-registration as well as registering for the small group sessions for casting and fly tying.

Registration fee is \$25 for both days. Children 12 and under are free accompanied by an adult.

Banquet tickets for Saturday \$45.00. Small group casting and fly tying sessions \$20.00/session. 4 sessions each (morning and afternoon on Friday & Saturday)

Fly tying limited to 6 registrants per session.

Casting limited to 5 registrants per session.

[Florida Council, Fly Fishers International](#)

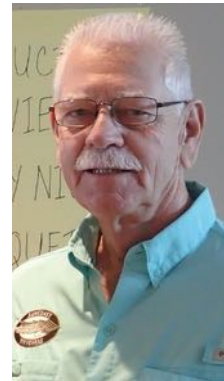
[Florida Council, Fly Fishers International, Facebook](#)

[Plantation on Crystal River](#)

[Discover Crystal River](#)

Rick Warfel: For Members Only...Free Guided Fly-Fishing Trip Raffle

Two things that our club wants to be able to do is to give back to members and to get folks fishing! To this end we are going to periodically raffle off a guided fishing trip to one of our lucky members. The club will pay for a half day of guided fishing for one or two anglers. The winning entry can invite a fishing partner of their choice. The winner can elect to extend the trip to a full day at their own expense and they are expected to provide an appropriate gratuity to the guide. There is no cost to enter but entrants must be a club member in good standing at the time of the drawing. In order to identify members that are interested in participating you must register to enter. Our first guide will be Capt. Pat Damico and the first drawing will be held at the November member meeting.



Registration is easy. Complete the form below and (1) bring it to the next club meeting or outing or (2) mail it to Suncoast Fly Fishers P.O. Box 40821, St Petersburg, FL 33743-0821, or (3) contact Rick Warfel at rh_warfel@yahoo.com or by phone at 813-523-0692.

Rick

Sign up below for the November drawing

Registration: November 16, 2017 Drawing

Name _____

Phone _____

Winner is entitled to ½ day guided trip for 1 or 2 anglers.

Voucher expires 90 days from the time of the drawing.

You do not need to be present to win.

Suncoast Fly Fishers, P. O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743

Big Gun Shootout: Longest fly cast was 132-plus feet



Big Gun Dave Olson lets it loose.

Who was the “Big Gun” at the Big Gun Shootout at Picnic Island?

The 2018 long distance champ took the trophy with a fly cast of more than 132-feet. Olson has been the long distance fly casting winner at this event several times in the past.

Olson was also on the three person team with the highest score in the skills competition. Teammates were Dave Chouinard and Greg Peterson.

The annual Big Gun Shootout is hosted every year by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.

Suncoast Fly Fishers Rick Warfel, Quin Berry, Andy Constantinou, and Tom Gadacz were among the competitors.

Tom Gadacz emailed that it was a “ Great event and an opportunity to participate in accuracy and distant casting. Although competitive it is a lot of fun and an opportunity to see some great skill casters.



Overall team winners Greg Peterson, Dave Chouinard, and David Olson

Used Gear for Sale

Transom trolling motor – 55-lb thrust

55-lb thrust transom trolling motor. 42 inch shaft. Bass Pro Prowler. In-line circuit breakers. 12-volt. Never used. No calls. See me at the November meeting. *Alan Sewell*

Fly Tying Kit

Orvis Cahill Bench/Box with Wasatch Tools and Renzetti Traveler Vise. \$300. Chris O’Byrne
obyrnec@yahoo.com

Mitchell Tri-Hull

Mitchell 1982 16’ tri-hull with a completely rebuilt 1982 50 hp Johnson outboard. The trailer has been rebuilt: new wiring, winch & strap, wheels & bearings. Asking \$2,000. Contact Phil Thigpin: [727-822-5053](tel:727-822-5053).

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. Also, flies for sale.

Got an empty boat lift?

Dennis Marquis needs to rent a boat lift for a few months while his dock is being repaired. It needs to accommodate a 23-footer. Email marquisd59@gmail.com.

**Classified ads will run for up to three months but may run longer if text is changed. Ads from non-members are also welcome but should be submitted through a member. Got something to sell? Email Bill AuCoin at wmaucoin@verizon.net*

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg, Florida



Suncoast Fly Fishers

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

Club Officers

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

Board of Directors

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

Committees

*Volunteers needed. Speak to any
officer or director at the meeting*
Casting Skills -- Pat Damico, MCI,
Dayle Mazzarella, MCI
IFFF Liaison -- Pat Damico
Conservation -- Cliff Nigh
Fly Tying -- Myron Hansen
Membership -- Karen Warfel
New Members -- Rick Warfel
Webmaster -- Rick Yarn
Hog Roast Karen+Rick Warfel
Outings -- Bob Burkard
Project Healing Waters -- John
Craig, Terry Kirkpatrick, Alan
Sewell
Outreach, shows -- Jeff Heer, Bob
Burkard
Raffles -- Dave Barson
Programs -- Board of Directors
Newsletter editor-- 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 3 organization

<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 3 organization. SFF is a charter member of the Fly Fishers International (FFI). SFF is a member of the Florida Council of FFI.

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

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

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

Join. Renew. Application
Membership renewals in September
www.suncoastflyfishers.com

October Review: Hillsborough River



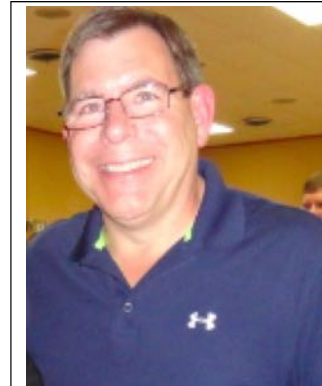
*Hilton Bruch, SFF
Outing Committee*

REVIEW—Carl Hanson Memorial on the Hillsborough River Saturday, October 21, 2017

Rotary Riverfront Park/Fowler Avenue Boat
Ramp/Temple Terrace

This was my first time fishing on the
Hillsborough River, but it certainly will not
be my last.

The weather was about perfect with a nice
cool breeze with blue sky. Truk and I
paddled upstream in our kayaks for about an
hour and had a nice slow drift back to Rotary
Park. I enjoyed the scenery and the wildlife.



*Bob Burkard, SFF
Outing committee*

Fishing was pretty slow, but our club retained the coveted Carl Hanson Memorial trophy with George Haseltine and Alan Sewell catching the most sunfish.

Among the Suncoast fly fishers, Peter Cline caught the largest bass, a 17 incher from the bank, to win the Suncoast Fly Fishers part of the event. Way to go, Peter.

There were lots of “fishy” looking spots and I can’t wait to get back there.

The Tampa club supplied sandwiches and dessert. About 14 SFF and TBFFC members attended. Tampa’s Denise Bruner supplied the well-received lunch. In addition, a large Greek salad was brought SFF member Mike Besel.

Here are the results of the Carl Hanson Competition between St. Pete and Tampa fly fishers.

1. George Haseltine, fishing with Alan Sewell, won the trophy for most fish with 7, and will have his name engraved on the trophy for the 2nd consecutive year.
2. Peter Cline won custody of the Carl Hanson portrait, awarded for the biggest fish, with a 17" bass.

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 | 17-inches | Peter Cline | Carl Hanson tournament/Hillsborough River |
| Longest snook | 27-inches | Adam Hays | Docklight Weekend |
| Longest redfish | <i>OPEN</i> | | |
| Longest ladyfish | 19.5-inches | Bill AuCoin | Cypress Point Park (March) |
| Longest seatrout | 19-inches | Peter Cline | Cypress Point Park (March) |

November 18 Outing Preview: Weedon Island Preserve

Our Weedon Island Preserve is one of my favorite outings. You can wade, kayak, or access the area by boat. The weather is usually pleasant this time of year and you just never know what type of fish you can get into. Around Weedon Island, I have caught some nice trout, redfish, ladyfish, snappers, mackerel, and to keep things interesting, there are lots of puffers and catfish.

The award for this outing will be for the largest redfish. John Craig has volunteered to provide our lunch at the pavilion. Don't miss it. Lunch will be served at noon at the pavilion on the north side of the main parking lot. Coffee should be ready by 10:30.

Bob

Directions

- Go East on Gandy Blvd. from 4th Street N.
- Go about one mile and turn right on San Martin Blvd N.E . It's just east of the Dog Track.
- Go about ½ mile and turn left onto Weedon Drive N.E.
- Launching a kayak or canoe? Follow Weedon Drive to kayak launch turnaround. Unload and park your car.
- Just for lunch? Follow Weedon Drive to the visitor center parking lot. Lunch will be held at the Pavilion on the north side of the parking lot.
- Want to wade fish? Park your vehicle in the visitor center lot then walk with your gear to locations marked on the map below.



Park and Wade

The Weedon Island flats provide many hundreds of acres of great fishing...if you're in a boat.

But if you're not in a boat there are a couple of places where you can wade in and fly cast some productive water.

First, park your car in the visitor center lot at the cultural and history center then walk with your fly gear to one of two wade-in spots.

One spot is the area near the kayak launch area. This gives you access to productive shoreline in either direction with good seagrass and oyster bars.

The other spot is the eastern shoreline of the bay and the

Weedon Island Preserve flats. Walk the Upland Trail to the Lookout Point Trail and walk to the water. Refer to the map, which you can also find [online](#). Water levels shouldn't get too high for wading Saturday. We have an [incoming tide](#) starting about 8:30 am and it will come up about 18 inches before we break for lunch.

Ken Hofmeister: Colorado Fireplaces or Florida Docklights?
(Answer: below)



Colorado's Fraser River on a chilly October morning. The temperature was 30 degrees and a cold front was on the way. Ken is wondering, should I go fishing?



Ken left his waders in the car and sipped a latte in the cozy, fireplace warmth of his daughter's Winter Park condo. Good call, Ken.

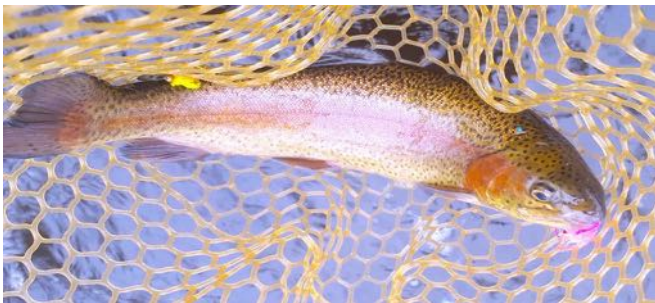


Back in St. Pete. Another beautiful night fly fishing the docklights. Here's a snook Ken caught on a sparse Steve Farrar fly. Docklights are the year-around gift for sight-cast fanatic fly fishers.

(Answer: It's all good)

Ken

Bill Scarola in NJ: The 16-inch rainbow that didn't get away



I caught this 16" rainbow on a "pink" woolly bugger this past wed. when in NJ, in the Pequest River. I used 2 lb tippet and lost three others!

Bill

From the archives...

Tying Bench - Key Lime Bendback ...

...Tied by Dan Bumgarner



I like to find materials that I can adapt to fly tying in craft stores, tackle shops and hardware stores. Most fail miserably but some work. While browsing around at Michael's I came across these pearlescent pipe cleaners and thought that they might be useful. I purchased some in pearl and gold colors and took them home to tryout. The first flies were standard hook down streamer types using the pipe cleaner for the body. I tried several wing materials but the *Unique Hair* and *Super Hair* seemed to be the easiest to work with. It is very important not to over-bend the hook; the entire

point of the hook must stay above the plane of the section of the hook that is bent down. The stick on eyes are probably not necessary but they sure do dress the thing up.

I usually fish this fly with a medium speed strip pause. The fly is most effective when there are minnows on the flats which is starting to happen now so tie some up and let me know how well (or bad) they work for you. Bend backs are simple to tie, fun to fish and allow a lot of creativity and I hope you have as much fun with them as I have.

Materials

Hook: Size 1 3407 Mustad or equivalent.

Thread: Chartreuse 210 denier

Body: Pearl sparkle pipe cleaner

Wing: Supreme hair in white, fluorescent chartreuse, and olive

Eyes: 1/4-inch yellow Hologram Dome

Finish: Cover head and eyes with Aleene's Fabric Fusion or some sort of epoxy

Tying Sequence

Step 1: Prepare bend back on hook.

Step 2: Lay down a thread base front to back and half way up the hook bend.

Step 3: Prepare pipe cleaner by removing material to expose about 1/4-inch of the wire then bending it to 90 degrees.

Step 4: In pipe cleaner at the hook bend on top of the thread base. Tie very firmly and carry the thread back up to the prepared bend.

Step 5: Wrap pipe cleaner forward to the bend and tie off. Clip off excess with wire cutters.

Step 6: Invert hook in vice.

Step 7: Select a small bundle of white Supreme Hair about two hook lengths long. Work the fibers to make the ends uneven. Cut one end square and tie it in on the straight part of the hook just behind the eye.

Step 8: Select a small bundle of chartreuse Supreme that is just slightly longer than the first bundle and tie it on top of the white.

Step 9: Select a small bundle olive Supreme hair that is just slightly longer than the chartreuse and tie it in on top.

Step 10: Build a tapered head and whip finish.

Step 11: Apply eyes and topcoat with fabric fusion or epoxy.

Dan

Captain Rodney Smith: We are field scientists



Captain Rodney Smith, Champion for the Indian River Lagoon, author, founder of Anglers for Conservation, and Coastal Anglers Magazine.

The Indian River Lagoon is 150-plus miles long and stretches across three climate zones. It is, in a way, the beating heart of Florida's east coast. In recent years, the heart is beating more faintly.

Seagrass is dying –nutrient-rich storm water runoff is the main problem –and when the seagrass goes, so do the fishes, so do the birds, and so do the animals that depend on it. Anglers survive but they leave a little piece of their heart behind as they go in search of some new

places to fish.

After years of captaining, organizing, writing, and public speaking Rodney has earned the unofficial title of Champion of the Indian River Lagoon. And, in spite of suffering a stroke a year ago, Rodney keeps on keeping on. Along with wife Karen he co-founded [Coastal Angler Magazine](#) and [Anglers for Conservation](#) (Slogan: Protect our waters) and its mission is to inspire new generations of marine stewards through education, conservation, and community outreach.)

Rodney also writes books and articles –check 'em out on [Rodney Smith Media.com](#) –plus he speaks to outdoor clubs and to more than 3,000 kids every year. Rodney was our October meeting speaker along with his friend and board member David Williams.

He made many compelling points about how hard this is on the fishes and birds of the IRL.

- The Daytona Beach Journal reported that in July of 2016 the IRL lost more than 300 pelicans. The bait fish they dive and dip aren't there like they used to be. Pelicans need about four-pounds of fish a day to survive.
- There is one 15-mile stretch of the IRL where there is no longer any seagrass.
- Green and brown algae are thriving, fed by nutrient-rich storm water runoff.



A scallop in the seagrass is like a canary in the coal mine. If it dies, that's trouble. If it thrives, that's good news.

"My stroke gives me insight," said Rodney. "The Indian River Lagoon is my home and I've given it my all. I realize now that I can change the world with you one person at a time.

"It's important for us all to have a feeling of awe when watching nature.

"You feel nature.

"You are the civilized world's connection to nature.

"You are a field scientist."

Tom Gadacz: 174 Kids Tie Their First Fly

Suncoast Fly Fishers, a Charter club of Fly Fishers International, participated in MarineQuest Oct. 21 at the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in downtown St. Petersburg.



Karen Kolinski helps a young girl tie her first fly at MarineQuest.

Helping kids tie their first fly is a delight for the kids and for the fly tiers. Members who helped the cause were Hilton Bruch, Karen Kolinski, Dave Redd, Ken Hofmeister, Rick Warfel, Jeff Heer, and Tom Gadacz.

MarineQuest began in 1995 and was created to inform the public about programs at the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in downtown St. Petersburg. They dedicate a day for local schools and students. Last year there were over 16,000 visitors. We came well prepared with vises and plenty of fly tying material and 200 fly boxes.

We had a beautiful day with sunshine and a modest breeze. This year we had an expanded booth to accommodate 6 fly tying stations compared to the 4 we had last year. We assisted over 170 youngsters who tied a fly. This was the first time tying a fly for most of the kids, so we used easy patterns from colorful streamers to a Clouser. As usual we were kept very busy and had a queue from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We demonstrated and assisted each youth to tie a fly and provided a plastic box for their fly, using 174 boxes. It was great to see so many smiling and youthful faces who now had a fly they tied to catch a fish. Several of the kids did have a fly rod and fished and a few had previously tied a fly (usually last year with us at MarineQuest). Let's hope they will remember the joy of tying something that catches fish and will become our future fly fishing members and leaders.

We wish to thank the organizers of MarineQuest and David Reed for giving us the opportunity to introduce fly fishing to kids. Join us and help us spread the word about fly fishing and the effort our club members make to community programs. Invite a friend to join Suncoast Fly Fishers and Fly Fishers International.



Tom Gadacz and two new fly fishers

About MarineQuest

In 1995, the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) held its first MarineQuest open house. The event was created to inform the public about the research performed at the institute and to introduce the community to the world of marine science. The following year FWRI added a second day to provide local schools and students with an opportunity to visit the institute. Over the years, the event has expanded to a three-day event that now welcomes thousands of visitors.

Tom



Jeff Heer lined up members to help kids tie their first fly.



David Redd's new fly tyer has everything under control.

Bob Burkard: Tarpon Springs Maritime Festival



Bob Burkard, who organized our club's participation, was interviewed for the festival audience over the speakers.

Suncoast Fly Fishers was well represented at the first Tarpon Springs Maritime festival on Sunday, Nov. 5.

Dave Redd, Hilton Bruch, Peter Cline and Bob Burkard demonstrated fly tying, helped kids tie their first fly, and chatted up the small but enthusiastic crowd about our club and the joys of catching fish on the fly.



Hilton Bruch helps a soon-to-be fly fisher tie his first fly.



Members Hilton Bruch, Peter Cline and David Redd demonstrated fly tying and discussed fly fishing.

Bob

Walt Ruda: Flood Tide Redfish in St. Augustine



Walt Ruda: "You know it's a good day when our guide says 'which tailer are you going to cast to?'"

Shot over to St. Augustine for a couple hours of flood tide fishing with good Friend/Guide -- Tim Boothe. He runs **Old City Guide Service**.

I brought four of these nice reds to the boat and had two others come loose due to strip setting too soon.

Sight fished all of these beauties and was casting to them every area we checked out.

You know it's a good day when your guide says " which tailer are you going to cast to ". Capt-Tim Boothe is a great guide and runs a class act service. We left them tailing.

Walt

Andy Constantinou: 'Poons and bones in Xcalak, Mexico

I just returned from a bone fishing trip in Xcalak, Mexico.

It was a very wet week which marred the fishing; however, I still managed to catch a few bonefish and tarpon.



Peaceful Xcalak at the end of the day



Blue skies appear during a wet week in Xcalak. Still Andy Constantine managed to catch a few bonefish and tarpon.

Andy

Rick Birnbaum: Fly fishing friendships form in the Tennessee chill. Browns and rainbows were great, too



Rick Birnbaum with one of many brown trout from the South Holston River.

What we do in the name of sport and planning a fishing trip. We research, plan, and consult the fishing gods. Find the perfect days, check the weather conditions, find the guides, and reserve accommodations. No detail left out. Over and over you review; nothing is left to chance- at least in your mind.

That’s exactly the scenario of our trip to the Great Smokey Mountains for some trout fishing on the Watauga and South Holston Rivers. I guess my crystal ball was not working.

The first date got blown up by Hurricane Irma. We had too much clean-up to get away on our original time frame of late September. Rick and Karen Warfel, who were set to join us were able to go and had a good trip.

We rescheduled for late October and were re-invigorated. All the details were re-worked. Like a kid on Christmas Eve, I didn’t get much sleep, up at 3AM and we are off on the 11 hour drive from St. Pete to Bristol, Tennessee. Some rain, some traffic and we finally arrive undaunted in the afternoon. No longer 90 degrees, the cool air was a welcome relief. The scenery through the mountains was magnificent - reds, yellows and orange everywhere.

I had carefully booked our hotel because we stayed there before and was very happy with accommodations and service. Only it turns out I booked a different hotel in the same area with a similar name. Fortunately, it was also a good hotel and still close to the fly shop and restaurants.



Fishing guide Huck readies the drift boat.



Hilton Bruch and his guide Clint with one of many browns landed on the South Holston River in Tennessee.

Jan and Hilton joined us for this trip and were booked at another hotel in the area.

We met for dinner and drinks and soon everyone was having a good time.

Continued on next page



Jan: “Hey, Hilton, my brown trout is bigger than yours.”

Continued: Rick & April, Hilton & Jan fish Tennessee trout



April Turpen braves the chill.

We forgot how cold it could be

We dressed in layers for the next day and soon remembered how much we hated cold.

With the heavy rains in the previous days, the TVA was concerned about water levels in the lakes being too high, so they had been releasing water from the dams to stabilize levels. The flow in the Watauga was too high and fast to drift so we were only able to fish the South Holston. That's OK, still 10,000 fish per mile.



Rick Birnbaum and Jan Bailey-Bruch

The fishing was a little slow and I am blaming the cold for my slow reaction time in setting the strike. Our guide Huck must have yelled "set" at least fifty times that first day. It warmed up somewhat the next two days and strikes and sets improved. No real monsters were caught this year but we caught lots of pretty browns and a few rainbows.

As good as the fishing was, the camaraderie of fishing and socializing with other club members was as much or more fun. Tired and sore after three days of fishing we trekked back to St Pete and unpacked. Next year? For sure, but bring warm clothes.

Rick

Ready. Set. Go. Set, Set, Set.

"Fresh friendships forged in fabulous (but chilly) fly-fishing. Terrific Tennessee trout tempt a couple of couples commiserating over corrupt "SET!" commands. Our old folk reflexes really require refinement."

Hilton

Russ Hampton: Baby tarpon bonanza in Mosquito Lagoon

In just six days, casting from shore, our club ally from Clermont, Florida landed 111 little tarpon and 71 snook.

My neighbor and I made the trip to the Mosquito Lagoon in the Canaveral National Seashore Park to fish for the baby tarpon. It is about a two-hour drive from Clermont, and after entering the park we drove to the third pull out parking area, parked the truck and fished from the shore.

This area where you fish is maybe 75 feet wide. Just get out of the truck walk a few feet and fish, my fly box was on the front seat of the truck. The fish were breaking everywhere from right next to the shore to out in the lagoon.

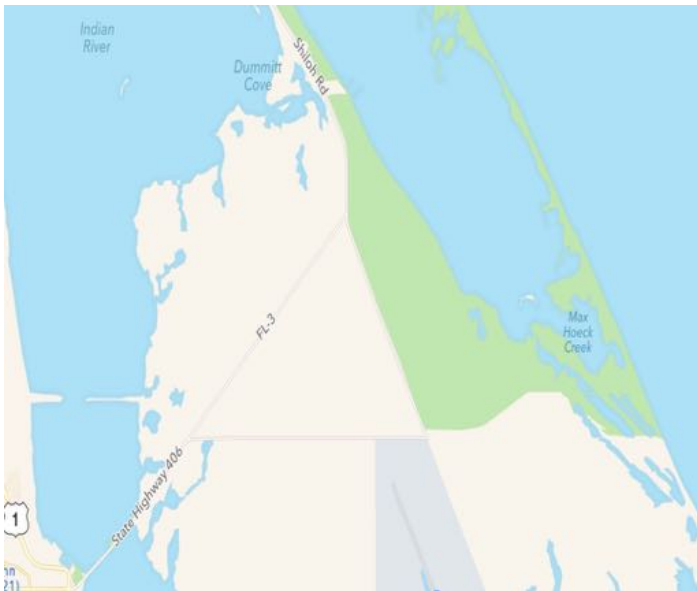


Using small Clousers, size #2 & #4 in white, yellow, and gray/white, one could get a hit on almost every cast. We only fished about three hours catching at least 50 tarpon and a few snook.

The next day I went alone since the catching was very good. That day was great in only 2 hours I caught 30 tarpon, 25 snook, and 4 lady fish. An awesome few hours of fishing.



Russ Hampton with one of his 111 tarpon caught in six days



Canaveral National Seashore and surrounding area.

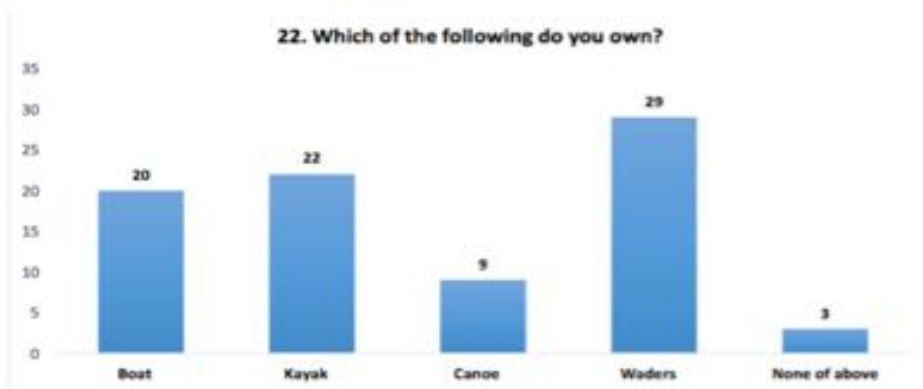
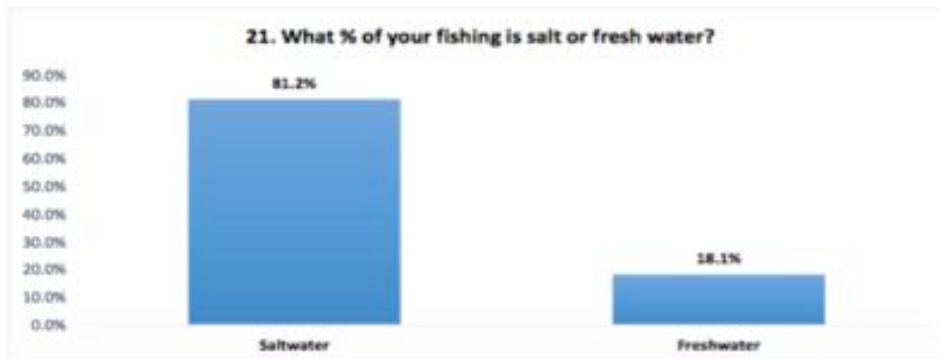
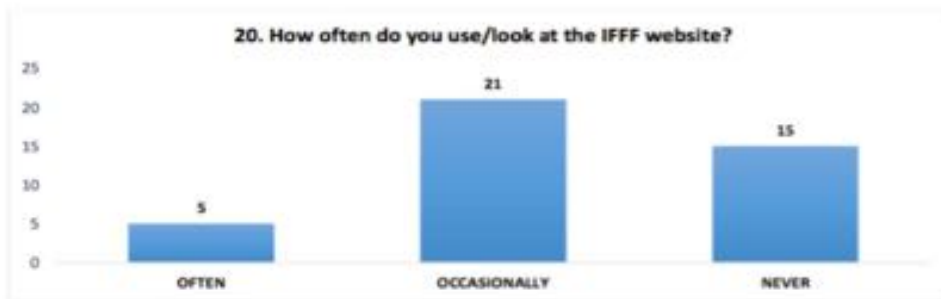
Apple Maps

In total fishing there for a few hours on six different days I landed 111 tarpon, 71 snook, and 10 lady fish. The fish were all small but a lot of fun.

Most days one just goes fishing. Very few days one goes catching. These were catching days.

Russ

Member survey answers at a glance. Part 6
Bob Burkard has put member survey results into these handy bar charts



Watch for more survey results in future issues

Bob Morrison: Fly Fishing Tips Plus Fishy Factoids



How to catch, measure, and keep a snook for dinner

"
Spooky sea trout -- Fish at the peak high of incoming tides. Chumming can help here. Sea trout of over 24-inch size will be moving around the flats in small groups of six fish or more. Find them with spinning outfits and plugs, then switch to bait fish flies. Above all, be quiet because they spook easily.

Oyster bed flies -- Oyster shell beds are good places to cast for redfish now. Retrieve slowly. Shrimp patterns and flies with yellow tails are also effective here.

Fish and ski -- Going out west for freshwater trout? Good, though you might be fishing in the snow. Take your tackle and your skis with you. Remember, grasshoppers have all grown large over the summer as have crickets, so if you go, take grasshoppers and crickets in sizes 6, 4, and 2 with you.

Go get 'em and good luck!

Bob

Bob's Fishy Factoids (with snarky comments by Mr. Alter Ego)

- Over 650 species of birds live in the Pantanal area of Brazil, an area the size of England. *(Fewer now, perhaps, with the deforestation?)*
- Over 2,000-million tons of sediment from the Himalayas reach the sea in Bangladesh every week. *(How many zeroes is that, exactly?)*
- A river otter can swim the length of more than four football fields (433 yards) before it must come up for air. *(But do they kneel for the national anthem four times?)*
- Andean condors can soar to over 18,000 feet, 3.6 miles above sea level in altitude. *(There are not many roads in the Andean Mountains so it's hard for them to find road kill.)*
- The jaws of a leaf-cutter ant vibrate 1,000 times per second enabling this insect to cut some pretty tough foliage. *(We could use some of these ants during the Florida growing season.)*
- Brits drink over 165 million cups of tea every day. *(Okay, let's see, that's 2 or 3 cups per person. Oh my, babies shouldn't drink that much tea.)*

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #93

Don't cut the fish any slack



By Capt. Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor

While fishing in Montana this summer with my son and some friends, I was asked this question. The least experienced were having a real problem while fishing floating terrestrials for cutthroat trout. I asked one of them to show me how he set the hook. He lifted the rod vertically with an outstretched arm while at the same time pulling the line with his line hand down to his knee. This extreme movement still didn't hook the fish because there was still slack causing the fly not to be affected. On slow moving water, I showed him how to lower his rod tip after the cast and eliminate all slack line up to the fly. When a trout took the fly, a slight trout set worked by just lifting the rod tip. Slack can be intentional to eliminate drag. Learn to control slack not only while casting, but while fishing too.

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

Jacks are made for fly rod fun

Along with other warm-water species such as snook and baby tarpon, jack crevalle have made a fantastic comeback. Few saltwater species match their ability to chase fast-moving prey and put a strain on fly tackle. Chances of encounters can be increased by applying a few simple rules. They are always prowling for food and can be in very large schools where they will be similar in size. Moving water will get them feeding, especially when a tide changes. They can relate to structure because structure holds baitfish. Seawalls with docks, docks on points at canal entrances, mangrove points (especially with oyster bars) and bridge abutments should all be probed. I prefer white poppers or sliders size 1 to 1/0 that make a lot of surface disturbance. They will investigate noise and strike suddenly. If you hook a fish, get it on the reel as soon as possible and keep pressure on it with the rod held low. Keep a soft bend in the rod and use a reel with adequate backing and excellent drag. It is not unusual for another fish to try to tear the fly out of the hooked fish's mouth..

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Early birds get the worm 15 free raffle tickets-- It's time to plan a long weekend trip in early February. Go to [this website now and register early](#) for the free stuff. And make your room reservation at Plantation Inn on Crystal River. This Florida Fly Fishing Expo is shaping up to be one of the best ever. The latest gear. Expert instruction. Auction. Camaraderie. And fly fishing, of course. ([Florida Council, FFI](#))

Letter from Lefty --Members Ray Smith and Al Pitcher called my attention to this medical update from Mr. Kreh. All in all, Lefty's doing great for a 92-year-old fly fisher but the doctors have imposed some travel restrictions. That's too bad. When I think of Lefty I see him demonstrating fly casting at the Frank Sargeant/Tampa Tribune Outdoor Show in Tampa. I see him doing demonstrations at the Florida Fly Fishing Expo in Crystal River. I understand that Lefty sent the letter to Temple Fork Outfitters, one of Lefty's signature brands, with a request that TFO help spread the word through the fly fishing community. So...spreading the word. ([Fly Tyer](#))

Speaking of Frank Sargeant -- Just got word that he will be pressing the flesh at the Reel Animals Fishing Expo at the Tampa Fairgrounds the weekend of Nov. 17. I'm going. Two-for-one, you know. ([Reel Animals](#))

Still thinking of Lefty. Deceivers, that is -- I'm going to tie some of these flies and fish them at the Weedon Island Outing on Nov. 18. Also, I have some deceivers that Bob Burkard tied. ([Vimeo](#))

Yak, yak yak --Will you be paddle-fishing the Weedon Island outing on November 18? Here's some helpful info. In case you didn't know this, you can also rent a kayak at Weedon Island Preserve. ([Weedon Island](#))

Redfish is the designated species -- Mullet season is here and Weedon Island has thousands of them schooling here and there. When you see mullet you know there is a redfish or three nearby. Bruce Evensen told me he likes to fish mullet flies in mullet season. Here's a link to several Weedon Island redfish videos. Our outing is Saturday, November 18 at Weedon Island Preserve. Get there before the sun comes up and look for schools of mullet. The sun rises at 7 am. ([You Tube](#))

Who is she writing about? -- "A Florida tarpon guide, a Montana cowboy, and a Native American beauty queen walk into a bank on the Crow Reservation for a blood drive on a Friday." That's the what. Here's the who. "That's just another day in Flip Pallot's life." Don't flip past the part where Lefty drives from Baltimore to Miami to give Flip a bag of money. Yeah, like \$25,000. ([Fly Fisherman](#))

Who knew? Researchers pumped the stomachs of more than 500 alligators to see what gators eat. What's your best guess? ([WTSP](#))

This isn't depression; it's alcohol withdrawal -- "Researchers induce depression in a fish by keeping it drunk on ethanol for two weeks, then cutting off the supply." ([N.Y. Times](#))

Don't let PETA see this picture -- The main takeaway is we need to keep our trash out of the water. Takeaway two is this fish looks like it was a pretty healthy animal in spite of its gastric band. ([Fox News](#))

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