

# 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*



*Lake Maggiore – To heck with fish. We’re heading for the best ribs in town. Pp 8, 12, 13.*



*Tony Piazza’s Wyoming Pilgrimage. P18*



*Can you cast with either hand? No? Then you should learn. P 15*



*Who is this man? Pp 8, 9, 10, 11*



## ***SFF President Letter – October 2017***

Hello everyone,

President's Message October 2017

Can you believe it's October already? Before you know it, we'll be rushing through the Holidays and into a new year. 2018! If I knew I was gonna live this long, I would have taken better care of myself.

We at the Suncoast Fly Fishers still have a lot going on before we say good bye to 2017. We share the Hillsborough River Outing with the Tampa Bay Fly Fisher's Club and have the opportunity to pay tribute to one of our most renowned members: Carl Hanson. Come join us for fishing, lunch, and good conversation. Please bring the last fly he ever tied. We'll share that story and many other exaggerations as always. See you there.

Then in November we will be at Weedon Island! If you attended last year, you remember John & Mark Craig's Low Country Boil. Wow! It was awesome. Well, John has agreed to do it again this year. Don't miss it.

December finds us at Fort DeSoto for the Don Coleman Invitational and our annual Chili Cook off. If you like Chili, this is the place to be. We have some very good cooks in our club. Watch for the Date because it is earlier this year. We also have a world-renowned casting clinic on the 16<sup>th</sup> at St Pete Bch Eagan Park.

Your Board of Directors have started planning 2018 already, so now is the time to speak up. If we had a speaker at our General Meetings last year that you really would like to hear again, let us know. January will be our Trash 'n Treasures Auction. We invited Alan to be Auctioneer, but only if he wears the hat with a Bass through it.

Invitations have gone out to Pat Damico and Dayle Mazzarella, because they are always our favorites. When we hear from them, we will build the year from there. As "Favored Sons" of the Suncoast Fly Fishers, they always have the first choice of months.

Our FFI Florida Expo is February 9-10. Volunteers are needed. Join us for fun, entertainment, and training.

All the details are in this awesome Newsletter. I didn't want to be redundant, just wanted to personally ask you to get involved and share in the good times and memories that we are experiencing.

Never lose your Sense of Adventure,

*George*

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

PS: We Need somebody to take charge of our Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing committee. Lead the team that teaches veterans how to tie flies, how to build fly rods, how to fly cast, and set up fishing expeditions for them, too. The VA is very supportive, providing vets with a fly reel and fly line for the fly rod that they build.

# Meetings and Outings

## Thursday, October 19 Meeting

- Club discussion led by author and journalist Rodney Smith, President, **Anglers for Conservation**. Smith will discuss and lead a discussion about animal intelligence. Do birds, dolphins, and manatees think and feel? Do You?
- Renew membership for 2018
- Fly Swappers: bring three freshwater dropper flies for the Hillsborough outing )

## Saturday, October 21 Outing

- Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament on the Hillsborough River
- Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club is our host
- Last chance to catch the longest bass or bluegill for the year

## Thursday, November 16 Meeting

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

## Saturday, November 18 Outing

- Weedon Island Preserve

## Saturday, December 16 Outing, Don Coleman Invitational

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

=====

## November 5 –Tarpon Springs

### Tarpon Springs' **Mini-Maritime Festival**

- Suncoast Fly Fishers will teach fly tying to festival attendees
- Fly tiers needed. See Bob Burkard at the meeting or email him at robertburkard9@gmail.com

## November 5 –Big Gun Shoot-Out

- Picnic Island Park
- Hosted by Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club
- 9 am to Noon followed by lunch
- Free lunch. Register in advance with Rick O'Hara, [flyguy47@verizon.net](mailto:flyguy47@verizon.net)

## February 9-10, 2018 -- Florida Council Expo

- Plantation on Crystal River. Volunteers needed for fly tying, registration, raffle, etc.
- Seminars and demos by the best fly tiers and casters in Florida
- Top guide presentations on fly fishing local waters
- **Updates on the Florida Council website.**

## *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 141 members including 20 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: Florida Fly Fishing Expo, Crystal River, Feb. 9-10*  
*Save the Date: Suncoast Fly Fishers 2018 Hog Roast: March 24*

## How to Catch the Fly Fishing Fever

### ***Introduction to Fly Tying Classes with Bruce Evensen***

*Free monthly fly tying lessons for members and guests*

When: Thursday, October 26 – 6 pm

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, November 13 (second Monday of each month)

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

---

**Marine Quest** – *SFF has a fly tying table to teach kids to tie. See coordinator Jeff Heer at the meeting*

Saturday, October 21

---

### ***Tarpon Springs' Mini-Maritime Festival***

*Suncoast Fly Fishers will teach fly tying to festival attendees*

When: Sunday, November 5

Fly tiers needed. See Bob Burkard at the meeting or email him at robertburkard9@gmail.com

---

### ***Fly cast FWC's tarpon and redfish research ponds***

*Only 15 Suncoast Fly Fishers can do this one. Sign up with Tom Gadacz*

When: Thursday, December 14. Need to arrive by 8:45 am. Fish 'til noon. Bring your own lunch

Florida Fish and Wildlife has invited Suncoast Fly Fishers to visit and fly cast to tarpon and redfish in FWC's stock research ponds in Manatee County. Location: 14495 Harlee Road, Palmetto.

---

### ***Master Casting Instructor fly-casting clinic***

*Learn from two of the best fly casters in the USA -- Pat Damico and Dayle Mazzarella*

When: Saturday, December 16

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

Free for members of Fly Fishers International (FFI). Hosted by Suncoast Fly Fishers and Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

---

## 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

## Smitty on the Mend



Layne (Smitty) Smith, champion fly tier

Layne Smith suffered a combination stroke and heart attack in September and underwent successful bypass surgery. He's at home now and on the mend after spending a couple of weeks in rehab.

"It was a bit of a rough time," said Smitty, "but I'm feeling better now." (Oh, he adds, except the stress of it all provoked a shingles eruption on his back. Aaarrrrrgghhh.)

Smitty hopes to be back at the October meeting.

## Used Gear for Sale

### **Alan Sewell has a deal for you**

5-hp Tohatsu 2 stroke outboard with a three-gallon tank. It runs good. Just \$100. BUT...NO CALLS. I'll bring the outboard to the October meeting. First come; first served. (Mystery gift included.)

### **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 \$2000. Contact Phil Thigpin: [727-822-5053](tel:727-822-5053).

### **Stripping basket used only two times**

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

### **Rods and flies, never used**

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

### **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.

*\*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](mailto: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](http://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 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N turn North on 72<sup>nd</sup> St. N. Turn left (South) on 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:ghh343@aol.com)

**Join. Renew. Application**  
**Membership renewals in September**  
**[www.suncoastflyfishers.com](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com)**

## September Review: Lake Maggiore



*Hilton Bruch, SFF  
Outing Committee*

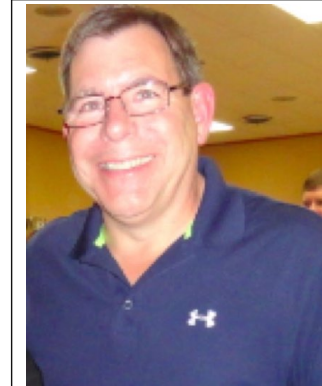
### **REVIEW—Lake Maggiore Saturday, September 23, 2017**

Our BBQ Rib challenge was the highlight of the Lake Maggiore outing this year.

Even though the weather was great and the lake's water level looked fine, the fish had a severe case of lockjaw. Luckily we had a great group of members who came out to share in our food and swap fishing stories.

I really enjoyed the company and sampling the different styles of BBQ ribs brought by our members this year. I love smoking ribs

and was thrilled to win the coveted annual Suncoast Fly Fishers Rib Challenge.



*Bob Burkard, SFF  
Outing committee*

### **UPDATED: 2017 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS**

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing
Longest sunfish	9-inches	Mark Hays	Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve
Longest black bass	15-inches	Mark Hays	Walsingham Park
Longest snook	27-inches	Adam Hays	Docklight Weekend
Longest redfish			
Longest ladyfish	19.5-inches	Bill AuCoin	Cypress Point Park (March)
Longest seatrout	19-inches	Peter Cline	Cypress Point Park (March)

## October Preview: Hillsborough River, October 21



*Carl Hanson*

Rotary Riverfront Park/**Fowler Avenue Boat Ramp**/Temple Terrace

### *Biggest Bass Wins the Outing Prize*

It is again time for Suncoast Fly Fishers and the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club to honor Carl Hanson a former leader and mentor for fly fishing and fly tying. Carl Hanson (1914-1998) was a member of the Suncoast Fly Fishers and the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers Club. He contributed so much to both clubs, teaching members and guests how to tie flies and cast. And every year the two clubs remember Hanson and the huge gift he gave to us all with an outing competition on the Hillsborough River.

*Continues on next page*



## Continued....October Preview: Hillsborough River, October 21

*Speaking of Carl Hanson...*

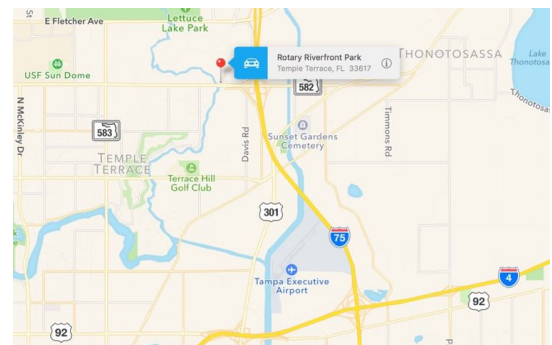
"Carl (Hanson) came to earth fly fishing," a friend said. Tying his own flies, he would preach finesse and conservation. Carl loved fishing fresh water and in his honor we meet with TBFFC and fish the Hillsborough River and compete to see how many sunfish or bass can be caught by any one club member. The tournament trophy is awarded to the winning club to display for the coming year.

Members can fish anywhere on the river wading, kayaking, canoeing, or boating. Lunch will be served at noon at the Fowler Avenue boat ramp in Temple Terrace. Come celebrate Carl even if it is just for lunch and memories. The member who catches the largest fish is awarded a portrait of Carl to keep for the year.

*Bob*

### Directions to Rotary Riverfront Park for launching and lunch

- Rte. 275 from St Petersburg towards Tampa (Approx. 23 miles)
- Keep right to take EXIT 45B to I-4 towards Orlando
- Stay Right on I-4 (Approx. 7 miles)
- Take EXIT 9 to MERGE onto I-75 North towards Ocala
- Take EXIT 265 to MERGE onto FOWLER AVE FL-582 W/E
- 1 MILE Turn RIGHT onto MORRIS BRIDGE RD
- Turn left into Park



## October Outing Remembers our own *Lord of the Flies*

### Fly fishing philosopher had lots of disciples

By SCOTT TAYLOR HARTZELL

© St. Petersburg Times published May 8, 2002

ST. PETERSBURG -- Fly fishing Master Carl O. Hanson worked miracles with rooster hackle.

"He was a classic old salt, an old New Englander," Lorraine Patterson said of her stepfather, who from 1957 to 1998 spun squirrel tail and the long, slender feathers from the neck of a rooster into flies to pursue the sport he considered a religion.

The Lord of the Flies preached to disciples at his home and invented the Hanson Glass Minnow lure. Fishing magazines touted his expertise. "He didn't have to brag about his fish slaying," said the Times' Jeff Klinkenberg, who called Hanson his grandpa figure. "Cursed like a sailor, but he was always kind of teaching."

Hanson would bark: "Fly fishing can be learned in a matter of minutes by someone with even subnormal intelligence. Fly casting is so easy it's pathetic. Nothing mysterious about it at all, dammit."

Born in 1914 in Saginaw, Mich., Hanson was the son and the grandson of commercial swordfish harpooners. He grew up in Massachusetts and labored as a body shop welder and in a shipyard. Hanson's 17 years at the yard ended after he and 30,000 employees were laid off, said his friend of nearly 50 years, Jim St. Pierre. Driving a 1941 Plymouth, Hanson came here in 1950. *Continues on next page*

## Continued... Our own *Lord of the Flies*

For work, he replaced windows and did jobs related to fishing. He learned of fly tying and casting from Earl Gresh and Doc Howe.

"Carl came to earth fly fishing," friend James Parkhill said. By the mid 1950s, Hanson was conducting free fishing clinics at his 57th Street N home. "A man asked if I'd teach him to tie a fly," Hanson said. "Pretty soon I had people coming every night. Too much. So, I had people come on Tuesday nights."

Amid fly material that included shag rug pieces and peacock eye feathers, Hanson would stress finesse over power when casting. He had as many as 35 disciples.

"Some were very serious," said Shannon Kelly, who loved working crossword puzzles with her stepfather. "Everybody had a fish story to tell, but they were there for instruction."

"Fish are a bonus," Hanson would drill. "We must create a new breed of fisherman, one who is happy harvesting fewer fish. If we don't eat a fish, we throw it back."

After his sermon, Hanson would conduct casting lessons outside.

"The guy was a philosopher," said Larry Mastry of Mastry's Bait & Tackle. "For him, it all tied in, life and fly fishing. Conservation and so on."

Conservation is dead today, Parkhill said. "It's the nets and the hoggishness of the commercial fisherman. It will absolutely get worse."

When Hanson fished, he changed flies like a rich woman discards dresses. "I will use a fly once and throw it away," he said. "I can make one for a nickel, for crying out loud."

In 1977, Hanson's wife, Minnie, died, leaving him with his son, Adrian Lee. A long beard expressed Hanson's grief. Three years later, he married family friend Esther Wiley, who said, "The wedding was a bit different."

Wearing a blue guayabera, baby blue slacks and white shoes, Hanson conducted a casting clinic before the ceremony in Freedom Park. Vows were exchanged under crossed fly rods and the reception was spiced with fish.

Bill Jackson Inc. benefited from Hanson's expertise for a decade, beginning in 1988. He was more than an employee, part owner Harriett Jackson said. "He was an attraction."

"It was nothing to see fishing line flying across the parking lot when Hanson was here," said Jackson's son, Doug.

In 1992, Hanson suffered a heart attack. He was unconscious for a month and periodically lost the use of his fingers.

"I had to take him out in a wheelchair and make him throw a few casts," said St. Pierre.

The Lord of the Flies returned to work and fishing, but on June 7, 1998, he collapsed at his 54th Street S home. He was rushed to Palms of Pasadena Hospital, where he died.

Hanson's wife conducted the clinics until August 1999. This year, a bench at Fort De Soto Park was "Dedicated in fond memory of Carl O. Hanson."

St. Pierre hasn't fished since his friend's death: "I kind of lost interest in fishing after Carl died."

###

# This is the fly that made Carl Hanson famous

## Fly Tying Bench *by Paul Sequira*

### CARL'S GLASS MINNOW

Our predominant baitfish in the winter is the glass minnow (bay anchovy) and Carl Hanson's Glass Minnow can't be beat for imitating this bait. Ft. DeSoto was a favorite fishing spot not only for Carl but Don Coleman too. It seems appropriate that we should feature this fly and put it to work at our Don Coleman Classic this month. Don taught Carl's fly for years so I lifted his tying instructions from one of the many papers Don wrote about it. In the following narrative you'll find Don's instructions and comments in italics; where needed, I've added my comments in regular print.



Top: Gray/white G.M. tied by Don Coleman

Bottom: Olive/white tied by Carl Hanson

#### Materials:

**Hook:** Mustad 3407 sizes 4, 2 and 1

**Thread:** Red 3/0 Uni-Thread or Flat Waxed Nylon

**Body:** Aluminum foil over wrapped with 15# – 20# clear monofilament

**Wing:** White bucktail under pearl or silver Krystal Flash under colored bucktail. All materials are sparse bunches and not less than twice the total length of the hook.

#### Directions:

Pinch the hook barb down with your pliers by coming in from the front of the hook. Now, put a slight bend in the hook shank as per Don's instructions as follows. *"Do not bend hooks using pliers or vises. Simply hold the hook point up by gripping the eye and part of the shank with the pliers lined up with the hook shank—not across the hook shank—and bend the hook by pressing down with your thumb inside the bend so that the shank will take a gradual bend and avoid creating a sharp bend which could weaken the hook shank. I find it best to use flat nosed, smooth jawed pliers with the tip of the pliers about one or one and one half eye lengths behind the back of the hook eye and allow the hook to bend where it will. Smooth jaws will avoid creating stress points in the hook shank. Long shank hooks are best, and bodies are unnecessary for bendback flies."*

Now, secure the hook in the vise. *"Invert the hook in the vise before tying the wing so that the point is up and the short, straight part of the hook shank immediately behind the hook eye is level"*

Don describes Carl's method for creating the body as follows: *"Carl is credited with developing a fly with the body over-wrapped with 15 or 20 pound, clear monofilament. He wrapped the monofilament like you would snell a hook or tie a speedy nail knot. The body itself was usually aluminum foil from the kitchen wrapped around the hook shank."*

Attach the thread with a jam knot on the straight portion of the hook shank directly behind the eye working back to the forward end of the over-wrapped body. Don's instructions for building the wing follows: *"The sparse wing of his [Carl's] fly was very simple: colored bucktail over white bucktail. Only in later years did he start adding Krystal Flash in the wing, although I don't believe he thought it necessary. The head should be kept relatively short, not long and tapered."*

Some additional notes from Don: *"Carl Hanson's favorite fly has been bastardized so often lately by those who claim to have known Carl and the final version of his fly that some explanation is warranted. I was one of the regulars at Carl's fly tying clinic and his after hour's discussion group, for more than 15 years. I also fished regularly with Carl. In the early years of development, he tied the fly with the wing on top of the hook shank. The final version of Carl's Glass Minnow was a bendback on regular length saltwater hooks in sizes #6, #4, and #2. He always used red thread for his flies and coated them with fingernail polish. Period. No extra embellishments. His "Glass Minnows" have probably caught more fish in the Tampa Bay area than any other fly. Although Carl could tie any fly, the "Glass Minnow" was his trademark fly."*

*"This fly should be in every fly box, especially during the winter months when White bait have left the flats. Try swimming or swinging a brace of small bendbacks, using a dropper, around the sandy pot holes in the grass beds. Depending on its size, color, and how it is retrieved, this fly can imitate a small baitfish or a shrimp. Being semi-weedless, it is a great fly to use when floating grass is present."*

## Ken Hofmeister: Lake Maggiore Revisited



*By Ken Hofmeister*

It was a delightful day, nice breeze, and overcast enough to keep a kayaker comfortable. I noted two other SFF boats on the water. So I was surprised when I got to the lunch area and saw over twenty salivating members of Suncoast Fly Fishers looking over five varieties of BBQ ribs.

Could it be that we are something of an "eating club with a fishing habit?" Spectacular ribs were enjoyed by all. And along with the ribs went good natured ribbing, joking, and poking. Fellowship was happening.

Friendships were deepening. And we saw a culture of friendliness being cemented one more time. Name tags (thanks April and Rick) really helped us speak to some folks we didn't know very well.

How well I remember my first board meeting where I asked the question: "So why do you participate in the activities of Suncoast Fly Fishers?" Mark Hays spoke up and said simply: "Because that's where my friends are." Every month, I understand this even better.

Fishing was really bad on this morning. First liar might have had a chance. I took a shot at phrasing the question a bit differently: "Is a 19 inch bass big enough?" (Not that I, nor anyone else caught a bass or anything else). Nobody responded. That's how bad it was.

*"Too bad we had to fish." – Alan Sewell*

On the other hand, eating was really good. Alan was prompted to say: "Too bad we had to fish!" while chewing on a rib. Somehow, getting together and "chewing the fat" builds a fellowship of fly fishers. Alan has been an exemplar for friendliness ever since I've been coming to these events.

Another SFF value is FRIENDLINESS



*Lake Maggiore fishing friends Bill Scarola and Karen Kolinski return to the boat ramp.*

*"SFF strives to be a friendly, inclusive, and unpretentious group of fly fishers who have fun learning and fishing together. New members will find themselves welcomed, respected, invited, and needed.*

#### PRACTICES:

Name tags – Newsletters - Partnerships with city and county recreation departments - Pig Roast/Auctions Committee involvement – Mentoring - Standing new member committee.

*Adopted by SFF in 2007*

*Ken*

## Lake Maggiore Outing Snapshots



*Skipper Bill Scarola and Karen Kolinsky head back to the boat ramp, a little earlier than expected. Catch anything?*



*When the fish aren't biting the next best thing is...fresh coffee. Peter Cline, Alan Sewell, Hilton Bruch, Bob Burkard and Mike Simmons (far right) know what's important.*



*Dennis Marquis worked the shoreline reeds and boat ramp structure with a gurgler and a mini-wormie. He said he may have had a bite on the worm fly. Or it could have been a weed.*



*Fly fishers (not birders) rescued a purple martin birdhouse from the shoreline waters. Hurricane Irma winds had pushed it over into the water. From left, Dennis Marquis, Bob Burkard, Hilton Bruch and George Haseltine*



*Rib Challenge -- April Turpen gave each member a bean to drop in the cup in front of their favorite recipe. Contestants were Rick Warfel, Myron Hansen, Rick Birnbaum, Alan Sewell, and Bob Burkard. Everybody was a winner. But Bob Burkard got the most beans votes. (Ken Hofmeister photo)*

*Sorry, a picture of this fly was not available*

Tie some of these for the Carl Hanson outing competition on the Hillsborough River

**Materials**

**Hook:** Gamakatsu B10S Stinger hook or your favorite wide gap bass hook

**Thread:** Danville Flatwaxed Nylon Black

**Tail:** Black Holographic Flashabou or other color

**Body:** Black Holographic Flashabou or other color

**Accent Flash:** Red Holographic Flashabou

**Head:** Tapered thread head coated with Solarez UV Resin

**Cement:** Sally Hansen Hard as Nails

**Tying Instructions**

**Step 1:** Put hook in vise and work the thread back to the point of the hook

**Step 2:** Cut 15 or so strands of your base flash color from the shank. Fold it over itself and cut the bundle in half. Pull a taper into the strands.

**Step 3:** Tie in, on top of the shank, a little past the half-way point to build a taper to the tail. Wrap forward about 5 or so wraps then wrap back to the tie-in point. (You can add bucktail above and below the tail to prevent fouling if you find the need to do so.)

**Step 4:** Select 4-6 strands of accent color (red holographic flash in this case, this color combo is my favorite and best producing. Then repeat step 2. Tie in a fraction longer than the black to add taper. Wrap forward 5 wraps.

**Step 5:** Pull the forward facing strands backward and tie down. Work your thread to about the  $\frac{1}{4}$  shank mark

**Step 6:** Repeat Step 2. However, after you cut it, fold it again, cut, and then pull a taper into it.

**Step 7:** Use the front strands of the tail to judge the tie-in point to taper the fly. Tie in with 5 or so wraps forward. Ensure the flash encompasses the hook shank. Pull forward-facing strands back and tie down. Advance thread to the half way point.

**Step 8:** Repeat steps 6 and 7. Continue to build taper into the fly.

**Step 9:** Repeat step 4 with accent color. Tie on top of the shank as an over-wing only. Tie in the bundle with the backwards facing strands between the tail strands. Fold back and tie down forward-facing strands. Advance thread to  $\frac{3}{4}$  point on the hook.

**Step 10:** Repeat Steps 6 and 7. Continue to build taper into the fly. Advance thread to hook eye.

**Step 11:** Repeat Steps 6 and 7. Watching the taper of course. Fold forward facing strands backwards, and start building the head a small amount. Then repeat Step 9 using your last overwing as the judge for the tie in point. Fold back and form a nice head. Finish tapered head with a coating of UV resin.

## Dan Lagace: How to fly cast with either arm



*Dan Lagace. Learning to fly cast with the other hand gives you a chance to eliminate loopy fly casts and other mistakes. Do not rotate your forearm. Keep your elbow in front of your wrist until the very end of the cast.*

*It's worth the time it takes to train your other hand and arm. Because, then the wind is always your friend. Plus, guides and other anglers in the boat won't have to duck.*

Dan Lagace, a member of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers, is well known as one of our sport's best casting instructors. He is especially recognized for his ability to fly cast equally well with either arm. Yeah, like 100 feet.

He says, never tell yourself you can't do it. You can. We all can. We just don't know how. Lagace shared and demonstrated his two-armed wisdom with Suncoast Fly Fishers at the September meeting.

It takes a bit of time, of course, but don't forget it took each of us a lot of time to learn to fly cast with just our dominant arm. And, in fact, all of us are still working on it.

Lagace started his ambidextrous fly casting early in life fishing small streams in Connecticut crowded with shoreline vegetation. There wasn't much room for error. Sometimes you had to cast with this arm. Sometimes you had to cast with that arm.

Another advantage to casting with either hand, Lagace pointed out, is that wind never blows in the wrong direction. Also, it's helpful if you're in a canoe or a kayak. "Oh. Guides like you, too," he said. "He told the story of the time he and his friend Bill Murdich, the Murdich Minnow guy, were fly fishing in a guide's boat in Montana. Murdich also casts either arm. The guide never had to duck.

Here's another benefit, sort of a strange one. (Cue the sci-fi music.) One time Lagace caught more trout stripping with his left hand than his right hand. And he doesn't know why.

Having trouble teaching the other arm how to do the job? Lagace has this one weird trick: Put your dominant hand over your beginner hand and let it teach the other one. You want to teach it how get that good feeling of the rod loading up on the backcast. (Lagace: "Your forward cast is only as good as your back cast.")

You can even learn to double-haul. But, please, please, make your double-hauls short and sweet. "I've seen guys double-haul so far they're going to rip out their underwear."



*The fly rod is a lever. Dan Lagace demonstrates casting without a fly rod. Not much distance. Load up the fly rod lever, though, and a two-foot cast becomes a 100-foot cast.*

Questions? Contact Dan at [dlagace@evm-corp.com](mailto:dlagace@evm-corp.com), 813-230-8437. EVM-Corp: [Perfect Pitch Fly Casting](#)

## Tom Gadacz: Florida Sportsman (and *Sportswomen!*) Expo

The Florida Sportsman Expo 2017 was held on the weekend of October 7 and 8 at the South Florida Fairgrounds in Tampa. (They should change the last name to include women since there were plenty of women at the show and a fly fishing presenter – Capt. Alissa Vinoski.)

Suncoast Fly Fishers and the Tampa Fly Fishing Club staffed the Fly Stage with fly tiers and casters. We had a casting pond and a stage with five talks each day.



*Bill Scarola was just one of several Suncoast Fly Fishers who demonstrated fly tying at the Florida Sportsman Expo at the Tampa Fairgrounds.*



*Robert Fischer and Capt. Nick Angelo*

Jeff Heer, Ted Rich, Alan Sewell, Bill Scarola, Rick Warfel and Tom Gadacz staffed the event for SFF.

Many activities and vendors were available with boat dealers, fishing shops, tackle vendors, marine equipment, conservation groups and vacation adventures.

Seminars were on Inshore Fishing, Offshore Fishing, Kayak, Angler on Foot, Hunting, and our Fly Fishing. We had a great spot with a stage and casting pond but the pond was bit tight and limited by the big boat displays.

The Fly Fishing Stage featured Capt. Alissa Vinoski (Intro to Fly Fishing), Capt. Rick Grassett (Tripletail/False Albacore), Capt. Nick Angelo (Nighttime Fly Fishing), Eric Henson (Kayak Fly Fishing), and Leigh West (Tips for Improving Your Cast).



*Stop-Look- Listen -- Jeff Heer, Ted Rich and Alan Sewell take in fishing tips from the nearby Fly Fishing Stage.*



*Captain Alissa Vinoski took the stage for her presentation, "Introduction to Fly Fishing."*

*Tom*



# “My Best Day on a Fly Rod”

*By Mike Simmons*



*Mike Simmons with one of about 215 smallmouth bass he caught on a fly rod on Lake La Croix in Ontario. Mike is thinking about organizing a trip there for Suncoast Fly Fishers.*

My best day with a fly rod happened on a beautiful day in late June at **Zups** fish camp on Lac La Croix in Ontario.

I started fishing shortly after a great breakfast. I tied on my Mallard Minnow to start and began casting to the shoreline and structure. It didn't take long and the first smallmouth was on and fighting.

At the end of the day my count was 215 smallmouth ranging in size from a half pound to almost seven pounds. A few medium and small northern pike were mixed in. The majority were caught on the Mallard Minnow but I also caught quite a few on top-water deer hair poppers.

This was one of those rare days that we sometimes get lucky enough to experience.

*Mike*



*Lac la Croix is east of International Falls, Minnesota. Image courtesy of Apple Maps*

*Suncoast Fly Fishers – What was your best day ever with a fly rod? Let's make this a regular feature in the newsletter. – Bill AuCoin, editor*

## Piazza: Wyoming's Hams Fork, Smith Fork and Green River



*Tony Piazza fished southwestern Wyoming's rivers in early September and caught Bonneville cutthroat, Colorado cutthroat, rainbow trout and brown trout.*



*Tony with another hefty trout*

Just got back from South Western Wyoming and four days fishing the first part of September with Dayle and Barbara Mazzarella. We wade-fished the Hams Fork and the Smith Fork and floated the Green River.

I caught Bonneville Cutthroat, Colorado Cutthroat, Rainbows and Browns.

Dayle was the teacher and I was the pupil. Got my test scores. I scored a D+ on casting skills but I aced the test for how to crawl under a barb wire fence and at the same time avoid the cow pies.



*Guide Dayle Mazzarella*

*Tony*



*Tony aced the test for how to crawl under a barbed wire fence without encountering any cow dung.*

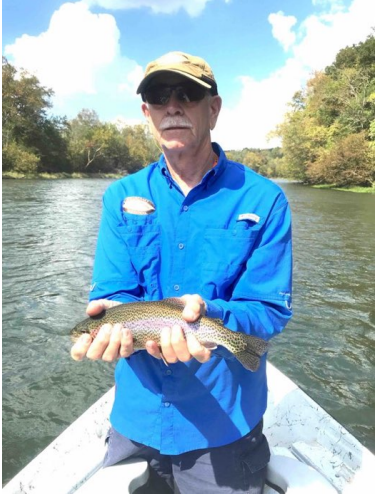
Rick and Karen Warfel: Smoky Mountain Trout



*Karen and a brown trout*

Karen and I loaded the truck on the Auto Train the last week of September to visit friends in DC. On the way home we stopped in Johnson City, Tennessee and Cherokee, North Carolina for some trout fishing. We did a float trip on the South Holston River in Tennessee and caught lots of rainbow and brown trout fishing with guide Clint Patrick of Eastern Fly Outfitters. The fishing in

Cherokee was not as good as the water temperature was a little on the high side but we still had a great time wading the rivers there on our own.



*Rick with a rainbow trout*

*Rick and Karen*

Robert Fischer fly fishes with Pat Damico in the Poconos

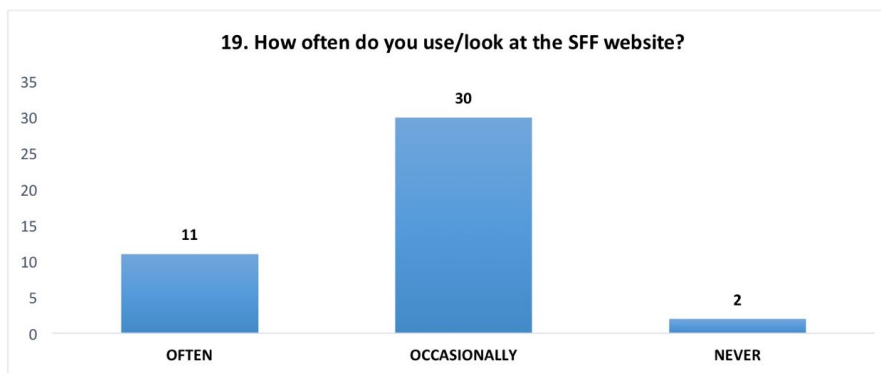
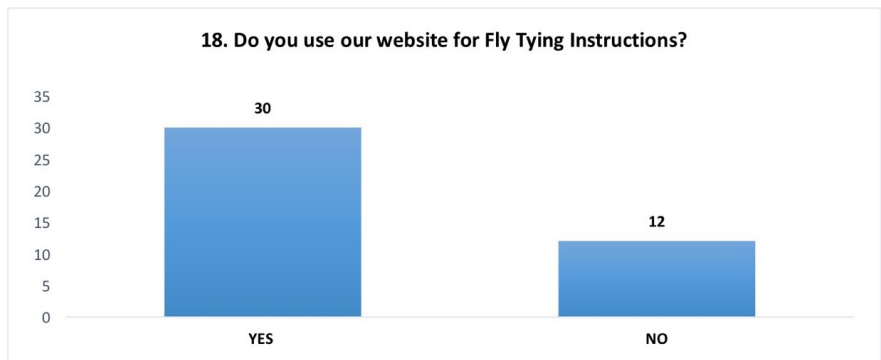
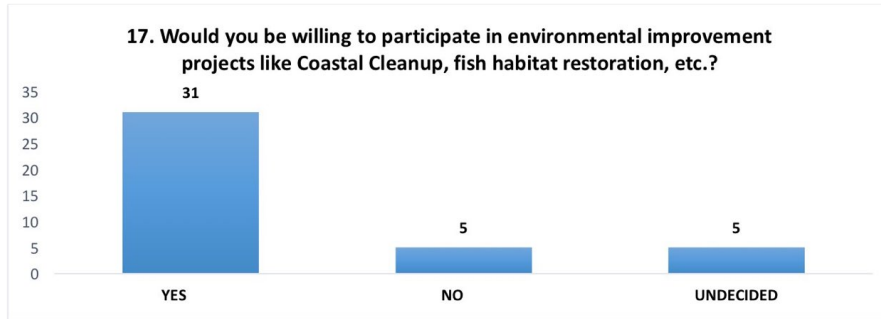


*Robert Fischer, Pocono Mountains trout*

Robert joined me for some Pocono Mountain dry fly fishing recently. He is a very versatile fly fisher!

*Pat*

Member survey answers at a glance. Part 5  
*Bob Burkard has put member survey results into these handy bar charts*



*More survey results will be presented in future issues*

## Bob Morrison: Fly Fishing Tips Plus Fishy Factoids



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

**Pinch me, said the snook** -- Snook season is now open, so remember the regulations. The size limit is 28 to 33 inches, measured to the point of the pinched tail. The bag limit is one snook per person per day. Remember as well, that you need a saltwater fishing license and a snook stamp if you're under 65 years of age and/or not a Florida resident.

**Shake the tree with a lure. Rake the leaves with a fly** -- Many snook have come out of the passes and moved inland appearing in canals, bayous, and under docks. Lures resembling threadfin shad are working. Try to locate them with spinning lures such as MirrOlure, Maverick, or Rapala plugs, then switch to a shad-like fly pattern.

**Snook love mullet** -- Finger mullet pattern flies in larger sizes are effective now. Try these around bridges and other structures.

**Fish the shallow surf line** -- Along the beaches, snook will be hunting in the shallows, and should be there in considerable numbers. Observe the baitfish here and size your flies accordingly.

**Moon over...moon under** - During and after the full moon, tides will create good conditions for redfish and sea trout especially up against the mangroves. The new moon will find them active near the high of the incoming tide as well as during the first few hours of the outgoing tide. Finally, remember to try pinfish patterns during these periods.

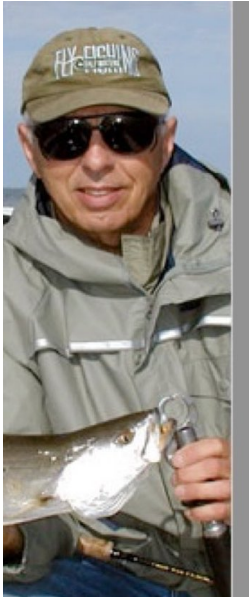
*Go get 'em and good luck! Good news. My left shoulder surgery was successful and rehab is going well. I hope to be able to cast with both hands soon. Thanks for all the telephone support and offers of assistance.*

**Bob**

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

- The fur of a river otter contains over 400,000 hairs per square inch. Snug, eh? (*A new fly tying material?*)
- Sea levels will rise over three and a half feet by the year 2100. I hope your descendants will be good swimmers if they haven't moved to Georgia. (*Oh goodie; new shorelines to fish.*)
- There are over 40,000 muscles in an elephant's trunk. (*Okay, but remember, it takes a lot of muscles to crack the shells of all of those peanuts at the circus.*)

## Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #92



### **This is why you keep fly line clean**

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

A clean, slick fly line floats better, shoots with less effort, picks up easier and will last longer because modern line dressings will not remove and often restore the components line companies build into their products to improve performance. I have had clients say they never cleaned their lines when others tell me they do it three times a day. I clean my floating lines in saltwater before each outing. In freshwater I often do it a second time mid-day. When you have time at home, occasionally clean the line with non-detergent warm soapy water and a towel before rinsing with plain water then follow the manufacturers recommendations. In the field, I strip the first 30 feet or so, apply line dressing with a pad, then remove excess with a clean paper towel. You will see a big difference in performance.

*Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach*

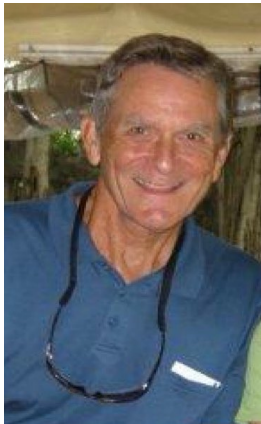
*Capt. Pat Damico charters in lower Tampa Bay. Contact: [captpat.com](http://captpat.com) (727) 504-8649*

## Tampa Bay Times : Captain's Corner

### **Getting fish to strike that fly**

Tides, weather, water temperature and wind are all variables that affect where fish will be and their willingness to strike your fly. Drifting the flats is a relaxing as well as productive way to fish. Anchoring in one spot for hours where you caught fish on a previous outing is a prescription for failure. Use flies that will cover large areas of water. Baitfish patterns will be most appropriate. Chartreuse over white is very effective in clear water. Darker patterns such as brown over orange seem to be more appropriate in discolored water. Use two different flies by tying the second fly to the one on your tippet. Use the same strength monofilament as the tippet and attach a 2-foot section to the hook bend. Use the wind and tide to help pick a shallow-water grass flat so minimal boat manipulation is required. If alone, a bow-mounted electric motor run at very slow speed can keep you on course without frightening fish. Poling the boat with a partner is preferred. Visibility, your ability to see fish, is improved on a sunny day. When you can't see fish, cast to where fish will be such as grass edges, especially irregularities, pot holes, clear areas in the grass, or where you see nervous water or scattering baitfish. Long, slow strips after slack is eliminated are key. Strip set the hook when you feel any resistance. Casting far is an advantage, so lawn practice beforehand will fine tune your distance and casting accuracy.

## Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



**Our Irma heroes** – The U.S. Coast Guard (including Suncoast Fly Fisher Darryn Manley) do some amazing things. Darryn writes, “George asked me to send you some information on what I have been doing lately with the coast guard during the hurricanes. I’m not really allowed to say anything that’s not officially approved but I can send you a link to a case I worked on that was released to the press.” ([Weather Channel](#))

**One of my favorites** -- This is the movie credited with sparking a major surge of interest in fly fishing. It hit the silver screen 25 years ago. ([Moviemaker](#))

**They made the actors look really good in the fly casting scenes** – Here’s a fly fishing forum entry from 11 years ago about the fly fishing advisers and actor-doubles in *A River Runs Through It*. One in particular made Paul (played by Brad Pitt) look really good, I recall quite clearly. ([The Fly Fishing Forum](#))

**Fly fishing book...and movie** –I didn’t even know about this one until (H/T) Ken Hofmeister mentioned it and gave it a thumbs up in a recent conversation. They made it into a movie in 2010. If you have a streaming service I think you can watch it on your TV screen. ([The River Why](#))

**Carl Hanson, our glass minnow man** -- “Carl moved to Florida in 1950 and he was trying to imitate the local “Rain Bait” that was being created by the Bay Anchovy schooling at the surface and being heavily preyed on by various gamefish. Carl’s creation was pure simplicity with a body of wrapped monofilament, a simple bucktail wing and small painted eyes. Carl felt that the key to the success of the pattern was the transparent body, the sparseness and small slim profile.” Oh, by the way, I have a glass minnow fly that Carl tied. *Yuk, yuk.* ([Fly Anglers Online](#))

**East meets West** – Our October speaker is one of the champions for protecting and restoring Florida’s Indian River Lagoon. We can go to school on that to help protect the Tampa Bay estuary from an overload of nutrients from storm water runoff. ([Rodney Smith Media](#))

**Will Supreme Court justices like Florida’s oysters?** – The question is, does Georgia use water that’s supposed to go downstream to Apalachicola? The oysters need it. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear this case. ([Al.com](#))

**On Saturday are you fishing or tying?** -- Are you going to help St. Pete defeat Tampa at Saturday’s Carl Hanson outing on the Hillsborough River? Or are you going to help kids learn to tie their first fly at Marine Quest? Same day. Decisions, decisions. ([Marine Quest](#))

**Florida Versus Alabama** – At this event contestants don’t throw footballs; they hurl mullet across the state line. I’m not sure why this story is in a fly fishing magazine, but I’m glad it is. The annual mullet tossing contest at the Floribama Bar on the state line has been kind of a big deal for quite some years now. Heck, I think I remember pro football QB star Kenny -- *The Snake* -- Stabler being part of this scene ~~just a few~~ many years ago. I know, I know. I’m giving my age away. Roll Tide. ([Southern Saltwater Fly Fishing](#))

# The BIG GUN SHOOT-OUT



Sponsored by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Sunday, November 5 at 9:00 a.m.

Picnic Island Park, Tampa (Shelter #611)

## ***Lunch Provided!***

Experts and beginners alike are invited to test their fly casting skills at the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club's annual "Big Gun Shoot-Out" casting competition!

Individuals and teams of 3 are welcome!

Plaques will be awarded for highest scoring individual, highest scoring teams, and the "Big Gun," the overall distance casting champion.



Contestants will participate in competition stations that mimic the challenges of fly fishing, such as casting under the mangroves, into a cup of water, or through a hoop suspended a few feet off the ground. Come out and give it a try - you'll be hooked!

The competition will run from 9 am - 12 pm. There is NO entry fee, and lunch will be provided to all contestants. You may use your own rod for all competition stations except the Big Gun distance contest.

***Volunteers also are needed to help set up the course and score contestants.***

**CONTACT: Rick O'Hara ([flyguy47@verizon.net](mailto:flyguy47@verizon.net))**

**Please let us know if you are coming by 10/29 so we can order adequate food and beverages**



**Special Friends of Suncoast  
Fly Fishers**



To place an ad in On The Fly email  
Karen Warfel at [kmwarfel@yahoo.com](mailto:kmwarfel@yahoo.com)



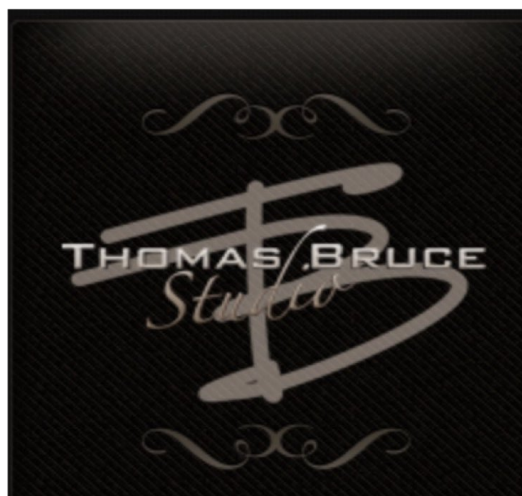
**Special Friends of Suncoast  
Fly Fishers**



plantationoncrystalriver.com  
800-632-6262



www.sunsect.com



CUSTOM ROD  
BUILDING AND REPAIR

ALAN SEWELL  
*Owner*

Phone: (727) 470-4570  
Fax: (727) 344-0503  
sewellalan@yahoo.com

SALT - FRESH - FLY

**Special Friends of Suncoast  
Fly Fishers**

GOODYEAR • TOYO • COOPER • MICHELIN



**727-822-3981**  
**TODD MURRIAN** [www.bobleetire.com](http://www.bobleetire.com)  
1631 • 4th STREET NORTH • ST. PETERSBURG, FL. 33704



Custom Bamboo Fly Rods  
[www.nighflyrods.com](http://www.nighflyrods.com)



**Metalfab Inc**  
ARCHITECTURAL METAL SPECIALISTS

[www.metalfab-inc.com](http://www.metalfab-inc.com)



[www.shop.carbonmarine.com](http://www.shop.carbonmarine.com)

**ANDY THORNAL COMPANY** Since 1945

GATEWAY TO ADVENTURE SINCE 1945

(800) 499-9890

**WWW.ANDYTHORNAL.COM**



Captain Shawn McCole

Inshore Fly Fishing and Light Tackle

Tarpon • Snook • Redfish

Phone: 863 • 608 • 3758

Email: [captshawnmccole@gmail.com](mailto:captshawnmccole@gmail.com)

U.S.C.G. Licensed & Insured

[www.captainshawnmccole.com](http://www.captainshawnmccole.com)

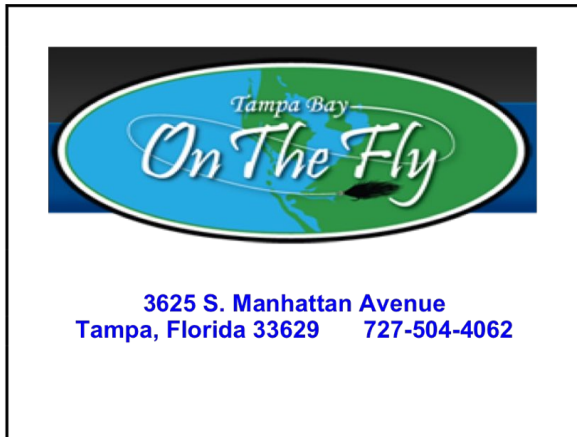
**Special Friends of Suncoast  
Fly Fishers**



3450 34<sup>th</sup> Street N. St. Pete  
www.stpetefishingoutfitters.com

To place an ad in On The Fly email Karen Warfel at kmwarfel@yahoo.com

# ***Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers***



To place an ad in On The Fly  
email Karen Warfel at  
kmwarfel@yahoo.com