

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



August meeting a Gurgler-Thon. 9



Robert Fischer palmers. 9



Miriam Craig Ties. 10



Jan and Hilton's RV Fly Fishing Trip. 15



Andy's UK brown trout, huge carp. 16



Gene Proulx' animal. 14

Goodbye Irma.



Evensen's Mullet fly scores an "A". 11



SFF President Letter – September 2017

Hello everyone,

You know, every month I have to remind myself why I joined the Suncoast Fly Fishers: To fly fish.

This encompasses the clinics, fly tying classes and fellowship with others of like mind, which lead to my ultimate goal: to catch fish on a fly rod.

It would be so easy to get caught up in the mechanics and politics, preferences, gripes, complaints, and compliments so as to lose sight of that goal. We are a diverse club with members from every walk of life. Men and women who were or are in careers of various fields. Many have brought their skills and talents to work for all of us in developing the great club that we have. Thank you for doing that.

Henry David Thoreau once said “We cannot but pity the boy who has never fired a gun: he is no more humane, while his education has been sadly neglected.” I believe that.

But, I would like to expand upon it: We cannot but pity the boy/girl/man/woman who has never learned to back cast and roll out a fly line.

Though we need shelter, people were not meant to live in a cage of wood, concrete and asphalt. I know I wasn't. The call of the wild (however tame it may be) is intrinsic in all of us. We need the sun on our faces, the trees, open sky, open water and a breath of open air.

A fly rod can take you there. All of the aspects of fly fishing can enrich our lives if we will just take advantage of the opportunities. Come to our fly tying classes the fourth Thursday of each month except December, attend out casting clinics twice a year, fish with us at our outings, dine with us at the Hog Roast Annual Banquet. I guarantee it will enrich your life.

Never lose your Sense of Adventure,

George

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

PS: As you know, Hurricane Irma did a good bit of damage and caused quite a power-outage issue. Thanks to all members who volunteered their services and tools to help fellow members affected by Hurricane Irma. Hilton Bruch donated his generator to Bill Scarola who wrote, “fridge and freezer are cool again. God Bless.”

PPS: In the “when it rains it pours” category, we’ve gotten word that Layne (Smitty) Smith has suffered a heart attack and has undergone successful bypass surgery. We’ll update members with more info as we can.

Meetings and Outings

Thursday, September 21 Meeting

- Our speaker is expert fly caster **Dan Lagace**, known for skill in casting equally well with either hand. Fifteen minutes to teach yourself to cast a fly both left-handed and right-handed
- September is renewal month for SFF annual dues.

Saturday, September 23 Outing

- Lake Maggiore, St. Petersburg

Thursday, October 19 Meeting

- Our speaker is **Capt. Rodney Smith**, Anglers for Conservation
- Smitty ties the Kinni Jig/Flash Minnow

Saturday, October 21 Outing

- Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament on the Hillsborough River
- Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club is our host

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 23 Outing, Don Coleman Invitational

- Plus, the Chili Cook-Off at Fort DeSoto Park
- Final opportunity to catch the longest annual tournament fishes

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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

February 9-10, 2018 -- Florida Council Expo

- Plantation on Crystal River. Volunteers needed.
- Seminars and demos by the best fly tyers 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 140 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

Suncoast Fly Fishers 2018 HOG ROAST: MARCH 24

Got the Fly Fishing Fever?

Introduction to Fly Tying Classes with Bruce Evensen

Free monthly fly tying lessons for members and guests

When: Thursday, September 28 – 6 pm

What: “Low Country Electric Chicken.” Bring vise, chartreuse rabbit zonker, pink bucktail, 1/8 eyes

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

Fall trout in the Smoky Mountains, September 26-30, Johnson City, Tennessee

We are fishing three days; individual modifications can be made. Trip can be a mix and match affair with or without guides; just a chance for a group trip. Carpooling is also an option. Call or email Rick Birnbaum (727-363-0780, rsbirnbaum@msn.com), or talk to Rick or April Turpen at the September meeting.

Florida Sportsman Show

Suncoast Fly Fishers teach fly tying and fly casting

When: October 7 – 8

Where: Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa

Fly tiers needed, See Jeff Heer at the meeting or email him at jazbojw@aol.com

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, October 9 (second Monday of each month)

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

Marine Quest – SFF teaches kids to tie their first fly

Saturday, October 21

Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, 100 Eighth Ave. S., St. Petersburg

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

Used Gear for Sale

Fly Tying Kit

Orvis Cahill Bench/Box with Wasatch Tools and Renzetti Traveler Vice. \$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.*

Problem

Your dermatologist removes a squamous cell carcinoma from the back of your hand and he tells you must not let the bandage get wet. But, the fly fisher quietly ponders, how can I keep it dry if I go fishing? Because, you know, fishing and wet hands correlate close to 100 percent.

Solution...



Wrap it in cling wrap.

Submitted by Ken Hofmeister

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

August Review: St.Pete Urban Outing



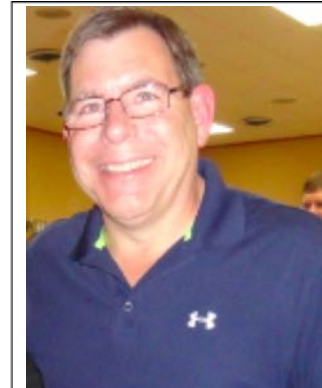
*Hilton Bruch, SFF
Outing Committee*

REVIEW—St. Pete Urban Outing Saturday, July 22

Our August 19th annual St. Pete Urban outing was a hot one with both warm temperatures and many fish caught. Our members reported catching a number of trout, ladyfish, snook, mangrove snappers, and puffers.

Our resident newsletter writer Bill AuCoin was a double winner: He caught the largest outing target fish, a trout at 18 inches, and the largest trout caught on a gurgler fly that

he tied at our monthly meeting.



*Bob Burkard, SFF
Outing committee*

Despite the day's heat, we enjoyed a meal of KFC with sides. We made sure that people drank plenty of water, so everyone stayed hydrated and healthy.

We have gotten many requests for Alan Sewell's BBQ Bean recipe and he is kind enough to share this with us:

Alan's Amazing BBQ Beans Recipe

- 1 lb bacon, chopped, cooked and drained
- 1 lb sausage, cooked and drained
- 1 lb low fat sirloin, cooked and drained
- 1 can each, drained
 - Pork and Beans
 - kidney Beans
 - Pinto Beans
 - Great Northern Beans
 - Navy Beans
 - Black Beans
- 1 cup BBQ sauce (I use North Carolina style, made with vinegar base)
- 2 tbsl mustard
- 2 tbsl vinegar, unless sauce has vinegar.
- 1/2 tsp red pepper
- 1/4 tsp cumin
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 onion chopped and cooked



Bill AuCoin's 18-inch trout was the outing's longest target fish AND the longest fish on a gurgler. The gurgler he tied at the August meeting was the first gurgler he had ever tied.

HEAT OVEN @350 DEGREES. MIX INGREDIENTS AND
COOK FOR 40 MINUTE

Bob

September Preview: St. Pete's Lake Maggiore

PREVIEW—Lake Maggiore Saturday, September 23 Biggest Bass Wins the Outing Prize

The target fish for our Lake Maggiore outing is bass, but there is also a good chance to catch some large bream, as well as snook and redfish. This is a freshwater lake that is known for its large alligators, so please be extremely careful if fishing from shore.



The boat ramp is on Martin Luther King Street So. (9th Street So.) at the south end of the park

Our lunch at start at 11:30 AM.

BBQ Rib Challenge for our September Outing

I am proud to announce that we are having our second annual Rib Challenge at our Lake Maggiore outing. Make some ribs with your own special recipe and members will vote for the best. Sign up at the September meeting.

Myron Hanson won this coveted event last year. Let's see if he can maintain his championship against the friendly competition.

Entry must be BBQ /Smoked Baby Back or St. Louis ribs

- Entry must include a least one rack of ribs
- Sauce is optional; whatever you prefer
- Bring your cooked ribs to the picnic. We do not have grill, but we will have a "cooler" where we can place them to keep them warm
- Entries will be judged by the number of votes they receive from our consuming members. Each club member at this prestigious events gets one vote.
- Prizes to be awarded for 1st and 2nd places

Bob

UPDATED: 2017 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing
Longest sunfish	9-inches	Mark Hays	Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve
Longest black bass	15-inches	Mark Hays	Walsingham Park
Longest snook	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)

George Haseltine: Tying with Bruce Evensen and friends



Bruce Evensen

"Anybody have a #2 hook I can borrow?" "Yeah, here you go."

"I didn't bring any EP white." "Here, cut off what you need."

This went on for the whole evening from 6 to 8 pm on the last Thursday of the month of August. Sharing, learning and enjoying the process. Bruce taught us how to tie a mullet shaped bait fish. Really easy; really cool.

There were 13 of us, at High Performance Plumbing Services (Thanks John & Miriam), an accumulation of experts and beginners, helping each other learn.

No experience required. Bring what you have or we will provide it for you.

We'll meet again at 6 pm on the last Thursday in September. Bruce will show us how he ties the Low Country Fly in "electric chicken" colors – pink and chartreuse.

George



Bruce and the August tiers meet at High Performance Plumbing Services. September's lesson is the Electric Chicken Low Country Fly.



Bruce ties these mullet baitfish flies with EP Fibers, usually dark-over-light..



Miriam Craig carefully positions the EP Fibers on the hook.



These flies catch fish. Ken Hofmeister caught this docklight snook with an Evensen baitfish pattern.

Dennis Marquis, Bill AuCoin Test Evensen's Mullet Fly

Marquis and AuCoin wade-fished the flats below Picnic Island in August and both pretty much stayed with the EP Fiber mullet flies they learned to tie at Bruce Evensen's August fly-tying lesson.

Fishing was slow – too many other boaters outboard-crashed the scene on this Saturday morning, throwing anchors, talking loud, throwing chum – so Marquis and AuCoin escaped into a mangrove backwater bay too shallow for a boat.

Marquis felt a hit casting close into a little mangrove slot. He made another cast and scored a hook-up with a spunky redfish.



Dennis Marquis redfish



AuCoin's Picnic Island snook.

Meanwhile AuCoin made short casts into little schools of mullet stirring around in mucky deep water. His black-over-mustard fly got a strong hit and a respectable battle from a 20-inch snook.

Both agreed that Evensen's EP fiber mullet fly deserved an A grade. If they had fished it on a weekday it would have earned an A-Plus.



Marquis also caught and (carefully) released a seagull.

Ken Hofmeister: I also give Bruce Evensen's flies an "A"

I caught this snook (below) and another snook in less than an hour using a fly swap Bruce Evenson beauty. It winks with red eyes!



Ken Hofmeister scored several snook on Venetian Isle docklights with this fly he learned to tie using Bruce Evensen's baitfish pattern.

Ken

Old Dogs -- New Tricks

By Ken Hofmeister



A glance around a Suncoast Fly Fishers meeting would reveal a lot of old dogs and very few young pups. It's been said that "You can't teach an old dog new tricks."

True or false?

Well, fly fishers are a stubborn, opinionated lot. And, we are a bit opinionated. It's no surprise that we find it hard to take advice and follow direction--even when choosing where to fish, when, and how. Individualists in our ranks relish ignoring tying recipes.

What is surprising is how many of us keep improving how we cast, tie flies, and how we fish. Some of us get better all the time. Some feel they need no improvement. That **would** be their choice,

Every meeting I get at least one "keeper" idea, technique, or concept. For example, I had the killer snook fly in my box. Steve Farrar Material tied sparsely in a baitfish pattern would usually do the job under the docks.

And then I went to Bruce Everson's fly tying workshop and found three ways to make this one "go to" fly better. I could mix EP fibers on belly or back. Or, I could do a "high tie." Or, I could put the peacock herl in the middle of two layers rather than on top. So, I tied such a fly and landed a couple snook right away. This old dog learned a new trick. At the fly swap I picked up Bruce's fly that had winking red eyes. Two snook caught on first tryout. Smitty has improved the way I tie nearly every fly with his specific tips and tricks.

At one of our many casting clinics, John Hand taught me to pick up the line without ripping up the water or catching the Lilly pads. Pat Damico showed me how to avoid the "windshield washer" approach to casting. Dayle Mazzarella taught me how to get an extra ten yards on a cast. Wes is still trying to improve my double haul. McCauley Lord's videotaping workshop was a bell ringer for me in helping others as well as myself.

Our outing committee leaders selected sites that exposed me to countless new fishing spots. And various members suggested new ways to retrieve the fly.

Aaron Adams talked about saltwater fish and their prey. His book further illustrated his observations. That changed my perspective.

Suncoast Fly Fishers Value: CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT

"We believe we can always improve the way we tie, cast, fish, and educate. We are committed to continually improving how we function as we benchmark with other groups. We solicit improvement ideas for our processes, Services, and ourselves. We are committed to preserving our waters and marine resources. We keep searching for safer and more productive ways to enjoy our sport.

Practices: Clinics and programs

-Meeting features: safety, conservation, bay restoration, and first-aid

-Newsletter; web site, Videos, Literature

-Collaboration with other clubs

-Videotaped casting feedback

Adopted 2007 by Suncoast Fly Fishers

Cliff Nigh: Weekly Fly Tying at St. Pete Fishing Outfitters



Suncoast Fly Fisher Cliff Nigh

Every Wednesday at 6 pm St Pete Fishing Outfitters welcomes fly fishers of all skill levels for a free, two-hour Fly Tying Class including social freestyle tying and challenging tying competitions.

SPFO supplies all the tools, vise, materials, hooks, thread, etc. for the first fly on class nights. Experienced tiers are encouraged to bring their own vise and tools, considering the loaners are basic entry level supplies. If participants want to continue to tie after the first fly, they are welcome to do so. SPFO asks that they provide or purchase the materials needed.

No reservation is required. Just show up at our shop and we'll make room. SPFO has been hosting between 6 and 10 tiers depending on the weather. And the classes are growing.

At least two instructors are on hand and those who are new to fly tying receive individual attention to ensure they can take a fly home they can be proud of.

Free Style nights are a participate favorite. Everyone gets to tie the fly of their choice, providing their own materials. Again, two instructors are on hand to answer questions, help with techniques and how-to's. SPFO will provide the vise and tools, if needed, at no charge.

Competition Nights are just pure fun. The store again provides the hooks, tools and materials. Each participant has to create a fly out of the materials provided by the shop and nothing else! Flies are then submitted anonymously and judged by store staff for fishability, proportions, neatness, etc. and a prize is awarded to the winner. The past few weeks have seen Simms fishing shirts given as prizes. Who knows what their next prize will be!

The real fun lies in the materials. One night all the participants had to work with was para cord, ear buds and a paintbrush. Other nights have seen items such as cozies, phone chargers, redfish scales, and monofilament placed on the table. Still another evening saw tiers using assorted candies to tie flies. It's amazing the level of creativity seen in some of the flies submitted. Usually, the store has time for two separate contests using different materials for each contest.

St. Pete Fishing Outfitters can be reached at 727 317 4949. Fly Tying Updates are posted on the store's website, Stpetefishingoutfitters.com

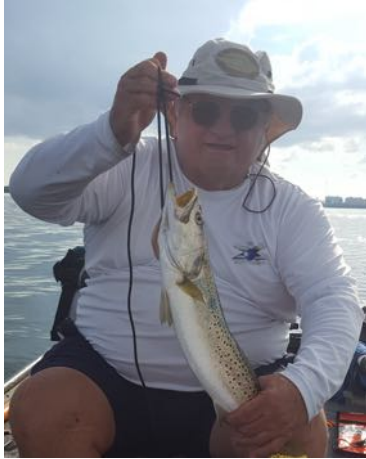
Here's our schedule of upcoming dates and patterns.

SEPTEMBER 27	BREAM AND COLDWATER TROUT FLIES
OCTOBER 4	SPINNING DEER HAIR - DAHLBERG DIVER
OCTOBER 11	FREE STYLE NIGHT
OCTOBER 18	COMPETITION NIGHT
OCTOBER 25	TERRESTRIALS - ANTS, HOPPERS, ETC
NOVEMBER 1	SAND FLEAS
NOVEMBER 8	FREE STYLE NIGHT
NOVEMBER 15	COMPETITION NIGHT
NOVEMBER 22	POPPERS - HARD HEAD
NOVEMBER 29	USING MYLAR TUBING
DECEMBER 6	FREE STYLE NIGHT
DECEMBER 13	COMPETITION NIGHT
DECEMBER 20	NON-UV SHRIMP PATTERNS
DECEMBER 27	CRAB PATTERNS

Cliff

Gator Trout: Bill Scarola and Bruce Evensen

Night time is the right time



Bill Scarola's 21.5-inch trout.

Bill Scarola and Bruce Evensen fished the west side of Gandy Bridge targeting trout late in the day and evening of August 16.

Bill wrote, "Bruce caught a pair of 18 inchers (2.75-lbs each). I caught one that was 21.5 inches (4-lb. plus) and another 17 inches.!"



Bruce Evensen with one of his two 18-inch seatrout

Bill

Gene Proulx does battle with a Clearwater Harbor "animal"



Throwing a ten weight outfit I got tight on a nice 12-15 pound black tip shark that ate a mylar fly. That animal dumped my fly line in four seconds and left me deep in the backing. Here is the release... (I never, ever kill sharks)

August 31

Clearwater Harbor is holding large numbers of Spanish mackerel and blacktip sharks. Both species will eat flies if they get fired up.

Yesterday I fished the incoming tide which I don't normally prefer, anchoring just off a sand bar in eight feet of water I chummed with live pilchards for 15 minutes until I could see predators blasting the baits from 20 to 50 feet behind the boat. Wind was 5 to 10 knots from the south.

You need a trace of wire behind your flies to prevent cut-offs.

Gene

Jan Bailey and Hilton Bruch Western RV Tour

Jan and I plus Lilly, our 13 year old pug, took five days to get across country to first arrive in the Black Hills of South Dakota. There we stayed at Custer State Park (lotsa Buffalo), visited Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse memorial (dog friendly and warm to visitors), and Devils Tower National Monument in Montana (as in "Close Encounters of the 3rd kind").

We also camped close to Wind Caves National Park and went for the tour (dark in there!). We stood on the monument for the Geographic Center of the US near Belle Fourche, S.D. Our most moving visit was to the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument.

We stayed about a week in the Paradise Valley of SW Montana and fished the Yellowstone, Gallatin, Boulder and Stillwater rivers. Nice fishing but the big rivers seemed way too pressured.

Then to the Big Horn river below the Yellowtail Dam. Again, good fishing but ridiculously crowded. We made our way to Ennis, MT and spent some time exploring the Madison river. An old goat taught us how to swing wet flies and I caught a 20" brown on an Orange and Partridge fly. Big, strong river with big fish.

We went down toward West Yellowstone and stopped in at Slide Inn Fly Shop. We spent a memorable hour gabbing with **Kelly Galloup**.

Then into Idaho and the make believe town of Ketchum. We camped on the Big Wood River and got our first taste of Tenkara fishing there. Great drifts = lotsa fish. A memorable drive in our RV into the Sawtooth Mountains and the Lost River; big fish, isolated and seemingly protected from fishing pressure.

We travelled up to Stanley to see the sights and fish the Salmon River. We finally turned around in tiny Sunbeam, Idaho and started back towards the Southeast and home.

On the way back, we stayed on a 29,000-acre ranch and were the only ones on a 4.5-mile stretch of the Smith Fork river in SW Wyoming. We finished our fishing time reconnecting with Dayle and Barbara Mazzarella on the Hams Fork. Great folks to spend time with and the best trout fishery we've ever seen (including Argentina). This has got to be one of the all-time best trout fisheries in the US.

From there we spent a week with our family in the Denver area and then bored south via Taos and Texas/Oklahoma with an eye toward spending some time in the Louisiana bayou. Harvey interrupted those plans and we got home 40 days and 8,215 miles after we had left. Still hot here!

Now we think about our next trip(s). Whole lotta country to see.



Hilton landed this 22.5-inch rainbow on the Hams Fork River in Western Wyoming fishing with Dayle Mazzarella.

Hilton

Andy Constantinou: Latimer Wild Browns

August 11

Had a very successful day at Latimer today. Caught several rainbows plus these two browns.

One weighed about two pounds the other was a cock possibly getting on for three pounds.



The flies I used today were a booby nymph and a minky.



All the brown Trout at Latimer are wild as none are stocked.



Plus... Andy fools a huge carp on Smitty's "Dog Biscuit" Fly

August 29

I caught a 14-15 pound common carp today at Manor Farm on Smitty's Dog Biscuit fly. (*Editor's note: in American English, that's a fly that imitates dog food pellets.*)



Here's a closer look at Smitty's Dog Biscuit Fly

Tom Jones: trout and snook on the dock lights

Tom's glass minnow fly matched the "hatch"

August 13



Tom's seatrout. The flash worked (really-worked) on this picture. The picture of the snook was too dark.

I caught a 22 1/2 inch snook on my glass minnow fly last Tuesday night in Pat Damico's backyard. I tried to get a good photo but I could not get my flash to work.

Sure would love to have eaten this fish but, alas, the season is not yet open. (*Snook slot size is 28 to 33 inches. editor*)

Also I caught one keeper trout on the same fly before I had to call it quits due to a thunderstorm.

By the way, the belly of the trout contained glass minnows.

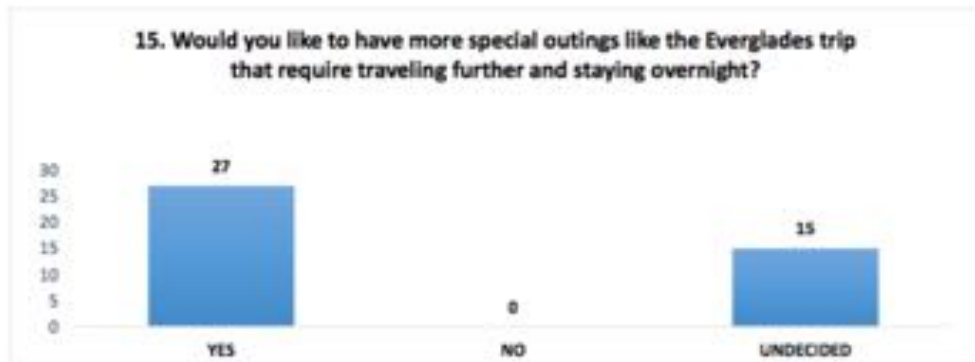
Tom

Bob Burkard: Docklight Magic Hour



Just before daybreak in early September Bob Burkard scored a redfish and a snook on a residential docklight near Weedon Island Preserve. Alas the fish didn't pose for their snapshots.

Member survey answers at a glance. Part 4
Bob Burkard has put member survey results into these handy bar charts



More survey results will be presented in future issues

Tying Bench - Bill Scarola's Bass Toad, Lake Maggiore winner



This is the fly that Bill used to catch the 14.5- inch bass that won the bass category at the August 2016 outing on Lake Maggiore. (editor)

This bass toad is a derivation of the 'Tarpon Toad' pattern. I learned this from Bruce Evensen at Bill Jackson's in a Monday night tying class. *Bill Scarola*

Materials

Hook: Size 2 stinger type. Or your choice.

Body: Craft foam, yellow, light & medium. Chartreuse Green. Stack onto each other. Alternate colors. Leave a darker green at front...Note I used sticky back type, but you can glue non-sticky back together. Length of body should match hook shank length

Tail: Marabou, yellow/chartreuse

Legs: Silly Legs, yellow-striped.

Eyes: I used small craft bubble eyes, but most any will do. Glue to front sides just behind hook's eye. I used E-6000 glue

Spots: Green marker spaced around foam.

Thread: Green flat waxed 210 denier

Tying Sequence

Step 1. Wrap hook shaft from behind eye to the bend. Then tie marabou on tail in front of hook bend

Step 2. Trim glued foam into a tapered wedge shape, about 1 X 1/4 inches thick. and 3/4" at front, tapering to 1" at rear

Step 3. Heated my bodkin and pushed it thru foam body. Re-glue to allow for hook.

Step 4. Drop super glue on hook shank and push on foam body, widest end at rear. Leave hook eye exposed.

Step 5. Add silly legs. There are several methods to attach them, I used a sewing needle with a large eye, and insert 1 or 2 legs into eye, then push thru the body. Then add a dab of glue where they protrude. In this fly you can see I used 3 legs about 2 1/2" -3" long so about an inch or so hangs out each side. I spaced them about 1/4" apart.

Step 6. Spots. I used a green marker all around the foam body.

Bill

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #91



How can you see a fly that small?

By Capt. Pat Damico, IFFF Master Casting Instructor

While fishing for Cutthroat trout with some friends in Montana recently, I was asked this question. Success during most of that particular day depended on very selective fish in low, clear, slow moving water. My largest dry fly was a size 18, nymphs and emergers down to size 24. An accurate drag free long cast was needed to sighted fish or rises. My answer was, "When I can't see the fly, I watch the fish." I could see where my cast placed the fly, usually a few feet above the fish. As it drifted in his vicinity, if I saw the fish rise or move and feed I set the hook. The fish are always our best teachers.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

Capt. Pat Damico charters in lower Tampa Bay. Contact: captpat.com (727) 504-8649

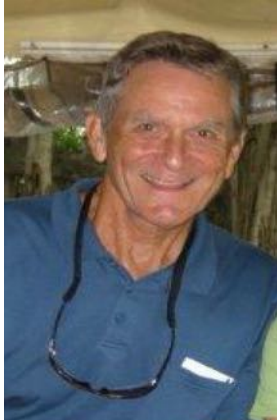
Tampa Bay Times : Captain's Corner

Captain's Corner: Take Fishing Slow and Cautious After Irma

By Pat Damico, Tampa Bay Times correspondent

Most of us are still recovering from Hurricane Irma. This phenomenon has set many records, most of which we would rather forget. Thankfully, the end result for many of us was less devastating than anticipated. One of the most unusual events was the blowing out of water in Tampa Bay that left exposed shorelines and flats devoid of water. Some manatees were stranded. How many fish were left high and dry? Probably, none. Fish have an uncanny ability to know when to head to deeper water sanctuaries to wait out drastic changes. Our shallow-water fishery incurred some drastic topographic changes from the high winds and water action. While shallow-water fish that we usually pursue are adjusting to the changes, we will have to do the same. Initial trips should be slow and cautious. There will be floating and submerged obstacles. Pick a sunny day with little wind and visit your favorite flats to look for bait and fish. Wading birds that feed on worms, crabs, shrimp and baitfish already have this figured out. They can be a great indicator of where you want to fish. Irregularities in flats will harbor fish necessitating good Polaroid glasses and a hat with a dark brim to improve visibility.

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



I learned the hard way -- I had to cough up a good bit of money repairing my outboard and fuel system after I put ethanol-laced gasoline in it. The ethanol ate up the lining of the boat's gas tank and the debris was fed into the outboard motor. Now I only fill up with ethanol-free gas at WaWa. It costs a little more but it's better for my old outboard and my old Durango, too. Now, I'm worried that gas stations will be getting rid of ethanol-free option entirely and bumping up the ethanol content from 10 to 15 percent. This is not good for boating or boaters. Tell the EPA. It's public comment time. ([Trade Only Today](#))

Fish love grasshoppers ... until they don't – Watch West Yellowstone's legendary Bob Jacklin land trophies amidst spectacular surroundings. H/T Pat Damico. ([You Tube](#))

I fear my tendency to blind cast isn't helping – Truth be told, a fly line on the surface always spooks fish below. Guides have told me this over and over again. It's better to hold the fly until you see a fish then make your cast. Flip Pallot shows how he does it. ([Vimeo](#))

Fly rods keep getting better and better. Really - This new mid-priced rod just won the best saltwater fly rod category at the dealer show in Orlando. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

Oh wait. On that very same subject, here's a note from Andy Constantinou. "I've recently discovered a new fishing tackle manufacturer selling stuff at ridiculously low prices. I expect it's all made in China or somewhere else in the Far East, but so is nearly everything else. Some of my pals in the U.K. have bought fly rods and reels from them and are delighted with them. I was casting with a Premier 9 and 6 weight this week and was very impressed with the casting action of the rods. They even come with a 5- or 10-year warranty depending on the model. ([Maxcatch](#))

28-33. Why are these numbers significant? That's right. Here snooky, snooky. -- ([FWC](#))

Support Tampa Bay Watch – Unfortunately our Lake Maggiore Outing conflicts with TBW's Sept. 23 project to keep Tampa Bay clean. But it's not the only such project on TBW's schedule. Visit the website from time to time and volunteer to help. ([Tampa Bay Watch](#))

I'm still waiting on the fly fishing drone. H/T Jack Collins who writes..."I thought you might find a spot for this in one the upcoming newsletters? But, it seems a little fishy to me." Oh, btw, it's only \$2499 plus accessories. ([Rippton Mobula Fishing Drone](#))

Rain-X. Is there anything it can't do? ([Fly Fishing Forum](#))

Warning, some of these pictures are not politically correct. I'm old enough to remember many of these old fishing ads. Pipe smoking fly fishers and young women, scantily clad, of course. Be careful. ([Pinterest](#))

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)

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

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