

# On The Fly

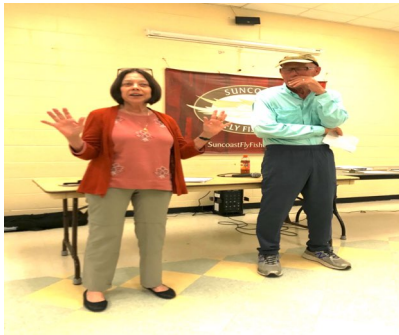
*Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg  
Promoting fly fishing, fly tying, fly casting, and marine conservation in a family fun atmosphere*



*March Outing. P8*



*Hog Roast and Silent Auction. P 11-12-13*



*She said...He said. P 14*



*Club members remember Lefty Kreh. P15-*



*April 21 Outing at the South Skyway Rest Area. Park-Wade-Fish. P9*



## *SFF President Letter – April 2018*

The tip of the fly rod, the breadth of the cast, the float of the fly line, the swirl of the catch.

Something inside me has always been there. The pull on the line now brings it to bear.

The sight of a fly rod in my grandfather's closet, wrapped in a canvas where I'm sure he forgot it.

The wonder of its mystery did stir a boy's heart. But no one would show him where he should start.

The lure of its' fragility, the wonder of its' strength. Both remain hidden as the years passed at length.

Life moved its way onward. School, work, a family and friends. Working each day to meet those necessary ends.

Then came an invite from a long-time friend. It awakened the wonder and it burned brightly again.

"Come to the fly club. Join me," Mark said. We have speakers and clinics, fly tying and more. A banquet with raffles and a prize at the door.

So, I attended a meeting, a casting clinic too. Though I was clumsy, I instantly knew. This is exactly what I had always wanted to do.

I destroyed the cork on Mark's loaned fly rod, by gripping the handle a little bit too hard.

Pipe wrenches, cast iron, lead, steel and brass. A love of hard labor, blue collar class. It taught me to grasp things with a very tight grip. A teeth clinching hold while not biting my lip.

Alan came to the rescue, and after a good laugh, showed me how to overcome this beginners gaff.

I watched the tapes that Lefty had made, striving to improve on the basics that Alan had laid.

I met the old curmudgeon in Titusville one day and Lefty was exactly the man that they say.

I loved and admired him right from the start, even though his criticisms were quite harsh and quite tart.

Colored with language a child should not hear, he gave us instructions that came through crystal clear.

This past March I bid farewell to my friend. Only met him once but impressed to the end. He wouldn't know me if we met on the street, but symbolically I lay a golden fly rod at his feet. **Thank you Lefty.** He symbolized all that fly fishing should be and I know he impressed millions, not only me.

I learned to love fly fishing, **Suncoast Fly Fishers** as well, where the people are friendly and tend to exaggerate the stories they tell. Ken says "The first liar, he does not stand a chance" By 1/16 of an inch I witnessed first-hand. Mark Twain said "Never let the truth get in the way of a good story."

An eating club with a fly fishing habit, that is the way I first heard Woody describe it. On our outings we eat well, many good cooks we do have. From chili to venison the menu is vast. The friendships developed a life time will last. And the club covers the cost of the meal.

In our sport we are predators, deceiving our prey, but also respect them in the most intimate way. I thank every fish that takes my fly and usually release it so gently, as I say good bye. Crazy I may be for talking to fish, but a fly rod and nature answered a young boy's wish.

Get involved with us; experience the wonder of it all; take a kid fly fishing. Make some new life-long friends.

*Never lose your sense of adventure*

*George*

George Haseltine, Proud to serve as President, Suncoast Fly Fishers 2016-2017-2018-2019

## Club Meetings, Outings, and More

### Thursday, April 19, Meeting

- New officers and board members take office.
  - 6 pm – fly casting before the meeting
  - Speaker: Walt Durkin –Year-round wade-fishing spots
- 

### Saturday, April 21, Outing

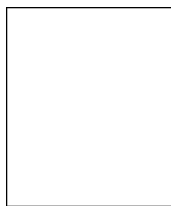
- Sunshine Skyway South Rest Area
- 

### Heads up: There will NOT be a fly tying class at Bruce Evensen's in April

- Meet ups are on the last Thursday of the month at Bruce's house, 531 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue, St. Pete



*March's Crease Fly as tied by James Davis and taught by Bruce Evensen at the March event. James wrote, "My daughter asked me to tie an Easter style crease fly. She picked out the colors and we tied the fly. Happy Easter to everyone in the SFF family."*



### Send in your picture for the new Suncoast Fly Fishers membership directory

Rick Warfel is taking charge of a project to create a printed directory of members of Suncoast Fly Fishers that includes our pictures. So, email Rick

(RH\_Warfel@yahoo.com) a head shot photo of yourself at an early opportunity. If you don't have a picture of yourself then strike a pose for one of the "official photographers" at the meeting.

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Suncoast Fly Fishers  
of St. Petersburg



### Monthly Meetings:

Third Thursday of every month (except December) at St. Pete's Walter Fuller Park Rec Center, 7891 26th Ave. N. 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

Suncoast Fly Fishers currently has 121 members including 18 family members and 5 honorary members. Annual dues are \$15, payable in September.

### FFI Charter Club.

Suncoast Fly Fishers is a charter member club of **Fly Fishers International**. A charter club of FFI is one in which all club members also join FFI as individual members. Annual dues are \$35. Seniors \$25. SFF is a member club of the **Florida Council** of the FFI.

## Club Meetings, Outings, and More

### Friday, Saturday, Sunday, April 27-29, E-glades canal fly fishing outing

- HQ Holiday Inn Express in Plantation
  - Fish fry Saturday with members of Cocoa's Florida Fly Fishers
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### Sunday, April 29, 1 to 1:45 pm – Green Thumb Festival, Walter Fuller Park

- Suncoast Fly Fishers will teach fly casting and fly tying in the new Green Thumb Festival. Tom Gadacz will staff our club booth.
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### Thursday, May 17, Meeting

- Tie-a-thon meeting led by Myron Hansen
  - Free pizza
- 

### Saturday, May 19, Outing

- Fort De Soto Park, Tierra Verde
- 

### Sunday, May 20, Fly tying lessons, East Lake Woodlands CC

- Suncoast Fly Fishers teach fly tying to country club members
  - Can you help? See Bob Burkard at the April meeting.
- 

### Monday, May 21, Introduction to Fly Casting with Tom Gadacz

- Egan Field, 9101 Blind Pass Road, St. Pete Beach, 6-8 pm
  - Free but the class size is limited so sign up. Call Tom at 727-363-9245
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### On the Horizon...

- Fall Casting Carnival in October Rick, Tom and Bob
  - Expedition to Lac la Croix in Ontario. Point man is Mike Simmons
- 

### Sweepstakes

### MONTANA SKIFF DRIFT BOAT

**Fly Fishers International**

**Drawing April 30.**

## Used Gear: Sellers, buyers, swappers

### Reduced...Chris O'Byrne's Fly Tying Kit

Orvis Cahill Bench/Box with Wasatch Tools and Renzetti Traveler Vise. \$200 (was \$300). Email Chris at [obyrnec@yahoo.com](mailto:obyrnec@yahoo.com)

### 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)*



## Club Meetings, Outings, and More

### Layne (Smitty) Smith wins the free guided trip with Captain Nick Angelo



At the March meeting Layne Smith (L) won a free half-day guided fishing trip with Capt. Nick Angelo. More free guided trip drawings like this are on the way.

And more guided trip drawings are on the way. 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. If you registered for a previous guided trip raffle, we will keep you registered unless you request that your name be removed from the list.



Captain Nick Angelo

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### Thank you note to President George Haseltine from Joe Dail

George,  
*Thanks very much for the card with the signatures of so many of my friends at SFF. I'm sorry my physical condition has forced me to drop out of the Club, and I will certainly miss the meetings, outings, Hog Roasts, casting clinics (where I perfected the tailing loop), and Everglades trips. Martha and I will always treasure the friendships we formed at the Club and send our best wishes to all of you. Joe Dail*

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Martha and Joe Dail staffed the sign-in table at the 2017 Hog Roast.

### Mining the data--

Outings chair Bob Burkard has created spreadsheets with details about our club meetings, events, and outings going back a number of years. They will be very helpful in deciding future programs and outings. Members can view them online. Check out the updates to our [Outings-Events](#) pages on the club newsletter.

# ***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**

Jeff Heer – David Redd – Bill  
Scarola -- Bob Burkard -- Bruce  
Evensen -- Ryan Sollars --Cliff Nigh

## **Committees**

*Volunteers needed. Speak to any  
officer or director at the meeting*  
Casting Skills -- Pat Damico, MCI,  
Dayle Mazzarella, MCI  
FFI Liaison -- Pat Damico  
Conservation -- Cliff Nigh  
Fly Tying -- Myron Hansen  
Membership -- Karen Warfel  
New Members -- Rick Warfel  
Webmaster --Open  
Hog Roast -Karen+Rick Warfel  
Outings --Bob Burkard, Hilton  
Bruch  
Project Healing Waters -- John  
Craig, Terry Kirkpatrick, Alan  
Sewell  
Outreach, shows – David Redd,  
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)**

## March Outing: Tampa Bay from Weedon Island Preserve



*Hilton Bruch, co-chair, SFF Outing Committee*

### Weedon Island Preserve Saturday, March 17

Our March outing was at one of my favorite places to fish, Weedon Island. Since moving to the west coast of Florida 6 years ago, I have caught snook, trout, ladyfish, redfish, and jack crevalle on my Clouser flies around the island, and one trip resulted in over 20 puffer fish which entertained me for hours.

However, our March outing showed what a contradiction this area has become, and how we must adapt to changing situations. Since becoming a popular fishing site to many of our local fishing guides over the last few years, it has become increasingly difficult for fly



*Bob Burkard, co-chair, SFF Outing Committee*

fishers to catch targeted fish on the weekends. The most promising areas around Weedon Island are visited multiple times during the week and more so on the weekends by many fisherman and guides who use vast quantities of chum, with the result that fish are fed hundreds (if not thousands) of chummed baitfish. This activity continues through the weekends where even more people put fishing pressure on the location. While we have discussed this recently at one of monthly meetings with a local fly fish guide, it became more obvious at this last outing.

Yes, the weather was great, the tides were low with great wading opportunities, and there were fish sighted by both kayakers and waders. However, no targeted fish were caught by our members, and even more telling, almost no “garbage” fish were hooked. So, what was once a very productive outing for our club had become one where it is increasingly more difficult for fly fishers to catch a snook, trout, or redfish. Your Outings Committee will take this into account as we plan our future outings.

However, not to be a total “Debbie Downer,” I must report that we had a great meal of lasagna and salad where our members literally broke bread together and shared fishing advice, stories, and area history. Club members’ comradery and friendship make even a slow fishing day a rewarding experience.

## BOB

### 2018 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing (Month)
Longest sunfish	8"	Quin Berry & Tony Piazza	Walsingham Lake (February)
Longest black bass	18"	Mark Hays	Walsingham Lake (February)
Longest snook			
Longest redfish			
Longest ladyfish			
Longest seatrout	18.5"	David Redd	Pinellas Point (January)



## March Outing: Weedon Island Preserve

Everything was shaping up nicely for a productive fly fishing morning. We had a moving tide. Mullet were jumping. Brown pelicans were diving on bait. White pelicans were herding minnows. Dolphins teamed up to crash schools of ladyfish.

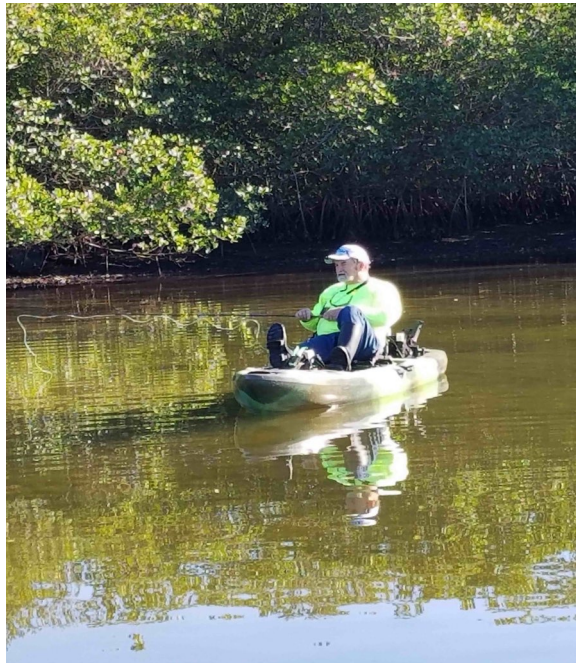
But Nooooooooooooo.

About 15 club members actually wet their fly lines at the March outing but nobody caught nuttin' unless you count the blowfish that somebody (who shall remain nameless) admitted to catching.

Oh well. Lunch – the entrée was lasagna -- was delicious.



Woody Miller was hoping they'd let him fill up at lunch at the Weedon Island Preserve pavilion.



Bruce Evensen worked one of his favorite areas, Snug Harbor, just north of Duke's Weedon Island power plant. He fished with Woody Miller, who took this picture. They saw some big fish but couldn't get any of them to eat their flies.



Weedon waders – Quin Berry, James Davis, David Redd and Peter Cline.



## April Outing: South Skyway Rest Area

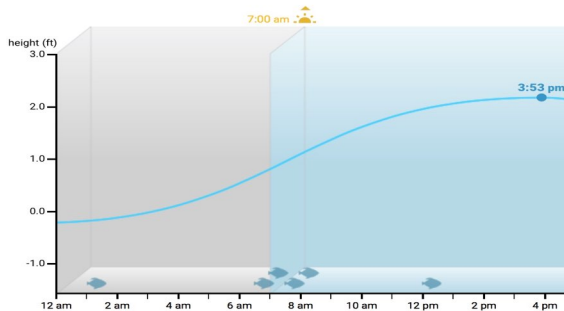
**Saturday, April 21**

Our next outing on April 2 is our South of the Skyway Bridge location. We can fish in Tampa Bay south of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge on either side of the bridge. This outing provides a lot of water open for fishing with great wading and boating opportunities. My favorite spot is the bay side of the rest area south of the bridge. I have caught snook and redfish on chartreuse and white clousers and trout on EP minnows at that location. This is a great area for both wading and boating, and I have caught fish while wading and from my kayak.

From the bay side of the rest area, I usually like to wade straight out and work my way to the right. This is a great flat where almost any species of fish can be caught. The gulf side of the bridge is a little harder to launch a kayak but does have nice wading. The last time I was there, I caught two snook on a chartreuse and white jointed deceiver casting right against the mangroves.

Our target fish is the Jack Crevalle. Be sure to get a picture of it. I have caught some nice jacks on both sides of the bridge. Lunch will be at the picnic area at the south rest stop.

**BOB**



*We'll have a slow incoming tide with a nice solunar slot between 6:30 and 8:30 am.  
(Tides4Fishing)*



*South Skyway Rest Area is on the Manatee County side of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge (I-275). You can park and launch your kayak or wade in and fish either side. Meet up at the Rest Area pavilion for lunch by noon.  
(Satellite photo courtesy of Apple Maps)*

### **Shoot pictures of your longest fish**

To submit an entry to the longest fish contests, we are asking for a photo and a brief update on the fly used so this information can be shared in our newsletter. Email the photo to Bob Burkard at [robertburkard9@gmail.com](mailto:robertburkard9@gmail.com). Provide more information if you choose such as where you were fishing, tide conditions, other fish caught, etc.

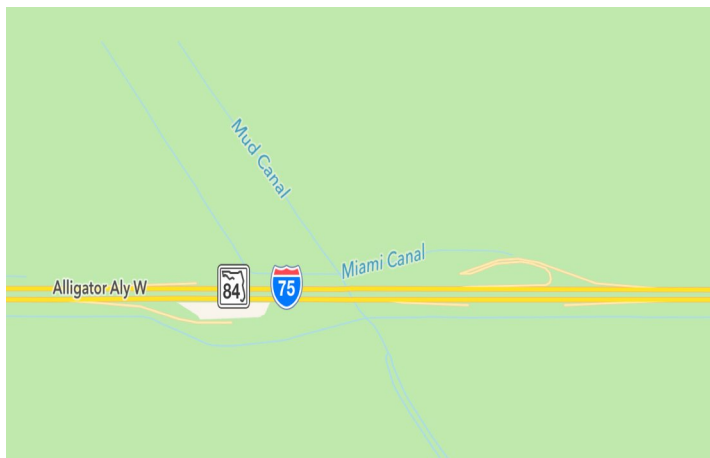
*Bob Burkard & Hilton Bruch*

## E-glades Canal Outing: Catch 100 fish (or more) a day

Our club's annual outing to fly fish the productive canals of the Everglades is just days away. Members will be fishing the canals from Friday April 27 through Sunday April 29 and if past performance is an indicator they'll be rewarded by strikes on almost every cast with more than 100 fish landed per person. (That is not a typo.)

Most members launch and fish the canals along Alligator Alley or Highway 27 south of Clewiston. Pair up with someone who has boat. There are spots where you can fish from the banks if you don't have a boat. Boats available to rent at Holiday Park.

### Fish Fry Saturday



*Mile Marker 36 rest area is the most popular place to launch and put in. It's also where everybody meets up for Saturday's fish fry lunch. (Apple Maps)*

Most Suncoast Fly Fishers who are fishing this year booked rooms at the Holiday Inn Express in Plantation. If you're not one of them, then be sure to join everybody at the fish fry on Saturday at the rest area at **Mile Marker 36 on I-75 (Alligator Alley)**. Bring your fresh fish and a sharp filet knife. Our club is also contributing paper plates, condiments, potato salad, watermelons and more.

You'll meet members of the Cocoa Club and other Florida fly fishing clubs as well. This annual fly fishing event is getting bigger and bigger every year.

### Conditions are just right

Weather patterns and everything else are shaping up to make this a very productive outing. Club member Ken Hofmeister called our attention to an article by outdoor writer Steve Waters who fished the canals with Capt. Alan Zaremba and wrote about it in the **Miami Herald**. Here are some key takeaways:

*"This year we've got optimal conditions. So depending on when the rainy season kicks in, which I figure is usually the third or fourth week in May, get out now while you can and enjoy it.*

*"Right now, Zaremba said the best fishing has been in the western parts of the canals along Interstate 75, which is more commonly known as Alligator Alley. Lots of smaller bass are biting in the finger canals north of the Alley on the west side of U.S. 27. As water levels continue to drop, the fishing will only get better everywhere, including the canals at Sawgrass and at Everglades Holiday Park, which is west of 27 at Griffin Road.*

*"Since water levels have dropped, Zaremba has already had two anglers catch and release 300 largemouth bass in an eight-hour trip. In addition, his charters catch peacock bass, bluegills, spotted sunfish, shellcrackers, speckled perch, chain pickerel, mudfish and non-native species such as oscars, Mayan cichlids and jaguar guapotes.*

*"Zaremba's fly fishing customers have scored big time with poppers and woolly buggers."*

## Hog Roast and Silent Auction 2018. Lots of Winning



*Dick Miekka won a Nigh bamboo fly rod which will be crafted by Cliff Nigh (right) and a mahogany rod case made by Rick Warfel (left). Value, \$1200.*



*Suncoast Fly Fishers awarded its annual Vision and Values award to two recipients – On The Fly editor Bill AuCoin and Outings Committee Chairman Bob Burkard*



*Successful bidder James Davis with some of his flies and new gear.*



*Karen Birnkrant with Arthur, left, won an 8-weight Rainshadow RX-6 with a fighting butt made by Alan Sewell. All members who attended the Hog Roast had a ticket in this raffle. The outfit included an Orvis Battenkill IV reel and line.*



*Tony Piazza sold bucket raffle tickets at the registration desk. All together more than 20 members staffed the event -- selling, serving, displaying, emceeing, assembling and more.*

**Photos by Kevin Kelly,  
Bill Scarola, Rick Warfel,  
and Bill AuCoin**

*More Hog Roast photos are on the next two pages*



## Continued...Hog Roast and Silent Auction 2018



Kevin Kelly really wanted these Costa del Mar sunglasses.



Kayak raffle-- Bill AuCoin held the winning ticket for the 10-foot Perception Pescador from Canoe Country Outfitters.



A dozen buckets full of goodies.



Bidding was active for the Seaguar Premier fluorocarbon line because saltwater fly fishers always need yards and yards of bite tippet.



Introducing the 2018-2019 officers and board members -- From left to right...Bill Scarola, Karen Warfel (Treasurer), David Redd, Cliff Nigh, Bob Burkard, Bruce Evensen, Jeff Heer, Dick Miekka (Secretary), Ryan Sollars, Rick Warfel, Vice President, and President George Haseltine.



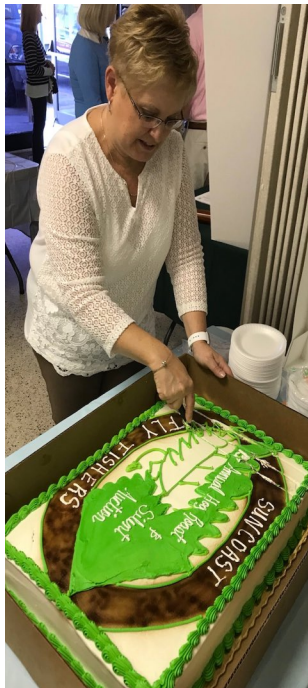
## Continued...Hog Roast and Silent Auction 2018



*Tom (Truk) Trukenbrod sold raffle tickets for the Perception Pescador kayak from Canoe Country Outfitters.*



*Smitty's thumbs-up means his bid topped them all for precious stone creations from Nature's Arts.*



*Carole Burkard oversaw the caterers and the cake: She counted, measured, and sliced it up just so.*



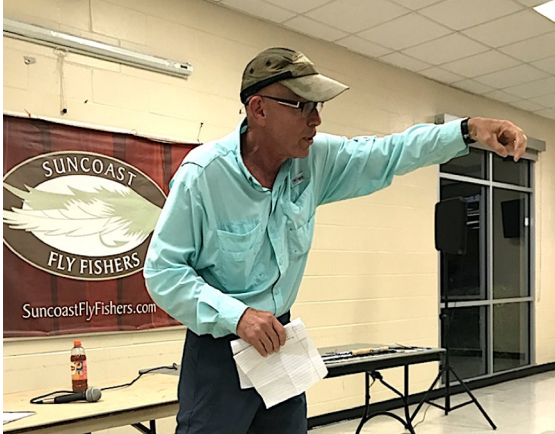
*There wasn't any honey at this table but there were lots of flies anyway. Myron Hansen thanks all who tied this year.*



*Honey on the table. The Evensens scored RAW honey from Bee-Haven Honey Farm.*

## Dayle and Barbara Mazzarella: He said...She Said

Fly fishing experiences teach us about life. Funny that. But two people don't always remember those lessons exactly the same way. And that's even funnier. Club members Barbara and Dayle Mazzarella have been fishing together since 1992. At the March meeting they shared some of their *he said-she said* slices of life.



*Barbara, you just rowed right over a big fish.*



*Well, Dayle, I can row or you can walk.*

Dayle and Barbara took Suncoast Fly Fishers on a memory tour of more than a dozen memorable fishing trips that he or both of them have taken. They were often memorable not because of the fish they caught but because sometimes, after considerable effort, the fishing was not good at all. Or, maybe somebody fell in the water and broke a fly rod. Sometimes they didn't bring enough food and went hungry. Or, maybe Dayle took a shortcut. "Dayle has this thing about shortcuts," said Barbara. "They never turn out right"

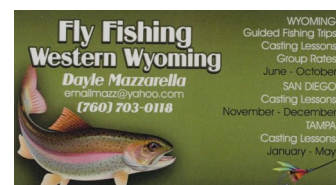


*"Actually, Dayle, I remember it quite differently."*

They described some amazing places, some above and some below the timber-line, like the Snake River, Frank Church Wilderness, High Sierras, Salt River, South Fork and North Fork of the Boise River, Wyoming's Powder River, and New Zealand.

And they left us with some terrific takeaways:

You'll meet some amazing people. You'll learn a lot. The main thing is the experience, just being "out there." Relax. Enjoy the sunset. Watch that osprey dive into the water. Stay flexible.





## Bernard "Lefty" Kreh

*Born Feb. 25, 1925 --Died Mar 14, 2018*

### Did you know Lefty? Suncoast Fly Fishers talk about the times they met Lefty Kreh

"Lefty was generous with his time, to a fault. In 2017, I made contact with him via email to ask for an interview for my column in *Coastal Angler*. Lefty gave me his home phone number and set aside time to speak with me. He was most pleased about helping people. After about 45 minutes on the phone, his son had to require Lefty to end the conversation, so he could keep a doctor's appointment".

*Chris O'Byrne*



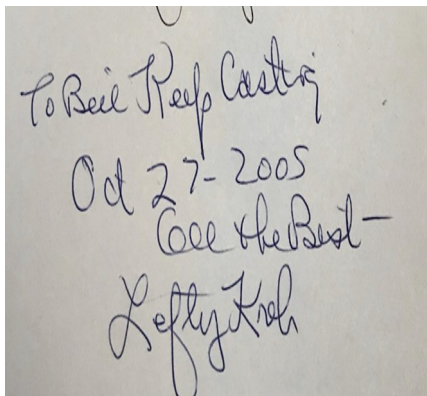
*Chris O'Byrne interviewing Lefty Kreh*

"I had dinner with Lefty a few years back in Titusville at a Renzetti Sponsored Fly Fishing/Rod Building Event. Well, sort of. He was sitting at the table next to me... I did get a chance to talk to him and he was just as everyone described him, a little gruff on the outside, but very down to earth and likeable. I attended one of his classes and witnessed his curt, direct to the point, blunt approach to teaching laced with a few choice words for the volunteers who dared get out on the field with him. We all enjoyed it. It was a pleasure to finally meet him and shake hands with a legend. I'm saddened by his passing to fish the other shore, but ever so grateful for the legacy he leaves us."

*George Haseltine*

"Several years ago (maybe 5), I went to the boat show at the Florida State Fair grounds. Lefty was to give a fly casting demonstration there later that day. I was there early killing time and poking around. Lefty approached me at the casting pond that was set up. He asked me if I was a fly fisherman and told me who he was. I told him I fly fished but not very well. He then insisted that I let him show me how to cast. For the next half hour or so he helped me with my casting skills. He was a really nice person and very giving with his knowledge of fly fishing. He had so much to teach, but he had a really slow student that day. I had to leave that day before his demonstration. I think he fell that day while doing the show and broke his hip. To me he was Mister Fly Fisherman. Sorry he is gone, the sport will miss him.

*Hugh Copeland*



*Lefty Kreh leaves us all with his knowledge and enthusiasm about fly fishing through books, videos, articles, CDs, interviews, sport show demonstrations and more. For members of Suncoast Fly Fishers he is perhaps best known as the author of Fly Fishing in Salt Water.*

*I met Lefty several times over the years. And always imposed on him to sign the original. The first meeting was in February 1974 in Miami as he was preparing to mail the photos and manuscript of Fly Fishing in Salt Water to the publisher. Bill AuCoin*

*Did you know Lefty continues on the next page*

**Did you know Lefty?**

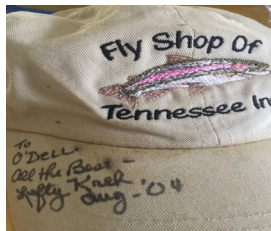
I knew Lefty and was privileged to spend 9 or 10 days with him over the years starting back in the late 70s. Our club, Northern Illinois Fly Tyers, promoted several weekend events with Lefty that included tying, casting, and, of course, his super serious talks. One encounter I had with him was, during a casting session, he was working with me and asked, ever so casually, if I ever turned to watch my backcast. When I told him "no" he loudly, and to the delight of those present, cried "I don't blame you"! I keep a few "Lefty" mementos including some autographed photos and one of his "delicately" tied Deceivers. We lost a giant.

*Jack Madden*



I didn't know him, but I have three of his TEMPLE FORK OUTFITTERS SIGNATURE FLY RODS, a 3-wt, 5-wt for freshwater trout and a saltwater 9-wt. They're light and easy to cast and easy to travel with as they're all 4 piece rods. They are the best fly fishing rods I've owned. My friends and I got them at a great discount. The son of one my buddies was sponsored by TFO at that time. He was a top-competition trout fisherman.

*Bill Scarola*



I met Lefty Aug 2004 in Johnson City, Tennessee at Eddy Wyatt's Fly shop. Lefty was showing all kinds of ways to cast a fly and also telling all kinds of stories. But the point he wanted to make the most was, "Fellows, if you are not fly fishing for carp, then you are missing the show!" "They are everywhere, fight like a bulldozer, and you get to turn them loose... You don't have to eat them".

*Jimmie O'Dell Carroll*

Back in the '80s I had a show on USA Cable Network, *David Putnam Outdoors*. We shot 26 weeks of live tape in Fort Pierce, and hired Lefty for a day. He flew in, shot three or four segments, and added tremendously to the show. He showed my wife, Anne, who was 4'11" tall, cast with half a fly rod, and let her know that she could be good at it, which pleased her tremendously. Then he went fishing off a dock with John, my 3-year-old son, using a bobber and dead shrimp, catching pinfish. Johnny was the best he'd ever seen, and loved the instruction, learning how to pull up when the bobber went down. Our cameraman was shooting a segment off a dock, and Lefty improved it instantly by wetting the dock, framing the shot around pilings and boats, etc, and showing the photographer how to shoot pictures of fish. The crew loved him. He got along well with an old, salty guy commercial fisherman with whom we gathered oysters and made a quick oyster stew. Needless to say, he wasn't very successful teaching me to use a fly rod, but we got plenty of instruction on tape, and he probably helped lots of viewers. Even in the 1970s, among fly fishermen and skiff folks in Florida, he was *the best*, and there was always someone tugging at his sleeve, wanting to get next to him.

*David Putnam (former member of Suncoast Fly Fishers)*



## Tying Bench – Smitty's Jumping Jack Flash



### Materials:

Hook: Mustad CK74SNP-SS Saltwater Popper Hook size 2 to 2/0

Thread: Danville Flatwaxed Nylon, white

Head: Foam cylinder (cut to size - ¼" to ½")

Tail: DNA Hologfusion white or similar

Flash: Flashabou Pearl Skirt: Flashabou Fringe 4" opal

Eyes: Flat Holographic silver (matched to cylinder size)

Cement: Favorite CA Cement (Zap-a-Gap, Loctite or Super Glue)

Coating: Solarez UV Resin

NOTE: This fly can be tied as a tube fly as well. Just use your favorite tubing material and saltwater hook.

### Tying Sequence:

1. Prep fly head by drilling hole through the center, then marking hook shank with a couple thread wraps where end of head sets. \* If you are making this a tube fly, after drilling hole, insert tube into hole to extend about ¼" past head. (See notes at end before starting step 2 and 3.)
2. Back-wrap thread toward hook bend slightly and then tie in a bunch of Hologfusion to length you desire for tail and then fold remaining Hologfusion back, tie down and trim to match. It should extend about 1" or more past fringe. (See photos for reference) This entire process should be done to smoothly encompass hook shank and end up with folded end at thread mark from step 1. (That would place tail flush with back of head)
3. Repeat step 2 with 8 to 10 strands of Flashabou Pearl.
4. Cover front of hook shank with CA Cement. Slide head onto hook shank to abut tail material and have only the hook eye protruding. Allow to set. **is**
5. Measure and cut Flashabou Fringe to fit around head of fly with a slight overwrap. Cement in place with CA Cement.
6. Place appropriate size eyes on either sides of head.
7. Coat head front and sides with UV Resin and cure with UV Light.

\* If you are making tube flies, attach tail materials from steps 2 and 3 to tube extending from back of fly head.

## Tying Bench – Paul Sequira’s Snook Fly

*Inspired by Lefty’s Deceiver and Jack Gartside’s Soft Hackle Deceiver*

*From the May 2014 issue of On The Fly*



This is my favorite snook fly. I developed it for sight fishing for snook from the beach or casting around the mangroves. Two iconic patterns were the inspiration for this streamer, Lefty Kreh’s Deceiver and Jack Gartside’s Soft Hackle Deceiver. Both of those patterns have been go-to patterns for me for years. Although a Lefty’s Deceiver or even a D.T. Special work well, they are very slim profile flies and I wanted a fuller pattern that would also produce some movement on the retrieve. Marabou does that but Jack Gartside’s Softhackle Deceiver

only replaced Lefty’s bucktail collar with a couple of wraps of marabou, still a very slim profile. The streamer I have developed provides a full body profile by filling the hook shank with wraps of marabou. It is simple to tie once you get the knack of palmering marabou without mashing down the hackle of preceding wraps. My instructions describe the fly using marabou and saddle hackle, which is my favorite version. However, this fly can also be tied using nothing but bunny strips or all synthetic materials; substituting a suitable synthetic hair for the tail and synthetic body hackle. Each manufacturer has a proprietary name for these materials and there are too many to identify here.

*Paul*

### Materials

Hook: Mustad 3407 or equivalent sizes 2 – 1/0

Thread: white flat waxed nylon, red to finish head

Tail: white saddle or neck hackle

Body: white marabou

Body Accent: Any feather with long fibers I often use another color marabou or mallard flank (to pay homage to Jack Gartside)

Flash: Pearl Fire Fly or Slinky Fiber or your favorite very thin flash material

### Tying Instructions

1. Mash the barb down and secure the hook in the vise hook point down. Attach the thread with a jam knot and take even wraps down towards the start of the hook bend.

continued....

## Continued...Tying Bench – Paul's Snook Fly



eye to provide an even underbody and then return the thread to the tie in point. Clip and discard the excess hackle stems.

2. Select 4 equal sized hackles, even up the tips and make two pairs (two feathers each) with the curved sides facing inward. Remove the fibers at the butt of the hackles and clip to size. For a #1 hook, the tail should be approximately 2 +/- inches long and the total fly should be 3 to 3½ inches long. Place the hackle butts on top of the hook at the start of the bend and secure them with several tight wraps of thread. Wrap the bare hackle stems with tightly spaced wraps to a little less than ¼" from the hook

3. Select a marabou feather and strip off all the fluffy fibers from the butt end. Stripping these fibers also removes some of the stem material; this will make it easier to palmer the marabou. Tie this feather in by the butt where your thread is waiting for you. (You returned it there in step #2 didn't you?) Take a few tight wraps, clip off the excess bare stems and wrap the thread forward a few turns.

4. Here is the hard part, hold the tip of the marabou feather with the fingers of your right hand (if your right handed). Pull the feather straight up and with your other hand stroke the marabou fibers back, actually folding the fibers and start wrapping the marabou forward, placing each wrap directly in front of the previous wrap for about four wraps. Do not over wrap previous wraps. While you are doing this, you must stroke the fibers back towards the tail. Tie off the marabou feather, clip and discard the excess. Take a couple of half hitches here.

5. Select about 4 or 5 pieces of Fiber Fly, fold them over your thread at the halfway point and secure them to the hook. Take a couple of thread wraps to secure the flash material and separate them equally to each side of the hook. The flash material should extend to about the end of the tail. Clip the excess flash material and discard. The ends should be uneven lengths.

6. Repeat steps #2 and #3 with a second marabou feather (or even a 3<sup>rd</sup> if needed) until you have covered the hook shank leaving approximately ¼" of hook shank bare. Select an accent feather and secure it to the hook directly in front of the marabou body and palmer it taking only a couple of wraps.

7. Tie off the white thread and tie on the red thread. Put a drop of head cement on the thread wraps and then wrap a nice bullet shaped head with the red thread. Secure with a whip finish and coat with several coats of head cement. Comb the marabou fibers towards the tail with a fine tooth comb to neaten it up.

Note: When fishing with this fly, remember that dry marabou floats very well so soak the fly before you make your first cast. Marabou is a rather delicate material; for this reason this fly is not recommended for bluefish, mackerel or ladyfish unless you like to tie a lot of them.

###

## Tom Gadacz: Florida Council helps UCF Reel Knights club teach kids skills and ethics of sportfishing

Reel Knights, a fishing club at Orlando's University of Central Florida (UCF), in coordination with the Boys and Girls Club of Orange County, put on a charity event in Orlando March 24 to teach 44 youths between 8 and 16 the skills and ethics of sportfishing. Representatives of the Florida Wildlife Federation helped the kids understand some of the basics of Florida's ecosystems.



*Mark Benson (L) and Tom Gadacz in Orlando*

Mark Benson, an FFI Certified Casting Instructor, and Florida Council President Tom Gadacz taught fly casting for beginners. Some, mainly the girls, picked it up fairly quickly and a few were casting to 45 feet. We made it fun and challenged them to move that fly rod without using just their wrists.

The kids rotated through 10 skill stations such as knot tying, cast netting, fishing in the adjacent river, conservation, and fly casting. A group of 80 UCF students guided the youths between stations and helped with many of the events.

Lunch was provided by Chick-fil-A. Zenith provide funds for the event. Other organizations, including Florida Wildlife Federation, also participated. The kids received goody bags with fishing equipment, a rod and reel from Fish Florida, and a T-shirt. These starter kits make it possible for children to take their fishing interests to the next level and get outdoors immediately.

*Tom*



*Closing Ceremonies*



## Dennis Marquis: Fly fishing from a RecVee



Cindy and I recently bought a 2015 Tiffin Allegro Bus 40SP RV and plan to travel (and fish) through October. We hope to be back in St Petersburg by November 1 then head back out again in the RV in February.

I recently got an email from my long-time friend and mentor, Capt. Ray Szulczewski of Tide Runner Charters out of Cape May, NJ. Ray asked me to check a letter he wrote to all his clients announcing his retirement. I owe my love for fly-fishing to Ray.



*Dennis, age 12. He was hooked.*

Ray introduced me to the art of fly-fishing by teaching me how to fish for stripers in the backwater estuaries of Cape May. After guiding me and my two sons, Ben and Wes, on a spin casting trip, Ray sent me an email thanking me for the business and suggested that if I wanted to have “real” fun, then I should let him teach me how to land those same stripers on a fly. I took him up on it.

On my first trip two amazing things happened which changed my life. First thing, within in a short period of instruction, Ray had me casting a 9-weight with a popper sufficiently enough to attract the stripers. I still can remember the first one. We were drifting along a sod bank in September during sunset with an outgoing tide casting to it and striping back. The sod had already begun to change from green to autumn gold, it was beautiful.



*Marquis' first striper on the fly. He was hooked.*

We approached a break in the sod, where the marsh water was pouring out creating a small waterfall. Ray told me that the stripers would be under that waterfall waiting to ambush bait. I cast into the fall, and on the second strip the striper rose after my popper chasing it toward the boat. My adrenaline immediately spiked. You could see the frustrated striper trying to swallow the popper, then he did and that is when the second thing happened. I felt the strike in my left hand, set the hook and lifted the 9 wt.

I had been fishing since I was a small boy but I never felt more connected to the fish as much as I did that day on the fly. I have never looked back.

*Dennis*



*Next month...Cudjoe Key*

## Bob Morrison: How-To Tips and More



**Flounder, seatrout still feeding** -- The cooler weather has slowed the snook bite, but there has been no slowing of the flounder and seatrout feeding. Trout have been thriving in this cooler spring weather so fish hard for them while they're feeding continues.

**Snook active in deep water** -- Snook are feeding less strongly but are active in deeper water and near obstructions. Try the Lefty Kreh-type flies with feathered tails. Also try poppers and gurglers which are also producing.

**Cold front coming?** -- Freezing temperatures in the middle west may reach Florida and push fish into deeper water. Expect cold weather here by April 15 but we really can't predict fish feeding very well until the weather arrives and effects fish activity one way or another.

**Introducing kids to sportfishing** -- Several people have suggested that we start helping children learn to fish by first-timing them with worms and bobbers, "graduating them to spinning and fly fishing as they grow older. I believe this approach will bring more kids into the sport and thereby increase or at least maintain our membership numbers.

**We aren't just fishermen you know** -- During times like these we must keep a close eye on our children. They are our most valuable asset and, remember, we must teach them since we are not just fishermen. We are conservationists. We are the experts from which they must learn and they must learn the value systems which we want to them to hold and pursue. After all, children are the future and wildlife, including fish, will be needing them in the future.

**Sea turtle nesting season** -- we must keep our beaches dark during sea turtle nesting season which will extend from now through October. Beachgoers should avoid using cell phones at night so as not to confuse the hatchlings as to which direction they should go to reach the sea.

**Oyster shells are sharp** -- Watch for new oyster beds that are being planted in Tampa Bay. These beds filter the water and make it cleaner for all creatures, including fish.

*Go get 'em and good luck.*

*Bob*

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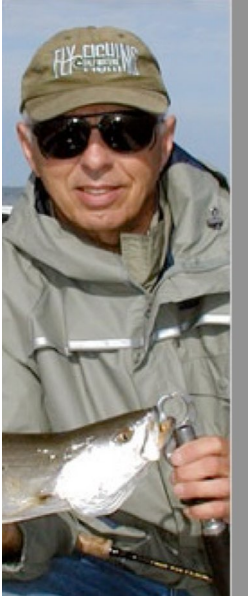
**Plus...Fly fishing travel tips from Lefty Kreh courtesy of **Fly Fisherman** magazine**

- Contact the locals
- Use the Internet
- Plan on Bad Weather
  - And 13 more

## Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #98

### Casting Injuries.... Statue of Liberty casting

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



When I see someone with their casting arm outstretched vertically, straight from the shoulder, I know they are in trouble. I ask them to put down the rod and holding their hand high and outstretched push forward against my hand while creating some resistance as you would in actual casting. Not only does it feel uncomfortable for them, it shows how little pressure they are putting on the rod grip with their original technique. I then have them put their elbow and arm close to their body and with the hand elevated again push against my hand with pressure. They instantly get the message, realizing how much more comfortable and easier it is working from that position.

*Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach*

*Capt. Pat Damico charts in lower Tampa Bay. Call 727-504-8649*

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

## Tampa Bay Times : Captain's Corner

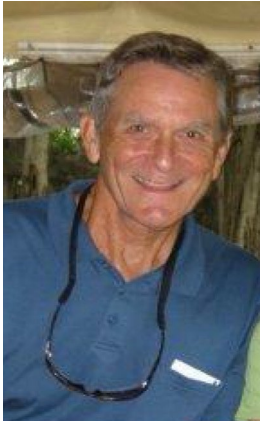
### Catch and Release Techniques

A recent warming trend had been a boost to shallow water fly fishing. Since most inshore water species are in schools, many fish can be caught in a short period of time. Even if a few fish are going to be kept, having the ability to safely and quickly release a fish requires careful technique. I often see serious fishermen who want to preserve their sport for the future do the wrong things. Handling the fish with a dry towel, holding large fish vertically and keeping them out of the water too long can be fatal. Most flies have a single hook that can be crimped or debarbed ahead of time. It will penetrate the fish's mouth more easily and simplify removal. Do barbless hooks make it easier to loosen fish? If constant tension is applied, no. Get the fish in quickly, especially in warmer water. Grab the leader close to the fish and with your other hand engage the hook bend with a simple wire hook degorger sold in all tackle shops, similar to the ones used to remove live baitfish from a Sabiki rig. Lift vertically with the degorger while holding the leader below the fish's mouth, and the hook point will disengage, allowing it to slip back into the water. All this without handling the fish.

Fly fisherman Pat Damico charts lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at [captpatdamico.com](http://captpatdamico.com) or (727) 504-8649. Fly fisherman Pat Damico runs charts in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at [captpatdamico.com](http://captpatdamico.com) and (727) 504-8649.



## Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



### Remembering Lefty Kreh

#### *Flip Pallot*

"We have watched Lefty cast and tie flies at consumer shows. We've watched his casting videos. We've read his countless "how-to" articles, and enjoyed his 47 books and innumerable writings on outdoor photography, knots, and travel. ...We've listened to his jokes, we hugged his neck, we shook his hand, and we are better off for it. You and I shall never see his likes again. (Fly Fisherman)

#### *Matt Labash*

"Lefty left us on March 14 at the age of 93. And for non-fisherpersion who never realized he'd been here in the first place, well, you missed out. For it can fairly be said that he was the sport's all-time premier ambassador, the Michael Jordan of fly fishing. Or, putting matters in proper historical context, Michael Jordan was the Lefty Kreh of the NBA." (The Weekly Standard)

#### *Bill Cochran*

'If fly-fishing had a face, it would be that of Lefty Kreh. You could argue that he was the best known, most innovative fly angler the world has ever known, and you would be correct. There's no telling how many thousands of people were introduced to fly fishing through his 30 books, his seminars and casting demonstrations, his Baltimore Sun newspaper column and magazine articles or his fishing trips around the world. Now he is gone. Lefty died mid-March at his home in Maryland. He was 93. I had the privilege of fishing with this 5-foot, 7-inch giant on four occasions. Let me share three with you." (Roanoke Times)

#### *Monte Burke*

"Lefty had an orange float on the car antenna so he could spot his Toyota 4-Runner. He ordered fries well done and used one to demonstrate the casting motion. It had all the pliability of a steel rod to demonstrate the casting motion. When he was done with his demonstration, he popped the fry into his mouth with a loud *crunch*. (Forbes)

#### *Mike Klingaman*

"World-renowned and a member of three fishing halls of fame, Kreh baited hooks with Presidents Carter and George H.W. Bush, writer Ernest Hemingway, golfer Jack Nicklaus and baseball player Ted Williams. He fished for marlin in Cuba with Fidel Castro and, at 90, fished in the Bahamas with an eclectic bunch, including newsman Tom Brokaw, actor Michael Keaton and rock star Huey Lewis. But Kreh, also a former outdoors writer at The Baltimore Sun, always returned to his roots." (Baltimore Sun)

#### *Gary Reich*

Kreh handed me a rod and said, "Go ahead and cast." I muscled the line back and forth before launching about 30 feet of it across the pond. "Well, the good news is you're going to be a hell of a lot better when you leave here," he said. "Have you ever looked at your backcast?" I had not. "Good," he said, "because it's ugly as hell." (Angler's Journal)

*To Lefty - All the Best - Bill AuCoin*

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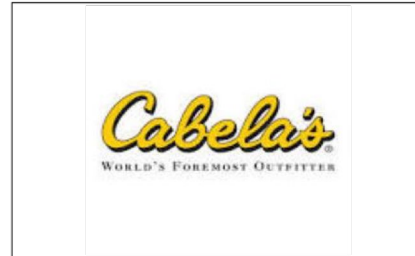
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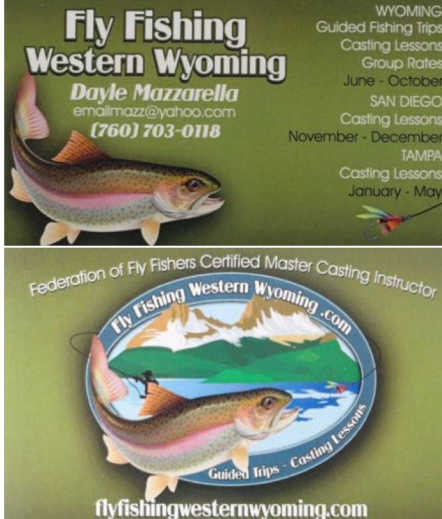


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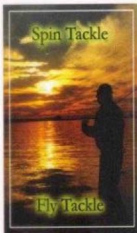
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