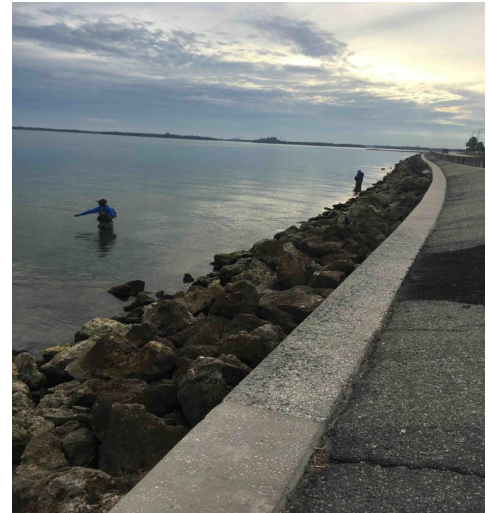


On The Fly

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



Fischer scores in Cuba. P18



Pinellas Point P12



NH Vet donates truckload of fly materials to our club. P3



Trash n Treasures P9



Our club's new fly-tying studio. P5



SFF President Letter – February 2018

I started writing this immediately after one of the best casting clinics I have ever attended. Dayle Mazzarella definitely brought His A game.

The list of instructors was very impressive: MCI Dayle Mazzarella, MCI Pat Damico, Ken Zadoyko, Steve Parker, CI Chris O'Byrne, Leigh West, Tom Gadacz, and CI Lou Bruno. Thank you very much Gentlemen. I learn something new at every clinic.

This was one of the benefits of belonging to the FFI. All 20+ attendees got their dues worth in this 5+ hours of professional instruction that otherwise would have cost us hundreds of dollars.

And thank you Rick Birnbaum and April Turpen for catering our coffee and donuts AND our lunch! Thank you, Hilton Bruch for bringing the drinks. Ask me what the FFI does for us and you'll get the whole story of that Saturday Morning.

I've been called a phony because I give so many accolades and praises (I realize that's redundant), but at this age, I have lost many friends and loved ones. The thing I regret the most is that I did not get, or did not take, the opportunity to give them "flowers" while they were still here. "Would a, could a, should a."

In 2008, I read in Jim Collin's book, "Good to Great," about (and adopted) the concept of the Window and the Mirror. When things are going well, look out the window and acknowledge those who are making it happen. When things are going wrong, look in the mirror and point at that guy.

Unfortunately, there are some who don't get involved in our activities. They choose to stand on the outside and throw rocks. Fortunately, you all are slowly changing their minds.

And then there's that 20% who do 80% of the work, anything and everything asked of them for the betterment of us all (The Pareto Principle). I personally am grateful to every one of you. It is your hard work and determination that is changing the hearts and minds of the "Nay Sayers" and causing our Club to prosper. Please step up if asked to serve this year.

We had a lot of fun (and good buys too!) again this year as Alan Sewell auctioned off the Trash 'N' Treasures at January's Meeting. Thank you, Allen. This month we are going to get our fly fishing questions answered by Pat Damico. We'll have coffee and some kind of pastry. Thank you, Pat.

And how about that last outing at Pinellas Point? The weather was cold and cloudy, but the fellowship was warm and friendly. And then there was the brisket! Thank you Rick Warfel and Bob Burkard!

I'll see you at the next outing at Walsingham Park. Got venison? Care to provide lunch?

Never lose your sense of Adventure,

George

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

PS See my message on the next page... George

Postscript: Thank you Mr. Roland Huse of Tilton, NH

Hello Everyone,

I am writing this to acknowledge the receipt of fly tying materials donated to our veterans Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing program.



Our heartfelt thanks go to Mr. Roland W. Huse who now lives in the NH Veterans Home, 139 Winter Street, Tilton, NH, for this generous donation. He can no longer use it and wanted it to go to veterans.

I was contacted by Mr. Dennis E. Latta (USCG Retired) Veterans Claims Examiner Supervisor, Division of Veterans' Benefits and Assistance, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2500 South Lakemont Ave. Room 127, Orlando, Florida 32814, (407) 646-4105. He had these fly tying tools and materials in storage and offered them to us. He wanted veterans to use it.

Alan Sewell and I drove over to Orlando and loaded the 8-foot bed of my pickup truck with boxes and boxes and boxes. A lot of good stuff! Please see the pictures.

Alan, Ted Rich and Dave spent 8 hours sorting it all out and putting the tools and materials in large containers to be stored and used at the Bay Pines VA. Thank you gentlemen for your effort and time.



If you have a minute, drop Mr. Hughes and/or Mr. Latta a thank you note for their generosity.

Never lose your sense of adventure.

George

George Haseltine
SFF President 2016-17



Club Meetings and More

Thursday, February 15, our Coffee and Pastries Meeting

- Speaker: Capt. Pat Damico – What's your question? Pat will facilitate a discussion on topics that most interest members.
- Damico is our guest fly tier. He will tie the *Mud Minnow*.
- **BONUS: Damico is donating an 8-weight, 4-piece fly rod – a new Echo – and all members in attendance can buy a ticket for \$1.**
- Smitty ties the *Golden Shiner* for catching bass
- Presentation of slate of officers and board members, plus nominations from the floor. Voting at the March meeting. New officers and board members take office for two years at the April BOD meeting.
- Buy tickets for March 24 Hog Roast. See treasurer Karen Warfel.
- Buy tickets (\$20) to win Cliff Nigh bamboo rod. See Karen.
- Fly Swap – 3 weighted baitfish flies. Tie some for the Hog Roast, too.

Note from Myron Hansen -- The February meeting fly swap is for THREE WEIGHTED BAIT-FISH FLIES. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring in flies even if they didn't sign-up at the January meeting. Member tied flies are an important part of the silent auction at our annual hog roast. You may bring yours to the meeting this month or the March meeting. Be sure to include your name with the flies you turn in.

Your
Mugshot
picture
goes here

NEW: Suncoast Fly Fisher 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, please 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.

Rick

Dues are due. Heck, they're past due.

2018 membership dues are PAST DUE. Pay by check, cash, or credit card. See Karen Warfel at the meeting, email her, or phone 813-505-3162

Lost and found

After the December chili cook-off at Fort De Soto Park Dennis Marquis found a dark blue fleece jacket with an "Avalanche" logo. He'll bring it to February meeting. Yours?

Saturday, February 17, Outing

- [Walsingham Park Lake](#), Largo
- Lunch provider: Hilton Bruch, Outings committee co-chairman

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 144 members including 21 family members and 5 honorary members.

FFI Charter Club.

Suncoast Fly Fishers is a charter member club of [Fly Fishers International](#)

[SFF website](#)

[SFF Calendar](#)

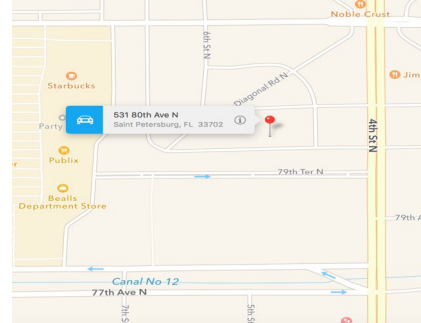
Club Meetings and More

Thursday, February 22, free fly tying with Bruce Evensen

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

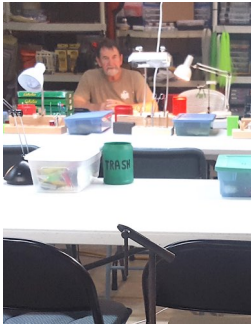
February: Tie the Snook Snagger. Bring these materials:

- White rabbit zonker
- White marabou
- 1/8" foam to cut into 3/4 inch circles
- one or two 1/0 or 2/0 hooks. Bruce likes Gamakatsu Stinger.
- Little red chenille.



Bruce's home is on 80th Avenue just one-block west of 4th St. N. Apple Maps

Bruce Evensen's garage is our new fly-tying studio



Bruce Evensen has converted his 4-car garage into a fly tying studio for members of Suncoast Fly Fishers.

It used to be a four-car garage. Now it's a fly tying studio that Bruce Evensen created to teach fly tying. Suncoast Fly Fishers gather there for two hours at 6 pm on the last Thursday of every month to tie Bruce's Fly of the Month.

Yeah, it's free.

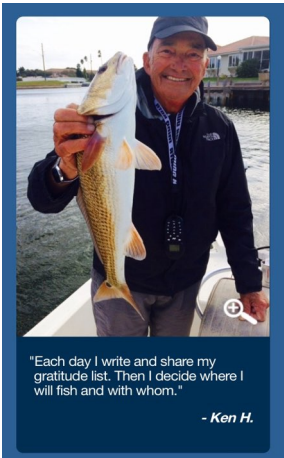
And if you can't make the last Thursday of the month then Bruce offers two other free fly tying class options: Second Monday of the month and, if there is a fifth Monday in any month, Bruce teaches that night, too. No excuses.

Photos by Bill Scarola



Ken Hofmeister: Share the moment

Subject: Reflections Ambassador Program: Your Photo



Hi Ken --I hope this email finds you well! I am reaching out about an exciting update regarding your photo that is currently featured on the Share Your Moment website, found here: <http://www.revlimid.com/mm-patient/share-your-moments/>

This same image has been selected to be featured in an internal presentation at Celgene to help inspire the sales team! We greatly appreciate your continued participation in the Reflections Ambassador Program and wanted to let you know this exciting update. We'll be sure to proactively provide any feedback, should there be any additional communications after the meeting.

Thank you for your participation!

Warm regards, Zona Reid

Club Meetings and More

Monday, March 12. 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 727-363-9245
-

Thursday, March 15, Meeting

- Speakers: Dayle and Barbara Mazzarella – Funny fly fishing stories that teach us about life.
 - Vote for officers and board members for 2018-19
 - Guided fly fishing trip raffle
 - Tickets available for the bamboo rod raffle
-

Saturday, March 17, Outing

- Weedon Island Preserve (Tentative)
-

Saturday, March 24, Hog Roast

- 4 to 8 pm City of Treasure Island Auditorium, 120 108th Avenue, Treasure Island
 - Members and guests \$20/person. Children 12 and under are free when with a paid adult.
 - Raffle for the custom-made bamboo rod by Cliff Nigh and mahogany rod case made by Rick Warfel.
 - Tickets on sale now. Sign up at a meeting or club event; Contact Karen Warfel by phone 813-505-3162 or email kmwarfel@yahoo.com ; or mail your reservations and a check to Suncoast Fly Fishers, P. O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743."
-

Saturday, March 24, Special Event Youth Fly Casting

We have been asked to teach youths casting at Blanchard Park in Orlando from 10 am to 2 pm on March 24, the same day as the Hog Roast. It's okay. It's a 2-hour drive and, carpooling, we'll all be back by 4. This event is being sponsored by the students at University of Central Florida, Reel Knights. Suncoast Fly Fishers will be teaching boys and girls between 8 and 16 the Boys and Girls Club about the fly casting. Can you help? Please contact me at thomasgadacz@yahoo.com or call 706-726-7899. *Tom Gadacz*

Thursday, April 19, Meeting

- New officers and board members take office
 - Speaker: Walt Durkin –Year around wade-fishing spots
-

Saturday, April 21, Outing

- Sunshine Skyway South Rest Area
-

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, April 27-29, Everglades Canal Fly Fishing Outing

Thursday, May 17, Meeting

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

Saturday, May 19, Outing

- Fort De Soto Park, Tierra Verde
-

Karen Warfel: Has your membership lapsed?

Membership renewals were due September 30, 2017 for the 2017 – 2018 renewal period. If you have not renewed, please take a moment to fill out the **application form** and mail your check today. You can also pay by credit card by calling Karen Warfel at [813-505-3162](tel:813-505-3162) and you can always pay by cash, check or credit card at any SFF meeting or outing. We have three upcoming member-only events (Guided Trip Raffle, Pat Damico's Echo fly rod raffle, and the Hog Roast Custom Rod Raffle) free to members in good standing so get your renewals in today. *Karen*



SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

*Name _____ Date _____
*Address _____ *City _____
*State _____ *Zip _____ *Telephone (____) _____
**E-Mail _____

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) For new and renewing members. Membership categories (select one):

- ___ **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP 1 year - \$15**
___ **FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 1 year - \$25**
(includes primary member, spouse or cohabitating partner and children under 18 years of age)
___ **BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP 1 year (includes monthly business card newsletter ad) - \$100**

If a current member of FFI, enter your FFI number _____.

Fly Fishers International (FFI) This is only for new members and is in addition to SFF membership. If you are a current member of FFI, please enter your FFI number (above). SFF is a charter club of FFI, and membership in SFF requires membership in FFI. Current members pay annual dues directly to FFI. If a new member, select one category only:

- ___ **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP 1 year - \$35**
___ **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP 3 year - \$90**
(General memberships include the primary member, spouse or cohabitating partner and children under 18 years of age)
___ **SENIOR (age 65 or over; provide date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) ___/___/___ 1 year - \$25**
___ **YOUTH (under age 22; provide date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) ___/___/___ 1 year - \$20**

Total amount due: \$ _____. Please make check payable to **Suncoast Fly Fishers** and submit with completed application at next meeting or mail to: **Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821.**

Amount Received \$ _____. Date Received ___/___/____. Received By _____.

*This information is shown on the Membership List which is distributed to members only and is not used for commercial purposes. If you do not desire this information disclosed to members, please so indicate.

**The monthly newsletter, "On the Fly," is only distributed electronically. If you do not provide an e-mail address, you can obtain the newsletter from our web site - <http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com>

If an e-mail address is provided, please select one of the following options:

- ___ Publish my e-mail address on the Membership List which is distributed to members.
___ Do not publish my e-mail address on the Membership List which is distributed to members. Only use my e-mail for distribution of SFF newsletter and important club announcements.

NOTE: AS A CONDITION OF CLUB MEMBERSHIP, ALL MEMBERS AGREE NOT TO SHARE MEMBER E-MAIL ADDRESSES OR USE THEM FOR ANY REASON (COMMERCIAL, POLITICAL, ETC.) OTHER THAN SFF CLUB RELATED CONTACTS.

(Rev. 10/27/2017)

Club Meetings and More

SFF Members Only Guided Trip Give Away

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. If you registered for a previous guided trip raffle, we will keep you registered unless you request us to remove you from the list. Our next guide will be Captain Nick Angelo and the first drawing will be held at the March member meeting. Registration is easy. Complete the form below and bring it to the next club sponsored event, mail it to our PO Box, sign up at a club meeting or contact Rick Warfel at rh_warfel@yahoo.com or by phone/text at 813-523-0692.

Cliff Nigh won
the first free
guided trip of
the year with
Capt. Pat Damico

SFF Members Only Guided Trip Give Away Registration Form Drawing is March 15, 2018

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



Custom Made Bamboo Rod Raffle. \$20 Donation



This is your opportunity to own a top quality custom made bamboo fly rod built by our own Cliff Nigh. Cliff will build the rod to your specifications in 3, 4 or 5 weight line. You get to pick the line weight, the length of the rod, the grip, hardware, wraps and many other options. Cliff will personally guide you through the process. For more details and options visit <http://nighflyrods.com/>. As an added bonus this package will include a custom made wood rod tube. This opportunity is part of our 2018 Hog Roast fund raising effort. Together the package is valued at more than \$1200. Raffle tickets will be distributed to registered participants. A donation of \$20 is recommended. No less than 50 or more than 100 tickets will be distributed. The drawing will be held at this year's Hog Roast if we reach the minimum in donations or at an upcoming event as soon after the event as possible. You do not need to be present to win. Tickets are available now. You may register at any upcoming meeting or outing and at the Hog Roast on March 24th, Or Contact Karen Warfel by phone 813-505-3162 or email kmwarfel@yahoo.com. Our thanks to Cliff Nigh, Rick Warfel and St. Pete Outfitters for making this possible.

January's Trash 'n' Treasures Meeting

Photos by Ray Smith and Bill AuCoin



Alan gets bids on a fly box with flies, just one of dozens of goodies auctioned at January's Trash 'n' Treasures meetings. A special thanks goes to member Joe Dail for all of the fly gear he donated to the club for this event.

January's Trash 'n' Treasures meeting was one of our most successful, raising \$1,289. Members brought and bought dozens of used but useful items: Fly rods, line, reels, rod cases, leader material, bite tippet/fly stretcher, wading boots, a wading stick, insulated cooler, and even a spinner to speed the drying process on just-glued flies.



Who needs a tarpon fly-bite-tippet stretcher?



Welcome back from the hospital, brothers. Smitty is as good as new and back on the vise. Bob Morrison will jettison his wheelchair when his legs and balance are back to normal. Soon, he says.

Used Gear: Sellers, buyers, swappers

Chris O'Byrne's Fly Tying Kit

Orvis Cahill Bench/Box with Wasatch Tools and Renzetti Traveler Vise. \$300. obyrec@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.

Dennis Marquis wants to swap his 9 TFO TiCRx

He would like to trade for a comparably-branded 7 weight rod. Call him at 215-783-0409

Robert Fischer has a lot of fly gear for sale.

See list below. If interested, call him at 813-495-5685 and he will bring it to the meeting for your inspection.

Fly Rods	Sale Price	Cost New
Fenwick Ironfeather 5# 9' 2 piece w/ tube	60	200
Loomis Custom 12# 9' 2 piece	100	275
Loomis GLX 8# 9' 2 piece	200	600
Loomis IMX 10# 9' 2 piece	130	520
Loomis GL 3 5# 8'6" 2 piece w/ tube	120	300
Thomas & Thomas Horizon 8# 4 piece w/ tube	200	450
Fly Reels	Sale Price	Cost New
Lamson #2	40	100
Lamson 3.5 with extra spool	50	120
Lamson 3.5	40	120
Scientific Angler S2 6-7 reel with 2 extra spools	50	130
Scientific Angler S2 8-9 reel with extra spool	45	160
Scientific Angler S2 8-9 reel with extra spool	45	160

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

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg, Florida



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

Club Officers

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

Board of Directors

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

Committees

*Volunteers needed. Speak to any
officer or director at the meeting*
Casting Skills -- Pat Damico, MCI,
Dayle Mazzearella, 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

January Outing: Bay Vista Park at Pinellas Point in St. Pete



Pinellas Point Outing Saturday, January 20th

It was one of those great days and a fine outing. The weather was perfect, the food was great, the company couldn't have been better and some fish were caught. There was no shortage of fishing stories and food.



David Reid caught the longest target fish of the outing, an 18 ½ inch trout, on a



Carl Hansen special, a chartreuse and white bendback on a size 2 hook.



Not to be outdone, the fisherman who caught the most target fish of the day was Mark Hays. He caught 13 trout which earns him bragging rights for catching the most trout of the outing, and I think the most caught in a single Suncoast Fly Fishers outing in a very long time.

Mark caught these beauties on a brown and orange Clouser. Always a great source of fishing knowledge, Mark reaffirmed that we should be fishing these flies very slow during the season's colder waters. *(This is always a challenge for me since I have to always force myself to slow down. Bob)*

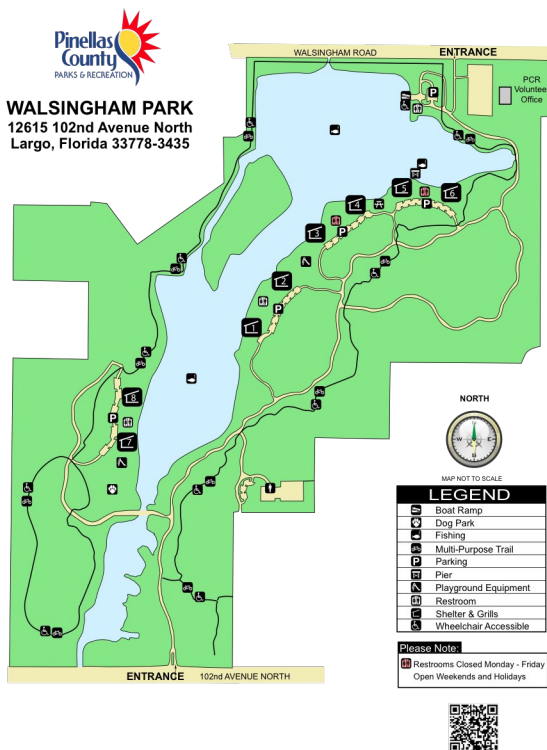
Bob & Hilton

2018 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing (Month)
Longest sunfish			
Longest black bass			
Longest snook			
Longest redfish			
Longest ladyfish			
Longest seatrout	18.5"	David Redd	Pinellas Point (January)

February 17 Outing: Walsingham Park Lake in Largo

We'll have two winners: longest bass and longest bream. Take pictures.



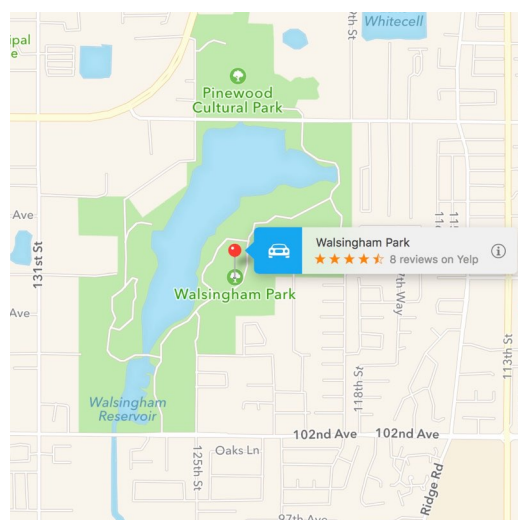
Walsingham Lake Park in Largo

Our next outing on February 1^h will be at Walsingham Lake in Largo. This is a fresh water outing that is especially suited for boaters and kayakers. Fishing from shore is OK, but keep a lookout for long snouts moving towards shore. The boat ramp is a good place to fish the lily pads.

This outing has two target fish, the longest bass and the longest bream. Remember to take pictures and share your experiences.

Lunch will be at noon at one of the pavilions, the one with the smell of fresh, hot coffee.

Bob and Hilton



Walsingham Park. Apple Maps

Snap photos of your bream and bass.

You must email the name of the fly that fooled the fish and also a picture of each fish you enter into each outing and/or annual tournament. Read the new outing and annual tournament rules on the next page

New Tournament Rules for 2018

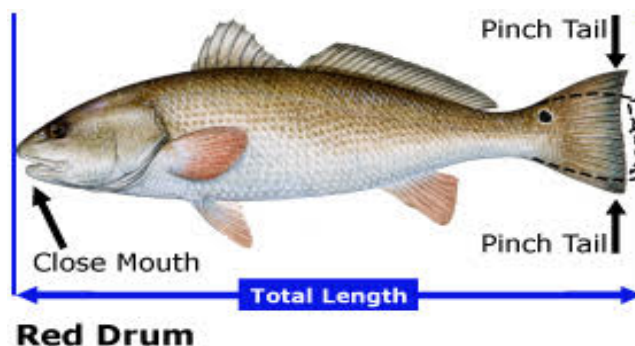
Shoot pictures of your longest fish

One of the many benefits we receive as members of the Suncoast Fly Fishers is the fun of participating in monthly outings and annual contests for catching the longest fish. The goals of these “contests” are to promote camaraderie and to add enjoyment to our outings. The contests are all in good fun and the prizes rewarded are of nominal value.

However, the main objective of having these contests is to support the mission of our club and to promote fly fishing by sharing information and experiences with all of our members, thereby helping them to become better fly fishers. Our members appreciate any opportunity to learn about new places to fish and which flies to use.

In the spirit of meeting these goals and objectives, and of always improving our club and giving back to our members, we are updating our monthly and annual contest rules. I hope that all of you will continue to participate and look at these changes as another way to be good citizens of our club.

- To submit an entry to the longest fish contests, we are asking for a photo and a brief update on the fly used so that this information can be shared in our newsletter. These should be emailed to Bob Burkard at robertburkard9@gmail.com.
- You can also provide more information if you choose, but this is optional. Examples are where you were fishing, tide conditions, or any additional information that would interest our members. Again, this is to share with our members.
- We will continue to follow the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s guidelines for measuring the length of fish caught. To keep things simple, we use the **Total Length Measurement** method for all fish. Total length is measured from the most forward point of the head, with the mouth closed, to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail compressed or squeezed, while the fish is lying on its side.



Good luck ...Outings Committee

Bob Burkard and Hilton Bruch

Snapshots: January Outing, Bay Vista Park

Photos by Tom Gadacz and Kevin Kelly



New members Gary Sundberg and James Davis wade-fished from the South Skyway Rest area.



Chewing the fat before they chew on the brisket: Richard Birnbaum, April Turpen, Jan Bailey-Bruch and Karen Birnkrant



Hey, let's go back for seconds -- Bob Burkard and Norm Barber, visiting from Canada, who will be joining the club.



Rick Warfel (l) watches David Redd carve his smoked brisket. Bob Burkard also brought his brisket. Everybody's a winner.



Swilling the beans. Capt. Pat Dami co, Robert Fischer, Tony Piazza

This is the fly to use to catch the biggest bass at our Walsingham Park Lake outing.

Materials

Hook: Mustad R75/ 79580 Streamer hook size #2 or your favorite 4X long streamer hook.

Tag: Black Holographic Mylar Tinsel

Body: Gold Braided Tinsel and Yellow Floss

Belly: White Bucktail (sparse)

Wing: 4 wide Yellow Neck Hackle (2 each from right and left side of cape)

Cheek: Pheasant Church Windows . Prep cheek feathers with SHHAN spray fixative and let dry before placing them on fly.

Throat: Red over Yellow Schlappen

Head: Black Flatwaxed Nylon Thread

Overcoat: Solarez UV Resin



Smitty's fly of the month: Golden Shiner

Tying Sequence

1. Attach yellow floss at rear of hook shank and attach black mylar tinsel. Wrap floss back over tinsel to slightly over hook bend and then return floss to tie in point with smooth even wraps. Wrap black tinsel forward in smooth even wraps to tie in point, tie off with floss and trim off excess mylar.
2. On bottom of hook shank, tie in tag end of braided tinsel so butt-end of tinsel is pointing toward hook eye and remainder of tinsel is hanging over hook bend. Proceed to wrap floss forward, in smooth even-touching wraps to about ¼" from hook eye. Lock in place with a couple of half-hitches and cut off excess.
3. Wrap braided tinsel forward in evenly spaced open wraps to the floss tie off point. Attach black head thread and tie off braid securing it with a few half-hitches. Remove excess braid.
4. Using black head thread, tie in sparse white bucktail belly so that it extends about ½" past hook bend. Secure in place with SHHAN spray.
5. Take the four yellow neck hackle feathers placing them paired so the concave (or dull sides face each other and they curve properly down over bend of hook. Before attaching the four feathers, flatten stems parallel to hook shaft so feathers will not "roll" out of position. Secure with SHHAN.
6. Prep** and attach "church window" cheeks on both sides. Secure with SHHAN.
7. Strip barbules from a yellow neck hackle and attach on underside of hook as a throat. Repeat process with barbules from a red neck hackle. Secure with SHHAN.
8. Use black flatwaxed nylon for a smooth head for the fly. Overcoat with UV Resin and cure with UV light.

Smitty

Tying Bench Dennis Marquis ties the Gummy Minnow



I bought a few gummy minnows at Bill Jackson's and had success so I decided to tie some myself. I could not find the body materials locally, so I ordered D's Flyes Crystal Skin (thin) from [Casters Online Fly Shop](#). The south side of Indian Key has been consistently productive for seatrout, small jacks and other species using small bait pattern flies on incoming and outgoing tides. The gummy minnow has worked the best. I found a hole that was so clear I could see the trout coming up to strike the fly.

Materials

- Hook: #1/0 - #06 Tiemco 811S
- .025 lead wire
- Thread: White 100 Denier Veevus GSP
- Body: Pearlescent Thin Crystal Skin or Sili Skin
- Back: Moss Green Thin Crystal Skin or Sili Skin
- Eyes: Super Pearl 3/16" Stick On Eyes or 4mm Living Eyes
- Overcoat: Clear Thin Crystal Skin or Sili Skin
- Glue: Loon Hard Head



Step 3: Cut and shape Thin Crystal Skin

Tying Sequence

1. Wrap lead around the hook shank starting from point of hook forward 10 wraps. Cover lead completely with thread, securing it on both ends. No glue is needed.
2. Using the Pearlescent Thin Crystal Skin for the body, cut a 2" long piece about 5/8" wide. Cut a slight taper from front to back on each side. Remove protective backing exposing sticky side, and fold sticky side down evenly over both sides of hook shank covering wrapped lead. Notice the body is placed on an angle to the hook. Squeeze body together working out air bubbles as needed. Scissor belly and tail to proper shape.
3. Using the Moss Green Thin Crystal Skin for the back, cut a 2" long piece about 3/8" wide. Cut a slight taper from front to back on each side. Remove protective backing exposing sticky side, and fold sticky side down evenly over top of body. Squeeze body and back together working out air bubbles as needed. Trim as needed to make it line up to the body tail edge.
4. Add eyes on each side using a dab of your favorite glue.
5. Using the clear Thin Crystal Skin to cover the whole fly, cut a 2" long piece about 6/8" wide. No taper is needed. Remove protective backing exposing sticky side, and fold sticky side down evenly over entire body. Squeeze body, back and whole fly cover together working out air bubbles as needed. Trim away excess as needed for shape. NOTE: It seals better if you let the clear to extend pass the body at all points, it sealed better.
6. Finish fly by starting thread behind eye and slowly work over material in front of eye over top and bottom of head to "squeeze" material to a softer point. When done, whip finish. Trim fly to desired appearance and cut off any extra material. You could apply some of your favorite glue along the seam that traverses the bottom of the fly.

Dennis

Robert Fischer: Cuban Bonefish on Smitty's Golden Eye Shrimp

Jan. 30, 2018



This is a 7-pound bonefish I caught on a 7-wt rod in Cuba last week.

I fished aboard a mothership in the Garden of the Queen National Park on the south east side of the island. The park was beautiful and all the Cuban people I met could not have been nicer.

Of course, I caught the bonefish on

Smitty's Golden Eye Shrimp. I love that fly.

Robert



Andy Constantinou: Bonefish Plus Yellowtail Snapper, too

Feb. 6, 2018



Andy with one of many bonefish on the fly caught on his Cuban expedition.

Just had a wonderful week bone-fishing in Cuba

*Cheers,
Andy*



Andy's yellowtail snapper

Tom Trukenbrod: Nice pompano



I caught this pompano on a #4 white and chartreuse Clouser while fishing with Tony Piazza last year. We were fishing the channel between Indian Key and Tarpon Key.

Truk

Bob Morrison: How-To Tips and Fishy Factoids



Editor's note: Our How-To and Fishy Factoid guru took a fall in December and spent a few days in the hospital, then a few more days in rehab. He's back at home now, back in action and it's almost full-steam ahead.

1. Look for inland bridges and passes to jetties. These will start to load up with sheephead. Shrimp and crab flies re working. Make the trips necessary to find productive docks with hiding places for fish. Docks that work at night will, when lit, tend to fish well in the daytime hours. But the fish will tend to spread out a bit after the sun comes up.
2. Not our thing, but chumming with barnacles scraped from dock pilings will also bring them in.
3. Go docklight fishing for better results when the wind is high outside but quieter inside. Shrimp patterns will work here. Try to find places that have less wind.
4. Water temperatures are slowly rising so fish are moving more freely. Fish are hitting at Fort De Soto Park all the way to the main channel in St. Joseph Sound. Look for area with grassy bottoms.
5. Trout are congregating in deeper, quieter water. Cooler waters hold more fish in the channels around the passes.



Bob said he's happy to be back on the vise and tying some Donald Trump flies. Just one thin dollar.

6. Overcast days will send trout to the bottom in the middle of the canals. Try shad-tail flies and jigs on a spinning rod to locate fish more quickly.

7. Creeks are holding sheephead preparing to spawn in the creek-head narrows. They also will be congregating around structures all around the bay.

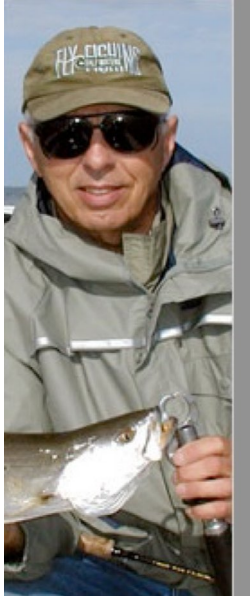
Go get 'em and good luck.

Bob

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #95

Spey Casting: A change of direction roll cast

By Capt. Pat Damico, FFI Master Casting Instructor



While attending the Fly Fishing Show in Edison, NJ, the largest in the world, I visited with Simon Gawesworth at his booth before his wonderful 45-minute casting demonstration which dealt with using spey techniques with a single handed rod. I told him how his video's dealing with this subject meant so much to me, especially when fishing a stream for fresh water trout. There are many places in saltwater where a very long fly rod is a disadvantage, a flats boat being one of them, but an understanding of the technique can help you in wade fishing or where a conventional back cast is not possible. Spend some time researching this subject, it will make you a much better fly fisher.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

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

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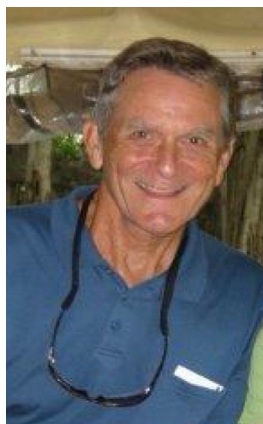
Tampa Bay Times : Captain's Corner

Conditions a challenge or fly fishermen

Small baitfish, especially glass minnows, will be in canals and well-protected areas, especially where the sun can warm the darker bottom. This means an early start, even with a moving tide, will not be productive. Seawalls and wooden structure such as docks and boats with large hulls absorb heat, inviting fish to stay close. Our low tides are early, so bankers' hours might be in order for reds and trout. A water thermometer is a necessity. If your boat is not equipped with one, get an inexpensive pool thermometer. Seek the warmest places. On the shallow grass flats, fish will be in sand holes, improving sight-fishing opportunities. Probe these with well-placed casts allowing your baitfish, shrimp or crab fly to sink to the bottom, then start a slow retrieve. A large sand hole should be fished carefully, especially if few are present. A smooth surface with no wind might help casting, but larger fish will spook more easily. A ripple on the surface will get you closer to fish.

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

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Okee-Tantie? Okey-dokey -- Bass Pro Shops is going to build a high-end fishing destination in the Okee-Tantie Recreation Area on Lake Okeechobee. Bass Pro Shops founder Johnny Morris says he is passionate about building this resort on “the most notable bass fishing lake in America.” ([Okeechobee News](#))

This makes good sense -- Suncoast Fly Fishers has donated to Tampa Bay Watch. Cliff Nigh, our conservation committee chairman, is exploring hands-on projects that members can help with. There’s talk about creating a fly-fishing division for the annual Tarpon Rodeo. ([Tampa Bay Watch](#))

Look out below – One of the toughest clean-up assignments after Hurricane Irma is removing derelict boats. State agencies roughly estimate that 2,600 boats were blown away and were sunk or stuck. Most of them are in the Florida Keys. The first question to ask is, who owns this boat? Answers don’t come easy. Then, the removal. It’s hard work; time-consuming, too. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

Look out below, chapter 2 – In early January a team of 15 observers from 10 organizations estimated the number of manatees in Florida waters at 6,131. They counted 3,731 manatees on Florida’s east coast and 2,400 manatees on the west coast. Manatees are doing well. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

Well, they do call mangroves “walking trees” – So this high schooler, on her own, figured out how to track the growth or decline of mangrove and other forests with satellites. A couple of NASA scientists learned about her work and they hired her. Two years on she has built an early warning system for mangrove and other forests using four satellites. Mangroves appear to be on the march in the Tampa Bay area, imho. I hope I’m right. ([Jewish World Review](#))

Smell something? Say something. – Think you’re smelling the red tide algae? Then report it on your smart phone. Yeah, now there’s an APP that tells Sarasota’s Mote Marine Laboratory where you are and where it is. Then Mote can deploy a little, unmanned yellow submarine – *Waldo*– that goes to the location and determines the type and size of the algae bloom and helps Mote and its partners determine the best response. Red tide algae (*Karenia brevis*) sometimes blooms out of control and its toxins kill fish, shellfish, mammals and birds. The new Mote CSIC app – CSIC is short for Citizen Science Information Collaboration – is for Android and iOS mobile phones. ([Mote Marine Laboratory](#))

Impressive. -- Breaking news from Mote Marine. ([Bradenton News](#))

Do you hear drums? Correct. Those are black drums. – If you want to catch a big black drum on the fly this is the time of the year. Sport Fishing magazine spells it out for us with how-to insights from Captain Ray Markham who, by the way, is a Suncoast Fly Fisher. “You can hear them [drumming] 100 feet away. It’s a crazy thing,” says Ray. ([Sport Fishing](#))

Hurry, here come the cops –FWC officers saw this “angler” on the North Sunshine Skyway Fishing Pier and they reported that when he spotted them he started stuffing fish down a storm drain. He had so many he started throwing them into the water, instead. Undersized mangrove snappers, it would appear. Not good. FWC’s weekly report is always a fun read. ([MyFWC](#))

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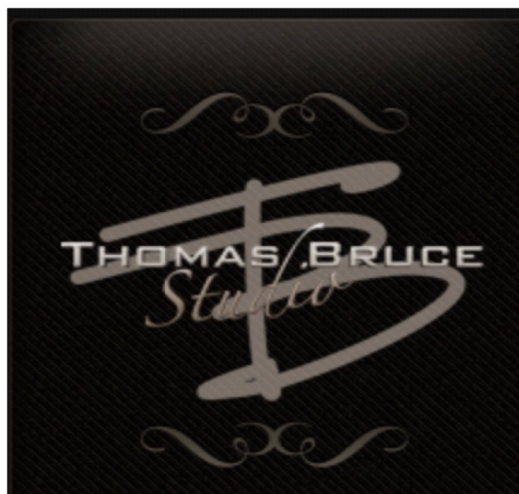
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