

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



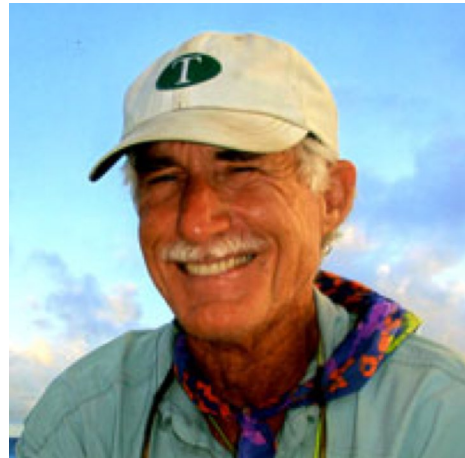
Adam Hays' Tripletail. P19



Fort DeSoto Park Outing. Was the wind your friend...or your enemy? P14



FDP December outing. Not so chilly with the chili . P15



Meet the "benchmark" at Fly Fishing Expo. P8

Is this you? Membership renewals for 2018 are past due. P7



SFF President Letter – January 2018

May it be a New Year of opportunity and good health for each of you and your loved ones.

Where do you want to go with Our Club this year? What do you want to do? How can we work together to get there? How can we seek those new adventures? How can we create some new memories? Do you believe “go big or go home,” “Run with the big dogs or stay on the porch?”

Will you step up if nominated for an Office or the Board of Directors? Will you volunteer for a Committee? Will you be at the March meeting to vote?

Good News!! Alan Sewell stepped up. Alan volunteered to lead our **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Program**!! Thank you, Alan! And thank you John Craig, Terry Kirkpatrick, Alan Sewell, Ted Rich, Dave Barson and all of you who have so faithfully served on this Project. Dennis Marquis also expressed an interest in it and is looking at how he can help.

Keep more irons in the fire than you can handle, set some unattainable goals with bench marks and tracking of your progress. Never settle for the status quo.

General Douglas MacArthur: “Age wrinkles the body, quitting wrinkles the soul.”

Winston Churchill: “Never give up, never give up, never give up!”

I love those guys! Just a couple of the people I admire from the WW2 era. As you can see, I am NOT the answer man, I am the question man.

The BLUEPRINT & The ROADMAP

Like Fly Fishing Architects, we of the BOD seek to draft a **Blue Print** and give it to our Committees to create the **Roadmap** that will take us to our next exciting adventure. If nothing else, at least come along and add your personal touch to it all.

Theodore Roosevelt: “The farther one gets into the wilderness, greater is the attraction of its lonely freedom.”

Isn't it funny how we spend the first two thirds of our lives complicating it and the remaining third trying to uncomplicate it?

Get involved this year. Unwind on the water with a fly rod in your hand. We on the BOD promise to give you many opportunities and great lunches too.

See you at the January Trash 'n Treasures Auction with the famous, infamous **Alan Sewell**.

Never lose your sense of Adventure,

George

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

Club Meetings and More

Thursday, January 18 Meeting

- Trash 'n' Treasures with auctioneer Alan Sewell. Donate gear you don't use. Bid and get a good deal on items you need.
- Nominating Committee announced. Be thinking about who should serve as officers and board members.
- February general meeting introduce slate of nominees and take additional nominations from the floor."
- March general meeting election
- New officers and board take office at the April BOD meeting.
- 2018 membership dues are PAST DUE. Pay by check, cash, or credit card. See Karen Warfel or phone 813-505-3162
- Tickets available for the March 24 Hog Roast. See Karen
- Raffle tickets (\$20) to win a Cliff Nigh bamboo rod. See Karen
- Lost and found: After the December chili cook-off Dennis Marquis found a dark blue fleece jacket with an "Avalanche" logo. He'll bring it to January meeting. Is it yours?

Saturday, January 20, Outing

- Pinellas Point, St. Petersburg
- Lunch: Brisket

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

- Volunteers needed for fly tying, registration, raffle, and more. See Tom Gadacz for more info.
- Seminars and demos by the best fly tiers and casters in Florida
- Top guide presentations on fly fishing local waters.
- See page 7 for up to date details and registration.
- Register now for discounts.
- Follow EXPO news on Twitter -- @ffflyexpo , #2018EXPOFloridaCouncil.FFI -- #SeedtoStream

Thursday, February 18 Meeting

- Speaker: Capt. Pat Damico
- Smitty ties the *fly of the month*.
- Presentation of slate of officers and board members, plus nominations from the floor
- Tickets available for the bamboo rod raffle

Saturday, February 20, Outing

- Walsingham Lake, Seminole

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, March 15, Meeting

- Speaker: Dayle Mazzarella
- 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

Saturday, March 24, Hog Roast

- City of Treasure Island Auditorium, 120 108th Avenue, Treasure Island
- 4:00 to 8:00 pm.
- Members and guests \$20/person. Children 12 and under are free 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 to Suncoast Fly Fishers, P. O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743."

Thursday, April 19, Meeting

- New officers and board members take office]
- Speaker: Walt Durkin

Saturday, April 21, Outing

- Sunshine Skyway South Rest Area

Thursday, May 17, Meeting

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

Saturday, May 19, Outing

- Fort DeSoto Park

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.

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.

Catch the Fly Fishing Fever

Tom Gadacz: Celebrate Fly Fishing 2018 with us at the Florida Fly Expo

We have an excellent program featuring superb fly fishers at the Florida Council Expo on February 9 & 10 at the Plantation on Crystal River. There is something for all fly fishers including our terrific featured speaker - Steve Huff.

The FFI Board of Directors also will be holding their first meeting of 2018 in conjunction with the Expo; Directors will be available during the Expo to visit one-on-one with members regarding conservation work and the many expanding educational programs of FFI.

The Expo has programs on fly fishing local waters and adventures in Wyoming and Mexico. Want to improve your fly tying and casting? We have programs by excellent fly fishers on fishing the flats, targeting permit, snook, tarpon and fresh water fish, tying with synthetics, accuracy casting and, yes, even fly fishing from a paddle board. We have programs specifically for women and youth and casting games. Interested in being a certified casting instructor - then sign up for our prep course.

Use the link below to learn more and register for the Expo.

<http://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Resources/Contact/Councils/Florida/EXPO/tabid/336/Default.aspx>

Tom

Tom Gadacz, President, Florida Council, Fly Fishers International

Introduction to Fly Tying Classes with Bruce Evensen

Free monthly fly tying lessons for members and guests on the fourth Thursday of each month except December

Next class, January 25

**Hand Tied Flies
By
Bruce Evensen**

Thousands to Choose From

Call 727-403-9010

Introduction to Fly Casting with Tom Gadacz

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

When: 6 – 8 pm Monday, February 12. (second Monday of each month)

When: 6 – 8 pm Monday, March 12. (second Monday of each month)

When: 6 – 8 pm Monday, April 9. (second Monday of each month)

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

Karen Warfel: Did your membership lapse?

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 two upcoming member-only events (Guided Trip Raffle and the Hog Roast Custom Rod Raffle) where participation is 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)

Register now for the 2018 Florida Fly Fishing Expo
LEGENDARY GUIDE STEVE HUFF IS THE FEATURED PRESENTER

What: 2018 FFI Florida Council Fly Fishing Expo

When: February 9-10, 2018

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

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

Canoeing and kayak trips are available as well as manatee watching tours, 27 holes of championship golf, scuba diving, tours of Kings Bay, boat and kayak rentals, and spa.

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

Registration fee is \$25 for both days. Children 12 and under are free accompanied by an adult. General programs are included in the admission fee and also small group sessions to sharpen your fly tying and casting skills are available for a fee.

We will have a Friday evening reception which is included in the registration fee. Saturday evening banquet is \$45.

There will be raffles, silent, and live auctions so you can pick up some great bargains, some superb flies, trips with fly fishing guides and many other items.

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

Fly tying limited to 6 registrants per session.

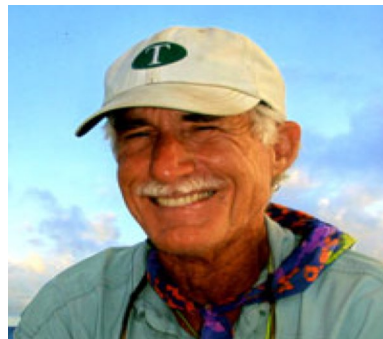
Casting limited to 5 registrants per session.

[Florida Council, Fly Fishers International](#)

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

[Plantation on Crystal River](#)

[Discover Crystal River](#)



Expo headliner Steve Huff. He's in IGFA Hall of Fame. IGFA calls him fly fishing's "benchmark."

Professional Fly Fishing Classes

How to locate and catch permit on the fly by Steve Huff

How to make quick fly casts in any direction by Steve Huff

Fly Fishing for snook at night by Capt. Rick Grasset

Fly fishing for warm water fishes in North Florida by Tom Logan

Paddleboard fly-fishing by David Olson.

Fly casting tutorial for women by Mona Brewer, youth fly casting by David Lambert, emergency casting clinic by Pat Damico, and casting games led by John Hand and Jim Patchet.

Beginner and intermediate fly casting demonstrations by Capt. Pete Greenan.

Wading the flats by Leigh West.

History of women in fly fishing by Jen Ripple.

DIY bonefishing in the Keys and Bahamas by Capt. Bryon Chamberlin.

Fishing Mosquito Lagoon secrets by Capt. Frank Catino.

Fly fishing for baby tarpon in the Indian River Lagoon by Capt. Eric Davis.

Used Gear: Sellers, buyers, swappers

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.

<i>Fly Tackle</i>	Sale Price	Cost New
Loomis 10# IMX 9' 2 piece rod with tube	200	410
Loomis 12# 9' 2 piece custom rod	110	225
Loomis 3# IMX 10' 2 piece rod with tube	180	360
Redington 2# 8' 2 piece rod with tube	130	275
Scientific Angler S2 10-11 reel	80	150
Scientific Angler S2 10-11 reel	80	150
Scientific Angler S2 12-13 reel	80	150
Scientific Angler S2 6-7 reel	50	130
Scientific Angler S2 8-9 reel with extra spool	80	160
Scientific Angler S2 8-9 reel with extra spool	80	160
STH LDC-3 8-9-10 lever drag reel with extra spool	80	190
STH Pop 1 2-3-4 reel with extra spool	30	50
STH Pop 2 5-6-7 reel with extra spool	40	70
STH Pop 3 8-9-10 reel	50	100
Temple Fork 3# Signature Series One IM6 2 piece 7'6" rod	70	110
Temple Fork 5#, TICRX 9' 4 pc. Rod with tube	150	224
Thomas & Thomas 10#, Horizon 9' 2 piece rod	160	350
Thomas & Thomas 7# Horizon, 9' 4 piece rod	200	450

J.R. Dubler's Action Craft

1996 Action Craft 2020 Flatsmaster with Evinrude 200 hp. Prime condition. \$27,500 but discounted for Suncoast Fly Fishers. Call JR at 813-843-3737 for an inspection and a water trial.

Alan Sewell's transom-mount trolling motor - 55-lb thrust - never used

55-lb thrust . 42 inch shaft. Bass Pro Prowler. In-line circuit breakers. 12-volt. See Alan at the Jan. meeting.

Chris O'Byrne's Fly Tying Kit

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

Phil Thigpin's Mitchell Tri-Hull boat, motor and trailer

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

Bruce Evensen has fly gear and flies for sale. Call him at 727-403-9010

7-8 weight Van Staal fly reel, brand new in the box; never used, \$430. Okuma fly reel. 7-9 weight. 2 extra spools. Reel and spools have 20# backing. \$75. Also, flies for sale.

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

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

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg, Florida



Suncoast Fly Fishers

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

Club Officers

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

Board of Directors

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

Committees

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

Aims and Purposes

Suncoast Fly Fishers are dedicated to sharing their total fly-fishing experiences and to developing interest in fly fishing in both fresh and salt water. We promote and teach both fly fishing and related subjects of fly-tying, rod building, fly-casting and knot tying. Through collaboration, fellowship, conservation and sportsmanship we help members become more skilled, have more fun, and be more productive in the sport. SFF supports the conservation of natural resources, boating safety and fishing regulations.

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) is a non-profit 501 3 organization

<http://suncoastflyfishers.com/meetings.html>

The Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. (SFF) is an organization of fishing enthusiasts who love fishing with the fly rod. We welcome all people of all ages with similar interests, regardless of their fly fishing skill level. We enthusiastically teach those that wish to learn or improve their fly casting, fly tying and related fly fishing skills. SFF meets monthly where we talk fly fishing, tie flies and most months feature a speaker with a program highlighting local fly fishing opportunities.

SFF is a non-profit, 501 3 organization. SFF is a charter member of the Fly Fishers International (FFI). SFF is a member of the Florida Council of FFI.

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

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

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

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

December Outing: Don Coleman Invitational, Ft DeSoto Park



Hilton Bruch, co-chair, SFF Outing Committee

Don Coleman Invitational included our annual Chili Cook-off Saturday, December 9, Fort DeSoto Park.

While some of our members did catch fish, our December outing at Fort DeSoto Park will be remembered as one of the more windy, rainy and cold days experienced by our members during one of our outings.

We had great food and company for those who braved “the wind and the wet,” but most of our participants decided not to fish. However, Peter Cline reported a 28-inch redfish. Additionally, there were ladyfish and trout



caught.

The highlight of the day was the chili -- eleven varieties -- and the amazing sides. I would say that this was truly a wonderful spectacle: indescribably great chili, cornbread unsurpassed anywhere in the world, and the friendships that can only be found within our “Suncoast Fly Fishers Circle”.

Yes, we did have a chili contest. I am totally biased toward my wife’s Sweet Chili which won the “competition”, just squeaking by JR Dubler’s entry which won the 2nd place prize, but all of those attending were the true winners of this event.

Bob & Hilton

FINAL RESULTS: 2017 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing
Longest sunfish	9-inches	Mark Hays	Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve
Longest black bass	17-inches	Peter Cline	Carl Hanson outing/Hillsborough River
Longest snook	27-inches	Adam Hays	Docklight Weekend in July
Longest redfish	28-inches	Peter Cline	Don Coleman /Fort DeSoto (December)
Longest ladyfish	20-inches	Ken Hofmeister	Weedon Island Preserve (November)
Longest seatrout	19-inches	Peter Cline	Cypress Point Park (March)

January 20 Outing: Bay Vista Park at Pinellas Point in St. Pete

- The outing winner will be the member who catches the longest SEATROUT. Get a picture of it.
- Longest seatrout, redfish, snook and ladyfish will lead in the 2018 outing tournament
- Picnic lunch – SMOKED BRISKET -- at the Bay Vista Park pavilion at noon.

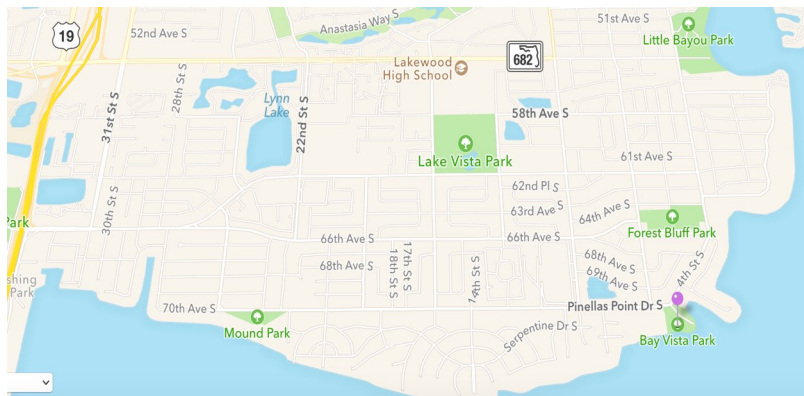
Our next outing on January 20 will be our annual Pinellas Point outing with lunch at Bay Vista Park. Our fishing area is the western side of Tampa Bay from downtown St. Pete to I-275.

Historically this has been productive outing with uncertain weather. Looking back over the last eight January outings at this location, I note that our illustrious members have caught trout, redfish, ladyfish, jack crevalle, and puffers.

However, as most of you well know, the weather this time of year can be variable, ranging from quite pleasant to a Florida bitter cold. So, let's keep an eye on the forecast and come prepared. We might have the opportunity to break out polar fleece, wind breakers, hats, gloves, and waders

The targeted fish for the outing is seatrout

Lunch will be at the Bay Vista Park pavilion. We have a special treat this year. We will have smoked brisket with lots of sides. This should provide "a great meal to help us enjoy our winter weather."



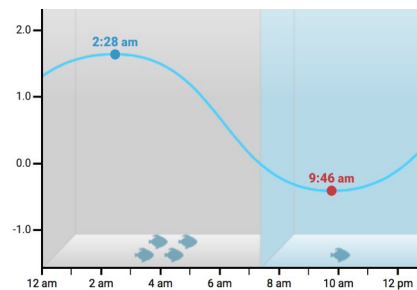
Bay Vista Park is at the bottom and right side of this map. I-275 is on the left going north and south.

Directions: Going South on 275 from the north:

- Before you get to the Skyway, EXIT at 54th Avenue South (Pinellas Bayway exit) and stay to the left onto 54th Ave. South.
- At bottom of the ramp turn left and go approximately 2 miles to 4th Street South.
- 54th Ave. ends and you should turn right onto 4th
- Approximately one mile on your left at the big curve is Bay Vista Park.

Bob and Hilton

Starting now: You must email the name of the fly and a picture of the fish you enter into each outing and annual tournament. Read the new outing and annual tournament rules on the next page



Tides at Pinellas Point, January 20
Courtesy of Tides4fishing.com

New Tournament Rules for 2018

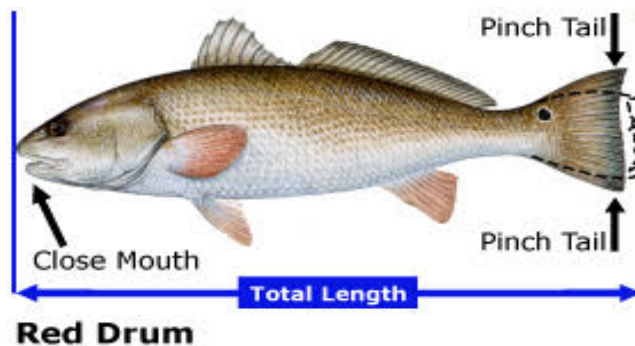
Shoot a picture of your longest fish

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: Don Coleman Invitational and Chili Cook-Off

Photos by Kevin Kelly, Dennis Marquis, Bill AuCoin



Decisions, decisions. There were 11 different chili dishes on the table and, to fairly pick the winner, members had to eat a bowl of each. And the winner, for the second year in a row, was Carol Burkard's Sweet Chili. JR Dubler's chili came in a close second.



The wind was our friend. Dennis Marquis (photo), David Redd and Bill AuCoin waded in from the East Picnic area. "We caught several ladyfish. Bill AuCoin did too. We measured his at 20". Then I caught a whopper and Bill helped me measure it. It was also 20". Hmmm?"



Dennis Marquis won the casting contest. But this is Alan Sewell delivering a winner. Truk Trukenbrod watched very closely.



Dave Barson came back for seconds, it was alleged.



Bill Scarola stirs his pot, one of 11 chili dishes brought by members.

More outing snapshots on the next page>>>

P2/Snapshots: Don Coleman Invitational and Chili Cook-Off



Cold and blustery day? Don't pooh-pooh this outing, Winnie. The chili cook-off warmed up everybody.



Outing chair Bob Burkard checks to make sure the coffee is hot.



Dennis Marquis (right) won the casting contest so he got to choose a free fly from this array tied by Bruce Evensen.



Peter Cline's 28-inch red won the day and year.



President George Hazeltine explains the chili cook-off vote. One bean per person.



Bruce Evensen (l) shows off his two fully-rigged and trailered Hybrid kayaks to Bill Scarola, Darryn Manley and Dennis Marquis.



Tom Gadacz: Professional Fly Casting Clinic for FFI members

This year the annual casting clinic was held December 16 on the well-groomed, grassy field at Egan Park in St. Pete Beach. Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) hosted it this year. Next year it will be hosted by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club (TBFFC).

Staffed by FFI Certified Instructors, the annual event was initiated by Pat Damico in 2006. Pat and Dayle Mazzarella, both Master Casting Instructors, led a team of excellent, certified instructors including Pat Damico, Leigh West, Steve Parker, Chris O'Byrne, Ken Zadoyko, Louis Bruno, and Tom Gadacz.

The casting clinic is primarily staffed by FFI Certified Master Casting Instructors and Certified Casting Instructors. The casting clinics are free to all FFI members and \$35 for others but that fee includes a FFI membership. We had 23 attendees, including three new members. Members from the SFF, TBFFC, and the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers attended the clinic.

Dayle had the attendees pair up and the morning session stressed basic casting fundamentals and drills to improve line control and accuracy. Added this year was a discussion on fly lines, safety, and the importance of independent practice to improve fly casting skills. We talked about practice techniques and teaching methods such as praise, prompt and leave (PPL).



MCI Dayle Mazzarella talks David Redd through a special kind of fly cast.

There were five casting stations and participants rotated to the next station every 30 minutes. The stations covered the roll cast, double-haul, loops and control of the fly line, distance casting, and one-handed constant tension casting.

Rick Birnbaum and April Turpen and SFF provided lunch. It was a great session and provided FFI members an opportunity to improve their casting skills as a benefit of their FFI membership.

Tom

Faux is French for false. But in this case we've got a real Clouser but it's tied with Faux Bucktail. Not that there's anything wrong with that. In fact, there are advantages. It may be called a Faux Clouser but it's for real.

Tie some up for the January outing at Bay Vista Park at Pinellas Point.



Fly of the month: Blane Chocklett's Faux Clouser

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 3407 or 34011 size #2

Thread: Danville Flatwaxed Nylon white

Weight: Painted barbell eyes Medium to X-small-

Small Belly: Lighter Faux Bucktail

Flash: Krystal Flash or Flashabou to complement fly wing:

Lighter Faux Bucktail Overwing: Darker Faux Bucktail Head:

Thread head (color to match overwing)

Cement: SHHAN and Solarez UV Resin

Tying Instructions

Step 1. Place hook in vise and attach thread creating a thread saddle to hold barbell eyes. Tie the thread saddle at the $\frac{2}{3}$ mark of hook shank (if you want a swimming minnow action) or the $\frac{3}{4}$ mark (if you want jigging shrimp action), and then tie in barbell eyes and secure with figure-eight wraps with SHHAN.

Step 2. Advance thread to front of hook and tie in lighter Faux Bucktail belly with close wraps of thread in front of barbell eyes changing to open wraps behind the barbell eyes to the bend of the hook and then return wraps to back in front of barbell eyes again using open wraps.

Step 3. Rotate hook in vise 180 degrees and tie in another section of lighter Faux Bucktail as a wing to equal length of belly (keeping all thread wraps in front of barbell eyes).

Step 4. Attach about 6 or so strands of flash using the "vee" method to lay back over the wing. Trim $\frac{1}{4}$ " longer than Faux Bucktail. Whip finish and trim thread.

Step 5. Change to darker thread and tie on overwing using the darker Faux Bucktail. Form a smooth thread head and whip finish. Coat head with UV Resin and cure.

Smitty



I call it "Holiday Bugger."

I've tied it with red or auburn-colored hair and then added the olive or chartreuse chenille as pictured.

I've caught seatrout and mangrove snappers on this fly.
Happy New Year,

Bill

Materials

Hook: Size 4 Gamakatsu B10S stinger. The Gamakatsu SC15 in similar size works, too.

Eyes: Red bead chain. For more weight use barbel eyes or wrap lead wire on shaft

Tail: Olive, burgundy and/or chartreuse deer hair

Flash: Red Crystal Flashaboo

Body: Red, Olive and Chartreuse, Cactus Chenille (large) or same colors using Estaz

Thread: Red or olive flat wax

Tying Sequence

Step 1. Wrap hook shaft from behind eye. stop at bend.

Step 2. Tie in bead chain eyes with figure 8 wraps 1/8" behind hook eye.

Step 3. Add 4-6 strands of Red Flashaboo. tie them from behind the bead eyes. length about one and a half the length of the hook shank.

Step 4. Tie deer hair starting half way from bead eyes to bend of hook; ie, the Auburn or Red on top of shank. Deer hair length should be about one and half the length of the of hook shaft.

Step 5. Rotate hook and tie in olive or chartreuse deer hair on opposite side of shank

Step 6. Tie in one Red and one Olive Chenille just in front of hook bend on top of shaft. use 2.5 to 3 inches of material.

Step 7. Move thread to hook eye. and palmer the Chenilles together forward to the hook eye. Tie them off and whip-finish.

Step 8. Finish by adding Super Glue or Head Cement. *Bill*

Wow. Get a look at
Adam Hays' tripletail

Good afternoon. This is Adam Hays. I went out last Tuesday
(Dec. 26) for tripletail. This one was 24-inches long.
I caught it on a shminnow. It weighed around 7 or 8 pounds.

Adam

Mega attaboys, Adam



Jim Shipley. Scoring big bones in Bimini



Here's a picture of a bonefish I caught in
early December in Bimini. I caught 18
that day. The largest was about 7 or 8
pounds. All the others were between 3 to
5 lbs.

The water was cool so the fish were
really strong.

Jim

Robert Fischer. Louisiana Delta reds liked my Bruce Evensen fly

I was fortunate enough to spend 2 1/2 days in the
Louisiana Marshes at the mouth of the Mississippi
River in early November with some friends from the
CCA. We fished from a large mothership, *Magnolia
Queen*, out of small boats. Between 30 and 40 reds up
to 30" fell for my flies. Thanks to Bruce Evensen for
the "secret" fly!!! At one time it caught 7 reds on 8
casts.

Robert



Dennis Marquis: Pass-a-Grille seatrout



Dennis Marquis, Indian Key seatrout

The southside 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.



Christmas gift: Dennis Marquis' magic magnet hat attracts flies, so to speak.

Dennis

Ben Marquis scores with his new TFO-Alan Sewell fly rod

SFF member Ben Marquis (Dennis' son) is in Pensacola and on his way to be a Navy pilot. He's also on his way to becoming a top notch fly fisher.

Ben caught this seatrout on the 7-wt TFO Mangrove rod that Alan Sewell built, a Christmas gift from his dad.



SFF member Ben Marquis

Ben

Pat Damico leads clients to tailing sheephead and reds

Pat Damico led December clients to some big sheephead that were tailing with reds in shallow water. A crab pattern was the go-to fly. Angler Tom Scipien posed with one of the convict fish caught on a very low incoming tide. "We were both thrilled and excited," Pat said.

Pat



Tom Scipien, a Pat Damico client of many years, with a sheepshead he caught on a crab pattern.

Robert Fischer: South Carolina rainbows and browns

In mid November the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers went to the Chatooga and Chauga Rivers in South Carolina. We



caught a lot of rainbow and brown trout, and I got two really large brook trout. All on 3-wt and 1-wt fly rods. Lots of fun on light tackle.

Robert



Bob Morrison: How-To Tips and Fishy Factoids



Editor's note: In December our How-To and Fishy Factoid guru took a fall and ended up in the hospital for a few days, then rehab. He's back at home now, back in action and it's full-steam-ahead for our How-to and Fishy Factoids.

Meanwhile, here are some evergreen tips and factoids from earlier issues.

1. Fish will usually hit better on a falling barometer. If a storm is coming tomorrow, fish today. However, if a storm is imminent, get off the water before it hits. Mind the lightning.

2. Vary your retrieve speed. If you are not getting any hits, slow it down, especially if you are using a crab fly pattern. The same goes for fly size. If you get no hits on the size you are using, go to a smaller fly. A sixteen-inch fish might be intimidated by a five-inch fly, so try it smaller as necessary.

3. Seatrout are schooling up around spoil islands along the intracoastal waterway, on the deeper-water side of the islands. Look for the edges where the sandy bottom meets the grass bottom at the edge of a drop off. Finally, use dumbbell eyes, lead wire wrapping, or small split shot up the leader to get the fly down.

4. Our friend, Bruce Evensen, gave me this tip. Bruce suggested a small towel for use in handling fish while wading. His method is to play the fish from the reel, first reeling in to avoid a tangle of line in the water that could mess up the landing. Bruce then brings the fish to him, holding the rod under his casting arm and bringing the fish to him by grasping the leader with his free hand and transferring the leader to his now-free casting hand. Bruce then takes the towel out of its pocket in his waders or vest which should be on the same side as the non-casting hand. He then places the towel over the fish at the water's surface, and grasps the fish through the towel, which prevents the fish from getting away. Bruce then turns the fish on its back to reduce its struggling to escape, and uses his now-free casting hand to unhook and release the fish. Bruce then wrings out the towel and returns it to its pocket. Not a bad idea. Thanks, Bruce.



Bob said he was a little behind on filling his orders for tying the Donald Trump fly. He said he'll be back on the vise soon.

Fishy Factoid of the Month

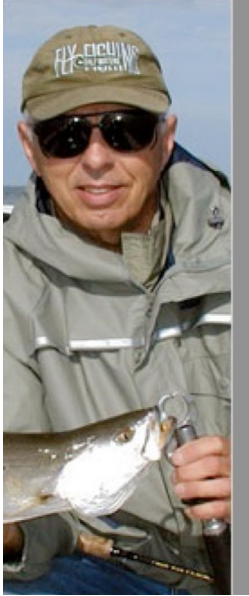
A 90-foot long blue whale can weigh 150 tons. That's 300,000 pounds. What's more, this fellow has a tongue weighing about as much as a bull elephant, or 12,000 pounds. He also has a heart as big as a 2-1/2 ton truck. Gotta' fly for that?

Recently, Inuit hunters in Alaska harvested a bowhead whale that had a bone harpoon spearhead in its blubber which was the type used until 150 years ago. A bowhead has to be about 50 years old to be harvested, so it is estimated that this whale was about 200 years old when it was taken recently. Think about it, this whale was alive when Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were still living. How 'bout that neighbors?

Go get 'em and good luck. Bob

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #94

Do you use a strike indicator?



By Capt. Pat Damico, FFI Master Casting Instructor

I attended a program on nymph fishing some years ago and the presenter asked this question. Some attendees raised their hand, thinking of the commercial floating indicators or using a large dry fly when fishing a wet fly or nymph on a dropper. How about a small section of bright Amnesia monofilament as a butt section for your leader, a trick I learned years ago fishing for river smallmouth bass with streamers? He then asked the question, "What about the end of your line?" Watching the end of a floating fly line while clients are retrieving a Clouser, streamer or wooly bugger tells me when they have a strike, often without them fully realizing it because of their poor line control or presence of slack. Watching the end of your fly line will help with strike detection but is also a very important casting aid. Learning how much line you can pick up during your cast will eliminate needless false casting trying to load the rod. Practice this on the grass first, then take it to the water. An efficient caster uses a minimum or sometimes no false casting at all. Successful fly fishers have their fly in the water

looking like something the fish will eat, not in the air.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

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

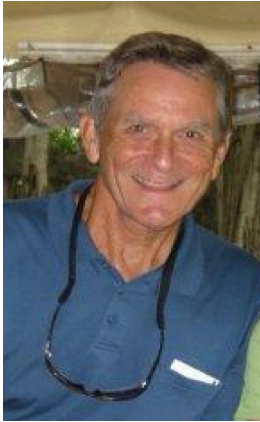
Tampa Bay Times : Captain's Corner

Fly fishing for Sheepshead

Low winter tides can make for fly fishing fun or frustration. When you see a tail break the surface in the lowest water, what is it? I've had inexperienced anglers chase mullet, thinking they were reds. Spooking a school of mullet with a poor cast, sloppy wading, electric motors or shadows from the sun will scare every mullet and their predator companions, trout and redfish. Lately, sheepshead have been frequent residents of skinny water. Their tails, like redfish, show as they probe the soft bottom, changing from a horizontal to more vertical position. Approach tailing sheepshead cautiously. Determine its direction before making an accurate cast. Using at least a 9-foot, 12-pound tippet tapered leader, carefully place the fly close to the fish's nose. Cast when the tail is showing. Your favorite small-crab pattern in dark colors will work and must have the hook pointed up with a weed guard. Bead-chain eyes are better than lead so the fly lands softly. Remove slack from your line and move the crab an inch at a time.

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

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



See you at the Florida Fly Fishing Expo: I am really looking forward to meeting the legendary Steve Huff, Expo headline presenter and banquet speaker. Check out his bio on the IFGA Hall of Fame site. My favorite line: "Steve Huff is the benchmark in flats fishing." ([IGFA](#))

So, why do we need heavier fly rods in salt water? -- When fishing open water, fly fishers probably don't need a heavier rod. I mean, usually we're fishing open water. Got backing? You're good to go. EXCEPT, if you're throwing a heavy fly, which is a lot of time, you'll need a heavier rod. Oh, of course, and you're casting into the wind. Mangrove roots are another subject. ([Midcurrent](#))

I want to catch one of these on the fly. Big black drum will be migrating down Tampa Bay to the Clam Bar near the Sunshine Skyway in February and March. SFF member Capt. Ray Markham shared some of the *where-when-how* in this article. I caught a big black drum on a big MirrOdine once. But I don't know which fly or rod to use, though. 10-weight? Your thoughts? ([Sportfishing](#))

Easier done than said? After watching this I actually felt motivated to try to make a dubbing loop which has been something on my "it's too hard for me" list for a long time. This guy makes it look so easy. A tip of the newsletter fishing fedora to Pat Damico for the link. ([You Tube](#))

The correct answer is yes: Have anglers been treated as an afterthought by federal fishery managers? "America's 11 million saltwater anglers have a \$63 billion economic impact annually and generate 440,000 jobs," said Mike Nussman, president and CEO of the American Sportfishing Association. "However, recreational fishing has been treated as an afterthought in the federal fisheries management system for decades." If enacted, H.R. 200 would finally give saltwater recreational fishing the attention it deserves in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

Seems true to me: Fly fishing is for crappie golfers. New Year's resolutions for fly fishers from Orvis' Simon Perkins. ([Orvis News](#))

Just another day in the life of an FWC patrol officer: "One of the cranes bit his pinky finger and wouldn't let go. The subject began to choke the bird until a witness yelled at him to let the bird go. Officer Smith cited the subject with intentionally feeding sandhill cranes, and (he) will be direct filing charges for capturing and harassing a state designated threatened species." ([My FWC](#))

This has nothing to do with fly fishing, just some fly fishers. Okay. maybe just with this fly fisher: I just learned that it is not risqué to say *freeze the balls off a brass monkey*. So, was it very cold in St. Pete in early January? Oh, yeah, he said boldly; it was so cold it would freeze the balls off of a brass monkey. That's just one out of 15. Micro-aggression alert. ([Trade Only Today](#)).

###

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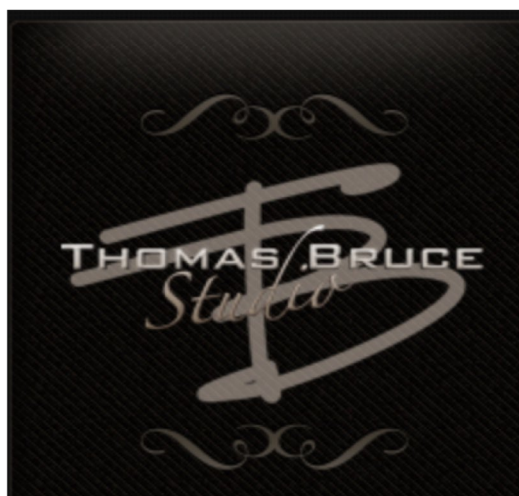
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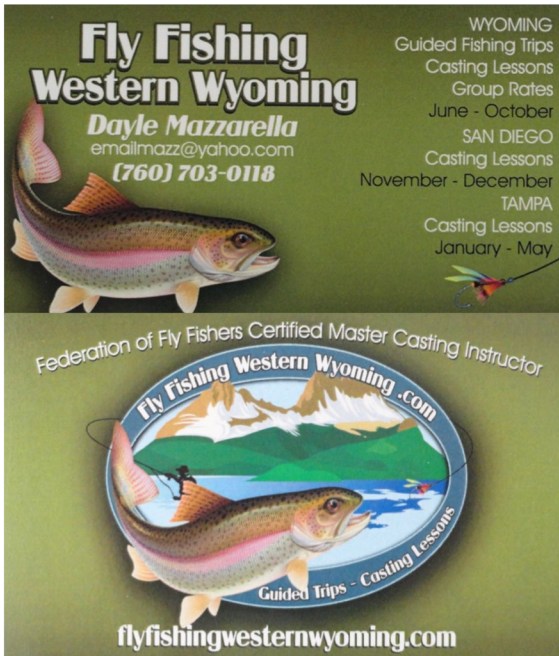
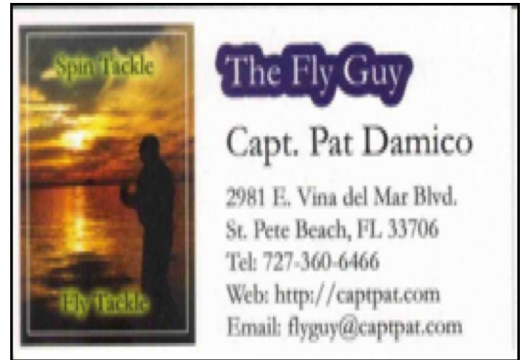
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