

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*



*Schoolie stripers for
Ray Smith in Rhode
Island 14*



*Jack Collins and Bill
Scarola fish with
Dayle Mazzarella in
Wyoming 11*



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*The MirrOlure Fly.
Fly-of-the-month...9*



*Alan ties this with a
weedless worm hook...9*



*Mark Hays' go-to fly on
the docklights... 9*



SFF President Letter – July 2018

What a great meeting we had in June! Mark Hays, Alan Sewell and Mark Craig did an awesome job of sharing their experiences and insight into the art of night dock/beach fishing. Adam Hays was invited and sincerely wanted to attend. He did such a great job last year, but this year moving and starting college took up his time. It didn't keep him off the water though, fortunately. Look for the pictures of the Snook he caught at the Outing. Way to go, Adam!

Speaking of outings: Bob Burkard, Hilton Bruch and David Redd are scheduling and planning so we know where to fish and when. The goal: get more people fishing and catching and of course, eating at the Rib and Chili cook offs coming up. Check out [Bob's spreadsheets](#) under Events on our Web Page.

And who would ride a motorcycle clean across the country to go fly fishing? You probably know who I am talking about. Robert Fischer, is that you? He has agreed to speak to us at one of our general meetings (with pictures) about his cross-country adventures. I can hardly wait.

The spirit of cooperation in this Club never ceases to amaze me. There are more and more people coming forward looking for a way to help. I wish I could mention you all by name because you keep it interesting, educational and just plain fun. We got three new members last month. Keep up the good job of making visitors feel welcome. And thank you so much for wearing your name tags. Thank you, April Turpen and Rick Birnbaum, for all the hard work printing and storing those names and then bringing them to each meeting. I for one, really depend on the name tags when those "senior moments" come upon me.

If you would like to get involved and you're not sure about what to do, see Rick Warfel. He is heading up our Succession Planning Committee. Rick is a fantastic organizer and will help you find a place.

Got a spreadsheet? Our Treasurer, Karen Warfel, will be completing her term this year. Thank you, Karen for doing a truly commendable job of tracking and watching over our finances. I know you could use a break. She may have found a candidate, stay tuned-in to see who.

Did someone say Hog Roast? Yes! March 30th. Rick and Karen Warfel have put a lot of time, sweat and tears into making our banquet a greater success each year. Wanna help (or more?) See Rick.

How are you at taking notes? It would be hard to beat Dick Miekka since his Minutes of our Board Meetings are a guide to keep me on the right path. Thank you, Dick. I know you could use a break, too, when your term ends next May. He has also been working together with Bob Burkard on our website. Check it out. It is awesome. Interested in being our new Web Master? See Rick Warfel.

Let's face it. Not everybody has the time to monitor a Facebook Page. But, if you are so inclined, do we have a deal for you. Nobody has come forward so far. (Woody, are you listening?). Right now, our Facebook page lies dormant. Are you the "new blood" we're looking for? Maybe two or three of you together?

I know Bill AuCoin would also appreciate some newsletter assistance. Thank you, Bill.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Meetings and Outings. You really do enrich my life.

Never lose your sense of adventure

George

Call or text me at 727-423-8110

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

Club Meetings, Outings, and More

Thursday, July 19, Meeting

- Speaker is Andy Lykens, scientist with Tampa Bay Watch. He'll talk about the organization and the important work it does for our favorite resource.
- Smitty ties the Chartreuse Mullet, aka mini MirrOlure fly
- Drawing for a free guided trip with Capt. Rick Grasset
- Sign up for the July 21 outing at Maximo Park.
- Sign up for the July 24 Weekday Outing. See Bill Scarola.

Saturday, July 21, Outing, Maximo Park, St. Petersburg

- Fish anywhere and in sight of the Sunshine Skyway.
- Special prize target fish: seatrout. Get a photo.
- Coffee, donuts at 10. Cajun cuisine for lunch, 11:30

Tuesday, July 24, Weekday Outing, East side of Skyway North Rest area

- Meet at 8 am Pay the toll. Exit at the North Rest Area then turn left and go under the Skyway. Head north and you'll see people you know.
- Fish from your kayak/boat or wade-fish.
- Save the dates for future weekday outings, all on Tuesday: August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4.

Thursday, July 26, Fly tying with Bruce Evensen

- Meet up on the fourth Thursday of the month – July 26 --at Bruce's home, 531 80th Avenue, St. Pete

Friday, Tuesday, July 24, Youth fly casting lessons

- Youth fly casting, E.G. Simmons Summer Camp, Ruskin
- Volunteers needed. Contact Tom Gadacz

Thursday, August 16, Meeting

- Captain Ray Markham, Fly Fishing the Dog Days of August

Saturday, August 18, Urban Outing, Bay Vista Park, St. Pete

- Special prize targeted species is ladyfish
- Annual rib cook-off

Thursday, September 20 Meeting

- Speaker: Capt. Rick Grasset

Saturday, September 22 Outing

- Chassahowitzka River

Saturday, Oct. 6 and Sunday Oct. 7, Florida Sportsman Expo

- Fly tiers needed. See David Redd

Saturday, Oct. 13, Fall Casting Carnival

- Yeah, expect some carnival-like things to happen. You'll see.

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 127 members including 19 family members and 6 honorary members. Annual dues are \$15, payable in September.

FFI Charter Club.

Suncoast Fly Fishers is a charter member club of **Fly Fishers International (FFI)**. 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 FFI.

FFI Membership Alert Treasurer Karen Warfel has received a list of SFF members who have not paid their FFI dues. Reminders are going out.

--Continues on next page--

Club Meetings, Outings, and More

Thursday, October 18 meeting. "Tennis Shoe Tie-a-Thon"

- Tie-a-thon led by Bill Scarola
- Special challenge: tie a fly with something weird like old sneakers. Bring materials, including *febreze*.

Saturday, October 20, **MarineQuest** (Note: the monthly outing is next Saturday)

- Help kids tie their first fly at FWC's research labs in downtown St. Pete. See Bill Scarola.

Saturday, October 27, Carl Hanson Lord of the Flies outing

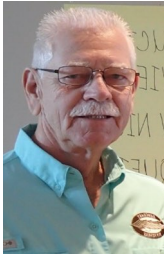
- SFF competes with Tampa Bay Fly Fishers on the Hillsborough River

Looking Ahead

- The fly tying lessons at East Lake Woodlands Country Club have been postponed until fall.
- November 18: Annual *Big Gun Shootout* at Tampa's Picnic Island Park.
- December 15: Fall Casting Clinic led by Capt. Pat Damico and Dayle Mazzarella. Location TBD.
- March 30, 2019: Hog Roast and Silent Auction. See Rick Warfel.

Check for updates on the club **Calendar** online

Free guided trip drawing ... for members only



July 19 Drawing – Free Guided Fly Fishing Trip

By Rick Warfel, Vice-President, Suncoast Fly Fishers

Our next guide will be **Capt. Rick Grassett** for a trip after August 1. 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.



Capt. Rick Grassett

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 plus \$50 toward the gratuity. The winning entry can invite a fishing partner of their choice. The winner can coordinate with the guide to extend the trip 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**. 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.

SFF Members Only Guided Trip Give Away Registration Form July 19, 2018 Drawing

Name _____

Phone _____

Winner is entitled to ½ day guided trip for 1 or 2 anglers. Voucher expires 90 days from the time of the drawing. You do not need to be present to win. Suncoast Fly Fishers, P. O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743

Club News 'n' Notes

Rick Warfel will gather a few more member photographs for the membership directory. The board decided the directory would not be posted on the website. Access will be restricted to SFF members.

In the past when someone has joined Suncoast Fly Fishers he or she would get a copy of Don Coleman's booklet—*Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod*. The board is discussing adding some items to the mix including, possibly, a loaded-with-flies fly box with the SFF logo, a SFF patch, and a fly-casting tutorial. Board member Quin Berry is on it.

Ann Hofmeister's has donated a large assortment of Ken's fly gear to the club. We'll get a chance to bid on it at the Trash 'n' Treasures meeting in January and again at the Hog Roast in March.

Fly Gear for Sale or Swap, and even freeeeeeeeee

FREE: Mitch Dunasky has some slightly used fly fishing books They're free but "only for a good home."

"101 Innovative Fly-Tying Tips" Meck - Hardbound \$5

"Smallmouth Strategies for the Fly Rod" Ryan- Hardbound \$5

"Fly Fishing the Inland Seas" Darkes - Softcover \$2

"Iowa Trout Stream" Jene Hughes - Softcover \$2

"Great Lakes Steelhead" Bob Linsenman & Steve Nevala - Softcover \$2

"Steelhead Guide" Nagy - Softcover \$2

"Fly Fishing for Smallmouth Bass" Murray - Softcover \$2

Email Mitch at <mitch.dunasky@gmail.com>

Just three rods left in DeLand

1) 6/7 weight: Pacific Bay IGF907 9'0". 2 PC. \$45

2) 6-weight: Pacific Bay IGF966 2 PC \$45;

3) 3-weight: Fenwick Don Green Sage 9'4" 2 pc \$35.

Marilyn Taylor, 904-514-0798, DeLand

Jim McIlwain's handmade oak tying desk

The desk is a handmade oak tying desk complete with supplies, hackles, etc. and an Eagle vise. Current catalogues have it priced at \$800 to \$1200. I'm asking \$550. Email Jim at SnF2@reagan.com or phone him at (813) 610-3060.

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 or swap? Email Bill AuCoin at wmaucoin@verizon.net***

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg, Florida



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 organizations. 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*
- *What can you do for the Suncoast Fly Fishers? For starters, join a committee. Can you help with the website? Newsletter? Hog Roast? Project Healing Waters? Run for a spot on the BOD. Speak to any officer at the meeting or email me, [George Haseltine, ghh343@aol.com](mailto:George.Haseltine@ghh343@aol.com)*

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

Quin Berry -- 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,

David Redd

Project Healing Waters -- Alan Sewell,

Ted Rich, Dave Redd, Terry Kirkpatrick

Outreach, shows -- David Redd, Bob

Burkard

Raffles -- Dave Barson

Programs -- Board of Directors

Newsletter editor-- Bill AuCoin

Publicity -- Bill AuCoin

Join. Renew. Application
www.suncoastflyfishers.com

June Outing: Sunset to Sunrise Snook



Hilton Bruch, co-chair, SFF Outing Committee

**Friday to Saturday, June 15-16
Saturday to Sunday, June 16-17**

By Hilton Bruch

Attendees of the June meeting had their anxieties allayed and expectations raised by the excellent panel presentation on night fishing for snook. There seems to be a hurdle for those unfamiliar with getting out after dark and upsetting their sleep patterns. I for one feel it but was excited enough by our meeting to get out and at least try.



Bob Burkard, co-chair, SFF Outing Committee

Rick Birnbaum humored me and together we got out onto the beach just south of John's Pass at 05:30 Saturday. We cast and walked and cast some more but neither of us saw or felt a fish. Regardless, it was a great way to start the day.

Others had better luck. Adam Hays, fishing with his father got a real prize winner. (Picture). We will find out how others did at the July meeting.

Hilton



White flies, sometimes with a splash of color, dominate Mark Hays' docklight fishing fly box.



And we have a winner -- Adam Hays with a 32-inch snook, one of several snook he and his father Bill Hays caught docklight fishing Treasure Island.



Beach fishing fly -- Alan Sewell's weedless worm hook fly

July 21 Outing: Maximo Park

Fish in sight of the Sunshine Skyway. Coffee, donuts @ 10. Lunch @11:30 at pavilion 6-

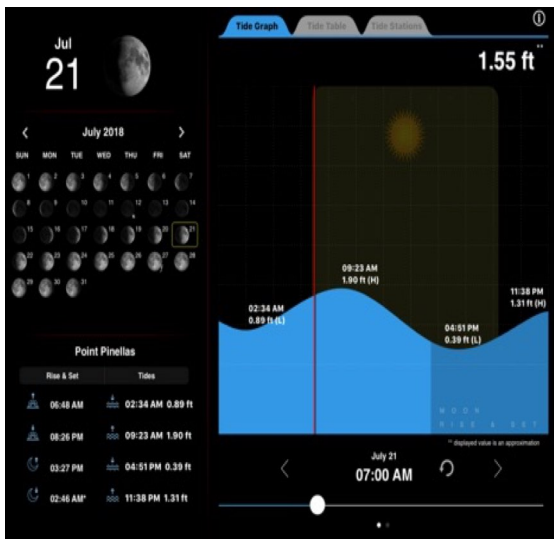
Our next outing on July 21 is within sight of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge event. This is a lot of water open for fishing and you have many great choices for areas to fish.

My favorite spot is the bay side of the rest area south of the bridge. I like the Joe Bay area and I have caught snook and redfish on chartreuse and white closures, and trout on EP minnows at that location during the summer months.

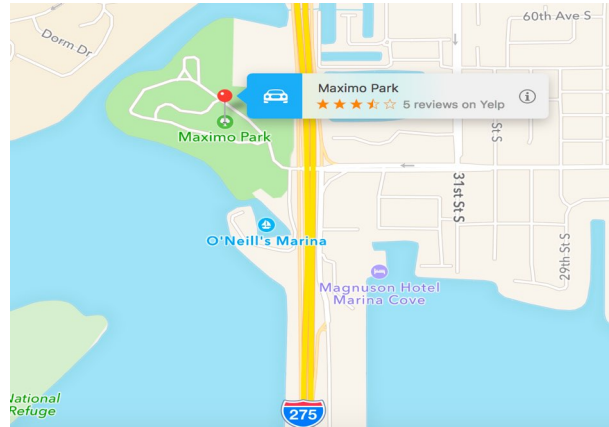
Lunch will be at Maximo Park, starting at 11:30 am with coffee, drinks, and donuts starting at 10 am. Lunch will be gumbo, spicy jambalaya and red beans with rice from Chiefs Cajun restaurant in St Pete.

Our target fish is seatrout. Measure and take a picture of the longest fish of any species you catch if it is longer than the leaders in the chart below.

Bob Burkard



*Tide and moon stages at Point Pinellas on July 21.
Tide-Moon*



Directions to Maximo Park in South St. Pete.

Apple Maps

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	13"	Jack Cason	Fort DeSoto Park (May)
Longest seatrout	18.5"	David Redd	Pinellas Point (January)

June Meeting: Docklight and Beach Snook Insights

Three club members who have been very successful over the years fly fishing docklights and beaches for snook shared their hard-earned secrets at the June meeting.

Alan Sewell

- Best beaches: Johns Pass. Blind Pass. Pass-a-Grille.
- Best rod for the beach: Go light, even down to a 6 weight. What are they going to break off on?



Alan's worm hook fly for the beaches. He uses a 7/0 weedless-style hook normally used on soft plastic worms and jerk baits

- When? Arrive at 5 am to get ready. Fish from 6 to 8. Go home.

- If you see speckled trout on a docklight, don't expect to catch a snook.

Mark Craig

- Docklighting. New moon is best. Fish last two hours of a tide and first two hours of the next tide.
- Be quiet. Take off your shoes. Keep everything you need accessible.
- Use 10-weight to turn the snook. Fish crab flies, schminnows, gurglers.

Mark Hays

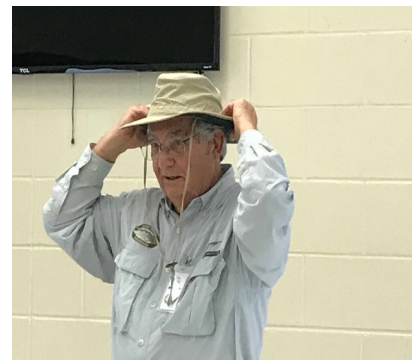
- Sunset Beach is good. Fish the beach or the jetty.
 - Throw white flies. Got to be mostly white. A little red or green is good. Gurglers, too.
 - Fish with an 8-foot, 9 or 10 weight rod.
 - Start with 30-lb bite tippet; drop to 20 if they won't bite.
 - Floating line is best because it's easier to pick-up for the next cast.
 - Use a red light attached to your belt, not your cap.
 - Gurglers? Yes.



Mark Hays' go-to fly for the docklights White must dominate.



The Three Snookers -- Mark Craig, Mark Hays and Alan Sewell shared their insights into catching snook on the beach and on docklights.



Tom Gadacz is researching a new hat for our logo. He asked for a show of hands at the June meeting. Most members preferred the brimmed hat Tom is wearing here.

Tying Bench – Mini-MirrOlure Fly tied by Layne Smith,

This is a simple Finger Mullet pattern that is a down-sized version of my MirrOlure fly. This fly is great for trout and ladyfish. Fish this fly with a slow retrieve to imitate a swimming mullet. Every once in a while give it a swift strip when you think you have a follow or if you actually see the follow. The quick movement, imitating an attempt to escape, should entice a strike.



Materials:

Hook: Mustad C70S D size #1
Thread: Danville's 210 denier flat waxed nylon
Tail: Polar Fibre Chartreuse
Body: Polar Fibre Chartreuse
Body Flash: Baitfish Emulator Flash pearl
Eyes: Silver ¼" 3D stick-on
Cement: FletchTite Platinum and SHHAN or UV Resin
Overcoat: Softex

Tying Sequence:

- 1: Secure the thread to the hook shank and wrap back to the base of the bend of the hook, covering the hook shank with a layer of thread.
- 2: Cut a small tab of Polar Fibre (about 3/8" square) from one of the strips and tie in on near side of the hook shank, then wind material over the hook encircling the shank and tie down.
- 3: Attach a strip of Polar Fibre by the corner, with fibres flowing towards the back. Tie down firmly.
- 4: With the strip secured, stretch and proceed to wrap forward up the hook shank trying to not trap any of the fibres. If need be, use a bodkin or Velcro brush to pick out any trapped fibres. At about 2 eye widths from hook eye, tie off but do not cut, just let it hang down on the far side of the hook.
- 5: Prepare Emulator Flash (enough to make 1 wrap around hook) by tapering the ends so you don't end up with a paint brush look. Tie in flash and then trim any excess.
- 6: Retrieve the Polar Fibre that was left hanging and again stretching it, continue wraps to hook eye, preening the material as you go. NOTE: All Polar Fibre is NOT to be cut away from the backing on this fly, instead the backing is to be cut in strips cross-cut style taking care not to cut any of the fibres by keeping the scissor points under the fur and right next to the backing as you cut.
- 7: Securely tie off and trim any excess material. Complete the tie with a small but firmly tied head. Whip finish, cut thread and coat head with SHHAN or UV Resin.
- 8: Gently comb back the body fibres until they are smooth. The body should have a full round shape that tapers toward the tail.
- 9: Apply a thin coat of Softex around the nose of the fly. The emphasis is on THIN! You don't want it to soak into the fibres.
- 10: Gently brush the Softex rearward using a small spatula or toothpick. The Softex should extend just past the bend of the hook to help the tail from fouling. Don't mash the glue into the head; just create a thin skin over the head.
- 11: Place a dollop of FletchTite on the back of a 3D eye and gently press the eye into the fly to ensure a good bond. The fly will dry to the touch in an hour or two, but it is important to let it dry for a day and a half before soaking it in front of a speckled trout. *Smitty*

Annie and Mark Hays: Docklighting -- Mangoes and More

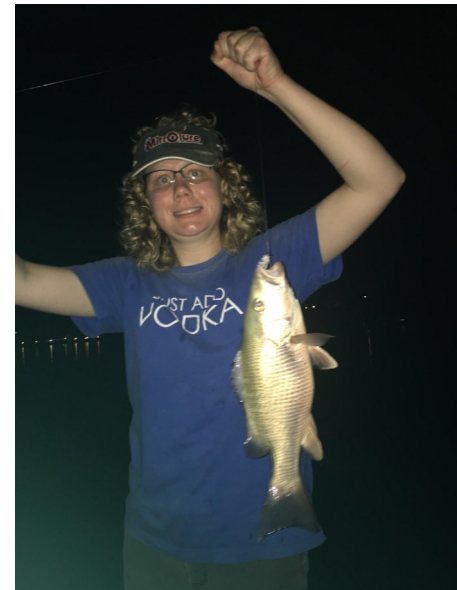


Mark and a nice seatrout. As he explained in his June meeting talk, white flies are the key to a successful night outing. His flies were a little bigger than the actual bait, so they stood out to hungry fish

Mark Hays and daughter Annie fished the docklights In Jungle Prada Saturday, launching about 10:30.

In case you're wondering, you can keep up to five mangrove snapper measuring 10 inches or longer.

They're mixed in with catfish. Strip fast. The gray snapper will grab 'em. The catfish are too slow.



Annie's Hays huge mango-- The school of mangrove snapper wanted to attack the flies more than eat them. The faster the fly moved, the more bites she got.



The biggest challenge with redfish is their tendency to break the line on pilings. Be ready with the trolling motor.



Catfish and mangrove snapper school together under the dock lights. The fly has to move fast enough to annoy the snapper and avoid the slow moving catfish.

Photos by Mark Hays and Annie Hays

Bill Scarola, Jack Collins Fly-Fish Ham's Fork River
SFF member Dayle Mazzarella and Nephew Dylan are their guides



Bill Scarola releases a Hams Fork rainbow trout. "I actually got to hold my 20-incher," Bill said.

Jack Collins and I caught about 15 rainbow trout from 18 to 20 inches long in the Hams Fork River in Kemmerer, Wyoming guided by fellow club member Dayle Mazzarella. Dayle's nephew Dylan helped land the fish. I actually got to hold my 20-incher.

We lost more rainbow trout than we landed and several of those were much bigger than the ones we landed, which were in the 18 to 20-inch range.

Just when Dayle told us it's time to go I said *one more*

cast! Whoosh. Another nice rainbow was on the line, but it turned out to be another "quick release."



Dayle Mazzarella (l) shows off a nice rainbow landed by Jack Collins.

Bill

Ben Marquis: Corpus Christi Redfish on the Flats



SFF member Ben Marquis, currently stationed at the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, caught this nice redfish wading the flats.

Dennis Marquis: Smallie



Dennis Marquis, in the RV heading north, caught this smallmouth bass on the James River near Lynchburg, Virginia. That's his son Ben on the left with a Texas redfish. Yeah, Ben caught the fly fishing bug like he was supposed to.

Snowbird Jack Madden: Carpe The Carp Diem in Illinois

[Don't tell anybody but Jack didn't use a fly rod to catch this carp. Editor]



Cigar Celebration -- Jack Madden and a fantail carp he caught shoreline fishing a lake near his home in the Chicago area.

It's not fly fishing but it allows me to get in a lot more fishing. You probably have Carp in lakes down there and there is good reason that it's the rage in Europe.

I will tell you this... The carp is caught with a bare hook that has no bait. The system actually chums the fish in and there is a float that looks like a corn kernel that floats the hook above a weight called a method feeder. It is actually fascinating method but it is, after all, bank fishing with bait.

There is an island off the coast of Northern Michigan that has a large shallow area where guys do fly-fish for carp almost exactly as fly fishermen go after Bonefish. I would like to be able to do that but it



This carp's fan is drooping.

is a good 8 hours away and I am not able to dedicate that time given my current schedule.

I'm sending some more pictures and would call your attention to the picture showing the weird growth on the fantail carp. This strain always has that. I'm trying to find out what it's for. Also, by enlarging the view and looking at the fins, you may note that they are very different and sort of pretty!



The fantail carp is aptly named, part 2.

It's not fly fishing but it allows me to get in a lot more fishing. You probably have carp in lakes down there and there is good reason that it's the rage in Europe.

I'm sending some pictures of the fish and the equipment. You might want to check out Wacker Bait and Tackle on the internet as well as "technical carp fishing"

I am looking forward to seeing you and the guys again in January and hoping to have the opportunity to fish and learn with you.

Jack

[Do we have carp in our Florida lakes? Can't we just fly-cast a kernel of corn on a little circle hook? We could toss a bit of chum in the water, too, right? Editor]

Mike Larkin: Rylan's first fish on the fly

Last week my son Rylan Larkin caught his first fish on the fly.

He fished a lake in Miami where he caught a one-pound Mayan cichlid with a small chartreuse Clouser minnow.



Mike and son Rylan at the November 2017 meeting.

Mike



Rylan Larkin caught this Mayan Cichlid on a lake in Miami casting a chartreuse Clouser.

Also from Mike: Tying Bruce Evensen's Trout Teaser



Evensen trout teaser glass minnows tied by Mike Larkin at Bruce's June 28 workshop at his home. Bruce teaches members how to tie a new fly every month on the Thursday night a week after the monthly meeting.

Mike



Miriam Craig (l) puts the final dab of glue on a trout teaser. Guest Dan Hahn and David Redd are in the back row. Also tying were Mike Larkin, the official photographer for this event, and Phil Mazur.

Ray Smith: Schoolie Stripers in Rhode Island

I moved to Rhode Island 2 years ago and had little knowledge of the local fishing both fresh & salt. I heard about a local fly fishing group, the Rhody Fly Rodders and joined recently.



Ray Smith is nailing the schoolie stripers in Rhode Island.

The Rhody Fly Rodders are the oldest salt water fly fishing club in America. It's a great group of friendly fly fishers willing to share knowledge of the local fishing with new comers, and they have a fly fishing outing with a cookout during the summer months. Gee, sound familiar SFF?

Since then I've been catching and releasing schoolie size striped bass in the Narrow River and one of the local salt ponds. Just need to find more time to fish!



Tight Lines

Ray

Holy Mackerel: Bill Scarola and Jack Collins in Clearwater Pass



Jack Collins and I got a few Spanish mackerel on shrimp pattern flies in the Gulf just off of Clearwater Pass.

Bill

Smitty's pan-grilled red snapper recipe

Layne (Smitty) Smith knows a thing or ten about tying flies, of course, but he also has developed a perfectly fine skill as a chef. Here's his pan-fried red snapper recipe with strawberry and avocado salsa, which Smitty describes as a "great summertime recipe which members might like." He had me with the words red snapper. Sweet.



Ingredients:

4 (6 oz) Florida red snapper fillets
1 ripe Florida avocado, diced
2 cups Florida strawberries finely chopped
jalapeño pepper, seeded and finely chopped
¼ cup red onion, finely chopped
2 tbsp cilantro, finely chopped
1 tsp fresh lime juice
1½ tbsp fresh lime zest
¼ tsp sugar
1 tbsp olive oil
Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

Preparation

Stir jalapeño, avocado, strawberries, onion, cilantro, lime juice, sugar and sea salt together in a bowl. Cover and set aside.

Salsa may be made several hours ahead and chilled. When making ahead, add the sugar, salt, and avocado when ready to serve.

Preheat stovetop grill pan over high heat. Pat fillets dry, then brush both sides with the oil; sprinkle with the lime zest, salt, and pepper.

Lay fillets on grill pan skin side down and cook 4 to 5 minutes on each side, turning once, until cooked through.

Transfer fillets skin side up to individual serving plates. Carefully remove skin; top with avocado-strawberry salsa.

Dennis Marquis: Fly fishing from a RecVee



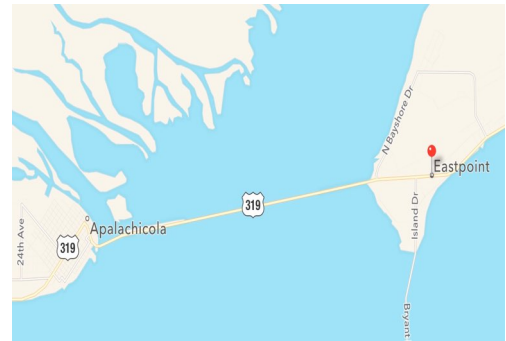
Dennis Marquis loves "The Forgotten Coast"

The Forgotten Coast

In May we stayed at the Coastline RV Resort in Eastpoint on the Panhandle's Apalachicola Bay (about half the size of Tampa Bay). Eastpoint is across the bay from the town of Apalachicola. They call this "The Forgotten Coast."

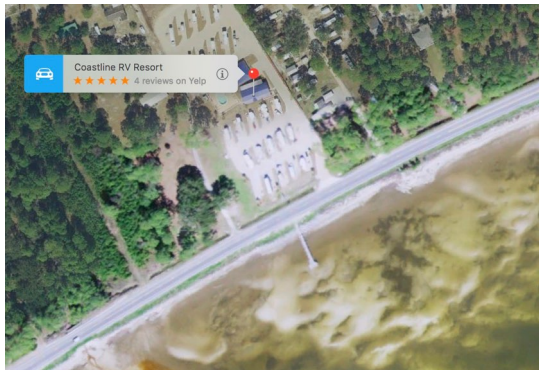
This is very rural/wild in a Florida way. One morning I saw a full-grown doe running across the flats being chased by a bald eagle. It's within shouting distance of two national refuges,

a national forest, and two state parks. I think this is one of the more naturally beautiful places I have visited.



Apple Maps

From the RV park I had a front seat view of the bay. On the first day, I noticed feeding activity a few hundred yards up



Dennis caught huge seatrout in the deep troughs between the sand bars.

Apple Maps

from the park. As the tide went out it exposed a series of sand bars parallel to the coastline. I memorized the low-tide configuration and wade-fished on the first good day of an incoming tide. Using a Red Rouser. I hooked a whopper redfish that ran on me several times until the leader broke. That led to a long conversation with Pat Damico; the leader issue was solved. I went back to work and found a 24-inch seatrout (my personal best) in one of those troughs between those bars. Next day: same spot, same technique, led to a 26-inch trout, followed two days later with a 28-inch monster. All made multiple runs, it was fun. My son Ben visited and I put him on a whopper, too. I finished this area with a 27-inch seatrout.

Remember that spoon fly I mentioned in my last article? While fishing these bars, I saw a tail sticking out of the water. I quickly snipped off the Rouser and tied on the spoon fly. My adrenaline was soaring and I missed with the first cast, but placed it in the right spot on the second. Third strip and we were off to the races. Here is the embarrassing part. After three runs and a tired forearm, I proudly sent pics of what I thought was a "spotless" redfish to several of you in the club. Pat Damico and Bill AuCoin got back to me with the news – black drum. My first ever. It was 21-inches and fought with every inch. I also landed a small red on that same day. Using my gummy minnow, I fished two other flats, had fun with ladyfish on one, and caught a nice slot red on the other.



Next month: Heading north

I won't forget The Forgotten Coast.

Dennis

Tampa Bay Times : Captain's Corner

Capt. Pat Damico: Not having to fool with bait is one big advantage for fly fishing



One of the many advantages to fly fishing is when the bite is on, a lot of fish can be caught. We don't have to fool around with weights, swivels, snaps and finicky braided line, but especially bait. Procuring live baits and keeping them healthy, the time needed to rebait and release smaller or nontargeted fish, and the chance of frequently harming them are greatly minimized. Cut bait is not a great resource. Once the proper fly is selected to "match the hatch," a single fly can last a long time, especially when constructed with synthetic materials. Since most of our flies that imitate shrimp, crabs and baitfish have a single hook, catch and release or catch and keep it simple once the fish is on. Filing or crimping the barb will not hamper your catch rate as long as adequate pressure is kept on the fish. Many hooks are available that are barbless. Use adequate leader strength

and nonabrasive tippets that are strong enough for fish we seek. When fighting fish, keep your rod tip low and close to the water, always maintaining a soft bend. A mechanical gripping device and a dehooker similar to the ones used to quickly remove bait from a Sabiki rig minimize or eliminate the need to handle fish while keeping them in the water. When taking a picture, lift the fish horizontally from the water with wet hands and never hold it out of the water longer than you can hold your breath.

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

Bob Morrison: How-to Tips and one Fishy Factoid



This is not an off-color joke -- All this rain should stir up the fish, and change the water color to an off-colored green, making the fish less wary. Another feeding stimulant is the drop in water temperatures after a storm.

Do lively beaches and swimmers disrupt the tarpon migration? -- Tarpon fishing continues good as long as there are few disturbances along the beaches from people.

Tarpon are coming into Tampa Bay -- A large group of tarpon is passing into Tampa Bay. These fish if they find a large pocket of bait will tend to remain in one area. Use a sinking fly with an action skirt. Heavy bite-tippet, too, of course.

Don't forget flounder -- Flounder fishing is better. Look for them along jetties in the Gulf passes. Again, pilchard and pinfish patterns will work well.

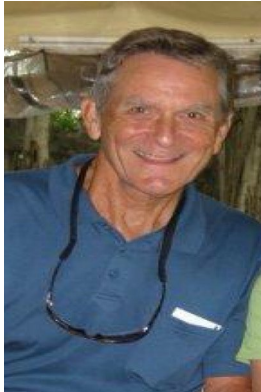
Where are the biggest seatrout, redfish, and snook? -- Grass flats around Tierra Verde and Dunedin are producing big sea trout, redfish, and snook, too. Small crab and bait fish patterns work well.

Fishy Factoid (You can do the math)

An orca (killer whale) eats one quarter of his weight each day. Therefore, if I were to eat one quarter of my weight each day, and I weigh 160, if I eat quarter pound hamburgers, that would be four per pound, and figure out how many I would have to eat to equal a quarter of my weight. It would be a lot of them!

Go get 'em and good luck, Bob

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Tampa Bay Watch Tapped for St. Pete Pier

Good call – The St. Pete City Council awarded Tampa Bay Watch the first lease for the over-the-water portion of the downtown St. Petersburg Pier now under construction. TBW will set up an education attraction that includes classrooms and other amenities. It's not free. TBW has initiated a project to raise \$825,000 this summer to design and complete the education area and it will still need \$15,000 a year to pay its share of the maintenance each year. ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

The man behind *Save our Sealife* has died. Karl Wickstrom, founder/editor of *Florida Sportsman* magazine, died in late June at the age of 82. That battle to end gill nets in the early 1990's was one of Wickstrom's biggest victories. The movement came to be known as the *net ban*. In 1994, the constitutional amendment that the campaign put to ballot passed with 72 percent of the vote. Florida's fisheries rebounded dramatically. ([TC Palm](#))

Another Florida fishing hero has left us – Nathaniel Reed told family members his life would be perfect if he could catch one last, perfect salmon. "He just about pulled it off," said his son. ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

Tampa Bay water temperature has hit 90-degrees. Actually, this article is about handling trout in cold, freshwater streams and lakes. I'm assuming the same applies to warm-water species including our flats fish – snook, reds, seatrout. Tip of the hat to Pat Damico for this link. ([Hatch Magazine](#))

The battle is never really over – Red Tide – *Karenia brevis*—is killing many thousands of snook and redfish in SW Florida right during the spawning season. Tarpon, too. Red tide is natural but we're feeding it with extraordinary levels of nutrients that drain into our waters. ([Bonefish and Tarpon Trust](#))

Do you feed your outboard corn? --BoatU.S. has some survey questions for those who have powerboats. It's about ethanol-diluted fuel and the big battle that's shaping up in Congress. Nowadays most gas at the pump has 10 percent (E-10). But legislators are talking about allowing up to 15 percent. If E10 was bad for old outboards and lawn mowers, just imagine how much more troubling E-15 will be. ([BoatU.S.](#))

The U.S. Supreme Court justices like Florida oysters. Well, sort of. –They sent the case back down the judicial pipeline to determine, with "care and thoroughness," whether Alabama and Georgia are using too much fresh water which then starves the Apalachicola River. Then there's not enough fresh water reaching the Gulf to sustain the Florida oyster eco-system. ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

Docklight fishing tips – Whether you're a docklight fishing neophyte or a veteran, you'll want to read this article about how to hook and land big fish on docklights. ([Florida Sportsman](#))

Hey, kid, get off that smart phone! -- Bass Pro Shops founder Johnny Morris has launched the "Gone Fishing" initiative and kicked it off with a Bass Pro-Cabela's donation of 50,000 rods and reels to motivate kids to get off their phones and go outside. Bravos. ([Springfield News-Leader](#))

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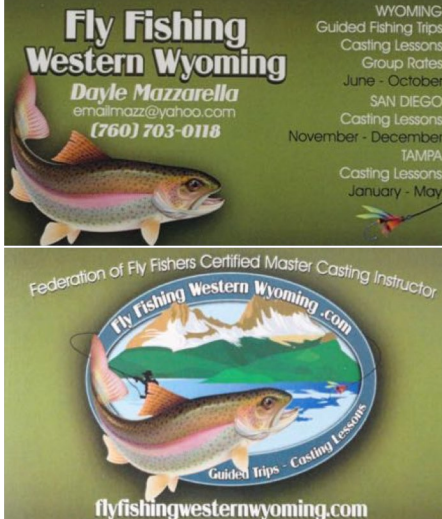


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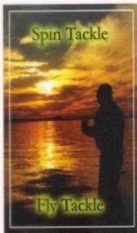
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