

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



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SFF President Letter – June 2018

As Fly Fishers, we deal in stealth and deception; trickery at its best. And little white lies that portray us as being the best. We design our arsenal after the things fish desire. We embellish the hook with feathers, fur, Estaz and wire.

We develop our skills, plan our attacks, prepare our flies, lines, rods and reels, sneak up on our unsuspecting prey, be it Bluegill, Redfish, Salmon or Trout. And then have a tendency to expand the truth, especially about the one that got away.

Our only saving grace is the respect we pay to our catch. We take care not to exhaust them in the retrieval, harm them in the hook removal or remove the protective film from their bodies. And then we wish them well as we thoughtfully send them back home again.

But during all this process, there is also something that sneaks up on us: **Friendships**. Life-long friendships, like that of **Ken Hofmeister**. The difference is there is no deception. There was no deception in Ken. What you saw is what you got. If you were new to the room, he saw to it that you never stood by yourself for very long. You never went unnoticed.

Ken had a way of presenting ideas that would make you think they were your own and then encourage and praise you for implementing them.

Who ever thought that wading the same waters, attending the fly tying classes, casting clinics, general meetings, Board of Directors Meetings, Expos and Hog Roasts would all work to establish a golden friendship.

I grew to love and respect Ken for his honesty, encouragement and positive outlook. His words will ring true in my mind so long as I have breath.

I have no “woulda, coulda, shoulda, with Ken, because I made it a point to say what needs to be said at the moment. Sometimes it may come across as phony, but I believe in giving credit where credit is due.

Thank you, Ken. Rest in Peace and as you fish the other shore may you always catch that fish that is 1/16” longer. And then wait to be the last to announce it.

Haven’t you developed new friendships as we talk, fish and eat together? I have. I value those friendships and seek to acknowledge it each time we meet. We have a lot of fun things coming up in the next few months. I hope you will make the extra effort to join us.

Never lose your sense of adventure

George

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

Club Meetings, Outings, and More

Ann Hofmeister, Honorary Member

Ken's widow Ann accepted the offer made by President George Hazeltine at a June 13 lunch at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club hosted by his long-time friend and SFF member Al Pitcher.

Thursday, June 21, Meeting

- Outing Insights: Mark Hays, Mark Craig, Adam Hays, Alan Sewell. Docklights and beach fishing
 - Myron Hansen's Fly Swap. Bring three poppers
 - Smitty ties the Fly-of-the-Month: BA (Bad A\$\$) Baitfish fly for docklights, beaches, tarpon, mangroves or whatever
-

Friday and Saturday, June 22-23, Outing

- Dock Light Fishing or Gulf beach fishing in Tampa Bay area
 - Sunset Friday to dawn Saturday. Sunset Saturday to dawn Sunday
-

Thursday, June 28, Fly tying with Bruce Evensen

- Meet up on the fourth Thursday of the month – June 28 --at Bruce's home, 531 80th Avenue, St. Pete. Bring materials to tie two Trout Teaser glass minnows for July's outing fishing from Maximo Park in St. Pete.



MATERIALS:

- Bucktail in pink, yellow and green
 - HOOK, #3407 six's 2
 - Gold tinsel for side markings
 - Eyes, red stick on small size
 - Body braid, pearl body tubing or Pearl Flashabou.
 - UV Epoxy
-

Wednesday, June 27, FWC Youth Cons. Center, youth fly casting

- Three 90-minute fly casting/tying sessions for youth
 - Volunteers needed. Contact Tom Gadacz
-

Friday, June 29 and Tuesday, July 24

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

Thursday, July 19, Meeting

- Speaker is Peter Clark, Executive Director, Tampa Bay Watch
-

Saturday, July 21, Outing

- Fish anywhere around the Sunshine Skyway
 - Meet up at Maximo Park for lunch
-

Thursday, August 16, Meeting

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

Saturday, August 18, Outing

- Urban Outing, downtown St. Petersburg
-

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 123 members including 19 family members and 6 --welcome Ann Hofmeister-- honorary members. Annual dues are \$15, payable in September.

FFI Charter Club.

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

Club Activities Update

It's a win-win. Thank you, New Phase

A lot of the fly boxes with our club logo received with the last order had blemishes. The supplier, New Phase, is replacing them at no charge. Thank you, President Dan Stark. Here's another WIN – the board of directors agrees that we should donate the blemished fly boxes to Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing.

Outing Committee : Bob Burkard, Hilton Bruch, David Redd

- Committee members are looking for new outing locations. Got some recommendations?
-

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Committee: Alan Sewell, Ted Rich, Dave Barson

- More volunteers are needed to teach fly tying and rod building to Vets at Bay Pines VA
-

Looking ahead

- July 22: New date: The fly tying lessons at East Lake Woodlands Country Club have been rescheduled.
 - Florida Sportsman Expo, Oct. 6-7. Fly tiers needed. Point man is David Redd
 - October 13: Fall Casting Carnival. More info to come.
 - October 20: Help kids tie their first fly at FWC's MarineQuest in downtown St. Pete
 - October 27: Note date change. Carl Hanson Outing, SFF versus TBFFC on the Hillsborough River
 - November 18: Big Gun Shootout at Picnic Island Park in Tampa
 - December 15: Fall Casting Clinic led by Capt. Pat Damico and Dayle Mazarella
 - March 30, 2019: Hog Roast and Silent Auction
-

<h2>It's Your Club.....So Get Involved</h2>

It takes a lot of time and effort to keep our club running, growing and improving. We could use your help. There are several standing committees that could use some help, positions that are currently open and some important positions that will need to be filled in our next election cycle.

Website and social media

We currently do not have a permanent webmaster or social media coordinator. Our website is an important resource for our members and our connection to the fly fishing community outside of our membership. It needs to be updated on a regular basis. Social media is another means of making these connections. If you have any particular skills or interest in helping in these areas please contact [Dick Miekka, dmiekka@cs.com](mailto:dmiekka@cs.com).

Hog Roast, Newsletter

The Hog Roast Committee and our Newsletter Editor are areas that can always use some help. We are looking for members that can help out and individuals that are interested in transitioning into leadership positions for these functions. Please contact Rick and Karen Warfel or [Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin@verizon.net](mailto:wmaucoin@verizon.net), respectively if you are interested in helping.

Run for office

Two of our officers will have completed their second two-year term and will not be eligible for reelection next year. These positions are our Treasurer, Karen Warfel and Secretary, Dick Miekka. If you have the particular skills or a particular interest in serving as an officer on the board of directors in one of these elected positions, please contact [Rick Warfel, rh_warfel@yahoo.com](mailto:rh_warfel@yahoo.com), Succession Planning Committee.

SFF Board of Directors

Fly Gear for Sale or Swap



**Ken's NuCanoe
used only 3 times**
Ken Hofmeister's
NuCanoe, geared up,
rigged and ready. \$1000.
Phone Ann Hofmeister,
727-460-4319

New: Fly rods and fly rod blanks.

- California Tackle Steelhead rod - 8+' - CSH1026 - about 9w - \$50
- Loomis 8'3" 4w - \$50
- East Branch 9' 10W 3 pc with spigot ferrules, supposedly the last one to ever come off their line - \$90
- Pacific Bay 2 pc R-IGF-907 Graphite IM6 - \$25 (this may well be an Orvis blank from the info I have)
- St. Croix extra heavy 2 pc, at least a 10-11w, about 8'6"-9' - \$50
- Loomis 8'6" 5/6w - \$75
- Fenwick Don Green Safe 9' 3/4w - \$15
- Diamond Back 7'6" 5/6 W \$50

Note from seller: Note from seller; I have \$465 tied up in these plus some shipping. I will take \$375 cash plus throw in any extra shipping containers I have from them for all, or per item as listed. All are nice blanks with minimal complexion issues and no damage of any kind. If someone wanted all of them I would drive them over, I do not trust the PO that much for bulky things like this, lol. Wish I was not so far from you guys. I grew up fishing under the Skyway. Lots of good memories in the days when fishing in Tampa Bay was incredible!!"

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 or phone Jim at SnF2@reagan.com or (813) 610-3060.

Mitch Dunasky has some slightly used fly fishing books for sale.

- "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

Also from Mitch... Echo Ion 6/7 fly reel with extra spool. \$50.00.

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

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

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

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

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

**Classified ads will run for up to three months but may run longer if text is changed. Ads from non-members are also welcome but should be submitted through a member. Got something to sell or swap? 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

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 -- John
Craig, Terry Kirkpatrick, Alan
Sewell
Outreach, shows – David Redd,
Bob Burkard
Raffles -- Dave Barson
Programs -- Board of Directors
Newsletter editor-- Bill AuCoin
Publicity -- Bill AuCoin

Aims and Purposes

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

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

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

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

SFF is a non-profit, 501 3 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

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

May Outing: Fort DeSoto Park, Tierra Verde



Hilton Bruch, co-chair, SFF Outing Committee

Saturday, May 19



David Redd

By David Redd

Like most outings we have at Fort DeSoto Park, we had a good turnout. And as usual, it seemed everyone enjoys fishing at this beautiful location. With its expansive area it provides great fishing opportunities for the wader and the kayaker alike. Some fished the grass flats while others targeted the beaches.



Bob Burkard, co-chair, SFF Outing Committee

We had reports of fish caught in both areas. Duane Mertz reported catching lots of ladyfish on the north beach early in the morning. Bill AuCoin caught a nice 17-18-inch seatrout while fishing the grass flats at the Arrowhead Picnic area. The fish of the day however went to Jack Cason who caught and shot a picture of his designated species – a 13-inch ladyfish.

David



Jack Cason's 13-inch ladyfish won the day. Reminder: take pictures of your fish. You could be a winner.



Jack Collins caught this 14-inch seatrout from his kayak fishing south of Arrowhead Picnic Area. He bit Jack's Crystal Schminnow tied at the May Meeting Tie-a-Thon.



Bill AuCoin wade-fished and caught this 17.5-inch seatrout on a Clouser early on fishing the grass-to-sand drop-off at Arrowhead Picnic area. This was his only fish of the day.

June Outing: Docklights and Beaches Only



Bob Burkard

Sunset to sunrise: Friday, June 22 and Saturday, June 23

Our June outing is our annual night snook or dock light fishing event. This is the second year where we are expanding the night fishing time to two nights. You can fish anywhere near Tampa Bay area including the residential canals and beaches from Friday sunset until sunrise on Saturday, and from sunset on Saturday until sunrise on Sunday. Also, due to requests from a number of members, we are expanding the area outside of Tampa Bay proper to "Anywhere near Tampa Bay". This way we include any of the local beaches on the west coast of Florida. Obviously, the target fish for our Annual Night

Fishing for snook is the largest snook, but keep in mind that we still need a redfish entry for the annual contest. Also please report ladyfish over 14 inches and seatrout over 18.5 inches.

Bob Burkard



Capt. Ray Markham

Markham: Tips for Fly Fishing Docklights and Beaches

When fishing beaches or dock lights for snook it's always best with good water movement. New and full moon weeks are prime times. Snook will hammer bigger baits on the beaches during the summer spawning months, but get picky around dock lights.

Fish the perimeter of the lights with shrimp or #2 to #4 glass minnow patterns like Carl

Hansen's Mono-body Glass Minnow, or Grasset's Snook Minnow about 2 to 2 ½ inches long sparsely tied in white with pearl crystal flash. Beach sight fishing is best after the sun is up enough to show fish where the surf meets sand.

RAY



Carl Hanson Glass Minnow



Rick Grasset Snook Minnow

Suncoast Fly Fisher **Capt. Ray Markham** specializes in inshore game fishing. He writes the West Central Action Spotter page each month in Florida Sportsman magazine.

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)

May Meeting: Tie-a-Thon, Free Pizza, and More

Photos by Tom Gadacz



Crystal Schminnow fly of the night



David Redd, seated, and Myron Hansen, who provided the tying steps and guided tiers.



Jack Collins caught a seatrout on his.



New member Greg Aurre



Wow! Guest Hugh Bell came to the meeting and donated three outfits and 200 flies.



Bill Scarola wraps it up



Rick Warfel: Heads up. Your directory photo should show your face, not fish and face masks.



Quin Berry, new board member



Ray Markham and Bruce Evensen



Barry Salzman



Alan Sewell and Bill AuCoin



James Davis finishes his schminnow

Tying Bench – “BA” Baitfish tied by Layne Smith,



BA is short for B@# A\$\$\$. This is a versatile fly that works on docklights, beaches, or just about anywhere fish feed on white bait (threadfin herring. This BA fly can be tied in darker colors for fishing back country or stained waters. Tan and orange work for redfish. For docklights tie it in white. Make it black and purple for tarpon which are often looking up so a darker fly is more visible against a bright background.

Materials:

Hook: Daiichi 3111 #1/0 or your favorite heavy wire octopus hook

Thread: Danville Flatwaxed Nylon white

Belly: Extra-Select Marabou tan Tail: Ostrich Herl white

Wing: Extra-Select Marabou yellow

Body/Head: 3" EP Foxy Brush White

Eyes: ¼" Jurassic Eyes

Cement: Fletch-Tite and SHHAN

Finish Coat: Solarez UV Resin



Tying Sequence:

1. Insert hook in vise and tie in base wrap from hook eye to just above hook barb.
2. Tie in tan belly marabou 1 – 1½" long and secure with several thread wraps.
3. Attach 25 to 30 Ostrich Herls at same tie-in point. Herl should be 2½" to 3" long and should extend backward just past marabou. Secure with tapered thread wraps.
4. Tie in an equal amount of yellow wing marabou as the tan belly marabou at the same tie-in point as the other feathers and secure again with tapered thread wraps sandwiching the herl tail between the two marabous. Whip finish and coat tapered thread wraps with UV Resin.
5. Tie in Foxy Brush right where marabou and Ostrich stops. Attach hackle pliers and palmer forward remembering to stroke back material as you go keeping overwrap to a minimum. Continue all the way to hook eye securing with a whip finish.
6. Take bodkin and pick out any overwrapped fibers.
7. Attach eyes with Fletch-Tite and coat thread wraps with UV Resin and cure.

Smitty

Tying Bench – Tie some Ken Hofmeister Ada Potato Flies (Oh, and about those polyester fiber materials...)



We'll remember Ken Hofmeister for many things. One is the fly he created, Ada Potato. He was inspired to craft this fly while watching Ada, his three-year-old granddaughter, playing with her toy duster. The duster had fine green and blue polyester fibers. The finished fly works great on trout and ladyfish day or night. Ken's Ada Potato was the Tying Bench fly in the [August, 2008 issue of *On The Fly*](#). The hardest part is getting the same materials in the proper colors since Ada's toy duster no longer exists. Well, be resourceful

Materials

- Hook: Mustad 3407 DT Size 4 sharpened
- Tail: Blue and green duster polyester fiber material 3 inches long, one strand each of fiberglass cloth and peacock herl. Either white, yellow, or pink 2-inch buck tail or hackle.
- Metallic braid.
- Flash: Orvis blue Flashabou.
- Thread: Danville flat-waxed nylon in yellow, white, or pink.
- Eyes: Bead chain or 5/32 brass eyes.



*Synthetic fiber duster
on Amazon dot com*

Ken's Tying Instructions

1. First, be sure your granddaughter doesn't see the desecration and mutilation of her cherished toy.
2. Pinch down barb and sharpen hook before securing it in vise and attaching thread from eye to bend of hook. Half hitch helps here.
3. Select a *sparse* amount of green and blue polyester fibers and place on top of hook with one end extending up to the eye. Attach to hook at bend. Attach a single strand of fiberglass cloth and peacock herl to top of hook at the bend. Select three strands of Flashabou and fold over thread at mid-point and secure to hook with several wraps of thread.
4. Fold excess material from eye of hook over bend of hook and tie securely.
5. Rotate hook and tie *very sparse* 2-inch yellow, white, or pink buck tail or hackle flat against the hook shank on underside of hook.
6. Position bead chain or 5/32-brass eye against material near bend of hook against the folded excess material and tie on.
7. Wrap metallic braid from eye of hook over bead chain eyes and tie securely wrapping thread and tying off ahead of bead chain.
8. Whip finish and apply head cement to thread and a coating of clear nail polish to metallic braid to ensure that the fly will withstand at least 21 trout and a few ladyfish attacks.
9. Field test with intermediate or sink-tip line along edge of flats or under lighted docks.

Remembering Ken Hofmeister

Our club is better because of Ken

Ken Hofmeister, long time member and former president, died May 4 after a long battle with **Multiple Myeloma**. He inspired us to make Suncoast Fly Fishers the best fly fishing club ever.

Bill AuCoin

Tom Gadacz: Ken left a great legacy

Ken Hofmeister was a great friend and fellow fly fisher. He was President of Suncoast Fly Fishers and welcomed me into a unique experience of fly fishing and comradery. His leadership resulted in creating an organization of friendliness, fun, and values. He knew how to meet members' needs, and as he often said exceed their expectations. Ken was a one man welcoming committee. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing was initiated with members helping veterans at the Bay Pines VA tying flies, building rods, and having fun fly fishing. He participated in local events and taught fly casting to youths in local summer fishing camps. Ken was awarded the SFF President's Vision and Values Award. He was very active in the Fly Fishers International Florida Council and served as Secretary and Membership Chair. He was awarded the FFI Florida Council Excellence Award.



Ken Hofmeister, 1936-2018

It was always very enjoyable fishing with Ken. He knew where they were and how to catch them. He created the Ada Potato Fly named after his granddaughter. We fished together and sometimes with guides in the local waters as well as the Sarasota area and the Everglades. It was always a great experience. Fishing the dock lights in his area resulted in catching many trout, reds, snook and lady fish. I think he had names for some of the fish under certain docks. He had several egrets and herons who always welcomed him as he returned to dock his boat.



Ken's widow Ann was presented with the award Ken won for catching the longest ladyfish of the year in Suncoast Fly Fishers' annual outing tournament.

Ken left a great legacy and all of us have benefited from his leadership, example and friendship. We will miss Ken and thank Ann, his wife, and Ken's family for the adventures we had with Ken. **Tom Gadacz**

I grew to love and respect Ken for his honesty, encouragement and positive outlook. His words will ring true in my mind so long as I have breath.

George Haseltine

I will always remember he was one of the first members of the SFF's to welcome me when I joined. **Kevin Kelly**

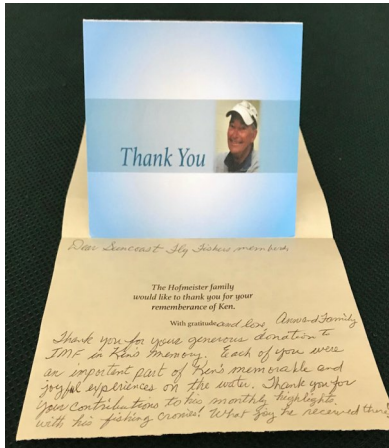
I only knew him for two years, but I knew he was a special person. He was an inspiration to me and I'm a better person for knowing him. **Duane Mertz**

Wow, this news brought tears. He was genuine. **Dennis Marquis**

Continued on following page

Remembering Ken Hofmeister

Continued from previous page



Hofmeister family "with gratitude and love" thank you note to members for our club's donation in Ken's memory to the International Myeloma Foundation.

Proud as peacock herl

*In my fly tying classes he was one of the most enthusiastic learners I taught. Even though he was a little hard on himself with his class results, he would go home and practice till he got it down pat. He tied some great fish-catching flies. Ken was a friend to everyone no matter if you were one of the founders of SCFF or someone who just walked in off the street wanting to know what the heck this "fly fishing" was all about. I was and still am proud as peacock herl to call him MY friend! **Layne (Smitty) Smith***



Ken's last fishing trip arranged by friends just a few days before he died on May 4, 2018

Ken was a treasured friend

*A few years ago I had the pleasure of riding back to St. Petersburg with Ken from a Southeast Regional Federation meeting north of Helen, GA. It was a long trip and we talked and shared experiences all the way. That was when I really learned a lot about Ken. He was such an interesting person with a very serious and deeply religious background. Having Ken as a friend was a wonderful experience and something that I will always treasure. **Pat Damico***

Best of all

*Ken was inspirational, creative, a good listener, well organized, a great motivational speaker. He had outstanding leadership skills. Best of all, for me: he was a good friend. **Ron Kelley***

Ken called us the Clewiston Crew.

*Ken Hofmeister gave us that name last year and we liked it and we have adopted it. **Ray Smith***



Left, Clewiston Crew for 2018 included Phil Mazur, Bill Scarola, Ray Smith, Truk Trukenbrod, Gary Sundberg, Bruce Evensen, and Woody Miller.



Ann Hofmeister, Honorary Member
President George Hazeltine (l) with Ann Hofmeister following a lunch at the St. Pete Yacht Club hosted by Al Pitcher, his close friend of many years. She accepted the club's offer to be a lifetime honorary member of Suncoast Fly Fishers.

A very special man

*Feels like a bit of my heart has been removed. Ken was a very special man. **Tom Trukenbrod***

Tom Gadacz: Project Healing Waters' Crosthwait Tournament

Bradenton Yacht Club hosted the seventh annual Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Crosthwait Tournament May 19, 2018. Volunteers from Suncoast Fly Fishers included Alan Sewell, Dave Barson, Terry Kirkpatrick and Tom Gadacz.

Some 30 Florida disabled veterans and their volunteers spent a day fly fishing with guides fly fishing lower Tampa Bay, Terra Ceia Bay, and the Manatee River. Veterans brought their own gear, including flies they tied and rods they built.

They caught snook, seatrout, grouper, jacks, mackerel, blue runners and ladyfish. Veteran Phil Mazur, also a member of SFF, and I fished with Captain Bryon Chamberlain on his Hell's Bay. Phil landed about 10 trout, two ladyfish, and two jacks, one of which broke his leader.



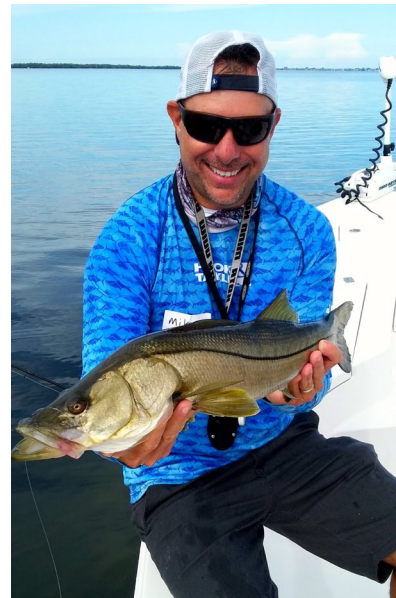
Veteran Phil Mazur (l) fished with Capt. Bryon Chamberlain.

Great comradery

A lunch spread for the participants was provided by the Anna Maria Oyster Bar and participants told about the fish they caught. The biggest fish of the day? A giant grouper, too big to even fit in the boat.

Tom

Thomas Gadacz, President, Florida Council, Fly Fishers International



Capt. Mike Davis. Nice snook.



Ted Hass, Stewart Mitchell, Mike Perez and Ron Bloomquist



SFFers Terry Kirkpatrick and Alan Sewell with Roger Williams of Bradenton.



Club member Dave Barson shared a table and fishing tales with a vet from Bay Pines.

Ryan Sollars: My Son Will



Will Sollars, Air Force JROTC Cadet for four years.

The Sollars family is proud to announce the graduation of their son William Owen Sollars from Durant High School on May 22, 2018.

Will worked hard throughout his high school tenure and was able to successfully accomplish the following:

- Academic Letterman with a final GPA of 5.75
- Air Force JROTC Cadet (4 years)
- Varsity Baseball Letterman

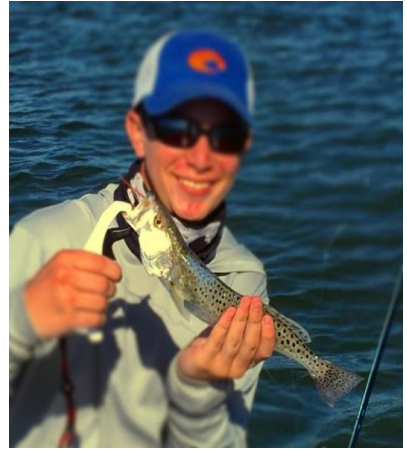
(JV 2 years, Varsity 2 years)

- Senior Homecoming Court
- National Honor Society Member

Will has earned a prestigious scholarship from the Falcon Foundation. The Foundation is an affiliate of the United States Air Force Academy whose purpose is to provide scholarships to Preparatory Schools for motivated young people seeking admission to USAFA and a career in the Air Force. Approximately 60 of these scholarships are awarded each year for expenses toward one year at a prep school. Following the completion of a successful prep year, a USAFA appointment is granted for admission the following year. This fall Will is headed to the Marion

Military Institute in Marion, Alabama where the fly fishing opportunities will be scarce!

Will has truly enjoyed the fun and fellowship of the SFF and looks forward to continuing his participation in the club while he is home during his school breaks.



Will Sollars and a seatrout, his first (but not the last) saltwater gamefish on the fly.



Fly fishing brothers, Will and Cooper



Varsity baseball letterman



Ryan



Will caught the sportfishing bug early-on.

Capt. Ray Markham: Lake Okeechobee, still the place to go

Recently, I participated in the First Annual Glades County TDC Sportswriter's Invitational. There were approximately 14 outdoor writer's participating in the event to showcase the area's fishing opportunities.

On my first morning fishing my guide, retired county sheriff and local angler, Stuart Whiddon and I put about 40 bass in the boat using an assortment of lures. That afternoon, I fished with Sam Heaton, a legend in the fishing industry and a member of the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame. Again we scored some nice bass on lures. The day was a real treat for me, fishing the Big O, a lake I'd always wanted to fish, and it didn't disappoint.



For my fly fishing friends, I managed to break out a 5 wt. fly rod the second day while fishing with Clyde Johnson, a local tournament angler who's very savvy when it comes to the lake and where some big bass hide. Again, we scored some nice fish, and although I wasn't the one who caught the monsters, some folks in our group managed big bass up to 8 pounds 10 ounces! But best of all, I caught bass using some foam spider imitations tied by our very own Layne "Smitty" Smith. The fish inhaled those flies! Attached is one of the bass caught on fly.

There is plenty of cover on the lake in the form of lily pads, a variety of structure, and loads of grass. A full floating line and some poppers, sliders, or worm imitations are all you need to score some nice bass or bluegill. In the spring, you can target some big crappie. Bass will be on the beds then too.

Our time on the water was cut short due to incoming storms, but if you want to spend some time on the water with some great guides and on perhaps the lake known for its legendary big bass, Lake Okeechobee is the place to go. Below are a few of the top guides on the lake who we fished with and can make your day one to remember.



Ray landed some very nice bass fishing with Smitty's foam spiders.

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Dennis Marquis: Fly Fishing Eastpoint, Florida in May



Big red hit a gummy minnow. Dennis backed it up on the beach



Dennis' son Ben visited from Pensacola Navy training base. He caught this 25-inch seatrout on Bruce Evensen's Red Rouser



Bruce Evensen's red rouser hit the big time in Eastpoint, near Apalachicola.



Working on the to-do list: Tie more gurglers. Check.

Dennis



Subtropical storm Alberto shut down fishing. So, hey, why not tie some more Clousers, too?

James Davis' chicken crab fly, plus pompano and ladyfish



Backyard chickens? James Davis tied up some EP brush crab patterns using the feathers from backyard chickens for the tails. Being resourceful is a fly fisher virtue.



He caught this 12" pompano on a spawning shrimp pattern.



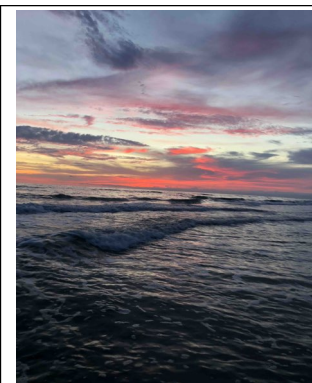
This 16-inch ladyfish went for the crystal schminnow he tied at the May meeting.



On the beach. Bill, Tom, and Woody. Bill will be planning mid-week outings. Keep an eye on the SFF **calendar**.

Bill Scarola: Beach Fishing at Sunset

Tom Gadacz, Woody Miller and yours truly, made it to Redington Shores at 8 pm on June 6 and fished there for an hour. The fish didn't interrupt our casting! So we went to John's Pass to try to annoy the fish there. Tom had one on, but he did a 'quick' self-release.. I later did the same. Then I put on a mullet pattern fly on and bingo --a baby sting ray. It turned out to be a beautiful night though, considering the storms that ran thru earlier in the day! *Bill*



Fishing was slow but the sunset was terrific.

Tom Trukenbrod: Snook action in Little Bayou



He may be small but he's my first snook in a long while.. Caught seatrout, too. I was fishing Little Bayou just south of Coquina Key with a friend who lives at Westminster Shores CCRC where I have my kayak.

Truk

Andy Constantinou, back in England: My biggest carp ever. 30-inches



After being home in the UK for about 6 weeks I finally managed to go to Manor Farm Fishery in Lower Caldecote for a spot of carp fishing.

I had to wait for a hot day hoping the carp would cruise on the top so I could use the dog biscuit method. This involves throwing biscuits that float and using a fly that looks like a dog biscuit.

When I got to the fishery I saw as usual there were several broods of greylag geese which unfortunately gobbled up the biscuits before the carp had a look in.

Prior to my visit I bought a 17 pound bag of dog food which was in my car so I had a brainwave. If I could distract the geese by feeding them the dog food I possible could have a chance on the carp.

So I went back to the lake and generously distributed the dog food in the hope that it would occupy the geese. Within 30 minutes the geese had gorged on the pellets and went for a nap on the bank

Now it was time to have another go at the carp. Within a few minutes I hooked and landed the biggest carp I have ever caught. It was a mirror Carp just over 30" which would be well in excess of 20 pound. I went home happy that afternoon managing to outwit the geese and the carp.

Andy

Dennis Marquis: Fly fishing from a RecVee



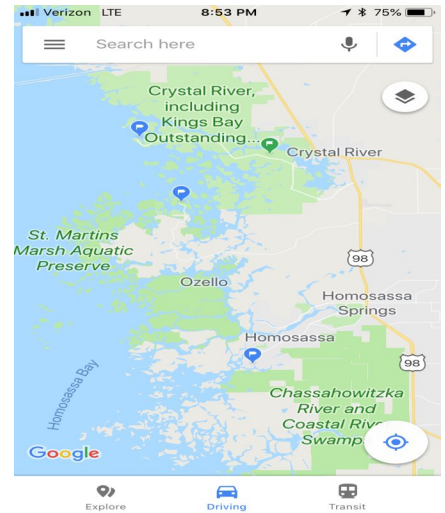
I don't know about you, but I had heard good things about the fishing up in Crystal River, therefore Cindy and I made plans to stay in that area for April. We were at the Crystal Isle RV Resort in Crystal River.

We found three boat launches that were easy to use and provided access to what looked like great redfish habitat, unfortunately the weather seemed to always be blowing strong out of the west making it hard for us to get a good paddle going. I would give it another try in the future – I think there is a lot of potential. The picture associated with this article marks the ramps from north

to south:

- Fort Island boat ramp, take W Fort Island Trail off of 98
- Ozello boat ramp, take W Ozello Trail off of 98
- Homosassa boat launch, 6891 S Mason Creek Rd, 34448, also off of 98

Cindy and I did fish with Capt. Jim Farrior, who took us out of the Homosassa launch. He poled all day, we saw many redfish and, unfortunately, they saw us first. Winds were again out of the west, so we had to pole into the sun, which made it hard to sight fish. I did have several strong hits, all on a spoon fly (which I believe would be the ticket up there), but did not land a single fish. I enjoyed Jim, the Homosassa area and I could tell that on a better day we would be successful. I plan to hook up with Jim again when we get back in the area after November. I try to learn from every experience, with Jim's help, I was introduced to the spoon fly and I am now tying these. I used one to hook my first black drum, which I will tell about in next month's article.



I managed to salvage the month fishing the pond in the RV resort. It had a 4ft resident gator, turtles, frogs and many small panfish. I could see them protecting their spawning beds in the shallows.

Remembering I had a whole tray of Bruce's mopworm flies and those rubber dog toy flies with the bead head, in all sorts of bright colors, I went to work. Every night after dinner, I would go over to the pond and catch dozens of fat, hungry blue gills. It was really fun. They even started to pound my gurglers. I also built up a following. Many of the park campers never saw a fly fisher before and would ask me all sorts of questions about what I was doing and how. I believe I got several young kids interested in the sport.

Dennis



Next month, Apalachicola

Bob Morrison: Summer Fishing Tips



Summer's here. You know the drill.

Summer's here. Afternoons are iffy -- It's been awhile since we have seen normal summer weather, but things have stabilized somewhat and we should be getting sunshine and light winds in the mornings and some showers later on in the afternoons

Baitfish schools are close to shore -- Calm conditions have cleaned up inshore waters somewhat and bait schools have moved in close to shore where you can reach them.

Tarpon moving fast in the bay -- Look for tarpon in the morning in smaller schools moving faster than normal over shallow, grass beds.

Fly patterns ? Here ya go -- Tarpon are taking pinfish, crabs and threadfins so choose your fly patterns accordingly

Find the mullet; find the redfish -- Redfish have been following mullet, mixing with them over the same grass beds and feeding aggressively. Choose patterns accordingly – pinfish, crabs and theadfins.

Go get 'em and good luck,

Bob

Pat Damico: Terrestrial Time in Pennsylvania



I'm up in Columbia County, Pennsylvania and caught this fat brown trout on a Chernobyl ant under overhanging trees.

Pat

Chernoble Ant? From Rodtrip.com. "This pattern was the product of Rainey Riding's imagination after the Chernobyl atomic plant accident. Resembling an ant only in the weirdest imagination, this is a great stimulator pattern. The closed cell foam used in this ant floats like a cork, and the 8 rubber legs dance a jitter bug across the surface of the water."



Chernoble Ant

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #100. My last one



“Pat, fly fishing is one of the few sports where you get better as you age.” (Lefty Kreh)

By Capt. Pat Damico, FFI Master Casting Instructor

This is a quote from Lefty Kreh from a few years ago. I have fresh water trout fished a lot lately and this continues to resonate and is especially meaningful. I have a few wading spots that I avoid because of slippery wading conditions and balance but my catch ratio has never been better. Having the rod do the work saves my joints and allows me to cast with ease. Instead of covering more water I have become a better observer and plan my strategy to catch more difficult fish. The fly fishing fraternity has been a great help to me and my friendships continue to make fly fishing a wonderful sport.

NOGE: This will be my last Casting Tip article. If anyone would like to continue, I am available to help.

Thank you all for your interest, friendship and help.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

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

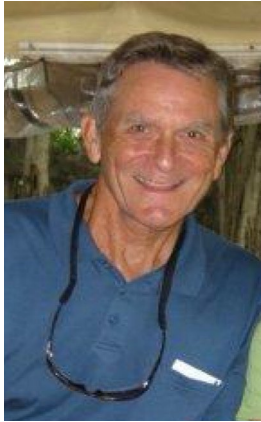
Tampa Bay Times : Captain's Corner

Early risers will be rewarded

This time of year is perfect for early risers who love to fly fish. Pods of snook are within a few feet of the sand in the trough along most beaches. Though the season is closed, catch-and-release opportunities have never been better. A large female with a group of smaller males will do their courting in these locations, especially if there is good current flow. Locations with structure close to passes are the best. A good pair of Polaroid glasses is a necessity. Stay on the bank and out of the water. The rising sun behind you will reveal fish. You will see baitfish. Duplicate their size with white flies. Crimp all hooks, making easy penetration possible with a quick release as the fish is still in the water. Hold your cast until the fish is facing you. Then cast to the side of the fish. The fly, with a 30-pound shock tippet, is then retrieved, duplicating an escaping baitfish. It should trigger a violent strike. An eight-weight, fast-action 9-foot rod is perfect and will allow you to quickly pick up a long cast if misplaced or refused. Make a second cast immediately. Change fly patterns after several refusals of good presentations. If there is strong wave action, a clear, sinking tip line might work better than a floating one for better line management.

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



Eggs are good for you

What does BOFFFF stands for? – Fat female fish lay more eggs than the smaller ones. Exponentially more. Disproportionally more. Fecondly more. For example, the biggest vermilion snapper doesn't weight 400 times more than a little vermilion snapper but it does produce 400 times more eggs than the smallest. There's an acronym for that fish: BOFFFF. Big Old Fat Fecund Female Fish. The takeaway? When you catch a big, egg-laying female, of any species, be nice to her. Release her to continue to do what she does best.

([Washington Post](#))

Hey, let's have an outing on this lake -- Lake Istokpoga is about a two-hour drive from St. Pete. That's probably too long a drive for one of our monthly outings. Still, take a look at the pictures of these two huge bass. The good news? Both are still swimming in this beautiful lake near Sebring, Florida. Yeah, FWC's Trophy Catch program does it again. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

A better loop knot? – Most fly fishers know how to tie the Perfection Loop Knot for building a leader. Here is the same knot used for connecting the bite tippet to the fly. If it works on a bait hook (seen in the video) then it'll work on a fly. My fingers are so used to tying the Vic Dunaway Uniknot I will have to retrain them to tie this knot. It looks easier and quicker, and it's smaller, too. ([Salt Strong](#))

The very best fly fishing pictures – Some of Pat Ford's excellent camera work is in here and of course they're great. Actually, all the pictures shown here are terrific. ([Midcurrent](#))

Bookmark this website – And go there often. ([Florida Council Facebook Page](#))

Fluorocarbon versus monofilament bite tippets–Fluorocarbon is expensive compared to mono. Do we really need it for our bite tippets? Personally, I'm staying with fluorocarbon until the proof is in. ([Saltwater Sportsman](#))

Temps in Boise, Idaho are cooler, too -- Fly Fishers International's annual fly fishing fair will be in beautiful Boise August 7-11. Registration is now open. The Florida Council and the Suncoast Fly Fishers will be there. Plus, Florida Council President Tom Gadacz passed the word that the Back Country Fly Fishers of Naples will be receiving the McKinzie Cup for its outstanding contributions on behalf of the FFI. ([Fly Fishers International](#))

Flip Pallot: Want to buy 8-weight line for an 8-weight rod? That's Impossible. – Once upon a time fly line weight was what the label said it was. That's no longer true, apparently, and somebody needs to fess up and take responsibility. ([TFO Rods](#))

Did you hear about the British fly fisher who caught a carp on DC's National Mall? All swollen from heavy rains, the Potomac was already full. Then, on a very high tide, water flowed in over the grass next to the Tidal Pool. So, good for the Brit. And why is this a politically-charged story? ([Fly Fisherman](#))

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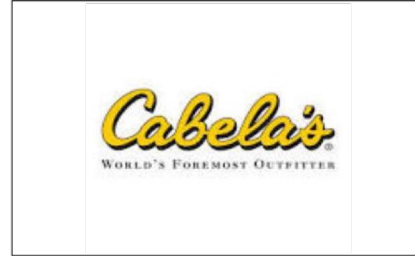
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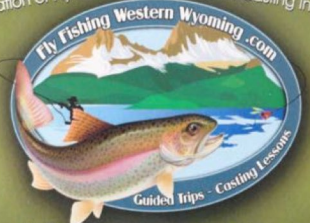


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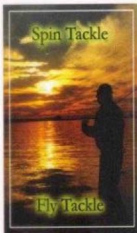
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