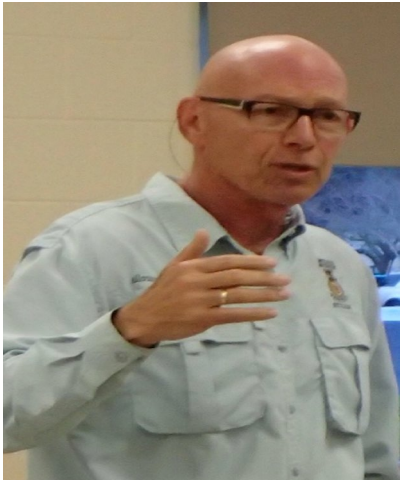


# On The Fly

*Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg*

*Promoting fly fishing, fly tying, fly casting, and marine conservation in a family fun atmosphere*



*Fly fishing teaches us about life. March meeting. P 3*



*Walsingham Lake outing P10-11*



*Paddleboard tarpon in Puerto Rico P20*

*Hog Roast and Silent Auction  
March 24, 4-8 pm  
Treasure Island Municipal Auditorium*



*Steve Huff at the Expo. P 17*



## *SFF President Letter – March 2018*

When asked about his battle plans, I read that Napoleon responded with “Show up and see what happens.”

Did Pat give us some valuable info or what? Every eye was on him and every ear was listening as he made his presentation at our February General Meeting. Thank you, Pat.

This month Dayle and Barbara Mazzarella have a presentation cooked up for us that you won't want to miss. I saw them at the FFI Expo in Crystal River. Dayle always looks like a successful fly fisherman and Barbara is as gracious and sweet as ever.

By the way, did you make it to the Expo? What a great chance to get to know our members and meet and work with members of other clubs. I have to pay tribute to Quin Berry, Robert Fisher and David Redd for quickly and efficiently working the bucket raffle. There were countless others who helped make it a success. It was a lot of fun with some pretty nice stuff.

Also, did you know that some of our members drive for over an hour to get to our meetings? I take my hat off to those of you who give of your time and energy to make this a happening place!

Did you make it to the last outing at Walsingham? It was perfect for fly fishing. Read Bob & Hilton's report as they reveal that wonderful day. The fly of the day was a popper. See the report for who caught what and how many. I witnessed Mark Hays catch a 14", 15" and 18" Bass. And that was after I got in the boat! Even before that he was slaying them. (Figure of speech. He released them unharmed.)

Does the rush of everyday life keep you from getting involved? You, the water, a fly rod and the fly that you trust make a life changing combination. It will calm your mind.

“To the mind that is still, the whole universe surrenders.” Tao Tzu

Unless it changes, in March we're going to Weedon Island. Do you have insight into what to use, where to fish, etc? Join us at the General Meeting and share it with us.

I know it's not listed as an official club outing, but many of us are looking forward to fishing the Everglades Canals April 27 and 28. Please read the info elsewhere in this fantastic Newsletter and then make plans to join us. I thought “I'll never do that.” Then Alan talked me into it and I've been for 4 years in a row. I wouldn't miss it. It is literally possible to catch 100 fish a day!

Let's fish, break bread and share stories as we take in the wonders of nature around us. And never underestimate the value of your presence in someone else's life, or someone else's in yours.

Show up and see what happens. 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, March 15, Meeting

- Speakers: Dayle and Barbara Mazzarella – *Funny fly fishing stories that teach us about life.*
- Vote for officers and board members for 2018-19
- FREE – Members only guided fly fishing trip raffle with Capt. Nick Angelo
- Tickets available for the bamboo rod raffle
- **Attention fly tiers** -- The March meeting is the last meeting before the hog roast. We need your flies for our silent auction. These flies are a very popular and an important part of our auction. Myron Hansen will be collecting flies at the March meeting. The club has boxes for your flies. Be sure to include your name with the flies you donate. Members enjoy knowing who has tied the flies they are bidding on.

### Saturday, March 17, Outing

- Weedon Island Preserve, St. Petersburg
- Outing winner goes to the person catching the longest snook
- Lunch at noon at pavilion just north of the Center parking area.
- Many park-and-wade spots. Kayak launch. Also, kayaks to rent on site.



Wade fishers – The Lookout Point Trail takes you right to the bay.

## 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 144 members including 21 family members and 5 honorary members. Annual dues are \$15, payable in September.

### FFI Charter Club.

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

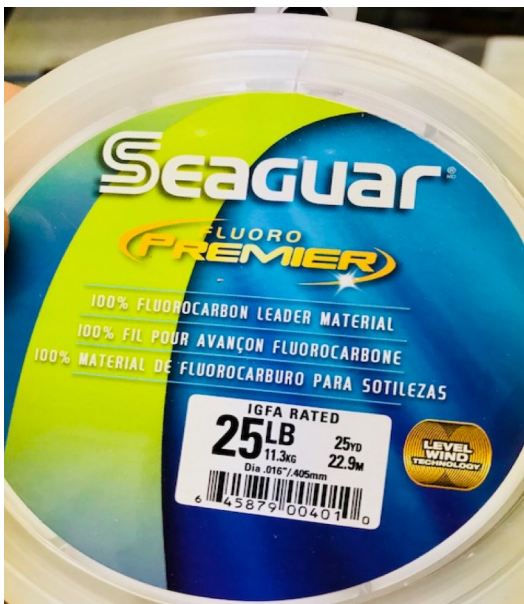


## Club Meetings and More

### Saturday, March 24, Hog Roast, 4-8 pm

- City of Treasure Island Auditorium, 120 108th Avenue, Treasure Island
- Members and guests \$20/person. Children 12 and under are free when with a paid adult.
- Raffle for the custom-made bamboo rod by Cliff Nigh and mahogany rod case made by Rick Warfel.
- FREE Members only rod raffle with paid Hog Roast ticket. Includes custom made 8 wt. rod by Alan Sewell and an Orvis Battenkill reel and line plus rod case.
- Tickets on sale now. Sign up at a meeting or club event; Contact Karen Warfel by phone 813-505-3162 or email her at [kmwarfel@yahoo.com](mailto:kmwarfel@yahoo.com) ; or you may mail a check to Suncoast Fly Fishers, P. O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743

### Get ready to bid at the silent auction tables



*Seaguar's top of the line bite tippet*



*Cabela's 8-weight Synch fly combo*



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### Saturday, March 24, Orlando Fly Casting for Youth

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

*Tom Gadacz*



## Club Meetings and More

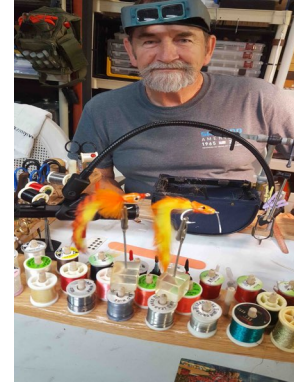
### Thursday, March 22 free fly tying with Bruce Evensen

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

#### March 22: Tie the foam *Crease Fly* for jack crevalle

Bring these materials...

- Hook: Long shank such as Mustad S74SNP-DT size 1 to 3/0
- Thread: Choice
- Body: 2 mm sticky back white foam colored with permanent markers
- Eyes: Self stick prismatic, large
- Tail: bucktail or calf tail and flash
- Other: Zap a Gap epoxy



Bruce Evensen and his "snook snagger" fly.

Photos by Bill Scarola.



Thirteen Suncoast Fly Fishers tied flies at the February session at Bruce's home. Next class, March 22,, 6-8 pm.

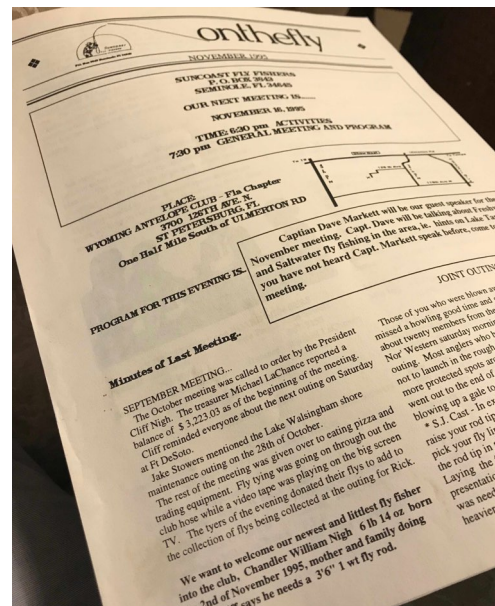
Your  
*Mugshot*  
picture goes here

### COMING SOON: SUNCOAST FLY FISHER MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY WITH PHOTOS

Rick Warfel is taking charge of a project to create a printed directory

of members of Suncoast Fly Fishers that includes our pictures. So, email Rick ([RH\\_Warfel@yahoo.com](mailto:RH_Warfel@yahoo.com)) a head shot photo of yourself at an early opportunity. If you don't have a picture of yourself then strike a pose for one of the "official photographers" at the meeting. *Rick*

### 1995 Oldie but Goodie



## Club Meetings and More

### Monday, April 16, Introduction to Fly Casting with Tom Gadacz

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

### Thursday, April 19, Meeting

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

### Saturday, April 21, Outing

- Sunshine Skyway South Rest Area
- 

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

- Discounted rooms at Holiday Inn Express in Plantation
  - Fish fry Saturday with members of Cocoa's Florida Fly Fishers
- 



Alan Sewell, E-glades canal bass

### Green Thumb Festival, Sunday, April 29, 1 to 1:45 pm, Walter Fuller Park

- Suncoast Fly Fishers will teach fly casting and fly tying in the new Green Thumb Festival. Tom Gadacz will staff our club booth.
- 

### Thursday, May 17, Meeting

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

### Saturday, May 19, Outing

- Fort De Soto Park, Tierra Verde
- 

### On the Horizon...

- Fall Casting Carnival in October Rick, Tom and Bob
- Catch 100 smallmouth bass in a day. Lac la Croix, Ontario. Michael Simmons

### Karen Warfel: Has your membership lapsed?

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

*Karen*

## Club Meetings and More

### **Free raffle entry: you could win a free guided trip with Captain Nick Angelo**

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](mailto:rh_warfel@yahoo.com) or by phone/text at 813-523-0692.

Drawing at the  
March meeting:  
Who will win the  
free trip with  
Capt. Nick  
Angelo?

### **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 24<sup>th</sup>, Or Contact Karen Warfel by phone 813-505-3162 or email [kmwarfel@yahoo.com](mailto:kmwarfel@yahoo.com). Our thanks to Cliff Nigh, Rick Warfel and St. Pete Outfitters for making this possible.





## Club Meetings and More

### A lot of time and work went into this. Thank you, Bob Burkard

Bob Burkard, the outings chairman, has created spreadsheets with details about our club meetings, events, and outings going back a number of years. They will be very helpful in deciding future programs and outings. Members can view them online. See below.

[Click here to view meetings and events online](#)

Year	Month	Meeting Date	Speaker / Meeting
2017	August	8/17/17	Tie-A-Thon
2017	September	9/21/17	Dan Lagace: Fly Casting with either hand
2017	October	10/19/17	Rodney Smith: Anglers for Conservation
2017	November	11/17/17	C.A. Richardson - Flats Fishing
2017	December		No Meeting
2018	January	1/18/18	Trash & Treasures: Alan Sewell
2018	February	2/15/18	Pat Damico
2018	March	3/15/18	Dale Mazzarella
2018	April	4/19/18	Walt Durkin
2018	May	5/17/18	Myron Hanson
2018	June	6/21/18	
2018	July	7/19/18	

[Click here to view outings online](#)

Year	Month	Date	Weather	Type of Fish Caught
2007	January	1/20/07	Cold and windy	Trout, Ladyfish, Redfish
2007	February	2/17/07	Cold	Redfish
2007	March	3/17/07	Very Windy	Bass, Snook
2007	April	4/21/07	Very Windy	Sunfish
2007	May	5/19/07	Very Windy	Snook
2007	June	6/23/07	Very Windy	Trout, Ladyfish, Redfish
2007	July	7/14/07	Rainy	Bass, Sunfish
2007	August	8/25/07	Great Weather - cool breeze	Trout, Ladyfish
2007	September	9/15/07	Thunder and Lightning storm shortened outing	Spanish Mackerel, Trout, Ladyfish
2007	October	10/20/07	lots of fish caught	Bass, Bluegill, Sunfish
2007	November	11/17/07	Cold Front	Trout
2007	December	12/15/07	Chilly, but not too cold	Trout, Snook, Barracuda
2008	January	1/19/08	Nice Weather - rain held off, fog to start	Ladyfish, Trout, Flounder

## Used Gear: Sellers, buyers, swappers

### Robert Fischer has only two fly rods left for sale.

Fenwick Ironfeather 9-foot 5-weight. New cost was \$200. Sale price \$60. Loomis GL3 8.5-foot 5 weight. New cost \$300. Sale price \$120. Call him at 813-495-5685 and he will bring it to the meeting for your inspection.

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

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

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

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

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

# ***We are Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg, Florida***



## **Suncoast Fly Fishers**

P. O. Box 40821  
St Petersburg, FL 33743  
[www.suncoastflyfishers.org](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.org)

### **Club Officers**

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

### **Board of Directors**

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 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N turn North on 72<sup>nd</sup> St. N. Turn left (South) on 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue N. Then turn right into the rec center parking lot.

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

**Join. Renew. Application**  
**Membership renewals in September**  
**[www.suncoastflyfishers.com](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com)**

## February Outing: Walsingham Park Lake



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

### Walsingham Park Lake Saturday, February 17

The day started a little cool with a fine mist in the air. Paddling and casting soon warmed up for those who came to fish. Those that choose to claim our pavilion and chew the fat with a little added coffee enjoyed the same air. A perfect Florida winters day.

A member who considers Walsingham to be his backyard pond let it be known that the south-most shore is where the big bass lurk. A popper played very slowly will cause the water to explode (so he says a little too late for those new to the lake).



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

Fish were caught! The largest bass – an 18-incher -- was taken by Mark Hays on a white popper. There was a tie for the largest bream with both Quin Berry (on a white popper) and Tony Piazza (a black and yellow popper) claiming an 8" fish. Both poppers were described as "small".

Subs and salad helped the post fishing conversation flow. Camaraderie kept us together until around 1:30. Jan and I intend to go back and try the south end soon.

*Hilton*



*Mark Hays with his prize winning, 18-inch bass. It was a beautiful day, said his Gheenoe partner George Haseltine. "Mark also caught a 14 and a 15 inch bass. They loved his white popper. It had a weed guard on it so he could put it way up into the lily pads."*

### 2018 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS

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



## Outing snapshots: Walsingham Park Lake

Photos by Bill AuCoin, Woody Miller, Rick Warfel, Tony Piazza, Jack Collins



*With views like this, and with fishy-looking shorelines, every cast is a winner.*



*Tony Piazza caught this 8-inch bream. He shares the outing and annual tournament lead with Quin Berry.*



*George Haseltine at the helm. Mark Hays in front caught the winning bass.*



*Rick Warfel's bass was just a tad short. Still, it's a nice bigmouth memory.*



*Jack Collins' bream wasn't the longest of the day but it was the prettiest. He caught it on Bruce Evensen's bead chain cow tail fly. Prediction: Jack will tie a bream fly matching these colors.*



*Alan Sewell staffed the trolling motor while Peter Cline manned the stern and enjoyed the scenery.*

## March 17 Outing: Weedon Island Preserve, St. Petersburg

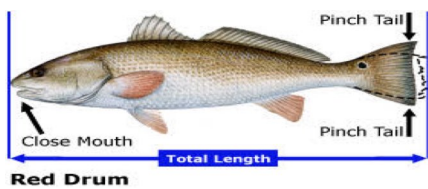
- The outing prize will be awarded to the person catching and submitting a photo of the longest snook.
- Also shoot pictures of redfish, ladyfish, and speckled trout to submit for the annual contest
- Lunch will be served at noon at the pavilion located on the north side of the main parking lot
- Kayak/canoe launch is next to the fishing pier. You can also rent a kayak on site at Sweetwater Kayaks.
- There are many wade-in and fish locations.



*Launch your kayak next to the pier. Rent kayaks at Sweetwater Kayaks. Wade in anywhere. Lunch is at the pavilion just north of the main parking area.*

### Shoot pictures of your longest fish

To submit an entry to the longest fish contests, we are asking for a photo and a brief update on the fly used so this information can be shared in our newsletter. Email the photo and other details (fly, tide, etc. ) to Bob Burkard at [robertburkard9@gmail.com](mailto:robertburkard9@gmail.com).



*Bob Burkard and Hilton Bruch*

## George Haseltine: Everglades Canal Outing , April 27-29

Rooms: Holiday Inn Express Plantation (The LaQuinta we usually stay at is booked solid, both sides of the street.) 954-472-5600 Call this number and ask for reservations. They will transfer you.

243 Miles, 3 ½ Hour Drive, about 5 miles from where we usually stay in Sawgrass, Sunrise  
1701 North University Drive, Plantation FL 33322

Rate: \$119.00 per night plus 12% tax. Deluxe continental breakfast. Estimated: \$293.32 for 2 nights  
\$146.66 each for 2 people in a room. The breakfast is worth it!

Return on investment: Unmeasurable. You'll be a different person when you get back.

Rooms: A few remaining rooms are available for 4/27 & 28. Individuals are responsible for booking your own rooms. 2 Double Beds, Leisure, Nonsmoking. Free deluxe continental breakfast 6:00 to 10:00 AM

If you want to book a room for Wednesday and/or Thursday night there are a few available. If they quote you a different rate, please let me know and I will email my contact person there and straighten it out for you. Group Code: SCF (Specify when booking your room to get the rate)

Time Frame: Reservations must be made on or before March 27,2018 to get preferred rate.

Cancellation: By 6:00 PM the first night of your reservation

Cancellation Policy: Canceling your reservation after 6:00 PM (local hotel time) on 27 April, 2018, or failing to show, will result in a charge equal to the first night's stay per room to your credit card.

Taxes may apply. Failing to call or show before check-out time after the first night of a reservation will result in cancellation of the remainder of your reservation.

Fish Fry: Saturday 04/28/2018 with Cocoa Club and possibly others. Need to know how many would attend and who would head up our part of it. Others will cook. We help catch and clean fish and provide plates, condiments, potato salad, water melon, etc.

Please join us for this annual event. It is a great fly fishing experience with the added bonus of hanging out with our members and developing a greater sense of who we are and what we can do. Please make your reservations early. I had to secure these rooms with my credit card under the agreement that I would guarantee at least 85% booking.

Pair up with someone who has a kayak, Gheenoe or other boat. There are spots where you can fish from the banks if you don't have a boat. Boats available to rent at Holiday Park.

If we get enough interest, I would like to have a special meeting with those of you who are interested. We would discuss rides (rent a van?), tackle, flies, best canals, dinner Friday Night, fish fry on Saturday and everything else to make this a great experience.

This trip will help satisfy your sense of adventure. You haven't lost it, have you?

*George*

George Haseltine, SFF President 2016-17

Ghh343@aol.com 727-423-8110 Leave voice mail or text me. I want to hear what you think!



## E-Glade Canal Outing: What you need to know, by Paul Sequeira



Paul Sequeira

### What's the Story on Fishing the Everglades?

{Editor's Note: Here are some savvy snippets from a Paul Sequeira article that has appeared in several past issues of *On The Fly*.}

**Where do we fish in the Everglades?** The canals right along Alligator Alley (I-75) in the general vicinity (about 5 miles west of the tollbooth) of the intersection with Route 27. This is known as the Miami Canal system. As you are traveling east on Alligator Alley you will see pull-offs from the highway with parking lots and boat ramps on both the north and south sides of the roadway. They are located near mile markers 31, 32, 38 and 41. Also, there are three boat ramps along Rt 27 (north of I-75) giving you access to these north/south-running canals. This is known as the New River Canal system. Somewhat further north on Rt 27 is another excellent fairly new canal access called Holey Land with plenty of parking and a first class boat ramp.

Go to Google Earth to view these locations. A listing of boat ramp locations along with GPS coordinates can be found at the website "Inshore Boat Ramps in SE Florida, Broward County" <http://www.inshore.com/br-brwd.html> The ramps we are interested in are the last three entries in the list.

Everglades Holiday Park has excellent access to a large canal system (the New River Canal - South system) and is located off Rt 27 (about 5 miles south of I-75) on Griffin Road (the first traffic light you come to on Rt 27). There are boats with outboard motors available for rent here. Go to <http://www.evergladesholidaypark.com/> for more information and excellent directions and map.

**Can you wade fish in the Glades?** The short answer is no. Although the water depth in the canals varies depending upon rainfall and how much water is being released into them, the average depth is said to be approximately 18' to 20'. Also, there are many very large alligators that claim residence in the canals and everything swimming there can be of great interest to them.

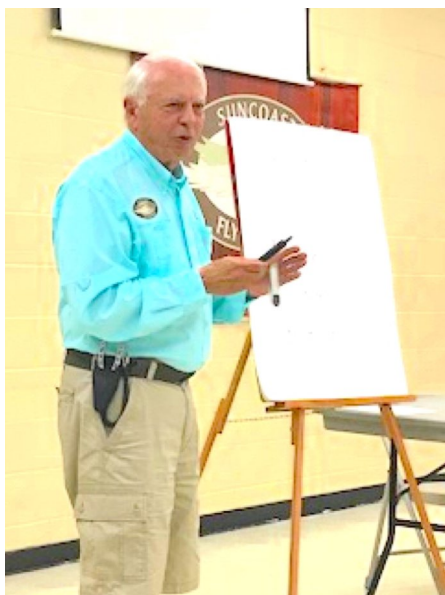
**What kind of boat is needed?** Canoes, Gheenoes and boats under 18' are excellent choices. Because of the large alligators resident in the canals, kayaks may not be a good choice. Due to the condition and size of some of the boat ramps, boats in excess of 18' may not be the best choice for the canals. An electric trolling motor in addition to your outboard motor is very helpful. Jon boats with outboard motors can be rented at Everglades Holiday Park; however, these boats cannot be removed from this canal system. This is not a handicap, I have hooked my largest bass to date in this canal, and there are also peacock bass in this canal system.

**What size fly rod is recommended?** Any 4 or 5 weight fly rod in whatever length you are comfortable with will work. Long casts are not necessary when fishing the canals. In most of them, if you run your boat down the middle, you can easily cast to either side of the canal. If you enjoy throwing larger poppers, a 6 weight rod is helpful.

**What flies are recommended?** Everyone has their favorite flies for bream and bass fishing; but if I could have only one fly to fish the Glades, it would be a white foam spider or beetle tied on #8 or #10 hooks. Many flies work, in fact I don't know of any fly that doesn't work in the Glades. I like to fish top water and in addition to the foam spiders and beetles, I really enjoy fishing poppers in white or yellow colors, on #6, #8 or #10 hooks. However, the fish don't seem to have a color preference; I know that chartreuse and fluorescent pink poppers also work very well. The determining factor seems to be whatever color you can see best. I have also found small Clousers to be very productive when you find schools of bass chasing small minnows. You'll often find this situation around little creek-like runoffs into the canals. I like the Little Brown River Clouser but I'm sure other colors such as gray/white etc would work just as well. I have had success with weighted nymphs such as Jim's Bead Head Nymph and Bully's Bluegill Spider. Most of the flies mentioned here are described in the fly tying section of SFF's website [www.suncoastflyfishers.com](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com)

**What kind of fish can I expect to catch in the Everglades?** Bluegills, redear sunfish, spotted sunfish, warmouths etc, largemouth bass, peacock bass, bowfin, Florida gar, Oscars, and Mayan cichlids are the fish most commonly caught. For an incredible list of fish commonly found in Everglades waters go to <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/SouthFlorida/everglades.html>

## February meeting: Capt. Pat Damico Makes it Easel



*Capt. Pat Damico led an all-things-considered give-and-take at the February meeting.*

Captain Pat Damico shared his expertise and elicited some savvy insights from other members at the February meeting. He's been at it a long time. (He started fishing when he was 10.0 Here are some short-takes from the give-and-take. Thank you, Pat.

**HOW DOES A GUIDE DECIDE WHERE TO FISH?** Best spots change. So many variables – wind, tides. Water temperature is huge. Watch for life—birds, nervous water, rays, baitfish,

**MOON PHASE.** To hell with the moon phase, said Alan Sewell. "I go at 6 am at any tide. I love negative tides.". Because, it's easier to find the fish. Duh.

**WADING SPOTS:** learn the sting-ray shuffle, said Pat. Capt. Ray Markham reminded members to wear a tight belt around the waders so if they step into a deep hole their waders won't fill with water. Yeah. Keep moving, too. Because ... stuck-in-muck.

**FULL MOON:** Captain Ray Markham's rule of thumb. If skies are clear, fish feed at night. If skies are cloudy, they feed the next day.

**BEACH SNOOK** – You can't go wrong with a chartreuse and white Clouser. Pat's tilt in the winter is brown over orange. And mud minnows. Plus, clear, sinking line. **Capt. Dan Malzone** used to say, --"Down and brown."

**RETRIEVES:** Capt. Pat said if you can't see the fly then watch the end of your fly line.



*Bill Scarola tied this heavy breather, the Yellow Shiner.*

Remember: slack is your enemy. Pat said he likes to make long, slow strips to keep line the line tight.

Keep rod tip on the water. If you're fishing a crab fly and miss a strike, let it sink. That's what real crabs do. Pat likes sinking lines.

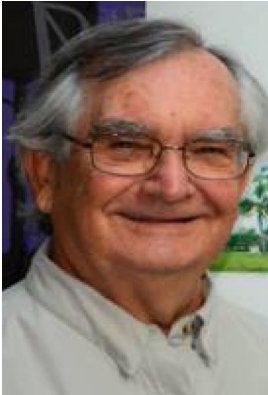
**HOOKS.** Pat smashes down the barb. Alan said he ties flies with a circle hook and it's working. Smitty said think small on hook size. He doesn't see any need for anything bigger than a size 2. But do big fish like small flies? Well, answered Pat, quoting our patron saint Carl Hanson, "Does an elephant eat a peanut?"

**KNOTS:** Pat likes to tie a loop knot to the fly. **Homer Rhode knot** is his favorite. Whatever knot you use, though, learn to tie it quickly and learn to tie it even in tough conditions. Tighten it with pliers.



*Capt. Pat Damico tied his Mud Minnow at the February meeting.*

## Tom Gadacz: 2018 Fly Fishing Expo



*Tom Gadacz,  
President, Florida  
Council, Fly Fishers*

### President's Message

If you wanted to know everything about fly fishing, casting, fly tying, and conservation issues in two days, **YOU MISSED IT!!** You missed the 2018 FFI FL Council EXPO at the Plantation on Crystal River.

Steve Huff gave great programs on how he participated in setting fly fishing records and winning a place in the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame.

Jon Cave would have helped you put your fly on the target with his turnover cast.

Know how to select the best fly line for your situation? Frank Catino gave you a lot of the answers.

When you wade the flats, do all the fish scatter? Leigh West shared his tips for stealth on the flats.

These are just a few examples of what you missed. The amount of fly fishing knowledge was incredible! There were 22 general programs, 13 casting programs, and featured fly tiers with four special fly tying, small group programs.

Women fly fishers had special programs and casting sessions learning: how to catch tarpon, history of women in fly fishing, Peggy Brenner tying the Grey Ghost, and a Saturday morning breakfast.

A high school student group -- the Strikers -- visited the Expo and some participated in fly casting. The Casting Board provided an opportunity for those interested in Casting Certification.

### It was all there at EXPO 2018

Fly fishing events such as the FFI Florida Council Expo is made possible by the great volunteers and members we have in our organization. Captain Pete Greenan, David Olson, Karen and Rick Warfel, George Haseltine, and Craig Smothers put together a great event which was promoted by Bill AuCoin and M. E. DePalma. Tom Logan, Chair of the FFI Board of Directors conducted the FFI Board meeting the Thursday before our event.

We thank all those who volunteered and the Exhibitors for their support. Your support for fly fishing, our Florida Council, and Fly Fishers International is greatly appreciated.

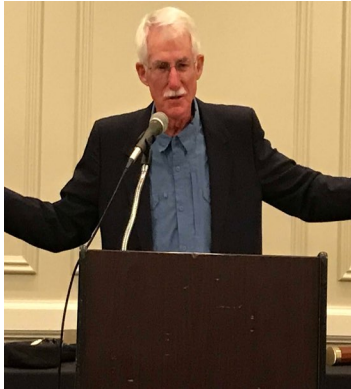
Support your local clubs and become a FFI Member.

*Tom*

Tom Gadacz, President  
Florida Council  
Fly Fishers International



## Capt. Steve Huff: 2018 Fly Fishing Expo Headliner



*Capt. Steve Huff told fly fishers about his 50-year Florida flats guiding career helping many clients earn IGFA fly rod records.*

*When I was 10 or so I caught a little snook. I was hooked. After that my mind was all fishing. I just wanted to catch a fish. It was the beginning of the rest of my life.*

*Guiding is not a path to riches but it is a path to richness.*

*Guiding is a great challenge. A huge puzzle. Every day you try to put the puzzle together.*

*You can ask Alexa a million things but she'll never figure out flats fishing.*

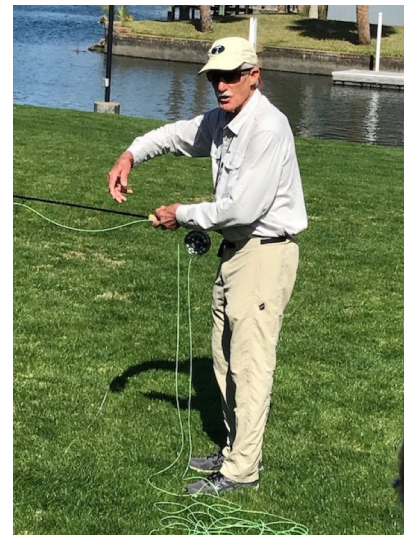
*I am the luckiest guy I know. The luckiest guy in the world is me.*

Capt. Steve Huff, Feb. 10, 2018 - 2018 Florida Fly Fishing Expo - Plantation on Crystal River

## Steve Huff: You're on the bow. Take a Bow

- This is sight casting. Usually it's a 50-foot cast or less. But...learn to cast 100-feet. That makes the 50-foot cast real easy.
- Calculate wind direction and speed so you know where to place the fly. You want to learn to do this automatically so you don't even need to think about it.
- The most important thing is not to get tangled up at the start. Never shoot lots of line then let go of it.
- Hold the fly by the feathers with some enough line out of the rod tip to make a short roll cast. Stay vigilant. See a fish? Do the roll cast motion and bring the casting hand down on the rod hand. That's your signal to let go of the fly and to grip the fly line, all in the same motion. Now do one false cast and go for the gold.
- Never strip more line than you can cast or need to cast.
- The guide says 10 o'clock at 40 feet. But what if you don't see that fish? Cast anyway.
- Windy day? Raise your elbow and cast over your head.
- Fishing in Florida is tough. You know what? I like it.

###



*Steve Huff demonstrated quick cast techniques at the 2018 Florida Fly Fishing Expo. Sandy Moret, his good friend and a premier flats fly fishing instructor, has described him as "without question, the top fly fishing guide on the planet."*

## Snapshots: 2018 Fly Fishing Expo



*That's Bruce Evensen on the left overseeing his table of flies and other shiny objects for sale at the Fly Fishing Expo. (Photo by Bill Scarola)*



*Robert Fischer (l) chats it up with longtime supporter and Special Club member Jim Swann of Jim Swann's Fly Shop in Dade City. (Bill Scarola)*



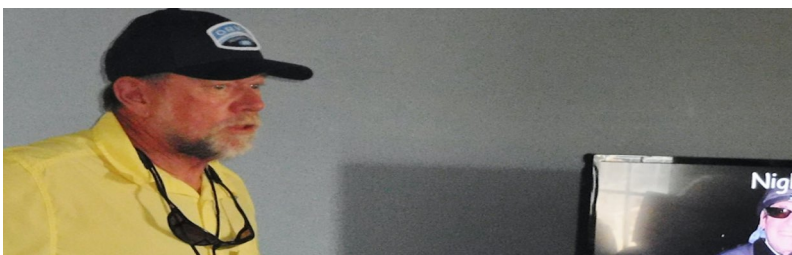
*Dave Olson on how to fly fish from a paddleboard. (Tom Gadacz photo)*



*Featured tier Peggy Brenner ties the "Grey Ghost" (Tom Gadacz photo)*



*Tom Logan, BT&T's Nick Roberts, Harold Brewer (Tom Gadacz photo)*



*Orvis guide, Sarasota's Rick Grasset—Fishing for snook at night. He's the man. (Tom Gdacz photo)*



*Paul Bruun introduced his longtime friend Steve Huff. (Bill AuCoin photo)*



## *Tying Bench*    Layne Smith Ties the “Undcvr”

NOTE: This fly can be tied in other colors such as Chartreuse and Yellow, or Browns, Olives and Tans for back-country mangroves, Black and Purple for Tarpon, or colors to imitate Threadfin. You can even tie the infamous Electric Chicken!!!

### **Materials:**

Hook: Daiichi 2546 size #2

Thread: Danville Flatwaxed Nylon

Bonefish Pink Tail: Ostrich Herl white (use 2 feathers, concave sides facing)

Flash: Flashabou Pearl, Krystal Flash UV

Pearl Wing: Ostrich Herl white Belly: White bucktail

Overwing: White bucktail

Head: Thread wraps coated w/ Pink Loon Hard Head or SHHAN and x-fine glitter Eyes: 1/8" Fluorescent fly eyes (3mm)

Overcoat: Solarez UV Resin



### **Tying Sequence:**

1. Place hook in vise and lay down a base wrap of thread from hook eye to bend of hook creating a thread ball just above the barb.
2. Take the two ostrich feathers and turn concave sides facing. Cut off 20 to 30 barbs, tapering the tips and tie in just in front of thread ball measuring them to about twice the hook shank length. Wrap thread backwards to meet thread ball. Trim off butt ends.
3. Attach 4 strands of Flashabou around tying thread and secure on top of the herl. Trim to just slightly longer than herl.
4. Repeat steps 2 & 3 this time using the “vee” method lay flash down the sides of the herl. As you tie in second bunch of herl just in front of the first bunch, use the “thread ramp” to elevate herl creating a bulkier presentation. Again trim flash slightly longer than the herl.
5. After tying the Flashabou down the sides of the herl, tie in about 5 or 6 strands of Krystal Flash and lay back over the top of the herl in the same manner as the Flashabou in step 3 and trim the same. Finish with a thread ramp over this material that extends no farther than the halfway point of hook. Return thread back to end of tie in point.
6. Rotate vise 180 degrees or turn hook over in vise. Select a small bunch of tapered bucktail (about a half a pencils width) and tie in as belly extending past the hook bend but shorter than the herl tail. Keep forward thread wraps to a minimum as you need to leave room for the head of the fly. DO NOT trim excess bucktail at this time.
7. Return fly to upright position and tie on the overwing of bucktail to measure the same length as the belly using looser wraps so you can spread the overwing evenly around the top of the fly. After overwing is distributed evenly, finish with tighter wraps that end with thread at starting point of belly thread wraps. Lock with a half-hitch.
8. Start trimming the excess bucktail in small bunches tapering them towards hook eye. Rotating the vise continue to trim the sides and bottom of the bucktail so that you finish with a nice tapered ramp for the thread wraps as you build a thread head for the fly.
9. After you have built up a nice thread head, whip finish and cut thread.
10. Coat finished head with Loon Pink Hard Head or Pink SHHAN. Allow to set slightly and then sprinkle with a little glitter and lightly press into the head.

*Smitty*

## Nathan Suedmeyer: Tarpon Weekender in Puerto Rico



*Nathan Suedmeyer with one of ten tarpon on the fly in PR.*

Member Nathan Suedmeyer traveled to Puerto Rico with friend Brian Kopec from North Carolina. The boys landed ten tarpon on the fly during their weekender.

Casting to the sunset bite from the paddleboard was the most exciting. Brian landed the biggest fish of the trip just after the sun went down. Puerto Rico has recovered well from Hurricane Maria. Go visit!

*Nathan*



*Oh yeah -- jumping tarpon, pumping heart. Good snap, fotog.*



*Nathan's friend Brian Kopec from NC with one of the after dark poons.*





## Mike Larkin: Shad fishing on the St. Johns River

On February 8 I fly fished for shad on the St. Johns River. I launched from C.S. Lee Park in Geneva, then traveled one mile south of the mouth of the Econlockhatchee River.

After 6 hours of fishing my fishing buddy boated eight shad with a small Mirrolure. I stayed with the fly rod and boated six shad and one sunshine bass with minnow imitation flies that I borrowed from fellow member Robert Fischer.

I used a 7-weight with Scientific Angler's wet cell sinking fly line.

*Mike*



*Mike Larkin would like to thank fellow member Robert Fischer for the flies that caught his St. Johns River shad.*

## Dennis Marquis: Indian Key Seatrout



*Dennis Marquis and one of several fat seatrout that he caught on an orange and white Clouser fly fishing the grass flats surrounding Indian Key.*

I caught several nice seatrout on the south side of Indian Key on an orange and white Clouser.

*Dennis*



*Dennis Marquis: Have fly rod, will travel. Along the way he promises to give us fishing reports.*

## Marquis follows the weather...

Dennis Marquis and his wife Cindy have sold their St Petersburg home and will be living full time from now until November in their Tiffin Allegro motorhome. They will spend March in Cudjoe Key, April in Crystal River, May in Apalachicola, and June traveling up the east coast, landing in Lynchburg, Virginia. In July and August they'll be traveling through the Blue Ridge Mountains. Then they go "home" to Pennsylvania and New Jersey for September and October. They plan to be back in St Pete in early November and Dennis said he will re-connect with club members. "I really enjoy the club," he said.

## James Davis: Fat seatrout off Dunedin

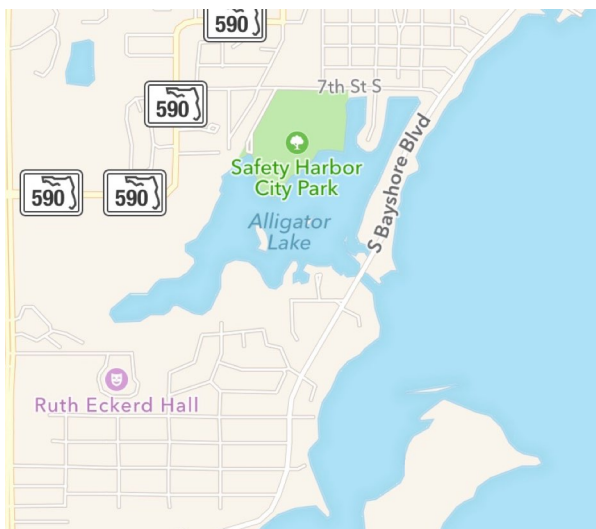


I caught this seatrout off Dunedin using a shrimp pattern.

*James*

## Terry Kirkpatrick: Bamboo 4 weight battles bream

Sunday I decided to fish Alligator Creek in mid-Pinellas. It feeds the lake. I haven't fished anywhere but the dam for over a year so I headed out to the Long Center to see how the upper part of Alligator was. The creeks aren't very big there but it's beautiful if you can get down to the water.



I parked, walked over to the bike path, and saw the sign that read... "Park Closed March 2018 to November 2018." Wha?

*Continued on next page*

## Continued...Terry Kirkpatrick explores Alligator Lake

The place is covered with surveyors' stakes and 2x4s holding black plastic curtains. You can't get down to the creek without breaking several laws. Apparently someone's got some money to spend.

My next stop was the west Frisbee golf course. The parking lot was overflowing. Apparently they were having some kind of a tournament. Too many people; too many Frisbees. The creek did look like it's trying to fight back from the bulldozer that ruined it about four years ago. I didn't see any fish, probably because of all the flying Frisbees, overhead.

Next was the east Frisbee golf course. It must have had the overflow from the other course. Fishing the shore isn't easy so unless you 're in a canoe or a kayak Alligator's hard to fish there.

Frisbees and back casts don't mix.

So I ended up by the dam. It was a beautiful start of a beautiful evening. I rigged the 6.5-foot bamboo 4-weight and tied on an orange sponge spider.

I worked the upstream side of the dam, and could see movement under the bug. One of the shadows turned out to be a bass; it looked like it would go 12 to 16 inches. I worked it for a while, but it seemed to lose interest and then a little 6 or 7 inch bream came up to play. He took the spider and it was a lot of fun on the 4 weight.

When I got him in, I realized he was more like 8 to 10 inches! So I've got to re size that bass!

*Terry*



### **What's so great about a bamboo rod?**

**Ask Terry**, chief honcho at "Fish Tested Fly Rods.

Slogan: *Bamboo rods for the rest of us*

## Bob Morrison: How-To Tips and One Fishy Factoid



**Predators do what predators do.** Water temps are rising to over 70 degrees. Schools of baitfish have returned to the shallows and so have the predators we are after. So look sharp.

**Snook are making the move.** Find them in creek mouths and adjacent flouts and entrances to large drainage pipes. Choose your flies according to the small critters that you see moving in the water whether baitfish, crabs or shrimp.

**Lures shake the trees; flies rake the leaves.** Mullet and pilchard imitations are good. It's early in the season so most baitfish will be small. Explore with the spinning rod and plug to find them, then use your fly rod to put the sneak on them.

**Got a strong current?** Free-lining your fly is a good idea if you are in a boat just as you would live bait and there is a current strong enough to take your fly away from you, just like when you're freelining bait. A little chumming at this point won't hurt either.

**Elephants eat peanuts, right?** Mullet schools are attracting redfish mixed in with the seatrout on the flats. Again, watch the size of your baitfish fly and do not size it too big. Remember as Pat Damico told us the other night, big elephants will stop to eat a tiny peanut. Right, Pat?

**Who knew?** Fish like wavy skirts. Seatrout fishing is very hot right now. They are holding around the bridges and the shallows as they follow the mullet on and off the flats. Try surface flies – poppers, Gartside gurglers, etc. Also try some surface flies with wavy plastic skirts. The guys who use them tell me they work.

### **And one fishy factoid**

A two-week old humpback whale already weighs over two tons. Got a fly for that?

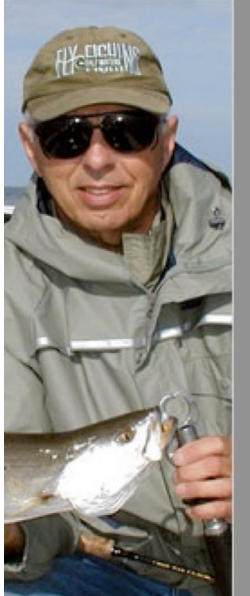
*Go get 'em and good luck.*

*Bob*



## Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip #97

### Sinking line: you'll cast better and catch more fish, too



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

Anyone who has fished with me, either fresh or salt water, knows I always have a sink tip fly line with me. On my boat, one of my rods is always rigged with a clear sink tip tropical line. When I have a new client who is having casting issues because of large loops, handing them a rod with a sink tip line immediately gives them better results. They often say, "I like this rod better!" Tight loops, always a goal with floating lines, are a disaster when weight, either with the line, with a heavy fly, or both, are brought into the equation. Slowing the casting stroke, enlarging the casting arc or angle and learning a continuous tension or Belgium cast will give you a smooth delivery when weight is added. Your fly will get to fish that are deeper very effectively.

*Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach*

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

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

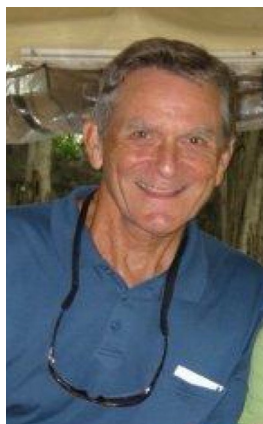
## Tampa Bay Times : Captain's Corner

### Enjoy a Time of Strong Inshore Fishing

After our varied winter conditions, we are enjoying exceptional inshore fishing. Many snowbirds as well as local fly fishermen are finally having some fantastic shallow water fishing due to mild weather and warmer water. Baitfish are plentiful, and trout, redfish, ladyfish and snook are taking advantage of easy pickings. Return to places that have produced under similar conditions for you in the past. The difference between a good day and a fantastic one will often depend on a fly fisher's experience — how well he can cast, control line, detect a strike, play a fish, deal with the wind and maximize keeping a fly in the fish's zone for the longest period. Baitfish fly patterns are ideal, allowing you to cover larger areas successfully. Cast to a target, concentrating on irregularities such as offsets in the grass, sand holes and dropoffs. Pick an active grassy flat where there is a lot of bird activity. Birds diving for bait or wading and snatching baitfish, crabs and shrimp will lead you to the fish that enjoy the same menu. Minimize noise, movement, bright clothes, creating waves and unnecessary casting. If very windy, use a sea anchor to slow your drift using tides and wind to your advantage. Find the water depth that is holding the most fish and use that as your pattern. Many fish will be in large groups, so deploy your anchoring system whenever several fish are located.

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

## Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



**What to do about *Old Tampa Bay*?** Take a look at the chart showing how the bay's water quality has improved so much since 1975. However, Old Tampa Bay, which includes all the water north of Gandy Bridge, is a laggard. The usual suspect: runoff. We also need more natural filters like oysters and bivalves. An old friend of mine who was around then told me that when they built the Courtney Campbell Causeway in the 1930s some anglers didn't want a bridge. They wanted to dredge-up muck so the causeway would cross all the way from Clearwater to Tampa. No bridge at all. No saltwater flow at all. That way, they said, the water north of the causeway would become an amazing "lake." And that's a good thing? ([The Fishing Wire](#))

**A medical update on the man who needs no introduction** – "My doctor and best friend experimented with medicines and said, 'I'm going to try to keep you around.' So far it's working. I'm confined to my home, hooked to oxygen and have little stamina. My daughter and son are taking constant care of me and no father was more blessed. Several computer projects keep me busy. There have been ups and downs with some additional surgery, which is slowly getting better. There is no guarantee on how long I'll be here but I am so humbled and grateful for all your wonderful messages. All The Best, Lefty" ([Midcurrent](#))

**When Lefty met Joe Brooks** – It seems fly fishing legend Joe Brooks, who died in 1971, had some hard drinking, hard-living off-the-grid years. Then he pulled it all together and became one of our fly fishing legends. Along the way he inspired a young man who also became a fly fishing legend. A 90-minute documentary will tell the story. It will be out in June. ([Baltimore Sun](#))

**Finally, saltwater anglers are getting some respect.** The sausage makers in D.C. (sort of) admit now that the federal fisheries management system laws have favored commercial fishing and have been stacked against anglers for many years. Somebody told them about the huge amount of money that recreational anglers spend and its boost to employment, etc. That got their attention. Tip your hat to the CEO's of Bass Pro Shops and Maverick Boats for lighting this fire. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

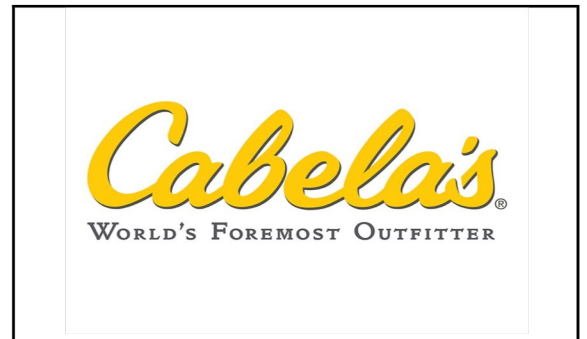
**Two fly fishers have "The Talk"**—The tarpon talk, that is. I missed Andy Mill at the Florida Fly Expo a couple of years ago. They say he was terrific. I did see and learn from Steve Huff at this year's expo. Yeah. He was terrific, too. ([Midcurrent](#))

**One bad apple can ruin a bushel** – L. L. Bean is ending its lifetime return policy. Because? Too many fraudulent returns. A few bad apples even sent back L. L. Bean gear they bought from third parties at yard sales. But here's another worrisome thing: according to the grapevine, other fly gear brands are considering ending their lifetime guarantee policies, too. ([Quartz Media](#))

**You can't fool a fly fisher** -- Remember when Brad Pitt made that amazing fly cast in the movie? Me neither. Here's the backstory about that super long fly cast in *A River Runs Through It*, written by the real star of that movie, Jason Borger. ([Fly Fisherman](#))

**Here snookie, snookie** –Great fighters. Easy to clean and good to eat. March and April are two of my favorite months. Remember the slot: 28-33 inches. Also, remember to buy a snook stamp. ([My FWC](#))

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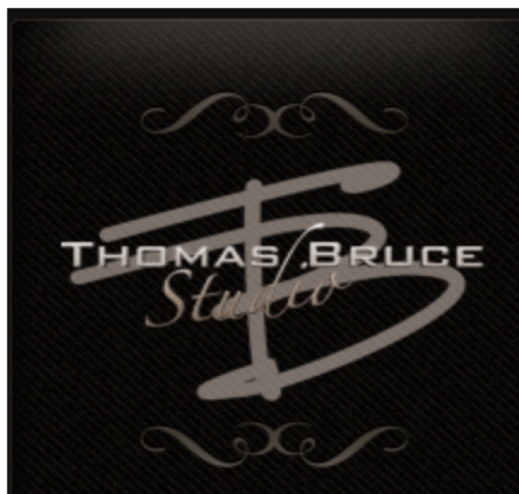
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