

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

Sunfish Guru. 5



Thank you, Alan. 7



Firsts 'n' Worst. 7



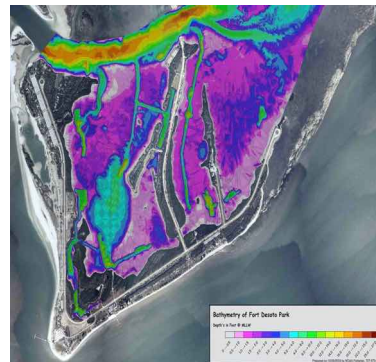
Jacks in Town. 11



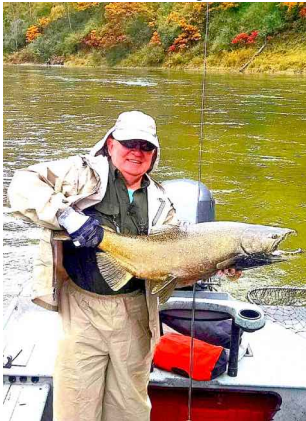
Snook Leader. 11



Park and Wade. 12



Manistee Magic. 16



Okay, Bruce.
But where exactly? 17



Flies of the Month. 14-15





SFF President Letter – April 2019

Hello Everyone,

Well, we topped our year off with the Greatest Hog Roast Banquet ever! Thank you, Rick, Karen, your committee and all those who helped set up and fulfill all the little details that made it work so well. Now we have a clean slate of fish to catch for the awards next year!

Thank you, Bruce Evensen for creating the award “plaques” for this year.

I am grateful that each of our Board Members volunteered to serve. I am very grateful that you allow me to serve another year. You are the best friends in the world to work with. I highly value all the long-lasting friendships established over these past few years.

I also thank all of you in the General Membership who have given so much up to now. Thank you for the outing lunches, presentations, all round support and your taking care of so many of the “behind the scenes” details involved with making this Club enjoyable. I am constantly humbled and in awe of the things that you all can and will do.

My life has been so greatly enriched by each and every one of you. You provide me with the necessary balance of recreation with the rest of my life. It still amazes me at how much things look better after one of our meetings or outings; my outlook had been “re-created,” my energy renewed and all with a great deal of satisfaction.

I look forward to seeing you all around the ole fishing hole, wherever that may be. Bring your rod and gear, maybe a friend and let’s break bread together and create some more great memories.

Never underestimate the value of your presence in someone else’s life.

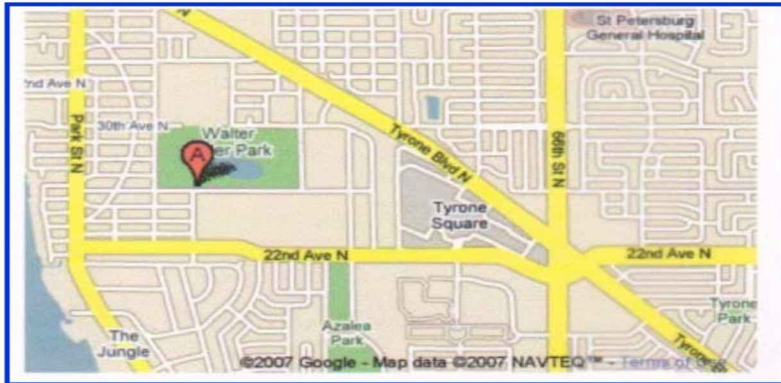
Let’s go fishing!

Never lose your sense of adventure.

George

George Haseltine, SFF President 2016-19, 727-423-8110 Cell & Text, ghh343@aol.com

Meetings, Outings, and More



Walter Fuller Park Recreation Center
7891 26th Avenue N., St. Petersburg



Capt. Nick Angelo,
April meeting
speaker

Thursday, April 18 Meeting

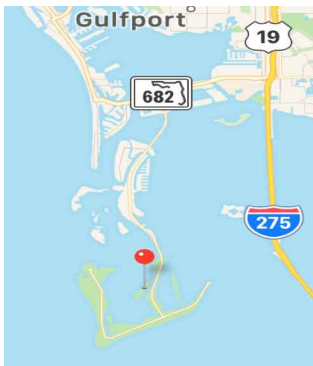
- Speaker, **Capt. Nick Angelo**
- Free guided trip raffle
- Free **Tail Magazine** subscription raffle
- Pastries, coffee served
- Officers and members of the board of directors begin their new term.
President: George Haseltine
Vice President: Rick Warfel
Treasurer: Tom Gadacz

Secretary: David Redd

Members of the Board of Directors:

<i>Karen Warfel</i>	<i>Quin Berry</i>
<i>Ryan Sollars</i>	<i>Cliff Nigh</i>
<i>Bill Scarola</i>	<i>Bruce Evensen</i>
<i>Bob Burkard</i>	

Saturday, April 20 Outing: Fort DeSoto Park



Apple Maps

- Fish within sight of the park
- Lunch at noon at Pavilion #4
- \$5 fee to enter the park
- Special prize for the longest seatrout

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

Usually it's the Saturday after the third Thursday of every month in different locations, saltwater and freshwater, with a club-provided picnic lunch at noon.

Membership

Suncoast Fly Fishers currently has 106 members including 15 family members and 6 honorary members. Annual dues are \$15, payable in September.

Welcome new members

Wayne Watson, Tex Faulkner, Mike Hoppe, Rick Yarn (welcome back Rick), Mike Wilde, Tim Gibian, Rocky Cimbrec, Gary Capuano

FFI Charter Club.

Suncoast Fly Fishers is a charter member club of **Fly Fishers International (FFI)**. Annual dues are \$35. Seniors \$25. Benefits include **FFI Learning Center** insights for fly casting, fly tying and more. SFF is a member club of the **Florida Council** of FFI.

Meetings, Outings, and More

Thursday, May 16 Meeting

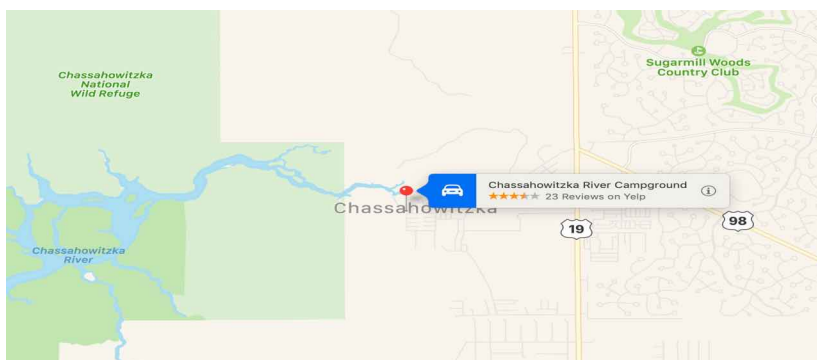


6:30 pm, Walter Fuller Park Rec Center
7291 26th Avenue N. St. Pete

- May speaker is SFF member Mike Larkin, PhD, a fisheries biologist for **NOAA Fisheries** in the office of Sustainable Fisheries in St. Petersburg. He will be talking about tarpon. When will they arrive? Where are they exactly? Where do they go from here?
- Mike has written and **Tail Fly Fishing** magazine is publishing his three-part series on tarpon habits.

May 18 Outing, Chassahowitzka River

- Chassahowitzka River Boat Ramp, 8690 Miss Maggie Drive, Chassahowitzka
- Prizes for the longest bluegill and longest bass



Chassahowitzka River, Chassahowitzka River Campgrounds (Apple Maps)

Save the dates...

June 20 Meeting

- Speaker, Leigh West, Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club, wade-fishing specialist

June 22 Outing

- South Skyway Rest Area. Fish within sight of Sunshine Skyway

July 18 Meeting

- Presentation: Docklights/Beaches Panel (Mark Hays, Alan Sewell, Mark Craig)

July 20 Outing

- Dock light and beach fishing

August 15 Meeting

- Tie-a-thon, pizza

August 17 Outing

- Bay Vista Park, Pinellas Point, St. Petersburg

December 14 (tentative) fly Casting Clinic

Jim Swann: Florida's Freshwater Fly Guru

By Duane Mertz



Jim Swann: Words of wisdom

Fly Fishing in Florida's freshwaters was the subject of a talk by Jim Swann at the SFF's March meeting.

Jim has been fishing Florida's freshwaters for over 60-years targeting members of the Sunfish family including Bass, Bluegills, Speckled Perch, Red Belly's and Stump Knockers.

Leaning on his years of fishing, Jim shared some of the secrets of his success. He encourages fishermen to be confident. "A confident fisherman will catch more fish", he said.

As far as fly selection is concerned, unlike Trout, Florida Sunfish are more concerned about the silhouette and size of the fly rather than its color. However, his first choice out of the fly box is always Chartreuse. Dark brown, purple and black are good colors for deeper water.

Jim's favorite freshwater rod is a 5 or 6-weight. If you're throwing a heavy popper an 8-weight is good.

He uses only floating lines and insists that keeping the line clean is key. "If your line isn't floating on the surface, it's dirty and needs to be cleaned right away". A line is dirty when portions of the line sink below the surface. This causes the line to become slack allowing fish to get away. Jim uses silicone-base cleaner to keep his lines clean - now that beeswax is not available. "Never use WD-40 or other petroleum-based cleaners. They soften the cover on the line."

Unlike trout, Florida sunfish are not leader-shy. He uses fluorocarbon leaders with 10-pound tippets for all of his fishing. Fluorocarbon is much more abrasion-resistant than monofilament, it's transparent in the water and sinks faster. If a monofilament leader has an abrasion it will break, he says.

Heavier leaders reduce leader twisting and it won't break when you have to pull your line out of lily pads. As a general rule, leaders should be as long as the rod.

Hard mason is another good abrasive-resistant tippet material that is inexpensive. Jim just keeps adding tippet to his leaders and gets 20-years out of them.

Lastly, Jim shared some thoughts on casting techniques. "Speed and accuracy are more important than distance", he said. Keep your eye on your back cast and work on delivering a cast with a tight loop. If you can hear the fly on your back cast you are losing distance, he said. "Ninety-nine percent of rods will outcast the caster."

For laughs, but in all seriousness, he adds, "When fish are happy you can catch them anytime. When they are unhappy you'll never catch them."



Some of Jim's very successful flies

*Jim Swann is the proprietor and the face of **Swann's Complete Fly-Fishing Shop** in Dade City, Florida. He offers classes in Fly Tying, Casting and a Guide Service for either fresh or saltwater fly fishing.*

Address: 13650 S. 98 By-Pass

Dade City, Florida 33525

Phone: 352.567.6029

Suncoast Fly Fisher News 'n' Notes



Tom Gadacz needs volunteers for fly casting at the Green Thumb Festival, Walter Fuller Park, April 27-28

Last year I staffed a casting session at the Green Thumb Festival at Walter Fuller Park. We have been invited back on April 27 & 28 Saturday and Sunday. It is a no stress session mainly helping some kids and even a few adults to cast for 5 or so minutes. I can do the Saturday but probably not the Sunday. Time = ~10:00 to 3:00. It's a simple setup. Rope off a one lane area and they line up just outside the rope and everyone has a 5 minute session. We must have done something well last year since we were invited back by popular demand. I would appreciate some help - just one or two helpers/instructors. We use a single rod and reel. Maybe two with additional help. If anyone is interested in any plant life, you'll be in heaven. The event is huge and fills the entire park. Can you help? Email me at thomasgadacz@yahoo.com



Alan Sewell needs volunteers for fly tying and rod building at the VA hospital Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

Our veterans are looking forward to a new year of fly fishing. We have 8 veterans starting on a national rod building contest sponsored by PAC BAY, for PHWFF veterans. Rods have to be finished by the first week in April and sent to PAC BAY for judgment. Bay Pines has so many veterans waiting for our classes, that they want to start another class on Thursdays. See me after SFF meetings for info on volunteering.



Capt. Pat Damico is sharing the 14-minute video of his fly fishing lessons/interview seen on Channel 13 with Chip Brewster

Pat paid a firm to put together the video consisting of three fly fishing lessons seen on the air. The video will be posted on the [SFF website](#). Watch for it.

Everglades Canal Outing, April 26-28. Catch 100 fish a day. See tips on page 18

Anglers stay at the La Quinta Inn, Sunrise, near Fort Lauderdale. Contact Alan Sewell: sewellalan@yahoo.com



Lac la Croix, Ontario, June 25-June 30, 5 nights, 4 days: \$1335 Transportation extra.

Mike Simmons is organizing another expedition to [Zups Fishing Outfitters Resort](#) on Lac la Croix in Ontario. Bill Scarola has already signed up. Contact Mike or Bill if you're interested. Email Mike at yankee3047@yahoo.com. Email Bill at poppyscar@gmail.com



Bob (Fishy Factoids) Morrison

Bob, our newsletter's "How-to and Fishy Factoids" contributor, has been staying at Palm Gardens of Pinellas for some months recuperating and rehabbing from a leg wound resulting from a fall. He hopes to be released and back to the club meetings soon. He'd love to hear from his friends, 727-735-3209.

Duane Mertz: Another Great Hog Roast and Silent Auction

Photos by Duane Mertz, Al Pitcher, and Bill AuCoin

Dayle Mazzarella's "Firsts" and "Worsts"



Dayle Mazzarella told funny stories from his years of fly fishing. Some weren't so funny at the time.

Dayle's First Fly Rod -- After years of fishing with spinning equipment, Dayle decided to invest in a fly-fishing outfit in 1982 while driving home from an outing in Montana. He stopped at Dan Bailey's Fly Shop in Livingston and spent his entire budget of \$124.89 on a fly rod, fly line, tippet and 6 flies (all his budget would allow). Full of enthusiasm for his new sport, Dayle confidently set out for Yellowstone's Lewis Lake where he quickly proceeded to lose all six of his new flies on his very first outing.

Dayle's First Catch -- Dayle caught his first trout on a fly rod on the Middle Fork of the Kings River in California in 1982. The trout was caught on a "dangling fly" that was barely tied onto the tippet. "More luck than anything" he confessed.

Dayle takes a swim...Accidentally -- While fishing the Lochsa River in Idaho, Dayle spotted a huge salmon rising to his fly. Wanting to close on his prey, Dayle leapt from boulder to boulder in the river to get closer to the fish. Unfortunately, Dayle's last leap was a leap too far. He missed the boulder and tumbled into the 45-degree water and nearly drowned.

More Firsts and Worsts on next page

President's 2019 Vision and Values Award goes to Alan Sewell



Congratulations, Alan, and thank you for all that you do for the club and for our veterans.

2018 Outing Tournament Champions



Adam Hays, longest snook winner
President George Haseltine announced the winners of the 2018 Outing Tournament. Adam Hays (l) caught the longest snook. Other longest fish winners were Mark Hays, black bass; David Redd, speckled trout; Darryn Manley, redbfish; Tony Piazza, sunfish; Jack Cason, ladyfish.

Continued...Hog Roast and Silent Auction

More of Dayle's Firsts and Worst...

Dayle's First Guide Trip -- Guide fishing in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Dayle and his new Client encountered a 150-yard stretch of slack water. Surveying the scene Dayle confidently declared there were "sure to be no fish in this stretch of dead water." Just at that moment, a huge brown trout attacked the client's fly and he landed the biggest trout of the year.

Dayle's Worst Fishing Trip -- Fishing in the Owens River Gorge in California, Dayle's prey was trophy brown trout. Unfortunately, it was just not meant to be that day as he proceeded to experience a series of catastrophes. First, he missed a guide stringing his line onto the rod and had to re-rig. Finally, ready to make his long-awaited first cast, Dayle's back cast let him down and he lost his entire rig of flies and strike indicators in nearby brush. The next cast was also doomed. This time Dayle miscast, snapping his leader and, again, losing his entire rig. Dayle's third cast brought no better luck as he hooked a log and lost yet another rig. That made six lost flies and six lost strike indicators - all on three casts. Could be a record (though we'll likely never know.)

Dayle's Worst Saltwater Trip -- Feeling confident in his saltwater fishing abilities, Dayle set out in 1993 with an experienced local guide to catch a tarpon for the first time. This required Dayle to use a 12-weight rod for the first time instead of the 6-weight he used on freshwater. Pulling away from the dock at Fort Desoto Park Dayle inquired as to how long a cast he would have to make to reach a tarpon. "Sixty feet or so should do it" was the answer. No problem, Dayle thought. Unfortunately, that day most of Dayle's casts went forty feet and no silver kings were caught. Even as the guide spotted tarpon all day - which he made perfectly clear to Dayle.

If some of these stories sound familiar be assured, it's only because you have actually made the effort to fly fish and have lived to probably not talk to anyone about it.

Thanks for sharing, Dayle!

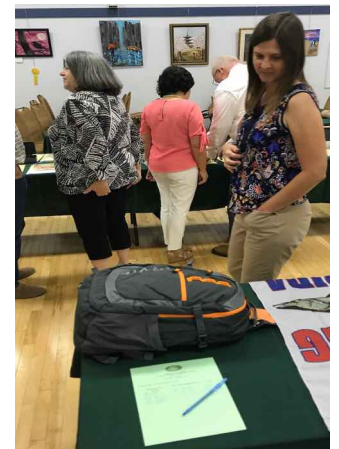
Dennis Marquis won the raffled rod outfit



Dennis (l) won a TFO Lefty Kreh TiCRX 8 wt with an Orvis Battenkill Disc IV reel and Orvis Hydros SW All-Rounder line. The hand-made case is walnut with brass end caps crafted by Rick Warfel (r), a 40-hour project.



Kevin Kelly eyes a fly tying desk from Bruce Evensen



Orvis' backpack got lots of attention and lots of bidding.

Dayle Mazzarella won the member rod raffle



Dayle Mazzarella (l) won the member rod raffle. The rod was built by Alan Sewell (r) based on a Lamiglas blank. It was paired with Cabela's Prestige reel.

Hog Roast Snapshots



President George Haseltine presents board member Quin Berry (r) with a token of appreciation for all of his work for the club.



Dinner was served. Suddenly everybody quieted down.



Dennis Marquis and Tony Piazza helped Karen and Rick Warfel welcome guests.



Catching up. Mark Hays, Bill AuCoin, and Adam Hays. Adam is studying aerospace engineering at the University of Florida.



George Haseltine and Robert Fischer check out bids on the fly boxes.



Myron Hanson liked this fly vise and tying desk a lot.



Have a great 2019. We'll see you at the Hog Roast in 2020.

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: David Redd
Treasurer: Tom Gadacz

Board of Directors

Quin Berry -- Bill Scarola -- Bob Burkard --
Bruce Evensen -- Ryan Sollars -- Cliff Nigh --
Karen Warfel

Committees

Volunteers needed. Speak to any officer or
director at the meeting

Casting Skills -- Pat Damico, Dayle Mazzarella

FFI Liaison -- Pat Damico

Conservation -- Cliff Nigh

Fly Tying -- Myron Hansen

Membership -- Ton Gadacz

New Members -- Rick Warfel

Webmaster -- Dennis Marquis, Bob Burkard

Facebook -- Woody Miller

Hog Roast -- Karen+Rick Warfel

Outings -- Bob Burkard, Hilton Bruch, David
Redd

Project Healing Waters -- Alan Sewell, Ted
Rich, Dave Barson, Dave Redd, Terry
Kirkpatrick

Outreach, shows -- David Redd, Bob Burkard

Raffles -- Dave Barson

Succession Planning -- Rick Warfel, Dick
Miekka

Programs -- Board of Directors

Public relations -- Bill AuCoin

On The Fly

Bill AuCoin, editor; Duane Mertz

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(c)3 organization. SFF is a charter member of the Fly Fishers International (FFI). SFF is a member of the Florida Council of FFI.

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

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

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

Join. Renew. Application
www.suncoastflyfishers.com

Review: March Outing at South Skyway



Bob Burkard, outings committee chairman

By Bob Burkard, Outings Committee Chairman
 Our group descended on the rest area south of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge on March 23 for a day of fishing and ventured into Tampa Bay and the Gulf in pursuit of Crevalle Jacks and other target fish. There seemed to be a larger than usual turnout of fly fishers and I noticed a number of faces that I did not recognize. It turned out that the Mangrove Fly Fishing Club had their monthly outing at the same location as our Suncoast Fly Fishers March outing. I enjoyed meeting new people who share our passion for fly fishing. We discussed coordinating a joint Suncoast Fly Fishers / Mangrove Fly Fishing Club outing at this location next year.



Gary Sundberg's 22-inch jack. Photo by Ray Smith

We had great weather until about 11:00 when the wind picked up, just in time for an outstanding lunch of venison provided by Mark Hays. Gary Sundberg caught a 22-inch Jack to win the monthly outing contest on a deceiver that he tied at Bruce Evensen's Monday night group tie. Congratulations Gary.



George Haseltine chows down on venison harvested and cooked by Mark Hays.



Bob Hood broke the ice with this little flounder



Dennis Marquis, 21.5-inch ladyfish. In the Florida panhandle they call these "ten-pounders".



Anne Hays' 19-inch snook went for the "Crystal Deceiver" tied by her dad Mark.



Waterside table, so to speak. Karen Warfel, Rick Warfel, and Quin Berry

Preview: April 20 Outing at Fort DeSoto Park

By Bob Burkard, Chairman, Outings Committee

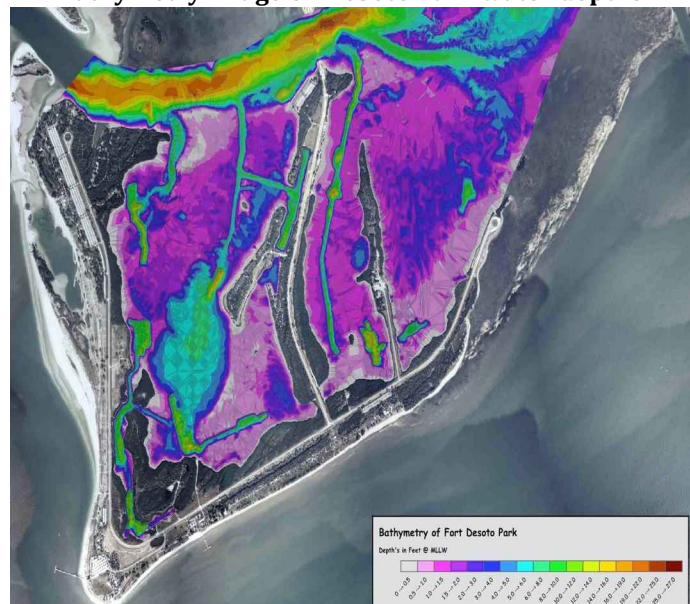
Our April 2019 outing is at Fort DeSoto Park. This is our members' favorite location as determined by our Outings Survey and general feedback.

Fort DeSoto provides plenty of areas to wade, kayak, or fish from your boat. I personally love this location and try to get there as often as possible. One of the largest trout that I have caught was off the beach by the fishing pier.

Our targeted fish is the longest seatrout. Tide is incoming starting at 7 am. Lunch is at shelter #4.



Bathymetry image of DeSoto Park water depths

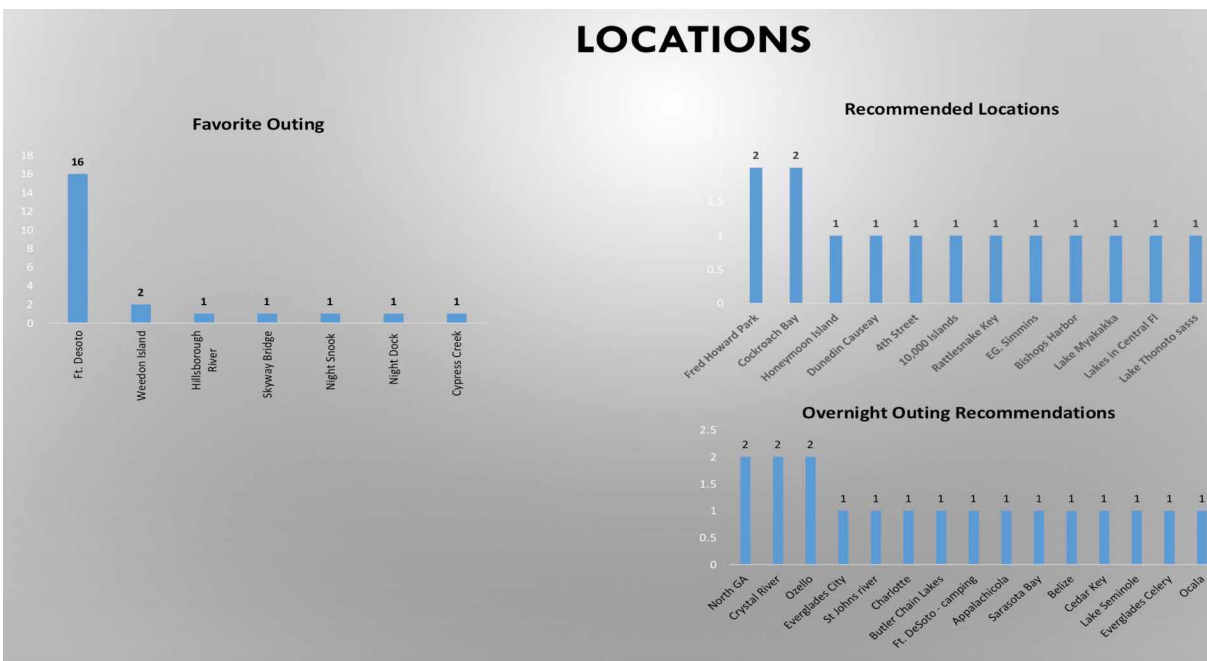


2019 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing (Month)
Longest sunfish			
Longest black bass	13.5"	David Redd	Walsingham Lake (Feb)
Longest snook	19"	Anne Hays	South Skyway Tampa Bay (March)
Longest redfish			
Longest ladyfish	22 1/2"	Dennis Marquis	Weedon Island Preserve (Jan)
Longest seatrout			

Results: 2019 Outing Survey

Twenty-nine members submitted their preferences for outing locations to Outings committee chairman Bob Burkard. Here are the major takeaways: Visit the SFF website to view the full report.



Tying Bench – Bruce Evensen Ties Carl Hanson’s Bendback *Bruce’s Fly of the Month for Fort DeSoto Park*



Bruce ties Carl Hanson’s bendback fly

Tying instructions by Bill Scarola

Bruce’s fly of the month for the April 20 Fort DeSoto Park outing is the Carl Hanson bendback glass minnow, a semi-weedless fly. The secret is bending the shank so the hook points slightly up. The body material shelters the hook from weeds. Carl Hanson, a member of Suncoast Fly Fishers and the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers, died in 1998.

Materials

Hook: Bend back hook, sizes 1,2 to 1/0 or 2/0.

Body: Buck tail, colors in green over white.

Thread: Red, flat waxed.

Flash: Pearl Flashabou

Tying Sequence

1. Bend hook from behind the eye to about 3/8" to 1/2" depending on size of the hook. Bend it to about a 25-degree angle so the hook point is level with the bent portion of the hook shaft.
2. Wrap thread from hook eye to the bend. do not go below bend..
3. Tie in a small bunch, about half a match stick of white bucktail. Length should go about a 1/2-inch beyond the hook point so the body material acts also as a hook guard
4. Tie in Flashabou, 3-6 strands on top of white bucktail.
5. Tie in the top color bucktail, usually green, olive or chartreuse. Be sure not to tie in material below the bend in the shaft.
6. Whip-finish a small red head of thread behind hook eye.
7. Add head cement and/or a drop or two of epoxy to seal in the red head.

Don Coleman wrote about Carl Hanson’s Bendback

Deceased SFF member Don Coleman tied flies and fished with Carl many times. In his booklet *Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod*, Coleman wrote this about Carl Hanson’s Bendback Glass Minnow:

“I was one of the regulars at Carl’s fly tying clinic and his after hour’s discussion group, for more than 15 years. I also fished regularly with Carl. In the early years of development, he tied the fly with the wing on top of the hook shank. The final version of Carl’s Glass Minnow was a bendback on regular length saltwater hooks in sizes #6, #4, and #2. He always used red thread for his flies and coated them with fingernail polish. Period. No extra embellishments. His Glass Minnows have probably caught more fish in the Tampa Bay area than any other fly. Although Carl could tie any fly, the Glass Minnow was his trademark fly. This fly should be in every fly box, especially during the winter months when white bait has left the flats. Try swimming or swinging a brace of small bendbacks, using a dropper, around the sandy pot holes in the grass beds. Depending on its size, color, and how it is retrieved, this fly can imitate a small baitfish or a shrimp. Being semi-weedless, it is a great fly to use when floating grass is present.”

Tying Bench – Layne Smith Ties Lefty's Deceiver
Smitty's Fly of the Month for Fort DeSoto Park Outing

Lefty's Deceiver



Materials:

Hook: Gamakatsu SL12S or SC15 (or equivalent) size #2.
Thread: Danville flatwaxed nylon chartreuse
Tail: 4-6 wide white saddle hackle
Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash and Mylar Flashabou
Belly: White bucktail
Top Collar: Chartreuse bucktail
Beard: Red Krystal Flash
Topping: Peacock herl (6-8 strands)

Tying Sequence:

1. Set the hook in the vise with the point down. Sharpen the hook as necessary.
2. Wrap the hook shank with the flat waxed thread starting $\frac{1}{8}$ " behind the hook and wrap to the bend of the hook. Wrap back to the point over the point of the hook.
3. Select 2 to 3 pairs of matched white saddle hackles $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 times the length of the hook shank. Strip the fluff off the hackles after making two matched wings. Match the two wings with the smooth side out (curved side in). Trim the stems. Tie the feathers on top of the hook shank beginning loosely at the base of the feathers and then tighter as the thread is advanced toward the hook eye. Secure the feathers with head cement. Wrap the thread back to the point over the point of the hook.
4. Take 6 strands of Pearl Krystal Flash, double them around the tying thread and pull the double to the top of the hook shank. Wrap the Krystal Flash in tightly spreading half on either side of the fly. Trim just short of tail. Move the thread to near the eye of the hook.
5. Turn the hook point up. Tie in a small amount of white bucktail on each side of hook shank. Select about eight to ten strands of red Krystal Flash doubled over the thread and tie in and trim to make throat. Flip the hook back over point down. Take 3 strands of Pearl Flashabou and tie in as you did the Pearl Krystal Flash, trimming slightly longer than the tail this time. Take a small amount of chartreuse bucktail, trim the ends and tie on top making a smooth cover and wrap in tightly.
6. Select six to eight strands of peacock herl, trim the ends and tie them in on top of the chartreuse. Make a neat head. Optional eyes may be applied or painted on at this time. Apply a coat of UV Resin and cure to finish head.

Bob Hood: Fly Fishing Michigan's Manistee River



One of Bob's big Coho salmon

For two consecutive Octobers – 2016 and 2017 – I went to Cadillac, Michigan and fished the Manistee river downstream near the Tippy dam. I caught my first salmon, steelhead, and brook trout on a fly rod. The biggest salmon weighed 34 lbs. The river was so thick with them I probably could have caught some without any fishing tackle at all.

I'm not really sure which flies we used; they were custom-tied by the guides. There were really strong currents in the river and we were using 10wt rods with sinking line and a 15 to 20-lb tippets. Believe it or not, we even used ½-oz XPS Finesse Drop Weight sinkers 6-feet up the leader just to keep the fly on the bottom as the current took it downstream. Fishing from a drift boat I had a blast as all the fish I caught were new to me. On the first trip in October 2016 I caught five King Salmon, a 2-lb. Rainbow Trout. On the second trip with a new guide (sub-contracted) to the guide service we were using, I caught three King Salmon, the largest being 18 pounds. I caught seven Coho Salmon, the largest being 34 lb. Also

caught several Brown Trout with largest being about 3.5 lb and one Steelhead about 4lbs. We battled rain on both trips as well as a little snow on the last trip but we also did have several days of decent weather. I may have to go back up there again this year as my luck in Florida for the last five years has not been very good.



The king salmon were hungry.



First Steelhead



Bob's Brown Trout.

Bob hired Chuck Scribner of [Scribner Outfitters](#) - 231-723-6193. "Great guides, very personable, professional and knowledgeable with the target fish and the area."

Ray Smith and Friends: Jacks and More in Upper Tampa Bay

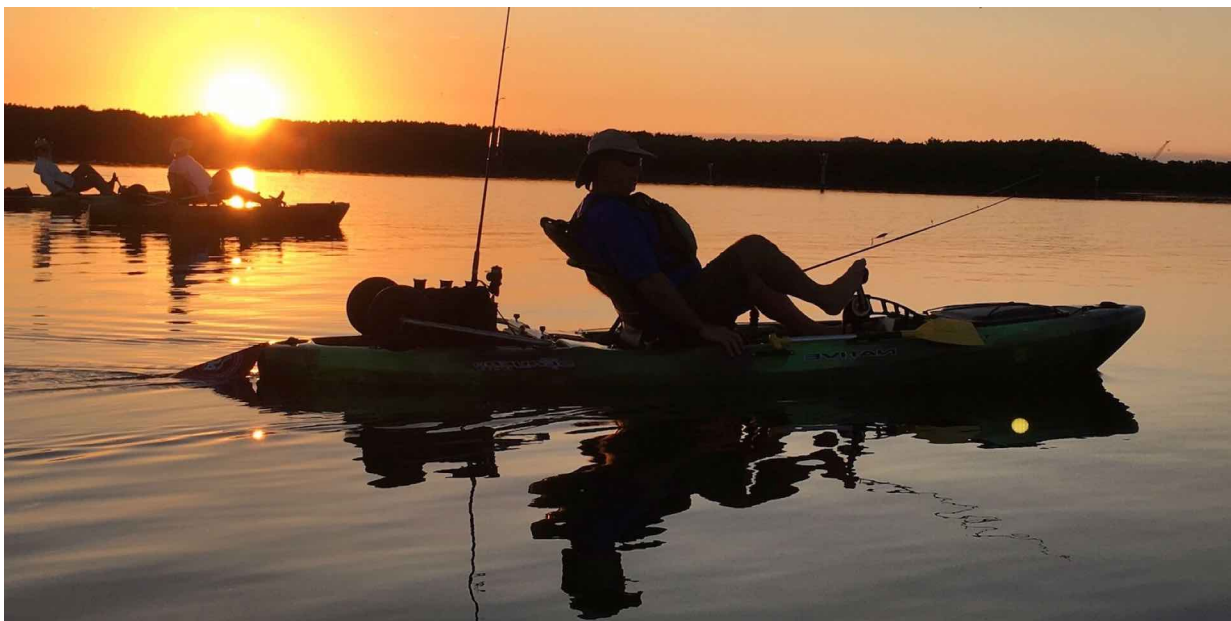
Ray, Bruce Evensen, Jack Collins, and Ryan Sollars have been landing some rod benders fishing upper Tampa Bay. They put in their kayaks at the unimproved boat ramp on 4th Street N just below the I-275 entrance.



Bruce Evensen, 28-inch redfish caught on a deceiver.



Ray Smith and the jack crevalle that broke his rod tip. This one liked Ray's schminnow.



The Magic Hour – Ray took this sunset picture of kayak anglers Gary Sundberg, Bruce Evensen and Jack Collins.

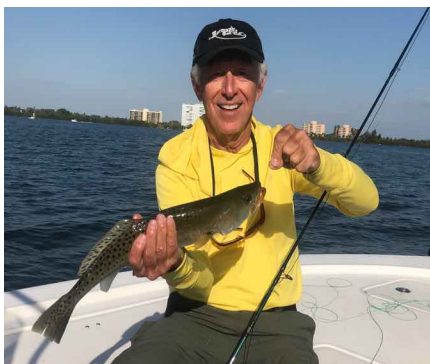
Myron Hanson: Docklight Snook



Attached is a dock light photo from fishing the Yacht Club Estates area on 4-6-19. This snook was caught on a chartreuse over white Clouser

Myron

Dennis Marquis and Tony Piazza Fly Fish Indian Key



One of Tony Piazza's speckled trout.

Tony Piazza and I fished my secret hole near Indian Key and found sea trout, ladyfish and this pompano (right) with a dolphin chomp mark.

Dennis



Marquis'-tooth-marked pompano

Everglades Canals: How to Catch 100 Fish a Day

The annual Suncoast Fly Fishers April expedition to fish the Everglades Canals is April 26-28. Anglers stay at the La Quinta Inn, Sunrise, near Fort Lauderdale. Contact Alan Sewell: sewellalan@yahoo.com

Blast from the past...

At our April 2012 meeting several members discussed their experience fishing in the Everglades.

Alan Sewell uses spiders, beetles, and poppers.

Stephen Massey has had good success with the Chernobyl ant. He also uses a black bug from Andy Thornal's called a Boogle Bug.

Ken Hofmeister (RIP) used beetles, spiders, bead flies, as well as his green dragon weedless gurgler.

Ken Doty used his spider with a marabou tail. He uses very thin legs and does not jiggle his fly. The natural action of the marabou attracts the fish and stripping is not necessary.

Smitty's crystal beetles and poppers were "go to" flies for many members. Smitty suggested trying a surface fly with a nymph dropper and fighting two fish at the same time.

Mark Craig used a brown popper fly with success.

Some fishing techniques were also discussed. A 5 wt. rod with a floating line is a good general rig. Most agreed that a 12-15 lb. short (5 to 6 feet) leader was sufficient. Surface flies were favored over submerged ones.

Fish are lying in the lily pads and weeds, as well as along the rocks. Look for birds. Look for willow trees. If you don't get a strike after 5 or 10 minutes move. Go to the fish. Recommended vessels were small motor boats (under 18 feet), canoes and Gheenoes. Kayaks are not recommended because of the alligators. Wading is discouraged for the same reason.

Tampa Bay Times Captain's Corner



Capt. Pat Damico: Spanish Mackerel on the Fly

While casting baitfish patterns near passes, deeper edges of grass flats or open water where birds are chasing fleeing baitfish do you occasionally get a hard strike and then a leader close to the fly that is cut off like a scissors did the work? You may be into an early run of Spanish Mackerel. The influx of massive schools of larger baitfish has these speedy predators steadily looking for easy pickings. Around passes or open water, schools can be large and more noticeable, but inshore, smaller groups of fish are more common. Some fish may be in the 4-5-pound range. Baitfish aren't everywhere yet, but locating them is the key to some spectacular fly fishing. Open water temperatures are still cooler

in the mornings and most trips have been more productive when the water temperature increases a few degrees later in the day. Watch your temperature gauge. Diving birds, nervous water, fleeing baitfish being chased, a surface that looks like rain are all worth investigating. We use baitfish colored flies that match bait you see in size tied with synthetic material instead of natural hair and 30-pound hard monofilament bite tippet because mackerel will destroy a natural hair fly and a light tippet. Thin wire is helpful, but in clear water will minimize strikes. Flies with the material close to the bend on a long hook shank further prevent cutoffs. Long strips are better than short jerky ones because many takes will allow you to strip set the hook in the middle of your retrieve. If you miss a fish, speed your retrieve for another take. Minimize false casting to allow your fly to spend more time in the water and not the air. Many of the newer fly lines that have a rough surface texture will give you a nasty cut as it is stripped over your finger taking days to heal. Many companies make an inexpensive stripping guide that protects your finger holding the rod to avoid this problem.

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

Fly Gear for Sale or Swap

Bruce Evensen made these beautiful items himself. Call him at 727-403-9010. Also, see much more of his fine art on "Poppa Bruces Flies" pages on Etsy<https://www.etsy.com/shop/poppabrucesflies>

- Hook or eyes holder hand made by Bruce Evensen, \$28.00
- Thread holder with one fly holder by Bruce Evensen, \$9.00
- Fly tying desk and tool holder, \$50.00
- Fly tying desk and tool holder made by Bruce 2ftx2ft., \$85.00
- Epoxy glue holder hand-made by Bruce Evensen, \$24.00



Hand-made hook and eye holder

Jack Cason is selling his sit-on-top kayak. It's a deal. Call him at 727-864-7444

Just a few months ago Jack bought a 10-foot Perception Pescador (red tiger camo color) kayak with all the trimmings. He used it once. It comes with the Angler's Package including a paddle leash, anchor and anchor trolley, rod holder and more. Also, a high-end inflatable life jacket. It cost more than \$850. Yours for \$650.

Want to run an ad? Email Bill AuCoin at wmaucoin@verizon.net

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Want the fly-fishing experience of a lifetime? Can you say, “Papa’s Cay?”

This belongs on your bucket list, except it may already be too late to sign up. Only 100 spots are available for Flyre Festival 2019. ([Orvis News](#))

Thank you, Backcountry Fly Fishers of Naples. This is a very comprehensive tutorial in how to fly fish saltwater in Southwest Florida. Equipment, Fish Species, Access to the Water, Things to Consider When Planning Your Outing, Fishing Destinations, Fishing Skills, and more. Thanks, also, to Fly Fishers International for adding this to the FFI Learning Center. ([Fly Fishers International](#))

So many flats to fish; so little time – Here are some of the very best flats to fish all over the world. What, Weedon Island isn’t on the list? Actually, that’s a good thing. It gets too much fishing pressure anyway. ([Sportfishing Magazine](#))

They need to really (really!) get to work blocking pollutants draining into Mosquito Lagoon. --Since 2011 seagrass beds have been depleted by 80-90 percent. Just in the last two years redfish and seatrout catches are down 50 percent. Nine years ago Mosquito Lagoon was ranked #1 out of 28 registered national lagoons. ([Salt Strong](#))

Sea grasses are coming back big time in Tampa Bay, though –Water Clarity in Tampa Bay is good in three out of four zones. Old Tampa Bay is still iffy.. ([Tampa Bay Estuary Program](#))

Yeah, but when have hurricane forecasts ever been right? Prediction: we’ll only have two major hurricanes this year. (That means, get ready for the big one.) ([Florida Today](#))

Ever heard of “magnet fishing?” Ocala police announced, “Taco Bell on E. Silver Springs Boulevard has been evacuated. A man found a hand grenade while magnet fishing in Ocklawaha, put it in his trunk, and drove to Taco Bell prior to calling 911. MCSO bomb squad is currently on scene to ensure everyone’s safety.” ([Fox News](#))

Hey, watch for *Up Your Game* events near us. I’d like to cast a Winston Rod. Heck, I’d like to win two. R.L. Winston Rod Company has unveiled the *Cast a Winston and Win Two Program*. Check it out. H/T. Larry Huffman. ([Winston Rods](#))

I have a bendback glass minnow fly tied by Carl Hanson. (Nope. Just teasing). I have caught quite a few fish on bendbacks tied by Smitty and by Jack Collins. Here’s a recipe for the Bendback Glass Minnow in the newsletter, written by Paul Sequira who died last year. And we still miss him. A lot. Carl, too. ([On The Fly](#))


Mark your calendars for May 11. And why? Starting May 11 we’ll be able to keep redfish again. Actually, the regulations will allow us to keep one redfish between 18 and 27 inches. And, this is assuming that the regulators don’t extend the ban. Snook won’t get a green light in Gulf waters until September 1. Snook have to be between 28 and 33 inches. ([My FWC](#))

###

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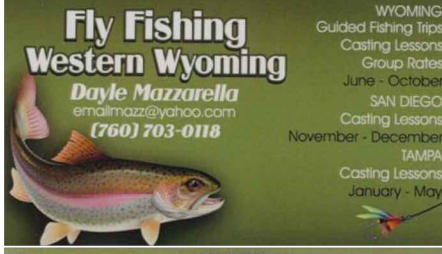


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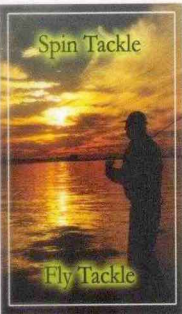
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