

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

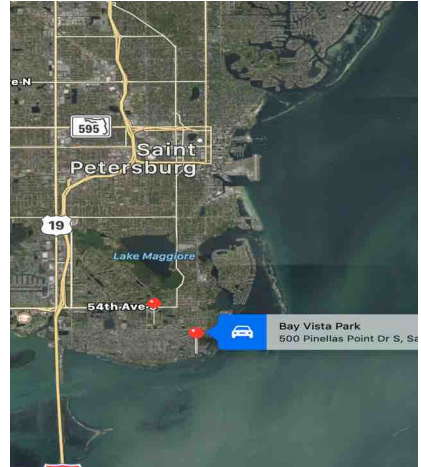
We have a winner



Thursday Tie-a-Thon



Saturday's Urban Outing



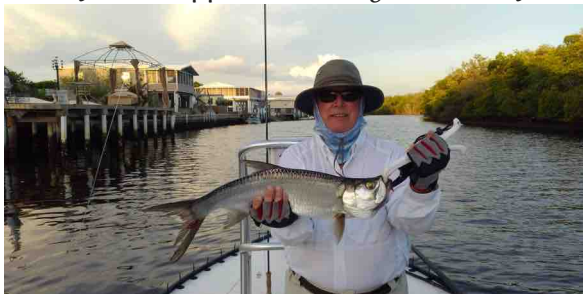
Tom and Nick Gadacz fish the Madison



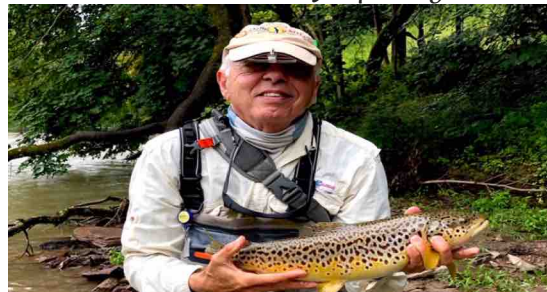
Fly casting at summer camp



Lynn Skipper in Everglades City



Pat Damico: Euro-nymphing in PA





SFF President Letter – August 2019

Hello everyone,

As I mentioned in previous messages, I have learned a lot since joining SFF.

Here's something else I've learned, common in all sports:

Safety first! Don't take stupid chances, prepare and provide. Drink enough water.

Warm up, stretch & flex.

Adopt a work out plan focusing on the muscles you are going to use (or abuse).

Dayle suggests such a plan at our casting clinics and on his web site.

Pick a spot. Focus on it. Put everything else out of your mind.

(Sight Fishing is the best way to fish).

Consistency: the same things, the same way every time. Develop Muscle memory: your body learns what to do automatically.

Practice for short spans at intervals. Don't wear yourself out and build mistakes into your routine.

Set up a fly rod in a convenient place and take it outside for fifteen minutes. Compliments of Tom Gadacz.

Except for the kick from a 160 gr 30-06, if it hurts, "you're doing it wrong," said Carl Hanson, one of our club's leading lights..

Learn about the effects of wind, tides, weather and how to use them to your advantage. If you hear thunder head for shelter. If none in 30 min go back out.

FISH EVERY CHANCE YOU GET!

Meet me at the water's edge.

Never lose your sense of adventure.

George

George Haseltine
SFF President 2016-20
727-423-8110 Cell & Text

Meetings, Outings, and More

Thursday, August 15 Meeting

6:30 pm, Walter Fuller Park Rec Center

7291 26th Avenue N. St. Pete

- **August 15 Meeting.** This is our annual Tie-a-Thon meeting with prizes for the best flies tied.
- **Big Gun Shootout practice before the meeting**
- **Free pizza**
- **Drawing:** Win a subscription to Tail Fly Fishing Magazine.
- **Fly swap:** Tie and bring three of your favorite flies.

Saturday, August 17 Outing: Urban Outing



Bob Burkard sets the hook.

- Fish the lower half of Tampa Bay. The outing prize goes to the person catching the longest redfish...if they also shoot a picture of it.
- Meet up at 11:30 at Bay Vista Park for lunch. Can you say *brisket*? Somebody is working their grill magic.
- Can you beat these lengths for the annual tournament? Snook 24-inches, Ladyfish 22.5, Redfish (empty), Seatrout 20".

Thursday, September 19, Meeting, Walter Fuller Park

- **Speaker** is Walt Durkin, wade fisher extraordinaire. Walt will talk about two of his recent fly fishing expeditions, one to Grand Cayman and one to Belize.
- **Drawing:** Win a subscription to Tail Fly Fishing Magazine.
- **Fly swap:** Tie and bring three of your favorite flies.
- **Big Gun Shootout practice:** Before meeting (Also on Thursday, September 12, 5-8 pm).

Saturday, September 21 Outing, Cypress Pt Park, Tampa

Watch the **club calendar** for updates

Save these Dates

- August 12, Tie the Lipstick Fly, the Fly of the Month with club members at Bruce Evensen's home studio.
- August 15 Meeting: Tie-a-Thon with free pizza and prizes.
- August 17 Urban Outing: Bay Vista Park, Pinellas Point, St. Petersburg.
- September 19 Meeting: Speaker is Walt Durkin, wade fisher extraordinaire.
- September 21 Outing: Cypress Point Park, Tampa.
- October 12 Outing: Carl Hanson Competition with Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club on the Hillsborough River. Fly of the month: Worm fly.
- October 17 Meeting: Speaker, Steve Gibson, kayak fishing guide. He will tie the Mighty Myakka Minnow fly.
- October 19. Kids tie their first fly, Science Fair, St. Petersburg
- November 16-17, Florida Sportsman Expo
- December 14. Fly Casting Clinic. Woodlawn Park, St. Petersburg
- December 20. Holiday Party, 6:30-8:00, Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure, Pinellas Park

SFF Dues Notice

At the May 2019 SFF Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved collection of dues for both SFF membership and FFI membership. This will facilitate record keeping for SFF as well as FFI. This was announced at the May membership meeting. We will begin collecting membership dues in September for both the SFF dues and the FFI dues from members who wish to renew for the 2019 - 2020 period. Since FFI members joined at different times the FFI portion of the dues will be prorated so in subsequent years both membership bills will be either \$40 (\$15/\$25) for seniors, \$50 (\$15/\$35) for non-seniors, and \$60 (\$25/\$35) for family memberships.

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg



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 -- Open

Outings -- Bob Burkard, Hilton Bruch, David
Redd, Bill AuCoin

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

Outreach, shows -- David Redd, Bob Burkard,
Bill Scarola, Tom Gadacz

Raffles -- Dave Barson

Succession Plan -- Rick Warfel
Programs -- Board of Directors

Publicity -- Bill AuCoin

On The Fly

Bill AuCoin, editor
Duane Mertz
Anne Hays

Aims and Purposes

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.

Suncoast Fly Fishers (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. SFF supports the conservation of natural resources, boating safety and fishing regulations.

Monthly Meetings. Guests welcome.

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.

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

Monthly Outings

Club members meet up every month for a fly fishing outing and lunch. Usually it is scheduled on the Saturday after monthly meeting on the third Thursday of every month.

Contact us by mail: Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40821, St Petersburg, FL 33743-0821

Visit our website and Facebook pages, too

SuncoastFlyFishers.com

[Facebook/Suncoast Fly Fishers](#)

Membership

Suncoast Fly Fishers currently has 126 members including 16 family members and 6 honorary members. Annual dues are \$50 (\$40 for seniors), payable in September. This also includes benefits and annual membership in [Fly Fishers International](#) and the [Florida Council](#) of Fly Fishers International

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

[Join. Renew. Application](#)

Secrets for Catching Snook on Dock-lights and Beaches

By Duane Mertz

Tips on how to catch big snook dock-light fishing or from the beach were shared by a panel of experts at the July SFF meeting.

The panel consisted of long-time SFF members Mark Hays, Alan Sewell and Mark Craig. They shared their secrets about snook fishing gained over their collective 90 years of experience fishing local waters.



July meeting docklight panel: Mark Craig, Mark Hays, and Alan Sewell.

The right equipment

The preferred rod for catching big snook is a 10-weight in the 7-8' range. A heavy rod is necessary as snook will often head for pilings or rocks when hooked to breakoff and the angler must be able to head the fish away from escape.

Heavy leaders are also important as the snook's sharp gill-plates make excellent cutting tools. Our experts use 9-foot leaders with 50-40-30 lb leader assemblies. Another option is 25-30 lb tapered leaders. Change leaders often and after every catch. Less expensive monofilament leader material is preferred to fluorocarbon. Uni-knots are preferred as they are easy to tie.



These are Mark Hays' go-to docklight flies.

Always use floating line around docks. Off the beach use a 6-weight rod with sink-tip line.

On moon-lit nights, white flies work well, while purple flies produce on darker nights. Size 4-6 flies are popular. Always tie eyeballs on your flies.

Small boats with electric motors are good for dock-light fishing. A quiet, electric trolling motor at low setting is recommended to avoid spooking fish. Heavy kayaks are also good for dock-light fishing. If using a peddle kayak take care not to foul the line with your legs.

When working dock-lights from a boat or kayak – safety is the number 1 priority. Always wear a good quality life vest, with a head light Consider using a white stern light. Be on the lookout for submerged lines, automatic lights and other man-made entrapments.

Continued on next page

Continued...Night Fishing for Snook Secrets

Winning technique

Ninety-nine percent of snook caught on dock-light will be caught via sight fishing. Most fish will be caught no more than fifty feet from the boat.

Generally, the angler will have only one shot at a snook before they spook. You must sneak up on them. False casting is not recommended. A simple pick-up and laydown cast is best with a simple, very slow strip. If you make a bad cast, fish it rather than mending your line. As you take your shot at a snook, use a slow retrieve and watch the snook follow your fly to your boat.

Best time to fish is 3AM to sun-up or starting one hour after sundown. New moons are better than full moons. Always fish moving water. Outgoing tides are more productive.

Shadow areas on the water can be very productive as snook will lurk in the border areas between light and dark. Cast to the perimeter of the shadows first before moving into the lighted areas. Snook will lay in as little as one foot of water so fishing where the dock meets the break wall can be productive. Use of an underwater light will attract bait fish and predators.

On The beach

From the beach, cast your line parallel to the beach in troughs in calm winds. Don't get your feet wet as large unwelcome predators may be lurking nearby.

If you hear dogs barking leave the area.

###



These are flies Alan likes to fish for snook under the dock-lights.



Andy Constantinou with a hefty docklight snook.



Smitty tied snook flies at the July meetings. LOL. Hey, did somebody tell a good snook joke?

Review: July Outing. Docklights and Beaches

It was a dark and stormy night.

Actually, our docklight outing weekend produced two dark and stormy nights with stiff winds and thunderous booms. But some Suncoast Fly Fishers were not deterred from fishing even with deadly lightning flashes all around.

We received reports and pictures from three teams.

Team TBD gave us a winner. Skipper Dennis Marquis took Barry Salzman and Truk Trukenbrod fishing in Pass-a-Grille. In the rain. Truk landed a 23.5-inch snook on a schminnow. That's the outing winner; plus, Truk's snook takes the snook lead in the annual outing tournament.



Truk and his docklight trophy.



Mark Hays' 20-inch speckled trout takes the lead that category in the annual outing tournament.

Mark Hays, Anne Hays and Mandy McGarry fished the residential docklights of Treasure Island. They didn't score any big snook but Mark caught a fat seatrout, 20-inches, which now leads the annual outing tournament.

Bob Burkard and Bill AuCoin fished the residential canals around Shore Acres and Tanglewood Island. Bob caught a bunch, all about 21 inches.

Did anybody else fish the docklights or beaches? Probably. But no more reports were received. Maybe they didn't catch anything? Perish the thought.

David

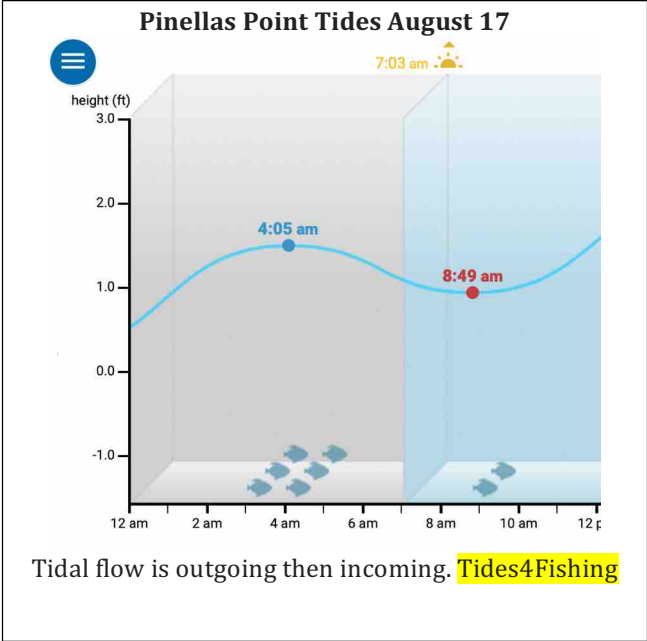
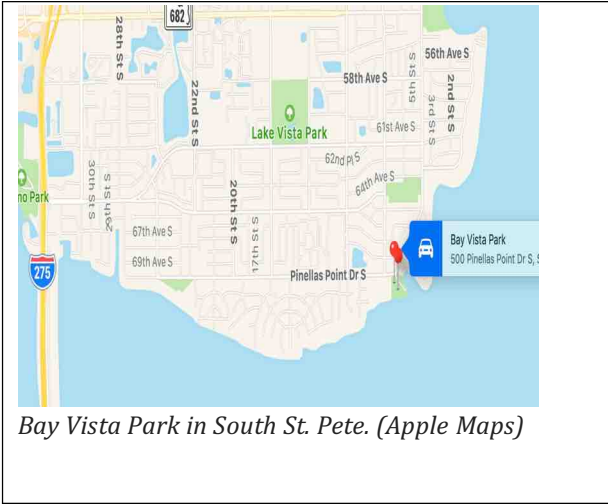


Bob Burkard sight casting. Most of the residential docks held lots of snook, including some large ones, but the little snook always beat the big snook to the fly.

Preview: August Urban Outing at Pinellas Point

Target: Ladyfish. Meet up at Bay Vista Park. Coffee @ 9:30. Brisket @11:45

Our August outing is our long-standing and much celebrated urban outing at Pinellas Point with the coffee and lunch meet-up at Bay Vista Park.



You can fish anywhere in Tampa Bay but keep in mind that the waters around Pinellas Point can be very productive at this time of the year. Shoot a picture of any fish you want to submit for the outing or annual tournament prize. See the lengths below. Hey, the redfish category is empty.

Remember, FWC has ruled snook, redfish and spotted seatrout of any size must be released until after May 31, 2020. After the red tide invasions of 2017 and 2018 they want to do everything they can to resuscitate the populations of those species in Southwest Florida.

2019 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS THROUGH JULY

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing (Month)
Longest sunfish			
Longest black bass	13.5"	David Redd	Walsingham Lake (Feb)
Longest snook	23.5"	Truk Trukenbrod	Dock-light/Beaches Outing (July)
Longest redfish			
Longest ladyfish	22 1/2"	Dennis Marquis	Weedon Island Preserve (Jan)
Longest seatrout	20"	Mark Hays	Dock-light/Beaches Outing (July)

Smitty's Fly Box - Bonefish Whisperer



Layne (Smitty) Smith

White version of the fly as viewed from below (fish's perspective). Brown is also an excellent color for this fly. This fly lands so softly it can be cast to land on a bonefish's nose and still not spook him !!!



Bonefish Whisperer

Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu SL45 Bonefish Size 4 (for redfish use any long shank, wide gap hook)

Thread: To match body color. Flat waxed nylon is good.

Antennae: One strand of Krystal Flash, doubled, plus a dozen pieces of bucktail to match fly.

Palps: 2 to 3 turns of soft hackle; color should mimic shrimp color.

Eyes: Pair of melted monofilament eyes dipped in Softex, then coated with Hard as Nails or coat with UV Resin and cure.

Body: Hackle feathers wrapped 2 at a time and folded lengthwise.

Weed Guard (Optional): 20-25 lb. test mono, double.

Tying Sequence

1. Tie in buck tail 1½ times the length of hook shank at bend and slightly around bend.
2. Tie in Krystal Flash as antennae slightly longer than bucktail.
3. Tie in soft hackle by its tip, fold lengthwise and make 2 or 3 wraps (barbules facing bend of hook. Tie off and trim excess."
4. Tie in one pair of thin-stemmed hackle feathers, fold them in half lengthwise, and wrap the hook. Try not to travel down the hook shank too far. Cut off and overwrap with thread.
5. Tie in eyes so they splay to sides slightly.
6. Tie in more sets of hackle, doubling as you go, until hook shank is filled.
7. Trim hackle in slight cone shape. Try to leave the hackle slightly longer at the head (remember that the head is at the hook bend, not at the hook eye).
8. Tie in double weed guard only if making the redfish version.

Dennis Marquis: Team TBD Outing Report

Team TBD: Truk Trukenbrod, Barry Salzman, and Dennis Marquis

Team TBD waited for the storms to pass on Saturday night and left Tierra Verde Marina around 9 pm.



Did Truk win the docklight outing with his 23.5-inch snook? It appears so. And he has taken the snook lead in the annual outing tournament standings.

We planned to fish Vina Del Mar Island via the channel right behind Pass A Grille. We found the snook actively feeding the last two hours of the outgoing tide. We hit the first over-head light just north of the 21st street bridge where Barry landed the first snook of the night at 16" on a schminnow. It was his first docklight snook.

Next light, Truk stepped up and landed a 23.5" snook on a schminnow. That one went around a post, Truk did a real nice job leading it back around and clear of it. Barry was up again at the next light and landed a 19.5" snook.



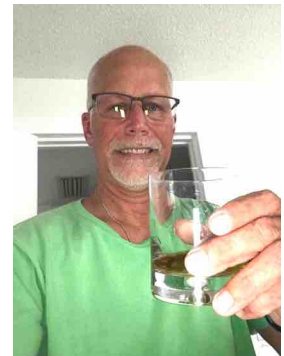
Barry's almost-20-inch snook.



Barry's first docklight snook.

We had several others hooked that released themselves gracefully, untouched by human hands. Fortunately, we started fishing early enough to fish the last of the outgoing tide because about 11 pm the tide stopped ... and so did the bite.

We saw plenty of snook following our flies between 11-12 pm but they wouldn't eat. We headed in and arrived safely at the dock around 1am.



After a hard day's night. That's me, relaxing after getting everybody and the boat back safe and sound.

Dennis

Docklight Team AB: Bill AuCoin and Bob Burkard

Lightning, lightning go-away. Bob and I postponed departure until after 9 pm and we still had to fish in the rain for a couple of hours. The wind was not our friend, either. The lightning flashing in the sky to our north was beautiful but, yeah, kind of off-putting. Should we return? Noooooooo.

Anyway, long story short: we fished Shore Acres and Tanglewood Island residential canals. And snook were swimming around many of the lights. Bob caught four, maybe six, all about 21 inches. He had more on the line for a time but they slipped off the hook. I made a few casts to the lights and freaked out the snook putting them in lockjaw mode for a time.

After a time the rain stopped; the wind died down. Snook were caught. Dogs didn't bark. We got back about 2 am. Nice night.

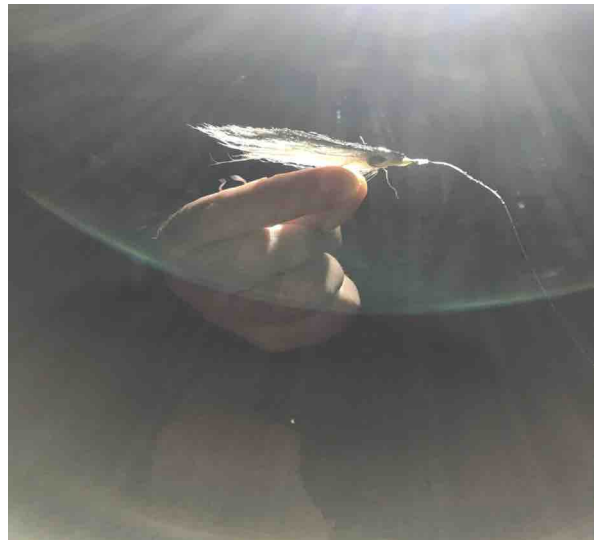


Bob on the bow. He worked the darker rings, avoiding the bright water, and scored several snook. Many followed his fly all the way to the boat but didn't eat it.

Bill



Bob with one of about six snook he brought to the boat. All schoolies, about 21-inches.



Rain on the lens kinda magnifies Bob's successful, big-eyed fly.

Team Mark Hays, Anne Hays, and Mandy McGarry

We launched at Jungle Prada around 1:30 am and didn't catch anything until 5.

Dad caught an 18 inch snook, a 20-inch trout, and little bit smaller trout that we didn't measure.

Mandy and I each got a trout. Mine was 14 inches and I think Mandy's was 16 inches. All fish were caught on #2 Kraft fur greenback imitations.

Also if no one else caught a trout bigger than Dad's he's on the board for biggest trout this year. I can't believe it's July and that slot was still empty. Just goes to show how bad the red tide was.

Anne



Mark didn't catch the longest snook but his 20-inch seatrout takes the lead in the annual outing tourney.



Anne Hays with a not-quite-legal seatrout. Actually, we can't keep in-the-slot seatrout until the red tide recovery ban ends May 31.



Mandy McGarry, seatrout on the Treasure Island residential docklights.



Mark with a 20-inch docklight snook.

Anne

Tom Gadacz: FFI Expo then Madison River with My Son Nick



Tom Gadacz and guide with a 19-inch Madison River brown trout caught on a dropper nymph.

I spent three consecutive days of meetings and then volunteering at the FFI Expo in Bozeman then I fished the Madison River with Nicholas, my son, the last two days. We caught over 50 browns and rainbows and a cut bow trout. Most were 12 to 14 inches. My biggest was 19 inches. They were hitting the dropper nymphs.

Tom



Nick Gadacz fly fishing the Madison River in late July.



Rainbow trout, one of 50 or so trout, rainbows and browns, caught by Gadacz, dad and son on a two day Madison River expedition.



Madison River brown trout.



Another rainbow.

Tom



Another rainbow for Nick.

Fly Fishing for Youth Eco-Adventure Camp in Ruskin

By Tom Gadacz

Treasurer, Suncoast Fly Fishers

President, Florida Council, Fly Fishers International

The E. G. Simmons Eco Adventure Camp in Ruskin, Florida offers youths a two-week experience learning fishing skills. Suncoast Fly Fishers, a FFI Charter club and member of the Florida Council, participates in the program by providing fly casting instructions to youths of the older age group (12 to 15 years of age).



David Redd was on hand.



Patty Anderson, TBFFC, and a new fly fisher.

We had 16 anglers on June 28 and 14 on July 12. We have participated in this program for the past six years. Over the past six years the number of girls in each class has increased so now girls make up a third of the class. The weather for both sessions was rather good with overcast skies, a slight breeze, and no rain. Most of the time is spent fly casting. We have a brief classroom session explaining fly fishing equipment and techniques, differences between fresh and salt water fly fishing, and showing different kinds of flies.

The kids are paired up and help each other. The casting stroke is demonstrated and then practiced using the paint brush drill. They dip a paint brush in a bowl of water and starting at ear level, they splash their partner 6 to 8 feet in front to them using as little wrist as possible.

They turn around and practice the back stroke starting in front of their face and at eye level, accelerating toward their back with a sudden stop at ear level. The kids practice the paint brush drill for 15 minutes.

Continued



Hey, looking good!



Hilton Bruch checks the fly cast.



Dennis Marquis explains the fly cast.



You can do this, said Quinn Berry

Continued... Fly Casting for Kids at E. G. Simmons Park



Future Fly Fishers. E.G. Simmons camp on June 28.



Campers encouraged each other.



Future Fly Fishers. E. G. Simmons camp on July 12.



Rick Warfel watches the fly cast.

The instructors move among each pair giving praise and a few instructions. They cast with 5 weight 8' 6" fly rods. Hula hoop targets and 18" potting plates are placed at 30 to 35 feet and they cast to the target. The non-casting partner observes and encourages their partner. Avoiding rotation of the wrist is the greatest initial challenge. They change positions every 10 to 15 minutes. Most of the youths have some proficiency by the end of the sessions and a few are very good. Every youth received the SFF *Certificate of Completion* for completing the Junior Training for Fly Casting.



The youth fly casting sessions were staffed by SFF members (from left) David Redd, Hilton Bruch, Quinn Berry, Dennis Marquis, Patty Anderson of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club, and (right) SFF member Rick Warfel.

We wish to thank Heather Gay, Director, E.G Simmons Park, and camp counselors Audrey Gaines, Amanda Bishop, Daniel MacWhoter, Ryan Katz, Mathew Martinez, Jake Conti, Maysa Falcon, and Tristian Katz.

Lynn Skipper: Everglades City Tarpon and Baby Goliath



Here's a shot of me with a juvenile tarpon caught on a white fly around Everglades City fishing with Capt. John Hand July 2 and the day before that I caught a juvenile goliath grouper (photo on right) on the fly, also fishing near Everglades City. Goliath grouper can grow up to 800+ pounds.

Lynn

Pat Damico: Euro-nymphing in Penn. How about Fla?



August 5, Fishing Creek, PA, size 14 caddis nymph on jig type barbless hook with a tungsten bead and 4X tippet.

I should be back in Florida in early November then back to PA in April.

Pat

What is Euro-nymphing?

Gary Sundberg: Slamming Trout on the Yellowstone

From Gary on July 16...

I'm out here in Montana slamming some trout on the Yellowstone River near Livingston. Incredible scenery and fishery! Probably landed 20 or more, what a day!



Bill Scarola: Drum roll, please

Why did the fish blush? Because it saw the *river bottom*.

Did you see the movie about fishing last night? It had a great *cast* in it.

I just watched a program about beavers. It was the best *dam* program I've ever seen.

What did the fish say when he posted bail? I'm off the *hook*!

Why don't fish play basketball? They're afraid of the net!

How do you communicate with a fish? You drop him a line.

Did you hear about the aquarium owner? His shark was worse than his pike.

Where do fish go to get a haircut? The bobber shop.

Paaadump pummm!!!

Russ Hampton: Peacock Bass Anyone?

Russ is not a member of SFF but he's a long-time friend of the club, and has spoken at meetings about fishing the Everglades Canals. He recently reached out and sent a report of his peacock bass fishing from Tucunare Lodge on the Rio Vichada in the jungles of Colombia.

Here's Russ: The area is on the border of Colombia and Venezuela in a remote area where hookups with 10-pound peacocks are quite common. there are 15 different species of peacocks.

The best time to go there and fly fish is January through March when the water level is low. The cost from Bogota until you return to Bogota, through Panama City, is \$3,500.00 plus about \$300.00 in tips. The round trip to and from Bogota is extra and prices vary. Usually the price on Copa is very good. The booking will be made through Javiar at Ecuadorflyfishingtours.com. This is the only peacock camp there.

I will fish there again next March and fish more days for payara. This is real jungle fishing and it is not for light fly tackle. One will need a yellow fever shot and I recommend malaria pills. You have to go to county health for the shot and your doctor can order the malaria pills.



Russ Hampton, not a member but a longtime friend of SFF, with one of the peacock bass he caught on the fly at the Tucunare Lodge in Colombia. Interested? Call Russ at 352-408-2896.



Russ uses 9 and 10-weight fast action rods and intermediate line for streamers, floating line for the poppers, and sink-tip line when fishing fast, rocky water. The water is not deep so it is usually the leader that gets sawed off. There are many submerged stumps and branches. If they take you into the submerged trees they will saw off 50-lb test bite tippet.



Payara (aka vampire fish) on the fly.



Russ' peacock flies are 6 to 9 inches with 3/0 to 5/0 hooks. The blue and white is for payara with 4/0 or 5/0 hooks. He also throws big poppers. Payara flies can be 12 inches long with 2 hooks. Steel leader is used for payara.

Russ

Fly Gear for Sale or Swap

Alan Sewell is selling his Old Town Kayak/Canoe hybrid. And more. Email Sewellalan@yahoo.com

Four (4) sets new car top kayak carriers, \$50 for all. Old Town NEXT kayak/canoe hybrid. Great seat, foot pedals, unsinkable. Handles great with kayak paddle, too. Includes fishing crate, paddle and life jacket, and cover. Used three times. \$750.00.

Michael Larkin wants to trade. Email him at elopomorph@hotmail.com

Scientific Anglers Mastery Series bonefish taper 8 weight sinking light green fly line. I'm looking to trade for other fly lines in 5, 6, 7, or 9 weight. Or will trade for other fly fishing stuff.

Lynn Skipper has a couple of nice fly rods he'd like to sell. He can bring them to the August meeting. Email vintagevette@msn.com or call 813-541-3195)

1. ROSS WORLDWIDE FlyStik Heavy - 10 wt, 4 piece, 7'11" rod with sock and tube. Value \$200 +, sell \$150 OBO
2. ORVIS TLS Power Matrix Mid-Flex 4 piece 3 wt rod with sock and tube + ORVIS Battenkill DISC 3-4 reel with backing and 3 wt WFF line. Value - \$260+. \$160 OBO.

Phil Chapman is offering more top line fly gear – new and used. Call and leave a message at 863-646-9445 or email him at tarponfeathers@msn.com. Also ask about fly line deals

Albright EXS	9' x #8	3 piece New/never used. Includes sock and tube.	\$90
TFO BVK	9' x #12	4 piece New/never used	\$120
TFO TiCRX	9' x #12	4 piece Slight use	\$90
TRL J. Quill	9' x #10	4 piece Never used. With sock and tube	\$75
TRL J. Quill	9' x #12	4 piece Used once. With sock and tube	\$75

Larry Huffman is selling his Hobie Outback. Email lhuffman668@gmail.com



It is a ten-year-old Hobie Outback that has been garage kept and very seldom used. The kayak is 10' long and tan in color. It comes with an anchor trolley system with a stick pole. Also comes with an anchor light for night fishing. The control lines were just replaced and the Hobie drive system is in

excellent condition. Asking \$1300.00.

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

Jack Cason is selling his sit-on-top Perception Pescador kayak. 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

Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner



Introduce Fly Fishing Fun to Children and Adults Close to Home

Ponds or any freshwater impoundment, large or small, contain a variety of warm water species that are always anxious to take a fly that represents their natural food. Golf courses, roadside ponds, housing developments and small lakes are easily accessible, but may require permission, and can usually be successfully fished from shore. Light tackle will not only be more fun but easier to use and generally readily available. Hand-me-down trout outfits from up north are perfect. Have a knowledgeable fly fisher make sure the equipment is balanced, usually meaning that the line matches the rod. Panfish and bass will be the target so think small. 3 to 5 weight rods are perfect with matching weight forward floating lines. A 7 to 9 foot tapered leader to 8-pound test will even handle the occasional large bass that engulfs your offering. Flies that duplicate terrestrials, ants, crickets, hoppers, beetles and other bugs are great for exciting surface action. Below the surface, use minnow or insect larvae imitations to score. Early and late in the day when the water is cooler is usually best. In the middle of the day, look for shade. Docks, overhanging trees, lily pads, rafts and bridges are my favorites. Most fish are close to shore so use stealth often casting parallel to shore not out into the center of the pond. Be especially careful not to have your shadow hitting the pond surface where you plan to fish. Use very slow presentations, as many strikes occur on the pause. Keep your eye on the floating fly and raise the rod tip to set the hook when the fly disappears in a swirl. Watching the end of the floating line for any unusual movement will tell you when your sub-surface offering is taken. If vacationing, follow the same suggestion.

Sharks on the Fly

Tarpon get most of the attention when we talk about exciting fly action for large fish in our area. Earlier in the year as the water warmed and baitfish became more prolific large tarpon followed their forage and populated most of our local water. Following the tarpon were fish that consider tarpon as their favorite food. These top of the food chain predators are a variety of sharks. Waiting patiently for a tarpon that will take a fly can make for a very long day. How many times, especially in shallow water, have you seen sharks patrolling your tarpon hot spot? If you cast to them with a tarpon setup and did get a hookup, a frayed leader was usually your result. A slight modification in your tarpon rig is needed. Ideally, have a second rod ready to go to save time and not ruin your tarpon chances. A 10 weight fly rod, 200 yards of 30-pound backing and a leader with a 4-foot 60-pound butt section, twenty-pound tippet class tippet and a 1-foot wire bite tippet will attach to the fly. Use a Bimini twist to double the section next to the 40-pound single strand wire. Attach the wire to the double-strand leader with an Albright knot. The bright orange or red fly size 3/0 will need a haywire twist to complete the connection to the wire leader. Cast ahead of the shark and work the fly with a slow, teasing erratic motion. A hookup will need several serious strip sets low and to the side, for good hook penetration, then hang on! If not familiar with some of the knots, an internet search is needed. When using single-strand wire, a right angle back and forth motion will break the tag end of the wire with a clean smooth finish. Using a tool to cut the wire will leave a very sharp result that will injure you or cut your leader while playing the fish. Catch and careful release are encouraged.

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

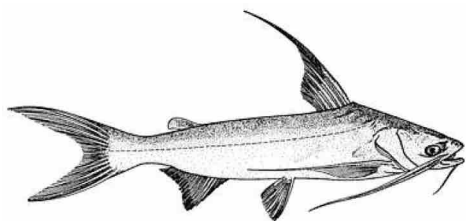
Anne Hays –Be careful. Catfish are out to getcha *Everything you've never wanted to know about catfish*



My dad (Mark Hays), Mandy McGarry, and I launched at Jungle Prada at 1:30 am. Nobody got a bite, let alone a fish, until 5 am when the tide picked up. It was during those long hours that I came up with the idea for this article.

Dad and I both remarked that we saw more catfish that night than any other nighttime expedition. Nearly every light had a ball of silver bullets swirling around it. Like all reasonable fishermen, we did our best to avoid hooking one or scaring the school as they would alert the game fish to our presence. I had never given much thought to the lowly catfish before this outing, but I was bored out of my skull and nothing was happening. I decided in my sleep-deprived state that I would educate myself on the lowly catfish.

There are two types of catfish that live in Tampa Bay. To prove my ignorance on this species, I had no idea that we have two different types of catfish in our area. The more recognizable of the two is locally called a sailcat. To further prove my ignorance of the matter, it turns out the real name of the sailcat is the gafftopsail catfish. Since this is a highly scientific article worthy of publication in National Geographic, I must mention the Latin name of the gafftopsail catfish is *Bagre marinus*.



Gafftopsail catfish (aka, sailcat)

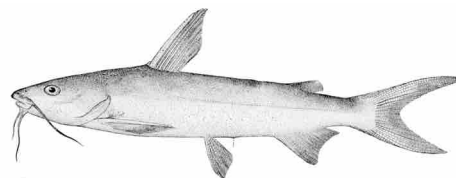
The second species of catfish is called the hardhead catfish (*Ariopsis felis*). I had heard catfish referred to as “hardheaded” before, but I assumed this simply meant they had a hard, flat head; not that this was any different from a “sailcat.”

The main difference between the species is in appearance is the fins. Gafftopsail catfish are named for the sail-like dorsal fin on the back. According to [Wikipedia](#), the gafftopsail catfish has long, fleshy, spines on top of the large dorsal fin and the pectoral fins. The hardhead catfish has shorter dorsal and

pectoral fins without the long, flashy spine. The gafftopsail catfish is shorter than the hardhead catfish. According to [Wikipedia](#), the former grows to about 17 inches, and the latter grows to about 28 inches. Both species have blue-grey upper bodies and white underbodies.

The obvious reason people hate saltwater catfish is that they can sting or “fin” you. This terminology is important. According to [Wikipedia](#), the catfish’s whiskers, or barbels, are not venomous. The skin covering the spines on their dorsal and pectoral fins hold the venom. Younger catfish have stronger spines, so they are more dangerous to handle.

The spines wear out over the life of the fish, so they grow to be less dangerous.



Hardhead catfish

Catfish spines can pierce through shoes, so do not let them in your boat if possible. In trying to imagine a way to safely remove one that is angrily flopping around the deck of our boat, an image comes to mind of my dad trying to grab the fish with our grill tongs while my mother tackles our Labrador, Mayhem.

Continued on next page

In scouring the internet, the best description of a catfish sting I could find comes from Keith "Catfish" Sutton (I am not making this moniker up) over at gameandfishmag.com. He allowed a gafftopsail catfish to brush against his leg as his guide did not warn him that saltwater cats have a much more powerful sting than their freshwater cousins. "Within seconds, burning pain shot through my entire leg. Imagine the sting of a red wasp times two. That's how excruciating it was."

While Keith the catfish whisperer survived his injury with no lasting damage, my step-great-grandfather, whom my father refers to as Captain, was stung so badly in his right index finger that it was permanently disfigured. The joke was that if he pointed to something, you'd always miss it as you would look a few feet to the right.

If you are stung by a gafftopsail or hardhead catfish, the tried and true home remedies of a hot water compress, Tylenol, and whiskey (no, the whiskey is not used to wash down the Tylenol) will help control the pain. The wound needs to air dry to avoid infection. Some people can have allergic reactions to the venom, or they can experience more severe symptoms like heart palpitations and loss of consciousness. Infections can occur if some of the barb sticks in you. My advice is to get yourself straight to urgent care as you never know how your body will react to a sting the first time you get one.

Getting back to those whiskers, catfish are bottom feeders. The whiskers have very sensitive nerves that help the fish find food. The catfish's main diet is whatever is on the end of your line. According to Wikipedia, babies eat plankton and gunk, then as they grow up they move on to crustaceans and minnows, then older fish simply eat aquatic animals small than themselves. Gafftopsail catfish tend to grow out of their bottom-feeding habits more so than the hardheads, which is why I catch them every time I fish with bait.

Speaking again from personal experience, it's rare to catch catfish on flies and hard bait, but when you fish with live bait, they show up en masse.

Catfish tend to feel heavy when they get hooked. Whenever I hook one, it feels like I caught a rock or the bottom for a few moments. This is because, as bottom feeders, catfish have a reduced gas bladder and heavy head. They are negatively buoyant, which means they are designed to sink rather than float.

Another interesting fact about catfish is that they hold extremely progressive views on parenting. According to Wikipedia, after the eggs are fertilized, the male catfish carry them in their mouths until they hatch. This process is known as mouthbrooding. Male gafftopsail catfish can hold 55 eggs in their mouth at a time. Very few species of animals do this, probably because the parent who holds the eggs cannot eat while he or she is doing this. Hardhead catfish have to forego food for thirty days until their fry hatch. One other species of animal that participates in mouthbrooding is the cichlid family.

Now you have survived with me to the end of this article on a fish that absolutely no one wants think about, let alone read about, you deserve an outing report.

Once the tide picked up at 5 am Saturday morning, Dad of course caught the first fish, which was an 18-inch snook. Then he caught a 20-inch trout. Mandy brought in a 16 inch trout, and I finished the morning with a 14 inch trout. All of them were caught near Blind's Pass on Dad's craft fur greenback flies. Dad teased a large triple tail near one of the dock lights, but it wasn't interested in his fly at all.

Besides the severe lack of fish, we were disappointed that so many dock lights were either gone or made inaccessible to fishermen. This is either due to greed on the homeowners' part or poor behavior of some people during the wee hours of the morning.

It is very clear that the red tide last year killed off a lot of snook, trout, and redfish. Not that I would suspect any member of the SFF of wrongdoing, but I urge everyone to not kill any of these fish until the seasons are reopened. Even then, Dad and I have been following C.A. Richardson's advice to kill barely legal fish and release the giants as large, older fish spawn far more frequently than juveniles.

Anne

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



I'm all in on the Big Gun Shoot Out in November. – The SFF board of directors has okayed Big Gun Shootout practice at Walter Fuller Park before every meeting and on one other day each month. Quin Berry is managing that. The first one was Thursday, August 8, from 5-8 pm. I've been practicing daily and trying to learn to cast 100-plus feet. (I'm not there yet.) I'm watching video instruction to see how to do it. The goals are very tight loops and super-fast line speed. Take a look at these demos. There are many others.

[Tim Rajeff, Abstract Hyper Distance Theory](#)

[Gink and Gasoline](#)

[Vimeo – FFI](#)

[You Tube – Distance Casting 115 feet](#)

[You Tube – Orvis, adding distance to your cast](#)

Tampa Bay is not on his list of redfish hot spots. – This is a terrific article by the well-known photographer/author Pat Ford about where to catch big redfish, and how to catch them on the fly. ([Sportfishing](#))

Am I addicted to my laptop? – Read this. Then take *The Addiction Test*. I'm keeping the results of my test secret. ([Salt Strong](#))

I bought some of these things at Publix. – Fishing line unravels quickly and ends up in a tangled mess. This trick solves the problem on large spools of line as well as small fly fishing tippet spools. I also bought some needles with a hole big enough for 40# leader. ([You Tube](#))

When the next ice age comes, I'm heading to the Little Manatee River. -- When you see a big trout rising to mayflies, your first impulse is to cast right away, but as Amelia Jensen of Jensen Fly Fishing explains, your best bet is to slow down, watch, and wait. "Your first cast needs to be your best cast," she explains. HT Pat Damico. ([Midcurrent](#))

For me, stepping down from the casting platform is destabilizing. – Here are a number of "Fishing Fails" that can happen to any of us. Be careful out there. ([Southern Boating](#))

Circle of Heroes – The underwater Gulf memorial saluting the five branches of the U.S. military is now mostly in place about 10 miles off of Dunedin. Twelve (soon to be 24) six-foot tall statutes and monument in the middle make up the Circle of Heroes at Veterans Reef. No fishing; just diving. ([Brighter Futures Florida](#))

Karenia brevis "not present." – Well, as of August 2. Anyway, that's good news for Southwest Florida counties. FWC is sampling nearshore water every week looking for the red tide organism. So far, so good for 2019 but I am curious about whether they've detected any 40 or so miles out in the Gulf where the organism first blooms. ([FWC](#))

Homer, we hardly knew you – Saltwater fly fishing has a number of patron saints. We know his name well because of his famous fly-to-hook loop knot. But, as this post details, we've all learned a lot more from Homer Rhode, Jr. than his knot. ([Tail Fly Fishing Blog](#))

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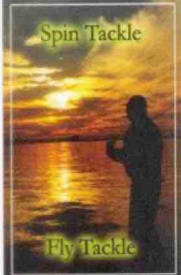
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