


On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

December 20 Ugly Sweater Potluck, P3



SFF Ugly Sweater Potluck
Dec. 20th 6:30 to 8 pm
Most Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church
5800 15th Ave S Gulfport, FL 33707

Join us for the Suncoast Fly Fishers' first annual holiday potluck and ugly sweater party. The club is providing non-alcoholic drinks and the night's main course, but we ask each of our guests to bring either a dessert or side dish. We also ask that everyone bring a wrapped gift worth \$10 or less to participate in the White Elephant Christmas game. There will be a prize for the ugliest holiday sweater or sweater vest. The party will be held in the social hall, which is part of the church building.

Please RSVP to Annie Hays at anne.hays327689@gmail.com by December 11th.

Boca Ciega Outing P14-16



Fort DeSoto Park Outing P 13



...and a Chili "Cookoff" too



Tripleplays, P18-19



Capt. Court Douthit, P7



Smitty's Whiskaz, P17





SFF President Letter – December 2019

Hello Everyone,

People wonder why I don't write about fly fishing in these articles. Well, I have; but sometimes I feel that I should acknowledge what others in Our Club are doing. And, maybe entice those of you who are maybe waiting on the sidelines.

And besides, this Newsletter holds some of the best fly-fishing pictures, experiences and adventures seen anywhere. Under Bill AuCoin's influence, you all have revealed a talent for picture taking and article writing that I bet you didn't even know you had.

I encourage all of you to join us for all the awesome things we have going on in December:

On the seventh we met for the Don Coleman outing and Chili cook off. Everybody was a winner.

On the fourteenth, we have a Casting Clinic led by our own Dayle Mazzarella & Pat Damico.

On the twentieth, we have our first annual Christmas Party with an "ugly sweater" contest. I intend to buy an ugly sweater just for this event. Bring a gift worth \$10 or less. I'm not a party goer, but I will be there to support Our Club and recognize and thank Anne Hays, Mandy McGarry, and Bob Burkhard for the all the work they put into it.

Here are some of the advantages of meeting with other Club members.

Every experienced fisherman knows that you catch more fish when you have a plan and a strategy. I heard one guide say: "I catch all my fish the night before." Preparation is the key.

Just sitting around the table with some of our members at an outing (or any gathering) can reveal the best plans and strategies. Listening to the conversation provides the best education this side of casting the fly. You can find places to go, what's biting, best fly to use and when to go there. First-hand knowledge free of charge. Some of the catches may be *a little* exaggerated, but the other facts are accurate.

In today's world of "Honey Do" lists and other major responsibilities, it is easy to lose sight of the simpler things of life: a cool breeze, a moving stream or incoming tide, the anticipation after a cast and the tug of a monster (or lizard fish) on the end of your line.

And never discount the contentment that comes with catching something on a fly you made yourself.

Never lose your sense of adventure.

George

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

Meetings, Outings, and More

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Fly casting and fly fishing clinic, Saturday, Dec. 14

Woodlawn Sports Center, Field #2, 1450 16th Street N., St. Pete

Learn the casts you need in real fishing conditions.

Everybody is welcome.

- Free lessons. Well, it's free to Suncoast Fly Fishers and others who are already members of Fly Fishers International. Or, you can join FFI on site for a year (\$35, \$15 Juniors, \$25 Seniors).
- Free breakfast, free lunch, courtesy of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club
- INSTRUCTORS: Master Casting Instructors Dayle Mazzarella and Capt. Pat Damico will lead a team of the best instructors including Steve Smith, Leigh West, and Chris O'Byrne. (Plus, one of our instructors will steer a battery powered "redfish" skateboard around the field. That'll keep everybody on their toes.)
- Pat Damico said, "We will be using a different format! We'll keep working on fundamental skills but will make the drills much more like real fishing conditions. It will be fun to use varying degrees of acceleration and momentum, the keys to casting well and with ease even into the wind. This will help you learn to make curve casts, to cast into the wind and to create slack with control as in pile and dump casts. Beginners, advanced and everybody in between will learn a lot and have fun, too."
- Contact Pat Damico for further information (727) 504-8649.

Bruce Evensen's Fly Tie Monday: December 16

- Meet up at Bruce's studio at 6:30: 531 80th Ave. N. in St. Petersburg

Order the new SFF Fishing Shirt

There are 3 snook shirts, all SPF 50 and moisture wicking.



Order in white, mint green, or grey. It's heat-transfer printing so excellent quality. All are machine washable. SFF logo on front.

- #1: Hoodie: \$45
- #2: Non-hooded: \$25
- #3: Cotton Tee, colors TBD: \$22

Email Tim Elms,
trelms@yahoo.com

November meeting guide trip raffle winner



New Suncoast Fly Fisher David Janusik (l) won the November meeting raffle for a free guided trip with Capt. Ray Markham. That's VP Rick Warfel with the congratulatory handshake.

December 20 -- Christmas Party Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, 5800 15th Avenue S., Gulfport

RSVP by Dec. 11 to Anne.Hays327689@gmail.com

Join us for the Suncoast Fly Fishers' first annual holiday potluck and ugly sweater party. The club is providing non-alcoholic drinks and the night's main course, but we ask each of our guests to bring either a dessert or side dish. We also ask that everyone bring a wrapped gift worth \$10 or less to participate in the White Elephant Christmas game. There will be a prize for the ugliest holiday sweater or sweater vest. The party will be held in the social hall, which is part of the church building.

Meetings, Outings, and More

JANUARY 16, TRASH 'N' TREASURES MEETING

- Bring gear to donate for the auction. Auctioneer is Alan Sewell
 - Bring a credit card and/or cash. You're going to pick up some really good deals.
 - Don't forget to renew your membership for 2018-2019. See Tom Gadacz, Treasurer.
-

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18 OUTING – WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE IN ST. PETE

- Fish within anywhere in Middle Tampa Bay.
 - Weedon Island Preserve was ranked the #2 favorite location in the SFF member survey
 - Bruce's recommended Fly of the Month: Mullet Clouser
 - Meet up for lunch at 11:30 in the pavilion adjacent to the main parking lot.
 - Outing prize goes to the member catching the longest spotted seatrout. Measure it. Take a picture and email it to Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin@verizon.net
-

FEBRUARY 20 MEETING, WALTER FULLER PARK

- Speaker: Capt. Shawn McCole (not confirmed)
-

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22 OUTING – FORT DESOTO PARK

- Fish anywhere in sight of Fort DeSoto Park, ranked the favorite location by members
 - Meet up for lunch at 11:30 at Pavilion #1 in the North Beach area.
 - Outing prize goes to the member catching the longest spotted seatrout, aka speckled trout. Measure it. Take a picture and email it to Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin@verizon.net
-

MARCH 19, MEETING, WALTER FULLER PARK

- Speaker: **Capt. Pat Damico**
-

SATURDAY, MARCH 21 OUTING -- SALT/FRESH OUTING – UPPER TAMPA BAY AND ALLIGATOR LAKE

- Fish for saltwater fish anywhere in Old Tampa Bay OR fish for bass and bream in Alligator Lake in Safety Harbor. It's March. The water in Old Tampa Bay is warmer and fish are more active than in the middle and lower bay.
 - Meet up for lunch at the picnic shelter in **Phillipe Park**.
 - This is the two-fer outing, giving members opportunities to catch the longest freshwater bass and bream and/or the longest saltwater gamefish to enter into the annual outing tournament.
 - Outing prize goes to the member catching the longest redfish, the longest bass, and the longest bream.-Measure it. Take a picture and email it to Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin@verizon.net
-

MARCH 28, Hog Roast and Silent Auction -- Hog Roast March 28th 2020 –

- 4 to 8 pm, St. Jerome's Catholic Church, 10855 Hamlin Blvd., Largo.
- Tickets, \$20. Children 12 and under are free with a paid adult.
- Buy tickets at the meeting or next club outing. See Treasurer Tom Gadacz. You can pay by cash, check or credit card.

Hog Roast --Call for volunteers

- The Hog Roast Committee is looking for volunteers. Some of the areas where we could use help are: Decorations, Catering, Silent Auction, Bucket Raffle, Donations, Ticket Sales, Registration and Member Tied Flies. If you would like to be involved in this year's Hog Roast please contact Rick Warfel by text or email. 813-523-0692 / rh_warfel@yahoo.com
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News & Notes

Bruce's flies of the month for 2020

Meet up with other club members at Bruce's fly tying studio at 6:30 pm on every Monday night. On the second Monday of each month, you'll tie Bruce's Fly of the Month for the upcoming club outing. Address 531 80th Ave. N. in St. Petersburg.



Bruce Evensen

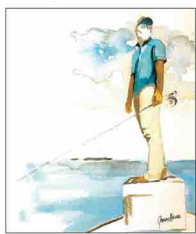
<u>Date</u>	<u>Fly</u>	<u>Outing</u>
January 13	Mullet Clouser	Weedon Island Preserve
February 10	Carl Hanson Bendback	Fort DeSoto Park
March 9	Spoon Fly	Upper Tampa Bay/Alligator Lake/Phillipi Park
April 13	Suspending Glass Minnow	Old/Middle Tampa Bay/Crab Shack Restaurant
May 10	Silver Minnow	Lower Tampa Bay/Sunshine Skyway Rest Area
June 8	White Shrimp	Docklights/Beaches
July 13	Pinfish Pattern	Lower Tampa Bay/Fort DeSoto Park
August 10	Purple n Black Bendback	Lower Tampa Bay/Bay Vista Park
September 14	Polar Fiber Baitfish	Old Tampa Bay
October 12	Brown Spider (not foam)	Carl Hanson Memorial/Hillsborough River
November 9	Hanukkah Fly	Boca Ciega Bay, War Veterans Memorial Park
December	TBD	Fort DeSoto Park (Bruce says, fish the Jiggy Fleye)

2019 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing (Month)
Longest black bass	13.5"	David Redd	Walsingham Lake (February)
Longest snook	23.5"	Truk Trukenbrod	Dock-light/Beaches Outing (July)
Longest redfish	22.5	Dennis Marquis	Boca Ciega Bay (November)
Longest ladyfish	22 1/2"	Dennis Marquis	Weedon Island Preserve (Jan)
Longest seatrout	20"	Mark Hays	Dock-light/Beaches Outing (July)

Ritz Carlton Outfitters Day, January 11

2ND ANNUAL
OUTFITTERS DAY
Casting Live at The Ritz Carlton Golf Clubhouse



JANUARY 11, 2020 | 12 P.M. - 5 P.M.
Fly Casting Demonstrations | A Casting Competition | Product Showcase
THE RITZ-CARLTON
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
1600 COLLEGE BLVD., ORLANDO, FL 32816
WWW.RITZ-CARLTON.COM

The Ritz-Carlton Outfitters' Day in Orlando is Saturday, January 11th from Noon to 5pm. It's free. This year also features the *Ritz-Carlton Top Gun Long Distance Fly Casting Competition* to determine the best long distance fly caster in Florida. The Ritz Carlton address is 4048 Central Florida Parkway. This event has grown from an idea of bringing fellow anglers together for a casual afternoon outing, to something a little bigger. Looking ahead: If space is available in 2021, there's a good chance Outfitters Day will be able to move indoors to a large banquet hall. "This will allow for more vendors, no weather issues and the ability to try out a few new ideas to draw more of the public in for the day," said Mark Benson, who manages the event. Benson said exhibit space for vendors is still available and asked vendors to call him at 407-257-5750.

News & Notes

Tom Gadacz reelected president of the Florida Council of Fly Fishers International

Board sets date for Expo at Plantation on Crystal River: Nov. 6-7, 2020

Suncoast Fly Fisher Tom Gadacz has been voted to a new term as president of the **Florida Council** of Fly Fishers International. Dave Olson was reelected VP.



Mark Benson (l) and Tom Gadacz,

Gadacz has announced that that the next statewide Expo will be Nov. 6-7 at **Plantation on Crystal River**. VP Olson is taking charge.

And, looking forward to 2021, the board discussed holding the 2021 Expo in a different Central Florida location, possibly the Ritz Carlton Grand Lakes in Orlando.

Tom Gadacz, who is a member of Suncoast Fly Fishers, was voted to a new term as president

of the Florida Council. Olson was reelected vice president. The new board consists of Larry Bussey, Stewart Mitchell, Jose Lopez, Mark Benson, Ron Bloomquist, Tom Gadacz, Jim Harter, George Haseltine, David Lambert, Tom Logan, David Olson, Ed Tamson, and Roger Williams. Appointments to the Executive Committee included Tom Gadacz, David Olson, Rick Warfel, Ron Bloomquist, and Craig Smothers. Stewart Mitchell was named Education Chair and he will co-ordinate educational programs in FFI to FI Clubs and members. He is a member of the FFI Education Committee. Tom Logan, Chairman of the Board of Fly Fishers International, updated the Florida Council on new FFI activities including the **FFI Learning Center** and the appointment of President/CEO, Patrick Berry.



Capt. Pat Damico

Our club will help document Fly Fishing's contribution to Florida History

Suncoast Fly Fishers has volunteered to help document the history and importance of fly fishing to the state of Florida. The club was approached by Tina Bucuvalas, PhD, of Tarpon Springs who is working on the project. Pat Damico met with Bucuvalas in Tarpon Springs. Damico said, "We spent almost two hours together recently where she taped and photographed fly casting, fly tying, different flies, fly fishing history in Florida as well as our Club. I will have more information as this unfolds in the future. Tina was very professional and has a very interesting resume and history."

Thank You note from family of deceased member Bob Morrison

Dear Friends at SFF, 11/20/19
Thank you so much for the donation you made to Suncoast Hospice Foundation in memory of my uncle Robert Morrison. Suncoast Hospice was a wonderful support and care provider for most of 2019. Thanks also to all of you for your friendships and camaraderie for my Uncle Bob in his 8 years here in Florida. He found true friends and really enjoyed SFF. Thanks to all of you who made

his days brighter by visiting and calling or having lunch out as well as taking him docklighting and other activities. He loved every minute.

Thanks to all who made it to the funeral ^{Hallmark} mass and for sharing your memories of him. He will be missed. Uncle Bob was my "Big Fish."

Thank you again for your generous donation. Fondly,
Marilyn Wallace and family

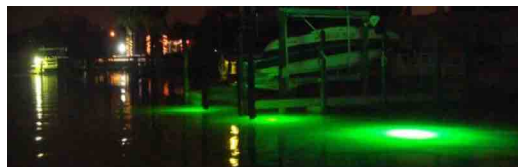
Capt. Court Douthit: Strategies for Docklight Fly Fishing



Duane Mertz

By Duane Mertz

Captain Court Douthit of Dunedin spoke to Suncoast Fly Fishers at the November meeting and talked about one of his favorite kinds of fly fishing – docklight sight casting to snook, redfish and other gamefish.

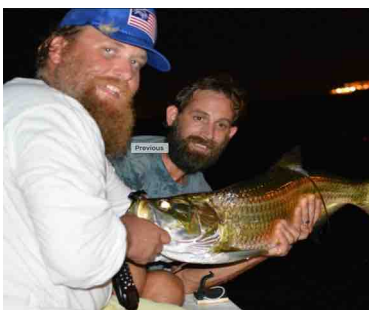


Captain Douthit said fly fishing can be more productive on the docklights because flies land softly and don't spook the fish like heavy lures landing and splashing loudly on the water.

- 1) Many fish including our target species are nocturnal feeders. He said in his experience the best time to night fish is about two hours after dark.
- 2) Spotting fish at night in dock lights makes sight fishing easier
- 3) Night fishing eliminates exposure to the Florida sun and reduces fatigue
- 4) There is less boat traffic at night so fewer boat wakes
- 5) Required casting distances at night are generally only 20 – 30 feet as opposed to 40 – 50 feet during the day. It's easier for beginners to make a good presentation
- 6) Poling is not necessary at night and the use of an electric trolling motor is preferred
- 7) You can use shorter leaders at night because fish are less spooky.
- 8) Match the size of the fly to the size of the bait. Douthit even brings a pair of scissors so he can trim and shorten flies on the boat if necessary.



Capt. Court Douthit: Docklight sight fishing is amazing.



You can sight fish to tarpon on the docklights, too

Rods: Like many guides, Captain Douthit prefers one-piece rods for fly fishing because they reduce the chance of rod section misalignment. However, transporting one-piece rods is a challenge. A favorite rod is a **Loomis** Cross Current. Best rod weights are 6 to 8-weight for Snook, Redfish and smaller Tarpon, and 9-10-weight for adult Tarpon - unless they are migrating in which case a 12-weight is necessary.

Reel: He's really high on **Siegler** reels because they are well built, offer more drag, precise drag, and quick drag adjustments while fighting a fish. And they are 100% American made.

Flies: Preferred flies for night fishing are generally white in color. Either Clousers or small bait fish patterns with an assortment of eye sizes to offer various sink rates depending on the water depth and current. Other options include Chartreuse and tan flies especially when shrimp are in the area. Additional color options include black and purple for Tarpon. Hook sizes range from #4 – 1/0 for dock light fishing. and 1/0 – 4/0 for Tarpon. He ties big flies with circle hooks.

Captain Court Douthit: Strategies for Docklight Fly Fishing...

Leaders: Preferred construction for leaders use 60# - 40# - 20# tippet sizes. For large Tarpon he'll use 40# bite tippets.

Tides, weather: Best time to fish is when the water is moving. For Tarpon, incoming tides are best, while outgoing tides are best for Snook. Slack tide is not a good time to fish. In colder weather fish migrate into canals seeking warmer water while warmer weather finds them in the passes. Tarpon and Snook stop feeding in water below 68-70 degrees.

Technique tip: Cast the fly to the dark side of the circle of light and then strip it into the light pattern.



Capt. Court and a docklight redfish



Captain Court with a docklight jack crevalle



Up early. Watching for migrating tarpon

Phone Capt. Court Douthit at 727.204.5116



Yeah, almost ready for the tarpon picture.

Tom Gadacz: Big Gun Shoot Out at Picnic Island Park



Tom Gadacz

The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club (TBFFC) hosted the Big Gun Shoot-Out Picnic Island State Park in Tampa on November 17. The Big Gun Shoot-Out is a competitive fly casting contest and draws some of the best casters in Florida. It was a little on the chilly side with a mild wind.

The event began in 1994. It consists of six stations and includes both distance and accuracy events such as casting your leader into a “V” from 40 feet, casting your line from 40 feet or more through a hoop or under a bar (that’s the “Under the mangrove” contest).

Each station had defined casting criteria based either on a specific number of casts or a determined time period. Each station is scored with maximum points of 100 and the total of the 6 stations determines the final score. The winning team and Suncoast Fly Fishers’ team and individual scores are below.

The final Big Gun Shoot-Out included the best distance scores on the initial round. There were 14 teams of three individuals. There were individual as well as team winners. Of the 42 that participated in this year’s event, David Olson won the Big Gun Distance Event with a cast of 126.5 feet.

Suncoast Fly Fishers had three teams:

- **Suncasters** with Berry Salzman, Rick Warfel, and Tom Gadacz. James Davis had the best score of the Suncoast entrants and David Redd popped three casts into the Carl Hanson cup. Congratulations James and David, and thanks to all who participated!
- **Hold My Beer** with Bill AuCoin, Bob Burkard, and Dennis Marquis
- **Skeeter Beaters** with James Davis, Quin Berry, and David Redd

It was a great event and an opportunity to meet some excellent casters. Our thanks to Walt Durkin and the TBFFC members for sponsoring this event, setting up and taking down the casting targets, and for providing breakfast and lunch.



Mega thanks to TBFFC’s Walt Durkin for organizing and managing the 2019 Big Gun Shoot-out.

Scroll down for more Big Gun Shoot-Out snapshots and scores

Snapshots: Big Gun Shoot Out at Picnic Island Park

Pictures by Tom Gadacz, Bill AuCoin, Nanette O'Hara (TBFFC)



Suncoast Fly Fishers at the Big Gun Shootout- Dennis Marquis, Tom Gadacz, Bill AuCoin, Bob Burkard, James Davis, David Redd, Quin Berry, Rick Warfel, and Barry Salzman.



Dave Olson (L) was the Big Gun, winning both the long distance contest and the best overall for accuracy and distance. Walt Durkin of TBFFC made the presentation.



Bill AuCoin shoots the fly under the "mangroves."



Bob Burkard launches a long-distance cast for the "Hold My Beer" team.



David Redd (l) put the fly inside the Carl Hanson cup three times. James Davis hit it twice. That's Bob Burkard and Quin Berry on the right.



It was a chilly day warmed by club friends. L to R – Quin Berry, Woody Miller, Gary Sundberg, Dennis Marquis, David Redd, James Davis and Tim Elms. Miller and Sundberg came to cheer the teams. Elms volunteered to help with set up and scoring.

RESULTS: Big Gun Shoot Out at Picnic Island Park

Competitor	Distance*	Accuracy	Hanson	Hoop	V-Fish	Mangrove	Total**	Indiv Rank	Team Name
BRYON CHAMBERLIN	100	80	0	100	60	60	400	6	JUICE
Nick Angelo	100	85	0	88	80	60	413	4	JUICE
GREG PETERSON	100	85	0	100	80	80	445	3	JUICE
TEAM TOTAL							1258		
KEATON ANDERSON	89	85	20	100	80	80	454	2	FIX UR BACKCAST
KRIS SMYTHE	80	80	0	100	40	40	340	11	FIX UR BACKCAST
ROBERT FISCHER	94	80	0	60	60	60	354	9	FIX UR BACKCAST
TEAM TOTAL							1148		
DAVID OLSON <i>(Best score and shootout)</i>	100	85	0	100	80	100	465	1	WHITES
ERIC DAVIS	100	80	0	48	80	100	408	5	WHITES
DAVID ROETTING	83	40	0	68	60	20	271	18	WHITES
TEAM TOTAL							1144		
BRAD LOWMAN	99	60	0	100	60	40	359	8	DOUBLE HAULERS
LISA LOWMAN <i>(Women's Trophy)</i>	89	85	0	0	40	40	254	21	DOUBLE HAULERS
ENVER HYSNI	84	80	0	92	60	40	356	9	DOUBLE HAULERS
TEAM TOTAL							969		
JAMES DAVIS	82	60	40	0	60	60	302	12	SKEETER BEATERS
QUIN BERRY	79	80	20	0	60	40	279	16	SKEETER BEATERS
DAVID REDD	65	60	60	0	40	40	265	20	SKEETER BEATERS
TEAM TOTAL							846		
LEIGH WEST	97		0	44		60	201	28	FIBER ONE
JAY WRIGHT	100	85	0	64	60	60	369	7	FIBER ONE
JOE WELLBOURN	75	40	0	24	40	60	239	22	FIBER ONE
TEAM TOTAL							809		
BRYCE WHITESAY	80	90	0	16	60	20	266	19	EL CAPITAN
LANDON BOSCH	77	40	20	0	40	40	217	26	EL CAPITAN
SETH JACOBS	89	40	0	0	60	40	229	23	EL CAPITAN
TEAM TOTAL							712		

BILL AUCOIN	65	60	0	32	40	0	197	30	HOLD MY BEER
BOB BURKARD	74	40	20	0	40	20	194	31	HOLD MY BEER
DENNIS MARQUIS	74	60	0	88	20	40	282	15	HOLD MY BEER
TEAM TOTAL							673		
NANETTE O'HARA	68	40	0	0	20	20	148	35	2 GUYS & A GIRL
WILL KLAUS	73	20	0	52	40	40	225	25	2 GUYS & A GIRL
RICK O'HARA	80	80	0	16	60	40	276	17	2 GUYS & A GIRL
TEAM TOTAL							649		
GRADY STAUFFER	88	80	0	36	60	80	344	10	GOLF
WILL CARLSON	91	45	20	28	40	60	284	13 (Tie)	GOLF
Team Total							628		
TOM GADACZ	70	60	0	48	20	0	198	29	SUNCASTERS
BARRY SALZMAN	55	60	0	0	40	0	155	34	SUNCASTERS
RICK WARFEL	71	95	0	0	40	20	226	24	SUNCASTERS
TEAM TOTAL							579		
ROBERT HEINBECK	71	60	0	0	40	40	211	27	TRICOUNTY FF
ART PALMER	48	40	0	0	40	0	128	36	TRICOUNTY FF
LARRY MAZZARO	51	80	0	0	40	20	191	32	TRICOUNTY FF
TEAM TOTAL							530		
BILL PITTINGER	62	20	0	0	40	40	162	33	VILLAGERS
BOB WEIST	84	80	0	0	60	60	284	13 (Tie)	VILLAGERS
TEAM TOTAL							446		
PATTY ANDERSON	er						0		GOOD KARMA GIRLS
DENISE BRUNER							0		GOOD KARMA GIRLS
TEAM TOTAL							0		
TED HAGAMAN	no data						0		WANA-BEE'S
WALT DURKIN							0		WANA-BEE'S
JACK HEXTER							0		WANA-BEE'S
TEAM TOTAL							0		

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: Tom 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, Bob Hood, Tim Elms

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg



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](#)

Club and FFI Membership combined

Suncoast Fly Fishers currently has 135 members including 16 family members and 6 honorary members. Annual dues are payable in September. This also includes benefits and annual membership in [Fly Fishers International](#) and the [Florida Council](#) of Fly Fishers International

[Join. Renew. Apply.](#)

December 7 Outing. Don Coleman Memorial at FDP

Fishing was slow. Worse than slow for some. When Ted Rich was asked how he did, he said, "I got wet." Bill Scarola replied, "Nothing, nada, zippo." But the disappointment was quickly forgotten because at lunch the skunked and almost skunked and all 29 at the outing were lifted up by scooping down six different chili dishes prepared by members. Yeah, everybody was a winner.

Members reported catching, maybe, lizard fish or tiny pinfish.

Capt. Dan Bumgarner caught a little jack. Others did, too. Tony Piazza had a nice Spanish mackerel on the line but, dammit, it broke off.

Catching was a bit better for some taskmasters. Mark Hays caught a long ladyfish. Robert Mitchell landed a lady and a jack. Barry Salzman caught a redfish; a "baby redfish," he called it. David Redd's Clouser took in a mangrove snapper and a little grouper. Tim Elms caught a little snook and a ladyfish at first light fishing the little bridge just after you pay the toll. Later he got to see a seatrout go for but miss his fly. Chris Sprowl reported catching a fair number of ladyfish and seatrout fishing that trough of water between North Beach and the ever-expanding Bunces Pass sandbar.



New member Arise Caissie took the outing prize for the longest fish of any kind, and it was a nice winner, a 22-inch snook.



David Redd's mango



Mark Hays' lady



A beautiful morning

Halleluia! we had one club member who helped rescue our reputation as fly fishers. New member Arise (call me Casey) Caissie flyfished the Arrowhead Picnic Area. Observers said he worked this one spot for quite a while. Well, it paid off. Caissie landed a 22-inch snook on an electric-chicken Clouser.

Electric chicken? You can look it up.

2019 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing (Month)
Longest black bass	13.5"	David Redd	Walsingham Lake (February)
Longest snook	23.5"	Truk Trukenbrod	Dock-light/Beaches Outing (July)
Longest redfish	22.5	Dennis Marquis	Boca Ciega Bay (November)
Longest ladyfish	22 1/2"	Dennis Marquis	Weedon Island Preserve (Jan)
Longest seatrout	20"	Mark Hays	Dock-light/Beaches Outing (July)

November Outing. Boca Ciega Bay

Photos by George Haseltine, Jimmie O'Dell Carroll, Bill AuCoin

A number of Suncoast Fly Fishers met up at War Veterans Memorial Park to fly fish the November 23 outing. Some kayaked: That would be Dennis Marquis, Tony Piazza, Gary Sundberg, Woody Miller, Alan Sewell, Quin Berry. Some wade-fished: Rick Warfel, Tom Gadacz, Andrew Norman, Bill AuCoin, and Warren Shane.

Fishing was slow. Warfel reported catching a pinfish and a sheepshead. Others said they may have had a strike, but they weren't really sure about that. Thank goodness Dennis Marquis was there to help rescue the reputation of this park as a great fishing spot. Dennis caught a redfish that pulled his kayak around. His account of the encounter is a couple of pages down. Meanwhile, Mark Hays, Anne Hays, Robert Mitchell, and Mandy McGary kayak-fished upper Boca Ciega Bay. It's called Long Bayou on the charts. And the snook, though small, were hungrily aggressive. Anne's article is on the next page – *The Swamp of Snook*.

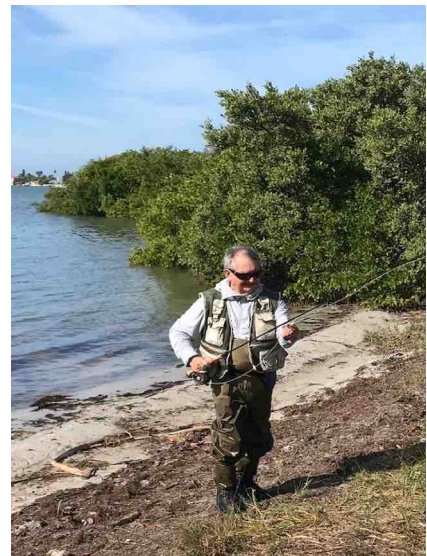
Afterwards, a dozen or so members met for lunch at Glory Days Grill at the corner of Park Street and Tyrone Blvd. President George Haseltine joined the anglers. So did Jimmie O'Dell Carroll. A good time was had by all.



Rick Warfel's sheepshead. He didn't shoot a picture of the pinfish that he caught.



Warren Shane and his tricked out fly fishing bicycle.



Tom Gadacz decided it was time for lunch



Everybody met up at Glory Days Grill for lunch



Hush. Here comes the food.

Anne Hays: The Swamp of Snook



Anne Hays

My dad decided we would try something new for the Boca Ciega Bay outing in November. There is a new kayak launch just down the road from Lake Seminole, so Robert, Mandy, Dad, and I all went there to fish the mangroves for Snook.

Since I fished for 99% of the Hillsborough River outing, I paddled Robert in what Mandy has termed the “Love Boat” for this trip. We quickly learned that trying to cast a weighted fly on Robert’s six weight was not the way to go. After flailing the fly around like a two-inch mosquito, he tied on a much lighted brown and pink Clouser.

Robert and I paddled through the mangrove islands, but nothing seemed active. We were fishing an incoming tide on a cool morning, and it appeared the fish were still asleep. I kept trying to position us around the handful of docks in the area as I always seem to have more luck around docks than mangroves.



Mark Hays found a new spot with lots of aggressive little snook.



Mandy McGary found the snook on a calm, shadowy side of the mangrove shorelines.

As we drifted by one dock, Robert lifted the fly off the water. When he did this, what we agree was a fifteen-inch Snook lunged after the fly, caught the fly mid-air, and then slammed its head on the side of the canoe. Of course the fish did not stay hooked. My dad corroborated that this would have been the biggest fish any of us caught if Robert had gotten it to the boat.

Dad and Mandy had a lot more luck than Robert. They discovered that the Snook were on the calm, shadowy sides of the mangrove islands. They each caught a handful of small Snook. Dad watched Mandy unhook a thirteen-inch Snook which won for the outing.

Although I will always prefer fishing and paddling a canoe over a kayak, there are few things I find more impressive to watch than someone fly fishing while standing on one. It takes so much grace to balance with even a small breeze, and an incredible amount of skill to cast a fly rod and bring in a fish while doing this. I can’t stress enough how wonderful it is for me to see how much Mandy has improved at fly fishing and kayaking in the last year. It’s hard to believe she went from not catching a single fish for four months to sneaking up on Snook in shallow water on her own.

Robert and I paddled back before Dad and Mandy decided they were done catching fish. As we got the canoe on Robert’s truck, they started carrying their kayaks up the bank. Mandy made contact with a fire ant nest and the results were not pretty. Thankfully she is not allergic and she made it home safely.

###

Dennis Marquis: One Cast. One Strip. One Spunky Redfish

I fished the November outing with the club at War Memorial Park and landed my first 2019 redfish on the fly.



The Red Rouser Fly

It was a hard fighting 22.5-incher that gobbled down one of my favorite flies, the Bruce Evensen Red Rouser. I really like the Rouser and have fished it in a variety of conditions for a variety of species. For me, it has worked on reds, snook and trout while wading, and trout, mackerel, blues and ladyfish off the boat. The fly seems particularly good in murky waters, where it “lights” up as it dances for the fish. I would encourage you to learn how to tie the Rouser and add it to your tray. By design it is “reddish.” Bruce also suggests it be tied in all green and I plan to tie an all-white version for the dock lights. The fish seem to react positively to its profile and behavior. I think you could tie it in any color combination you like even pink and yellow! ☺



Dennis Marquis and his November outing redfish at War Veterans Memorial Park. Photo by Tony Piazza.



Back to War Memorial Park. Tony Piazza and I set out first thing in the morning from the south end launch and paddled for the west side of the park around the south bend. After a couple of hours of no luck, and feeling like it wasn't going to happen, we headed back around the south bend to where we started. I drifted over to the mangroves on the northeast side and found a small opening (about 10' wide) leading to a lagoon behind the trees. I never noticed this spot before.

With a strong flow into it from the incoming tide it looked fishy. I dropped anchor so that I was a good cast distance away and tied on my go to fly. I made one cast to the right side of the mouth, let the fly sink and made one strip, then the red clobbered the fly and five minutes later I boated it. Andrew and Tony were in talking range, coaching me as I played the fish. The setting was perfect, the cast was quiet, the take was ferocious, the fish ran on me several times turning the kayak, I transferred it to the reel and had to tighten the drag to wear it down.



Marquis and Piazza getting ready

Dennis

Smitty's Fly Box : Whiskaz



Layne (Smitty) Smith

This is a very versatile pattern that can be used in saltwater (for sea trout) or freshwater (for smallies or downsized for all manner of panfish). Fish it with short twitches and occasional six to eight inch strips with pauses.



Materials:

Hook: Ahrex NS110 sea trout streamer hook, size 4 (or your favorite)
Thread: Danville Flatwaxed Nylon in white
Bead: Brass 3-4 mm
Tail: White blood marabou and one strand of pearl Flashabou
Body: Krystal Hackle tan (or chartreuse or chartreuse/copper)
Finishing Thread: Danville flatwaxed nylon red
Legs: Brown/orange tipped rubber legs (or any combo to match hackle)

Tying Sequence:

1. Place brass bead on hook. Attach thread behind bead and do a base wrap to hook bend.
2. Bunch marabou together and measure a shank length. Tie in at hook bend and tie down with open wraps to bead then trim allowing butt ends to fill cavity in bead. Wrap thread back to hook bend in open wraps.
3. Tie in strand of pearl Flashabou so it runs down each side of the marabou. Trim flash slightly longer than tail.
4. Attach Krystal Hackle and palmer forward in closed wraps. Tie off and cut.
5. Tie in red thread and make a collar, then tie in two full strands of rubber legs and evenly distribute them around the hook so tips extend just beyond marabou tail (this should give you *four* legs). Trim off any excess rubber and bind down securely.
6. Coat "red collar" with UV Resin and cure.

Smitty

Tim Elms: New Member - New Water



Trips on Traps

Howdy! Have you ever had a day fishing where all the stars align? Your cast is perfect. The conditions are flawless. The fish can be sight casted to and they cooperate. You know that special moment fly fishing when time stands still while you watch a fish eat. Then set.

My friend and Captain, Skylar Wilks of inspiredfishing.net based out of Madeira Beach, rang me up last minute and asked me to join him to check on some new waters or throw some pin fish to Reds and Snook. I, of course, grabbed my 8-wt and some of my favorite white flies just in case we saw a fish worth tossing to.

Skylar, an incredible young guide who spends countless days on the water, was a little shy to chase the standard species as we just lost the tide completely. So, he says, "Let's check those trap buoys for Tripletails." I had no clue what to expect. But I knew their reputation of being crazy strong.

The first trap we checked had what looked like a big ol' trash bag sitting right next to it and Skylar put me at the perfect angle. On my first cast, I plopped my fly 6" from the buoy and the beast was awake. With a slow follow of curiosity of my fly; then, a quick small strip to wake him up. I'd never seen anything like it. It laid on its side and just inhaled my little Gibby DT Variation.



That's no snook

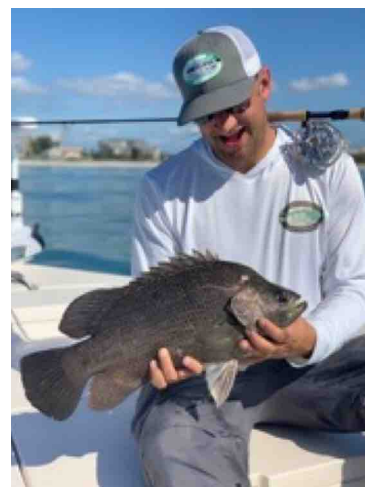
The fight was on and this dinosaur was quick on the reel screaming drag. I knew at that moment what all the fuss was about and boy howdy was it good.

For the next hour we took turns hauling Tripletails out of the water. Some were very stubborn and wouldn't even eat a live shrimp. Others were the perfect amount of sight fishing and having to be teased with a small strip. We were lucky enough to limit out on the first couple traps. (BTW these were the first fish I've ever caught on a fly that I have kept. Being allergic to fish I always catch and release, but there was no way Skylar was going to let me release these keepers)

So, that was my little perfect window in time where it all came together. Huge thanks to Skylar for knowing the water and asking me to go out. I can't express how lucky we are to have this at our doorstep. And if the fishing gods bless you with the bounty of a lifetime, That's just the nutmeg on the nog.

Until next month! Strip..Strip..Strip

Tim



23" Triple Play

Jim Shipley: Tripletail

"Not sure if this is of interest."

Jim Shipley

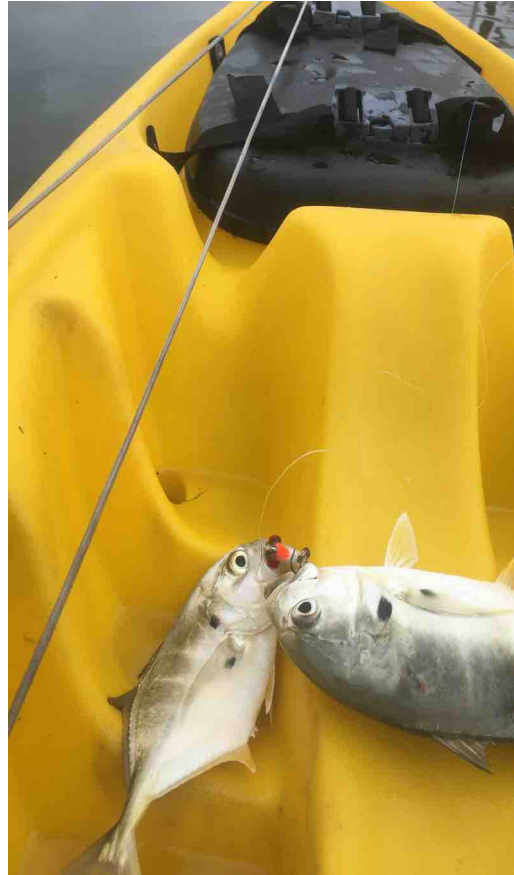


Yes, it is very much of interest, Jim! Jim caught this 21-inch tripletail with his 6-weight with a 6-lb test tippet.

Truk: Jacks are Wild

Two fish with one cast

Truk



Tom (Truk) Trukenbrod: "One cast, one lure, and two fish. A fun day." Little Bayou.

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Fly Gear for Sale or Swap or Purchase

Lynn Skipper has two nice fly rods he'd like to sell. He can bring them to the November 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.

Gary Sundberg wants a good deal on a 4-piece, 7-weight fly rod.

Email Gary at thikr505@gmail.com or phone 802-922-5793

Michael Larkin has fly lines 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.

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 2ftx2Fort, \$85.00
- Epoxy glue holder hand-made by Bruce Evensen, \$24.00

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.

Alan Sewell has something else you may be interested in

New, in the box, TAURUS 856, 6-round 38 special, 2-inch barrel, black ultra-light revolver, with holster. \$225.00.

Jack Cason is selling his sit-on-top Perception Pescador kayak. Call him at [727-864-7444](tel: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.

Bill AuCoin has never-used saltwater 9-weight. \$90

It's a Falcon Made-in-America rod. When introduced in 2003 it retailed at \$200+. Here's a link to an article at that time in [Saltwater Sportsman](#). It's medium fast, loads smoothly, and can throw big poppers and wet-heavy flies. It's no longer under warranty. Falcon stopped making fly rods a few years ago to focus on casting and spinning rods. Sock and tube included. Bill will bring it to the December outing if you want to check it out.

Email Bill at wmaucoin@verizon.net

Want to sell or trade? Need some fly gear? Email Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin@verizon.net

Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner



Nervous water a key to finding fish

Fishing shallow water with artificials, especially flies, improves dramatically when you recognize areas that hold a high percentage of feeding fish. Nervous water, irregularities seen on the surface, are a signal that must be recognized. Water always has a definite pattern. When that pattern is disturbed it usually means fish are underneath the spot. Baitfish, mullet, ladyfish, trout, jacks, and redfish are all possibilities. If the surface is smooth as glass, a small disturbance is easily recognized. A slight breeze shows a consistent ripple pattern. If a smoother or more rippled area is present that's your clue. Make a cast instantly to the spot and work your artificial through it. If using a long leader with a fly, cast so that the line itself doesn't slap the disturbed surface spooking the fish. Spin tackle with monofilament or braided line is not much of an issue. When the nervous water is moving, it can be a school of fish. The disturbed water is always behind the fish so lead with your cast to stay ahead of the fish. This means cast where the fish will be. Remember the 180-degree rule for fly casting. This means that your backcast and forward cast must be directly opposite one another. A false cast or two may be necessary when really changing direction. Good polarized glasses with a yellow tint are an absolute necessity on overcast days. Bright sun and clear skies respond best to a brownish hue. A dark brim on the undersurface of your hat is also very helpful. A black permanent marker will do the trick if not already present. Tilting your head will further reduce glare improving vision so that looking through the surface is easier.

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

Don Coleman's Winter Fly Recommendations

From "Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod," page 6

FLIES FOR THE WINTER GRASS FLATS

"During the winter months...most of the mature baitfish have migrated to spawn, leaving crabs, shrimps, and small baitfish for the resident game fish to feed on. Use small flies tied on small hooks. Try a small Merkin for a crab imitation, a small hackle fly (sea ducer) for a shrimp pattern, a small Clouser in Brown over yellow with small bead chain eyes, and a yellow over white Bendback for baitfish imitations – one of Carl Hanson's Glass Minnows comes to mind as does Jack Gartside's Soft Hackle Streamer."



Deceased member Paul Sequeira made this Holiday fly/ornament. He was Don Coleman's good friend and wade-fishing partner.

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Suncoast Fly Fishers extend a special thank you to our club's Special Friends

Do you want a really good made-just-for-you fly rod? -- [Alan Sewell, Custom Rods](#)

Hey there, Bruce Evensen: [Poppa Bruces Flies](#).

I love my Perception Pescador kayak: [Canoe Country Outfitters](#)

Scroll through the pictures. Amazing! [Thomas Bruce Studios](#)

Lead a well-balanced life. [Bob Lee Tires](#)

Member Cliff Nigh runs the fly fishing department: [St. Pete Fishing Outfitters](#)

We learn so much from guides. Thank you Captains [Pat Damico](#), [Dayle Mazzarella](#), [Rick Grasset](#), [Nick Angelo](#), [Court Douthit](#), [C.A. Richardson](#), [Steve Gibson](#), [Shawn McCole](#), [Ray Markham](#).

You can't make a wrong turn with this brand. [Orvis Fly Fishing](#)

All the better to see those fishes. [Costa del Mar](#)

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Did you know that Gary Loomis is designing these rods now? [Temple Fork Outfitters](#)

This company does so much to support fly fishing, especially your club.: [Carbon Marine](#)

There's more but the fly fishing department is where you should start your shopping. [Cabela's](#).

You know this guy, too. He's a star: [Master Casting Instructor Pat Damico](#)

These people know how to trick-out a 'yak. [West-Coast-Kayaks and Paddleboards](#)

All roads lead to Dade City and to the guru of freshwater fly fishing: [Jim Swann's Fly Fishing Shop](#)

Bamboo floors, bamboo furniture. Bamboo medicine. Bamboo food. Oh, and this: [Nigh Fly Rods](#)

Thank you Walt Ruda, loyal SSF member: [Metalfab-Inc](#)

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Do fish see fluorocarbon leader? Gamefish don't want you to know the answer to this question. [Seaguar](#)

Where do I start? Oh, that's right, honey on my morning oatmeal. [Bee Haven Honey Farm](#)

If you're in Winter Haven, you must stop in and browse. [Andy Thornal](#)

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Merries, happies...Bill

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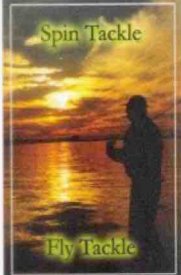
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