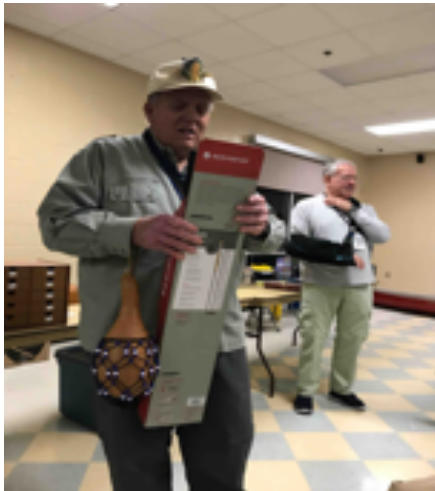


# On The Fly

*Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg*  
 Promoting fly fishing, fly tying, fly casting, and marine conservation in a family fun atmosphere



*Laughs 'n' Loot for the Club at January Meeting. Page 6*



*Robert Fischer: The Real Art of Motorcycle Riding. Yeah, Bring a Fly Rod. Page 3*



*Feisty, Fat Speckled Trout Find One, Find More. Page 16*



*Can You Say "Freshwater?" Yep, it's the February Outing. Page 12*

Location	Your Rating
4th Street North	
Alligator Lake	
Anclote River	
Bay Pines Memorial Park	
Blackthorn/Clambar - Sunshine Skyway Rest Area	
Chassahowitzka River	
Cypress Point Park	
Double Branch Creek - Upper Tampa Bay	
Emerson Point Preserve	

*Outings: Where do you want to fish? Pages 20-21*



## *SFF President Letter – February 2019*

Hello Everyone,

We're off to a great start! I encourage you to stay involved.

Please visit our **Website**. Bob Burkard and Dick Miekka have been updating it to keep us all informed. It's an enlightening and enjoyable experience.

If you haven't renewed your **Dues**, please do so now. It's a small investment for such a large return. You won't get a better deal anywhere.

At our **February General Meeting** David Redd and our **Nominating Committee** will introduce the candidates for the Board for 2019. Please be there to vote and even nominate someone from the floor if you would like to. These men and women put a lot of time, energy and some of their own money into making this the best Club ever.

The Board will be **asking you a few questions** in our attempt to go where, and do what you want; tailored outings. Please participate and let us know if we're doing something wrong or leaving something out. What are you really thinking?

Our **Trash'n'Treasures** Auction was a huge success. Thanks to Alan Sewell and your assistance and generosity. Watch for the result.

Our outing at Weedon Island was well attended and we even caught fish! A grateful shout out to John, Mark and Miriam Craig for a phenomenal "**Low Country Boil**." John & Mark even wore Tee shirts with that on the back!

This month, **February, Robert Fisher** will tell us how to do a roll cast from a motorcycle . Then we're going to Walsingham Park and Alan Sewell is planning his one-of-a-kind lunches. He also has a few extra kayaks if you need one.

**March** will find us on the Southern end of the Skyway for a **Venison** feast prepared by Mark Hays; you can't miss that.

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>**, SFF will be hosting another **Casting Clinic** lead by our own Dayle Mazzarella, with Pat Damico and other casting instructors. Be there or be square.

**March 30<sup>th</sup> Is Our Annual HOG ROAST! Buy tickets now!**

In **April** we will be going to the **Everglades** again. Two groups have developed over the last couple of years: One with **Bruce Evensen** and one with **Alan Sewell**. See these men about reservations. Let the Board know if we can help.

*Never lose your sense of adventure.*

*George*

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

# Meetings, Outings, & More

## Thursday, February 21 Meeting -



### **Robert Fischer**

#### **"Fly Fishing from a Motorcycle"**

Member Robert Fischer loves his Harley and he loves his fly fishing. Robert will talk about all the water he has fished around the country on his motorcycle excursions. See his bio below.

- At our February General Meeting David Redd and our Nominating Committee will introduce the candidates for the Board for 2019. Please be there to vote and even nominate someone from the floor if

you would like to. Elections in March.

- Tom Gadacz has put his name in as nominee for club Treasurer to take over from Karen Warfel. David Redd will run to fill the Secretary role held previously by Dick Miekka. The new slate needs to be voted on by the membership and floor nominees (if any) need to be included in the voting.
  - Sign up to fish Bill Scarola's midweek outings for a head start at the next outing. Meet up at Walsingham Lake Friday, Feb. 15, 8 am.
  - Fly swappers: bring three panfish flies for the Lake Walsingham outing Feb 23
  - The board agreed that refreshments (coffee, muffins, etc.) will be served at each of our regular SFF member meetings. Bob Burkard will do the honors.
  - Rafflemeister Dave Barson isn't back yet so Quin Berry will run the raffle till he gets back. Quin has suggested that raffle be held before (not after) the program starts. We will try it out at the February meeting.
  - Quin Berry has also volunteered to take over name tag distribution. Many thanks to April Turpen and Richard Birnbaum for starting and managing this big plus to our meetings.
- 

### **Robert Fischer was a founding member of Suncoast Fly Fishers**



*Robert Fischer: Cobia on the Fly*

Being a second generation Florida cracker, born in Miami, I started fishing in the canals and ponds around Hialeah with cane poles and worms. After watching the "Flying Fisherman" on black and white TV, decided that fly fishing was cool and bought a yellow Eagle Claw fly rod from Sears Roebuck. I caught some snappers and small barracudas around the seawalls in Miami and the rocks in Big Pine Key by trolling a small spoon or crappie jig. After moving to

Jacksonville during junior high school, I finally learned to cast a cork body bream popping bug and caught lots of panfish and small bass. High school and college years cancelled out most fishing until moving to Tampa in the late 70's where contact with the FCA and Rick Redd rekindled my interest in fly fishing. Rick, Jim Stewart, Jack O'Connell and some others invited me to join them in forming the first fly club in the area, the Suncoast Fly Fishers, and we met at the Wyoming Antelope Club. A few years later the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers spun off and formed a club so that some folks wouldn't have to drive across the bridge to the meetings. I've been a member of both clubs ever since and have travelled with the clubs to Naples, Chokoloskee, Florida Keys, Alligator Alley, Kissimmee, Chassahowitzka, Waccasassa, Oconnee Sate Park, Exscalac, Andros Island, Acklins Island, Gardens of the Queen and other great places. I've caught 84 different species on fly so far. But best of all, I've met hundreds of good people fly fishing. *Robert Fischer*

## Meetings, Outings, & More

### **Saturday, February 23 Outing – Walsingham Lake Park, 12615 102nd Ave., Largo**

- Targets: Longest bass and the most bluegills
- Meet up for lunch at a Picnic Pavilion #7, east side of the lake.
- See the Preview on page 12.

### **Sunday, February 24, Fly Tying instruction at East Lake Woodlands Country Club, Oldsmar**

- Can you help? Email Bob Burkard for details.  
Robertburkard9@gmail.com

### **Saturday, March 2, FREE Casting Clinic, Woodlawn Sports, St. Pete**

- Clinic instructors are Master Casting Instructors –Pat Damico and Dayle Mazzarella
- Arrive at 8 am. Course ends at 3 pm.
- Woodlawn Sports at 1450 16th Street N. Field #2, is just north of Tropicana Field; it's close to I-275.
- This is a softball field with a nice, grassy outfield. A large shelter with tables and restrooms are nearby.
- Free to FFI members. Suncoast Fly Fishers will host breakfast and lunch.
- Members of Tampa Bay Fly Fishers, other clubs are welcome

### **Thursday, March 21 meeting.**

- Speaker to be determined.
- Members vote for the new slate of officers and board members.

### **Saturday, March 23, outing**

- South Skyway Rest Area
- Venison lunch by Mark Hays at Bay Vista Park in St. Pete.

### **Saturday, March 30, Hog Roast and Silent Auction**

- 4 to 8 pm, City of Treasure Island Auditorium, 120 -108<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Treasure Island, Florida.
- Tickets, \$20. Children 12 and under are free when with a paid adult.
- Raffle for the custom-made bamboo rod by Cliff Nigh and mahogany rod case crafted by Rick Warfel.
- Buy tickets at the meeting or at the Walsingham Outing, or pay by mail: Contact Karen Warfel by phone 813-505-3162, email kmwarfel@yahoo.com. Mail checks to Suncoast Fly Fishers, P. O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743.
- Buy tickets at the February meeting. See Treasurer Karen Warfel
- Fly tiers, please tie one 6 to 12 of your go-to flies. Email Myron Hansen, hansen3@tampabay.rr.com

Check for updates on the club's online **Calendar**

Suncoast Fly Fishers  
of St. Petersburg



### **Monthly Meetings:**

Third Thursday of every month (except December) at St. Pete's Walter Fuller Park Rec Center, 7891 26th Ave. N. 6 to 8:30 pm. Guests are welcome.

### **Monthly Outings**

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

### **Membership**

Suncoast Fly Fishers currently has 132 members including 19 family members and 6 honorary members. Annual dues are \$15, payable in September.

### **Welcome new members**

Bob Hood, Rebecca Fortin, Frank Molash, Robbie Howell, Andrew Norman, Michael Hobson, Warren Shane, Jr., and Steve Udovich

### **FFI Charter Club.**

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

## January's Trash 'n' Treasures A Hoot 'n' Holler Fun Raiser



*Alan Sewell auctions a brand new Redington fly rod/reel outfit. Truk Trukenbrod helped spot the bidders.*

**By Duane Mertz**

The Annual Trash & Treasures Auction was a resounding success at the SFF January meeting. Hosted by Alan Sewell in his comedic auctioneer's outfit, the bidding was fast and furious with Alan keeping the membership in stitches as he moved the merchandise into the welcome hands of new owners.

Among the many great items auctioned at bargain prices were a Wolf Apex Rotary Vise for \$60, a 9-wt Orvis Battenkill Reel for \$55, a Sage 4-wt Reel for \$45, and a new Redington Rod/Reel combination for \$80, among many others.



*Mike Larkin put in the winning bid for a subscription to TAIL FLY FISHING MAGAZINE.*

In total 68 items were auctioned bringing almost \$1500 into the Club's treasury.

Thanks to everyone who donated auction items with a special thanks to Walt Ruda who donated vises, a fly tying desk, fly-tying materials, and much more. Thanks, also, to Auctioneer Alan for lots of laughs.

And there was much more – fly reels, fly line, fly vest, flies, bamboo rod, rain jacket, boots, tools, and Carbon Marine's LineLair stripping mat which went for \$52. Quite a good deal! Oh, and a canoe donated by Mark Hays went to Robert Fischer for only \$20. Kevin Kelly picked up a first class camera/telescope tripod for just \$20.



*You should have one of these things.*



*Walt Ruda's fly tying desk, just one of many items he donated.*

# Suncoast Fly Fisher News 'n' Notes

## Get well soon

- Al Pitcher recently had hip replacement surgery and is recovering slowly but surely.
- A couple of Suncoast Fly Fishers – Dave Barson and Warren Shane -- are in leg-mending mode and have been sent Get Well Cards signed by members. We hope they'll be back at the meetings and outings, soon.



Andy with a 5# rainbow

## New American Citizens

Congratulations to member Andy Constantinou and his wife Janet. They are two of our British imports and they both recently achieved US Citizenship!

## Members step up to help the cause

- Quin Berry will also be in charge of new member packages
- Webmaster. Dennis Marquis and/or Robert Burkard.
- Woody Miller will handle social media (e.g., Face book)

## Project Healing Waters. Volunteers needed

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

*Alan Sewell, chairman PHWFF committee*

## Pure Florida Watersports, Grand Opening March 2

- Pure Florida Watersports in Wesley Chapel is opening a new kayak outfitting shop. Grand opening is March 2. Ribbon cutting at 10 am. Free food. And drinks. Lots of 'yaks and gear for sale. Proprietor Derick Burgos will be one of our speakers this year. Here's the [website](#).

--Continued on next page--

## Fly Fishers International Fly Fisher of the Year

### Congratulations Tom Gadacz

#### Fly Fisher Of The Year

This award is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated unusual devotion to FFI, and through their outstanding contributions, has greatly benefited the organization.

After serving in Vietnam as a 26th Marines Battalion Surgeon, Tom Gadacz then spend 30 years as a Professor of Surgery at John Hopkins Hospital. Tom began fly fishing in 1991 but after retiring as Chair & Professor of the Department of Surgery at the Medical College of Georgia, he became serious about the sport and decided to make fly fishing his new career. He became a member of Suncoast Fly Fishers in St. Petersburg, Florida and a member of FFI in 2008. He held several positions in Suncoast Fly Fishers, including Treasurer and then President for four years. Tom became the Florida Council President in 2013 and assumed the role of Council Presidents Committee Chair in January 2015.

Tom continues to spend many days teaching people to fly fish, participating in club, council, and FFI events, volunteering in Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing and, perhaps most importantly, mentoring his kids and grandkids in the sport of fly fishing.



Reprinted from the Fall/Winter 2018 issue of Flyfisher magazine

## Suncoast Fly Fisher News 'n' Notes

### Everglades Canal Outing, April 26-28

- SFF outing will be April 26th - 28th of April.
- I have 10 rooms reserved at Sunrise La Quinta Inn. I booked 2 different stay periods, since some of us like to fish more days. I have 4 rooms booked from the 24th - 28th. I have six rooms booked from the 26th - 28th.
- When you decided on your stay, call or e-mail me and I will give you the conformation number to change into your name. All rooms, after the first week in April, that are not taken will be cancelled. Plan your trip for great fishing.

*Alan Sewell, sewellalan@yahoo.com*

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### Lac la Croix, Ontario, June 25-30, 5 nights, 4 days: \$1335 plus transportation, etc.



*Mike Simmons, Lac la Croix smallmouth bass*

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

From Mike: "As far as members are concerned it's only me and Bill Scarola. We will be going into Canada on July 31 and will fish that evening and the next four days before coming home. Bill is flying into the Duluth airport where I will be picking him up. There is still room. In fact, one more would help with number of boats. Right now we have an odd number which means fishing three to a boat or alone. If interested get in contact with Zups Resort dot com and tell them you want to be included in the Simmons party or get in touch with me and I can make arrangements and or answer any questions they may have." *Mike*

From Bill Scarola: "The cost for 5 nights and 4 days of Fishing is \$\_\_\_\_. You get three great meals a day, cabin, boat/outboard/trolling motor. Pike turned in by 2 pm will be cleaned and fried and served as appetizers before dinner that night!! Pike is Delicious!! Your transportation is extra. There's a set time to be at Crane Lake in Minnesota on June 25 to meet the shuttle boat to Zups! US citizens must bring a US passport. There are a few nominal fees, including a Canadian fishing license. I have brochures if anyone interested! It's really a great trip!! If you need more info let me know!" *Bill*

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### **FFI Learning Center:** You're a member, so take advantage of the benefits

Castig Instruction: Skills Challenge, Teacher's Package

Comprehensive Fly Fishing Skills: Fly Fishing Reference Materials, Fly Fishing Knots

Conservation: Personal Conservation, Catch & Release Brochure

Fly Tying: Introduction to fly tying

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## Fly Gear for Sale or Swap

**Bill Scarola is selling his Vibe Kayak. Email him at [poppyscar@gmail.com](mailto:poppyscar@gmail.com)**

VIBE KAYAK, SEA GHOST 110 model. 11' length, 34" width. 450 lb. capacity. Foot rudder controlled steering system, 10 scupper holes with plugs. Vibe paddle. Kayak has a large front hatch and a rear hatch. Also included: bungee tie down, two built in rod holders, center console hatch, with drink holder. Adjustable seat. \$800 or best offer.

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**Woody Miller's Native Slayer 12 kayak**

2017 Slayer, like new, paddled maybe 6 times. Extras included are custom anchor trolley's, rear rolling wheel for easy transport to the water and cover for front storage. \$750. Email Woody at [clwpaddler@gmail.com](mailto:clwpaddler@gmail.com)

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

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

---

**Bruce Evensen made these beautiful items himself. Call him at 727-403-9010. Also, see much more of his fine art on "Poppa Bruces Flies" pages on**

**Etsy....<https://www.etsy.com/shop/poppabrucesflies>**

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



*Hand-made hook and eye holder*

**Want to run an ad? Email Bill AuCoin at [wmaucoin@verizon.net](mailto:wmaucoin@verizon.net)**



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



## Suncoast Fly Fishers

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

## Club Officers

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

## Board of Directors

Quin Berry -- David Redd -- Bill Scarola -- Bob  
Burkard -- Bruce Evensen -- Ryan Sollars -- Cliff  
Nigh

## Committees

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

Casting Skills -- Pat Damico, MCI, Dayle

Mazzarella, MCI

FFI Liaison -- Pat Damico

Conservation -- Cliff Nigh

Fly Tying -- Myron Hansen

Membership -- Karen Warfel

New Members -- Rick Warfel

Webmaster -- Open

Hog Roast -- Karen+Rick Warfel

Outings -- Bob Burkard, Hilton Bruch, David  
Redd

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

Outreach, shows -- David Redd, Bob Burkard

Raffles -- Dave Barson

Succession Planning -- Rick Warfel, Dick  
Miekka

Programs -- Board of Directors

Public relations -- Bill AuCoin

*On The Fly*

Bill AuCoin, editor; Duane Mertz

## Aims and Purposes

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

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

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

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

SFF is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization. SFF is a charter member of the Fly Fishers International (FFI). SFF is a member of the Florida Council of FFI.

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

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

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

**Join. Renew. Application**  
[www.suncoastflyfishers.com](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com)

## Review: January 19 Outing at Weedon Island Preserve



*Hilton Bruch, co-chairman, outings*

*By Hilton Bruch*

My Weedon Island experience resulted in learning two new (for me) put-in spots. I attended a tying session at Bruce Evensen's shop and he graciously invited me to join him and others in launching our kayaks close to the preserve but not in it. Access has always been a bit of a problem with the single boat launch in the Weedon Island Preserve. We assembled at Bruce's and caravanned to the Gandy Causeway but it was judged too breezy as a freshening wind was predicted. We switched plans to a more protected area that Bruce called

his "backyard". And what a spot! Bayou after bayou with flats and protective mangrove banks. The wind didn't bother us there. Bruce has been fishing here since he was a boy and knows it like the back of his hand and has tales of legendary fish. Fish were caught but not by me. I saw six nice reds but only after they saw me first. We made it back to the Weedon Island shelter to swap stories and enjoy the fabulous low country boil put on by the Craig family. It has become a much anticipated yearly event for good reason. Thank you John, Miriam and friends. The targeted fish was ladyfish and the champion catcher was Dennis Marquis with a 22-1/4 incher nudging out several others that measured just 22-inches. We had about 37 participants this year.



*Dennis Marquis and his award-winning 22 1/4-inch ladyfish.*

*Hilton*

### 2019 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS

<i>Species</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Leader to date</i>	<i>Outing (Month)</i>
<b>Longest sunfish</b>			
<b>Longest black bass</b>			
<b>Longest snook</b>			
<b>Longest redfish</b>			
<b>Longest ladyfish</b>	<b>22 1/4"</b>	<b>Dennis Marquis</b>	<b>Weedon Island Preserve</b>
<b>Longest seatrout</b>			

**Weedon Island Preserve Outing**  
*Big Thanks to John and Miriam Craig for serving their Low Country Boil*



*New member Mandy McGarry chats up Woody Miller.*



*Mega Thank-You's to the Craig family for camping and cooking the Low Country Boil. That's Miriam and son Mark on the right.*



*Outing winner Dennis Marquis (right and Bill AuCoin fished the deep drop-offs in the salt lakes west of Riviera Bay.*



*You're not on candid camera. Smile anyway.*



*Marquis measures his lady: It was 22 and ¼, just edging a few other long john silvers. Wondering, why are they called ladyfish?*



*Ron Kelley on task*

## Preview: Largo's Walsingham Lake, February 23, Lunch at Shelter 7

Our next outing is at Walsingham Lake on February 23 at shelter #7. We were last there in February of 2017. The targeted species are longest bass and longest panfish. Shoot a picture.

One year ago at the Walsingham Lake outing: Fish were caught!

*Hilton*



Mark Hays caught the longest bass last year. 18-inches!



12615 102nd Ave. N. Walsingham Park. (Apple Maps)

(Left)

Last year the largest bass was taken by Mark Hays at 18-inches on a white popper. There was a tie for the largest bream with both Quin Berry (on a small white popper) and Tony Piazza (a small black and yellow popper) claiming an 8" fish.

### Lake Walsingham FAQ

- Boat ramp (No gasoline motors. Electric trolling motors are okay)
- fishing. (Shoreline fishing is okay, but casting areas are limited. Watch your backcast)
- Fishing pier/platform
- Restrooms
- Eight picnic shelters and grills (reservations required)

#### Catch and release is fine, but it's also okay to keep fish

- Bluegill and redear aggregate bag limit: 20
- Crappie bag limit: 10
- Crappie less than 10 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Sunshine bass bag limit: 4
- Sunshine bass less than 10 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Channel catfish bag limit: 6

Bill Scarola announced that weekday *prefishing-the-outings* will resume Fri. Feb. 15 at Lake Walsingham 8 am. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the February meeting.



Shelter 7 is on the east side of the lake.

## Tying Bench - Layne Smith ties the Verduin Cap Spider *Fly of the Month for Lake Walsingham Outing*



This fly was taught to me by my good friend Michael Verduin before he passed away. It was his secret go-to fly for bluegill. He won the annual Texas Bluegill Tournament three years in a row with this fly. It's a simple fly that is effective for catching many types of bottom-nesting fish out of rivers and lakes. The fly uses a jig hook that sinks to the bottom of the water and attracts fish as it moves with the current. Use a long leader when fishing with the cap spider, and make small strips to move it along the waterbed.

### *Smitty*

#### **Materials:**

- Hook: 1/124 oz. jig hook.
- Thread: Flat waxed thread
- Body: Olive Ultra-Chenille ( black, white, chartreuse or any color you desire).
- Legs: 2 strips of barred rubber leg material ( I like to use Legs Alive from FT
- Head cement: SHHAN

#### **Instructions:**

**Step 1** ~ Insert jig hook in vice (hook point up).

**Step 2** ~ Wrap a thread base around the hook, starting 1/4-inch behind the jig and ending just before the bend and tie in Ultra-Chenille. Wrap the thread back to the starting point.

**Step 3** ~ Wrap the body of the fly in an even layer of the Ultra-Chenille, starting from the bend in the hook and ending before the jig. Tie the chenille in place with the thread. Cut off excess.

**Step 4** ~ Bend the two strips of rubber leg material in half and cut at the fold so you have strands of rubber.

**Step 5** ~ Bundle the rubber strands together and press them against the chenille on the hook point side of the hook. Wrap the thread in a loose figure-eight pattern once between the legs without applying much pressure, then wrap the thread around four or five more times firmly in the same pattern.

**Step 6** ~ Perform a whip finish, and then apply the head cement to the thread at the front of the fly to keep the knots from slipping.

**Tips & Warnings:** Use different colored chenille to experiment with in different fishing conditions and do not tie the thread too tightly around the rubber legs, or they will bend out of position.

# Tying Bench – Bruce Evensen’s Half & Half Clouser

*Tying instructions by Bill Scarola*



## Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu Stinger Size 1-2

Thread: Flat-waxed nylon. You choose the color

Body/Head: Bucktail, white and tan as shown. but you can use just about any top color.

Feathers: Barred hackles

Flash: Pearl Flashabou in gold red or green.

Eyes: Bar-bell or bead chain

Cement: UV epoxy

## Tying Sequence

1. Wrap thread to hook bend.
2. Tie in eyes about half way down shank on top of shank.
3. Tie in bucktail. Tie in light color on top of eyes and anchor behind and in front of eyes.
4. Add flash. Rotate fly upside down, adding 3-4 strands of Flashabou on each side.
5. Tie in two hackles on each side of fly while upside down. Be sure to “marry” the hackles.
6. Add top color bucktail to top off fly. Tie it off only in front of the eyes.
7. Whip finish head to a taper.
8. Apply UV epoxy to nose and eyes to form a tapered head.

## Tying Bench – Bruce Evensen's Grass Shrimp

*Tying instructions by Bill Scarola*



### Materials

- Hooks, Gamakatsu's Stinger in size 4, 6, & 8. Or, SS 15 in size 2 or 1's or Mustad 3407, size 4
- Thread, tan and/or orange
- Shrimp dubbing or similar material. Alternately, use wire brush material in tan shrimp color.
- Eyes, mono and/or bead chain
- Pearl Flashabou for antenna. See photo.
- UV epoxy to apply over the body of fly.

### Tying Sequence

1. Wrap thread from hook eye to start of bend. Use orange or tan thread. Do several layers back and forth.
2. Tie mono or small bead chain eyes at start of bend of hook. Bring thread back to hook eye when eyes are attached.
3. Add 2-4 strands of paint brush bristles or two ostrich herl strands from behind eyes. Extend them past hook bend by at least 1/2' inch. Then add 2 to 4 strands of Flashabou over the herl or bristles.
4. Attach dubbing to thread. You may use dubbing wax if desired. Some tiers use a dubbing loop instead of wax to hold dubbing on thread. Wrap from hook eye to mono eyes.
5. Pull dubbing downward with dubbing hook or brush to form legs below hook shank. Once tied in use a brush to pull all material downward toward hook point.
6. If you're using other "eye lash" material be sure to keep it below the hook shank; that is, toward the hook gap as shown in picture.
- 6 Apply UV epoxy thinly over body of shrimp on top and sides of fly, don't allow it to cover "legs".

*Note, tie some with white and tan or light brown thread, and tie some with orange thread, too.*

*Bill*

## Fat Speckled Trout at Weedon Island

*Not quite "Gator" trout, but still...*



*Dennis Marquis with a spotted seatrout caught on the Weedon Island flats in early February.*

Dennis Marquis and Bill AuCoin wade-fished Weedon Island flats the late afternoon of February 1 and caught several 4-6 pound speckled trout. Marquis caught his on Bruce Evensen's Half-and-Half Clouser and gurglers. AuCoin landed one on a bendback tied by Jack Collins and, on another day, he caught one on Smitty's shrimp fly.



*AuCoin battles a hefty speckled trout caught on Jack Collins' bendback. Another day, in the same location, he landed one on Smitty's shrimp fly.*



*Find one, find more. Marquis moved about casting here and there, then found an area of several big trout close to the mangroves in a shoreline mix of grass and sand.*



## Tom Gadacz: Fly Fishers International Joins Ritz Carlton Outfitters Day



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

The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club in Orlando hosted the inaugural Outfitters Day January 12 showcasing the fly fishing gear and talents of professionals from G. Loomis, Shimano, Rapala, DOA Lures, Simms, Rio Lines, Ross Reels, Orlando Outfitters, Tackle Webs and more. It was also a perfect opportunity for great organizations like Fly Fishers International and Casting for Recovery.

It was a great day with a sunny sky and a light breeze and a temperature of 77 degrees and a well-groomed lawn next to the golf club house. It could not have been a better day!

Mark Benson, Director of Fly Fishing at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club Orlando, Grande Lakes and a Fly Fishers International Certified Casting Instructor, hosted the inaugural fishing event which was open to guests of the hotel as well as to the public. Guests had the opportunity to see the latest equipment and cast several rods. Mark had a motorized

“redfish” that roamed the grounds and for use as a prop to teach fly casters how to cast to a fish without spooking it.



*Redfish on wheels*



*Ritz Carlton Host Mark Benson presents the longest fly cast trophy to David Olson, right, for his 112-foot, 11-incher.*

The Ritz-Carlton Outfitters Top Gun Fly Casting Competition had some of the best long-distance casters in the state and included Keith Brown, Dave Choinard, Ed Judd, Al Keller, Dayle Mazzarella, David Olson, Cas Summers, and Leigh West. The challenge was a distance cast with an 11 weight rod. David Olson’s winning cast was 112 feet, 11 inches.

The Florida Council of Fly Fishers International welcomed guests and provided information about our organization, its educational benefits, and conservation activities. The participants included Tom Logan, Chair of the FFI Board of Directors; Tom Gadacz, President of the Florida Council; Rick Warfel, Secretary of the Florida Council; Ron Bloomquist, Membership Chair of the Florida Council; Karen Warfel, Treasurer of Suncoast Fly Fishers; and Buck Higman, Big Bend Fly Fishers of Tallahassee.

### *Tom*

Tom Gadacz  
President, Florida Council of Fly Fishers International



*The Florida Council of Fly Fishers International welcomed guests and explained the benefits of FFI membership.*

**More Ritz-Carlton Outfitter Day photos on the next page**

## Snapshots: Ritz Carlton Outfitters Day



*David Olson wins again. 112-feet, 11-inches*



*Distance casters used the same 11-weight rod*

## Gary Sundberg: Trout and Mackerel in Tarpon Springs



*Gary makes sure the mac doesn't get entangled up in the trolling motor prop.*

*Gary*

Gary Sundberg and friend Thom Ray battled speckled trout and toothy Spanish macs in early February. "We caught them off of Sunset Beach Park in Tarpon Springs," wrote Gary. "They were 18 to 24 inches and I caught them on white Clousers and white shrimp flies tied at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio. I used a 9-weight with a 25-lb test leader."



*Toothy critters, those macs.*



*Proof of his success.*



*In late January Gary beat up on jacks and ladies in the Anclote river,, but they chewed up the flies he tied at Bruce Evensen's Monday night fly tying sessions.*

## Tampa Bay Times Captain's Corner



### Capt. Pat Damico: Escape the Wind

Fly fishermen need flexibility this time of year with frequent cold fronts and windy conditions being the norm. Usually, I mentally plan my charter the night before but several recent trips were changed at the last minute because of wind intensity and direction. Some of the worse days had us go to one of the many rivers that empty into the gulf or bay. After driving over some of our bridges and seeing whitecaps it was a pleasure to launch where we were greeted with calm conditions. When you travel up a river it becomes narrower and is protected by trees and often high banks affording both you and the fish warmth and protection as well as a chance to observe undisturbed wildlife. Snook, jacks, reds, ladyfish and small tarpon will be caught next to bass and panfish because of lower salinity from fresh water influence. It is best to rig several rods, one with a floating line, another with a clear sinking tip and a third with full sinking line. This way you can easily handle fish that are in the shallows as well as those that prefer deeper water. When sight fishing is not possible, target structure such as docks, points, feeder creeks, stumps, partially submerged trees and bridges with small flies, size 6-1, that imitate the baitfish you observe. Develop a pattern after catching a few fish and concentrate on the conditions that rewarded you with your success.

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

### Suncoast Fly Fishers Favorite Recipes...

#### *Bob Burkard: Sweet Barbeque Sauce*

##### **Ingredients**

- 2 cups salsa: my favorite for this sauce is Tostitos Medium Chunky Salsa
- ½ cup ketchup
- 1 cup dark brown sugar: really to taste and I sometimes add more when tasting, especially if making for poultry
- A dash of molasses: no more than 4 tablespoons. Again, to taste
- 1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 2 ½ teaspoons dried mustard: sometimes add a dash of dark prepared mustard
- 2 teaspoons paprika
- Dash of garlic powder
- Dash of dried tarragon
- Dash of dried sage

##### **Cooking instructions**

1. Mix all ingredients in a sauce pan
2. Simmer for 2 hours. Be careful not to burn the bottom, keep the heat low
3. I taste once it warms up and adjust the sugar and heat as I see fit

- Some dried poultry seasoning: a few tablespoons
- ½ teaspoon red pepper flakes: use less if you don't like the heat
- Splash of hot sauce
- 1 ½ teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 ½ teaspoon pepper

## Member survey for 2019 outings

Our Suncoast Fly Fishers Outings committee is asking for your feedback on our monthly outings. Please keep in mind that we plan for locations where we catch fish, have a picnic area, have adequate parking, and have a bathroom nearby. Also, we have our monthly outings on the Saturday following the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month unless the Saturday conflicts with holidays (December). Thank you for your input. Complete and print this survey and hand it to a member of the outings committee at the February or March meetings. Deadline: March 21

Your Suncoast Fly Fishers Outings Committee:

*Bob Burkard, Hilton Bruch, David Redd, Quin Berry*

1. What is your favorite Suncoast Fly Fishers monthly outing location?
2. Are there locations that our club does not go to that you would recommend for a monthly outing?
3. How far do you consider too far to travel for a Suncoast Fly Fishers monthly outing?
  - a. Over 1 Hour?
  - b. Over 2 Hours?
  - c. Over 3 Hours?
  - d. Over 4 Hours?
4. Would you participate in casting instructions if offered during an outing?
5. Would you participate in casting contests if offered during an outing?
6. Would you drink Hot Tea if offered in addition to coffee at our outings?
7. Do you attend our fresh water outings where wading is not an option?
  - a. Is availability of a boat/kayak the issue for not attending?
  - b. Would you attend if you could borrow a kayak from one of our members?
8. Would you consider an overnight outing (in addition to the Everglades trip)?
  - a. Recommendations for overnight outings:
9. Additional comments or feedback:
  
10. Please rate the following locations on a scale of 0 to 5
  - 0: No opinion – Not Familiar with location
  - 1: Will not attend outings at this location
  - 2: Will sometimes attend this outing, but really don't like to fish here
  - 3: Will attend, but not really excited about this location
  - 4: Like this location, but not one of my favorites
  - 5: One of my favorite locations; always try to attend

**--More survey questions on the next page --**

Location	Your Rating
4th Street North	
Alligator Lake	
Anclote River	
Bay Pines Memorial Park	
Blackthorn/Clambar - Sunshine Skyway Rest Area	
Chassahowitzka River	
Cypress Point Park	
Double Branch Creek - Upper Tampa Bay	
Emerson Point Preserve	
Fred Howard Park	
Fort DeSoto Park	
Hillsborough River	
Jigs Landing in Manatee County on the Braden river	
John Chestnut Park - Lake Tarpon - Carl Hanson Memorial	
Lake Maggiore	
Lake Manatee	
Lake Pasadena	
Manatee River State Park lake and River	
Night Snook - Within Tampa Bay	
Picnic Island Park	
Pinellas Point (Bay Vista Park)	
Snook Haven - Myakka River	
Sunshine Skyway	
Urban Outing - St. Petersburg - Downtown St. Petersburg from Coffee Pot to	
Demons Landing	
Walsingham Lake	
Weedon Island	

**Thank you for your input. Print and complete this survey and give it to a member of the outings committee at the February or March meetings. Deadline: March 21.**

## Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



**Red Tide Took a Toll** -- Snook and redfish are catch-and-release only in areas affected by red tide through May 10, 2019. This includes all state waters from the Pasco/Hernando county line south through Gordon Pass in Collier County, including all bay waters in Hillsborough County. ([MY FWC](#))

**Help is on the way** --Florida's new governor on Tuesday unveiled a spending plan to begin fixing the state's troubled waters while announcing efforts to change the way U.S. army engineers manage Lake Okeechobee, a lake half the size of Rhode Island and a source of much of its woes. ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

**On good, because I haven't caught a redfish in a long time** -- On Feb. 7, they released 2000+ redfish at Fort DeSoto Park. Altogether, they're releasing approximately 2,000 juvenile fish and 25 to 30 adult redfish in each of eight counties from Pasco south to Collier. All were hatchery-reared at the Duke Energy Mariculture Center. ([Baynews9](#))

**Beer battered grouper sliders** – Smitty calls our attention to this recipe. It sounds amazing, with or without grouper. ([BBQBros](#))

**Lefty Kreh died almost one year ago.** Watch one of his last videos. Stay with this one until the end when he says that 90 percent of fly fishing is where you're fishing and the people you're fishing with." Right on. ([Vimeo](#))

**Fly fishing advice for kayakers** --Fight the fish on the reel when fly fishing from a kayak. Install a strap to help you stand up and sit down. ([Fly Fishing Basics](#))

**Some of these tips are, like, you know, brilliant** -- I like the tips by Blane Chocklett and Joe Mahler a lot. And I really like the one where the fly tyer sticks the eye of his hook in lip balm so it doesn't get blocked with head glue. Warning: some of the illustrations don't match the written tips. H/T. Pat Damico. ([Fly Fisherman](#))

**Here's why fly fishing is our favorite sport** -- Fly fishing combines fitness, strategy, and mindfulness with the great outdoors? I like # 3 and #7. H/T Pat Damico ([Red Bull](#))

**Winston (not the cigarette) fire** -- Winston bamboo rod-building facility is back. Almost two years ago a fire destroyed Winston's bamboo shop in downtown Twin Bridges, Montana. Winston just announced it has reopened the Bamboo Shop in a new facility in the same town. H/T Larry Hoffman. ([Winston Rods](#))

**Wisconsin in February. Take Five** – No, not to listen to Dave Brubeck; but to watch the sturgeon spearing scene on Lake Winnebago on Feb. 11, 2019. It's a big deal, but I'd still rather be in Florida. ([You Tube](#))

**On another subject** -- This link has nothing to do with fly fishing, except it made this fly fisher laugh. ([You Tube](#))

###

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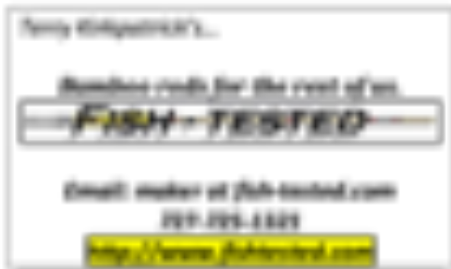
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