

# 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

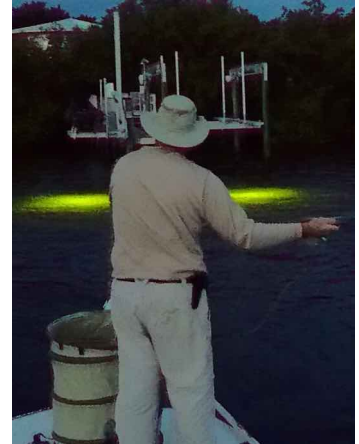
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June outing 8, 14-15-



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New generation 19-20



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Docklight fly or beach fly 12





## *SFF President Letter – July 2019*

Hello Everyone,

You know, human nature never ceases to amaze me.

I got an email from a member who joined in May. He attended the June meeting and says he was “snubbed” by our members, so he will never attend again. I responded with the hopes that he would explain it further and reconsider. I wish he would. He said he would not name names or go into detail. Tom Gadacz volunteered to call him, which he did. The man did not call Tom back, but texted him instead with no more details than that he was done with our club. I find that hard to understand.

Funny thing, that very night, during Leigh’s presentation, I saw David Redd get up from his chair and welcome two new guests that Dwayne Mertz had invited. He even showed them a place where they could sit.

I am proud of our Board of Directors and Members for the attention you all pay to visitors and new members.

Then Tom and I got an Email from Dayle Mazzarella saying that he had recommended us to a good friend who wanted to start a fly-fishing club in Hawaii. Dayle told him we were a very friendly club and knew we would be anxious to help. And he was right.

The interested party is Admiral John Adametz, the Admiral in charge of the Pacific Fleet stationed in Hawaii. I knew Tom would be the perfect one to get them started. As usual, Tom contacted Admiral Adametz with an awesome introductory Email. We will keep you posted.

I also get calls, texts and Emails from prospective fly-fishers. Most say they have always been interested in fly-fishing and most have never done it before or only briefly. I always welcome them and tell them that they would be well received as our guests at a general meeting or one of our outings. Another funny thing: most of them do not show. OK, I of all people, know how your schedule can get full quickly, or situations change and you have to adjust your plans.

Please stay as friendly as you have been; continue to greet our guests and new members cordially and let us all enjoy this fascinating sport of fly fishing.

*Never lose your sense of adventure.*

*George*

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

## Meetings, Outings, and More

### Thursday, July 18 Meeting

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

- **July 18 Meeting:** Presentation: Docklights and Beaches Panel discussion with SFF members Mark Hays, Alan Sewell, Mark Craig.
- **Drawing:** Members-only free guided trip giveaway. Details and entry form below.
- **Drawing:** Win a subscription to Tail Fly Fishing Magazine.
- **Fly swap:** Tie and bring three of your favorite snook docklight or beach flies

### Saturday July 19-20 Outing: Docklights and Beaches



Bob Burkard works the lights.

- Fish docklights from 8 pm Friday night and/or Saturday night until 8 am the next day.
- Fish beaches from 8 pm Friday night and/or Saturday night until 8 am the next day.
- You can fish anywhere in the general Tampa Bay area.
- Outing prize for the longest snook.
- Can you beat these lengths for the annual tournament? Snook 19-inches, Ladyfish 22.5, Redfish (empty), Seatrout (empty).
- No picnic lunch for this outing.



Adam Hays won last year's docklight/beaches outing and the snook category in the annual tournament with this 32-inch linesider.

### 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
- 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. MarineQuest, FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, 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.

Watch the **club calendar** for updates

# We are Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg



## 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: 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

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

## On The Fly

Bill AuCoin, editor; Duane Mertz

Publicity -- Bill AuCoin

## 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 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 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N turn North on 72<sup>nd</sup> St. N. Turn left (West) on 26<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](#)

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

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



## Suncoast Fly Fisher News 'n' Notes



Darryn Manley

### **Congratulations, Darryn Manley**

SFF member Darryn Manley's name was drawn at the June meeting for a free guided freshwater trip with bass and bluegill guru Jim Swann of Jim Swann Flyfishing Outfitters in Dade City. The club will pay for a half day of guided fishing for one or two anglers and we will kick in \$50 towards the tip. Darryn can select between a fresh water outing for two on a private lake or for one fly fisher fishing out of Swann's Gheenoe.

**We have another winner:** The board has approved a \$10 gift certificate for the second name drawn in the free guided trip raffle. Congratulations, #2, Woody Miller.

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### **Way to go, Ryan Sollers**

At the June meeting board members Ryan Sollers' name was drawn to receive a free subscription to *Tail Fly Fishing*, the international magazine focused entirely on saltwater fly fishing and its culture. Hey, that's who we are.

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### **Meet up at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio to tie flies every Monday at 6:30 pm.**

Address: 531 80th Ave. N. in St. Pete. On the second Monday of each month members tie the Fly of the Month for the next outing.

July 8: White Minnow (Docklights)

August 12: Lipstick Fly (Bay Vista Park, St. Pete).

September 9: Holiday Fly (Cypress Pt Park, Tampa)

October 14: Squirmy Wormy (Hillsborough River)

November 11: Electric Bunny (Bay Pines)



Evensen white minnow for docklights

### **Are you going to FFI's Expo in Bozeman?**

The annual Fly Fishers International Fly Fishing Expo is a big deal. This year it's in Bozeman July 21-22. Be sure to coordinate your trip with our FFI guy, Tom Gadacz, president of the FFI Florida Council. Check in with Tom at the meeting or call him at 706-726-7899.

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

Our veterans are wrapped up into a new year of fly fishing, plus Bay Pines has so many veterans waiting for our classes that they want to start another class on Thursdays. See Alan after the SFF meetings for info. There's a lot going on and we need you.



### **More club fly boxes coming...**

- At the June meeting Rick Warfel's motion was passed for the club to buy 25 large and 25 small fly boxes.

### **Help, we need somebody...**

- The club needs somebody to bring breakfast and/or lunch to Woodlawn Park for the December 14 fly casting clinic with Master Casting Instructors Dayle Mazzarella and Pat Damico.

### **Can you step up to the plate for this?**

- Hog Roast 2020 committee needs a chair person.

# Leigh West: Fly Fishing Tips and Tactics

By Duane Mertz

At the June 20 meeting Leigh West, a member of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club, pulled the curtain back and shared many of the secrets that have made him one of the most successful saltwater fly fishers anywhere. Whether you pursue Tarpon, Redfish, Snook or Trout, Leigh presented an encyclopedia of winning tactics for the fly angler in Tampa Bay. The overall takeaway: pay attention to details, even the small ones.



## Equipment Tips

- Use a neutral color, matte finish rod. It will be less visible. Rod flash will spook wary fish in shallow water.
- A great fly rod case is a clear plastic tube with shoulder strap. You can find them at an art store. These are used by artists to carry their work. They're light and don't cost much (see photo).
- Always store your reels with the drag off.
- Use charts of the water where you fish. Mark your charts with your catches. Fish return year after year to the same spots.
- Having luck in landing big fish is often due to having the right weight leader/bite tippet.
- Use floating line and fresh leaders for tarpon, snook, trout and redfish. However, a sink tip can be useful for tarpon in rough water and snook in the surf.

## Fishing Tips

- Before you fish consider what the wind will do to your cast. What fly/size and weight will work best in the day's wind conditions? What direction and speed is the current/tide moving?
- Learn to cast well and far.
- Just go fishing! Regardless of weather, etc. Often times your final destination may be unknown at first depending on cloud locations, number of people present. Change your location if too many people are at your location. Be flexible – get away from other anglers and jet skiers.



Leigh, bonefish in Cuba

- Take photos.
- Get a good night's sleep so you have plenty of energy the next day for decision making, changing rigging and for safety considerations.
- Get to your fishing site early – don't miss the tide (plan ahead for the optimal time). Set up for fish to come vs. chasing them from behind.
- If conditions are windy, shorten your leader.
- Learn to find and see fish in high water.
- Learn to see fish over dark bottom.

Sight Fishing Must-do's

- Practice your casting.
- Be patient, be stationary.
- Have good quality, polarized glasses with high light transmission (HT) lenses.
- Keep your glasses clean with mild soap and water as a first choice. CVS pads also work well, but first rinse away any particulate matter that could scratch the lens.
- When wading, choose spots with clear, shallow water for good sight fishing (seeing the fish's body in the water...).



*Fast is good. Leigh's Lamson*

Your First Cast May Be Your Best Cast

- Your first cast may not be your best shot but it is often your best chance – generally the splash from your first cast is OK, but fish will not hold for a second cast
- Repositioning your fly often will start a cycle of failure.
- Fish have good eyesight and they may go out of their way to eat your fly – they can see it!
- If you sight a string of fish, the second or third fish may go out of their way to chase your fly.
- If you must re-position your line, water haul your line silently.
- Be patient, make the right cast the first time and if you must re-position, get the distance and angle right; correct for wind and current.

Redfish Tips

- If the fish are tailing, target the closest fish. Don't line the school, or fish that aren't tailing!
- Tailing fish are reliable targets in Summer and Fall – typically during afternoon low tides.
- Night fishing on a full moon can also be productive.

Seatrout Tips

- Sight fishing for trout can be fun.
- Trout are great fish to wade for.
- Don't put too much pressure on larger fish – catch and release them for another day.
- Scope out good fishing spots at high sun, and **then** fish them in the early AM or late afternoon.
- These fish are affected by red tide. If you see red tide you must look for another spot.

Snook Tips

When fishing from:

- Beaches - sight fish for them using streamers, Clousers
- Other shorelines - sight fish using streamers, bendbacks, shrimp or glass minnows
- Night fishing under docks/bridge lights - sight fish with bendbacks, shrimp or glass minnows
- Flats or open water – sight fish, or blind cast using poppers in the early AM/PM to waking fish
- Mangroves, underwater structure – use poppers or bendbacks

**Most importantly, enjoy your fishing.**

**Make memories and friends!**

Fishing Etiquette

- Our adversary didn't volunteer to participate: Catch and release.
- De-barb your hooks – this doesn't affect your hook-up rate and releases are easier and much safer.
- Use steel vs. stainless/cadmium hooks when available.
- For Tarpon use 16-lb tippet.
- Adult Tarpon are ~15-60 years old. Do not do grip and grin pictures.

**Join FFI, BTT, TU and/or like organizations. Support real science, habitat protection and restoration**

## Review: June Outing. Do Fish Really Get Lockjaw?



David Redd, outings committee

### By David Redd

When Pres. George Haseltine took the fish-caught count at the Maximo Park pavilion no hands went up. No snook. No redfish. No seatrout. Well, did anybody catch anything at all? Quin Berry raised his hand slowly and confessed to catching eight lizardfish. Lizardfish was not the designated species. Oh, but then we all got word that Mark Hays and his daughter Anne and Mandy McGarry did catch fish. We couldn't confirm it then because Mark couldn't find a parking place at the crowded park. It turns out they really did catch fish! Check out Anne's article and photos in this issue on pages 14 and 15.

David



Tom Gadacz joined Dennis Marquis, Bill AuCoin, Quin Berry and David Redd at Fort DeSoto Park's East Picnic area. No reds, no trout, no snook. Quin caught 8 lizardfish.



Bob Burkard double-hauls his 8 weight. Next up, Jack Cason.



Another H & H morning in Florida. Dennis Marquis hydrates.



Great lunch and catching-up chats at Maximo Park

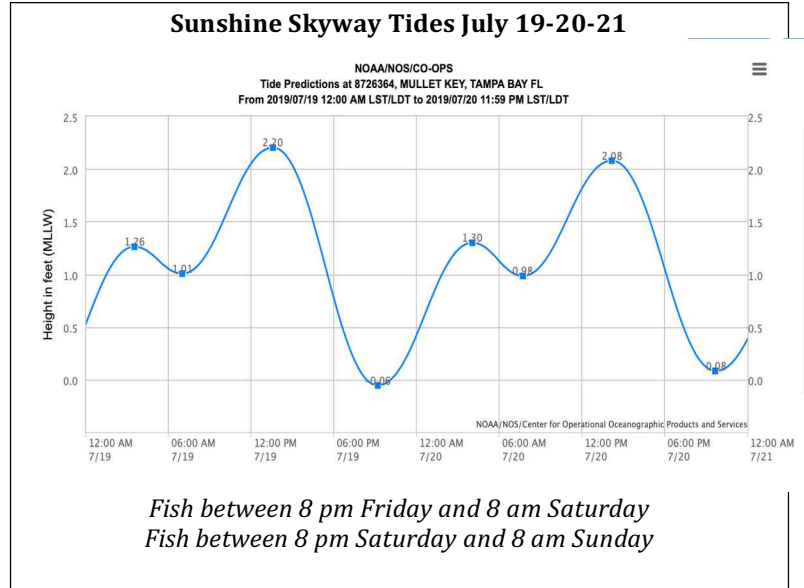


## Preview: July Outing Docklights and Beaches

Our July outing is our long-standing and much celebrated docklights outing, and now it's the second anniversary of our Docklights AND Beaches outing.

You can fish canals and/or beaches anywhere in the general Tampa Bay area, including counties north or south of Pinellas County. But here's the thing: you can ONLY fish them from 8 pm Friday night to 8 am Saturday morning and/or from 8 pm Saturday morning and/or from 8 pm Saturday to 8 am Sunday.

The designated species is snook. The longest snook wins the outing prize. Take a picture and email it to Bob Burkard at [robertburkard9@gmail.com](mailto:robertburkard9@gmail.com)



Don't forget the annual tournament, either. See the standings below. Can you beat these lengths for the annual tournament? Snook 19-inches, Ladyfish 22.5, Redfish (empty), Seatrout (empty). Measure and shoot a picture. Then release the fish. Remember, FWC has ruled we must release snook, redfish and spotted seatrout until May 31, 2020.



*Early morning beach snook caught recently at Fort DeSoto Park.*

*Don't look for the picnic lunch.  
There isn't one. Go home and take  
a long nap.*

### 2019 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS THROUGH JUNE

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

## Capt. Pat Damico: Snookin' Good Docklight Fishin'

Excerpts from the June, 2012 issue of *On The Fly*

### *ReadySetGo*



Longtime SFF member Capt. Pat Damico. *The Fly Guy*

Warmer water has snook moving out of deep canals and rivers and starting to forage on baitfish in the shallows. Since they are primarily nocturnal feeders, lighted docks are getting a lot of their attention.

*I will gladly admit my favorite fly rod quarry is a mean Old Snook.*

Daytime snook fishing with a long rod is hard work. Yes, there are many areas where numbers of small Snook can be tempted during the day, especially during the first and last hours and under low light conditions. If you want to get really rattled and have your tackle tested, fish in the dark. One of my fishing buddies, Bob Finck, told me years ago, after a Snookin' good trip, "Pat, they're like largemouth bass on steroids."

Are tides important? Is incoming preferred over outgoing? The most important consideration is to have moving water. If the tide is slack, the fish will be there milling around and not feeding. Pick times when there is maximum tidal flow. The current will orient the fish. As they face into the current waiting for their food, they may be positioned away from the dock with one tide and under the dock when it reverses.

Tackle will depend on the size of fish available. Two fly rods -- one with a floating and the second with a clear sink tip -- would be ideal. Nine-foot, fast-action rods in eight or nine weight should be equipped with thirty-pound fluorocarbon shock tippetts.

A nine-foot tapered leader on the floating line is perfect. The sink tip can have a three or four-foot shock tippet only since the clear line is almost invisible.

Observing feeding fish will tell you what flies to select. Snook will be very selective. If they are feeding on glass minnows, larger offerings will be refused. When a small grass shrimp skips under the light in a panic followed by a series of explosive boils, use a small shrimp pattern. Duplicate the movement of the forage with your retrieve.

Keep the rod tip close to the water and strip strike when you feel the take, then get the fish away from the structure. Crimp the barbs on flies, it will make release easier and help penetration. Besides shrimp and baitfish patterns that sink, I always have a few floating patterns; nothing beats the excitement of a large Snook exploding the surface. The newer synthetic materials are very effective. Polarfiber Minnows, Dan's Neerly Live Bait, Lefty's Deceiver and Clouser Minnows are all good choices for sub surface. Jack Gartside's Gurgle Bug and small Poppers will work on top.

Your boat should be well organized and everything unnecessary should be stowed. Daytime problems will quadruple at night. Tripping, catching line, not finding things, can be frustrating.



*Stealth is the key. Noise should be eliminated.*

## Capt. Ray Markham: Twenty Docklight Snook Tips



Suncoast Fly Fisher Capt. Ray Markham, owner/operator of **Backwater Promotions**

While trolling motor advancements can hold a boat in the current, there's no substitute for quiet that anchoring provides. The greater the current or wind, the more RPM's are required to hold a position. Whether it's with a shallow water anchor or one you drop over the side, the two are best at maintaining quiet. Vibrations and noise from a trolling motor will put fish on guard, making them less likely to feed.

2.) Shut off your sonar. Pinging from depth recorders (fish finders) etc. can be detected by fish, making them wary.

3.) Always keep as much distance between you and the dock light as the distance of your long cast. The greater the distance, the more the stealth.

4.) As always, matching the hatch is best. But when all else fails, smaller is better.

5.) Fluorocarbon leaders add stealth to your presentation. Cut and retie any abraded spot on leaders. Abrasion, particularly on fluorocarbon leaders are magnified by the light and put fish on guard, not to mention weaken your leader.

6.) During the summer months fishing north/south running residential canals with cement seawalls, the western seawall will usually be cooler and surrounding waters will as well. Sometimes it can also make for slightly higher oxygen levels that hold more fish. Conversely, during cooler or cold weather, you'll want to fish the warmest side of the canal. Concrete holds more heat than wooden pilings, docks, or seawalls.

7.) Wooden pilings and docks typically hold more marine growth than do cement pilings, attracting more life from the bottom of the food chain to the top.

8.) Docks with good moving water almost always hold more ambush predators.

9.) Docks at dead end canals are rarely the best docks that hold fish.

10.) Docks that are consistently lighted night after night will usually hold more fish.

11.) Docks that provide shallow to deep drop-offs hold more fish with a quick escape route for fish.

12.) Dock lights are more effective on darker nights with less moon light.

13.) Docks with large power boats will usually have a wash-out at the stern from prop wash. These holes can hold big fish when adjacent to a dock light.

14.) Deep drafting sailboats are usually good producers of fish.

15.) Old docks are generally more productive than new docks due to the amount of marine growth on them.

16.) Always approach a dock light from either up current or up wind, whichever is the greater, and allow the boat to drift down to your fishing position.

17.) PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE! Set up chairs or some other obstacles in your yard or practice area and practice casting under them without hitting the legs of the chairs. Better accuracy equals more fish and fewer lost flies.

18.) Always fish the perimeter of the lights first, casting up current allowing your fly to sweep with the tide.

19.) Small glass minnow and shrimp patterns are usually consistent top producers of fish around dock lights with white a top producing color for snook.

20.) No matter what your level of excitement, be quiet! Homeowners are unappreciative of your whooping and hollering while they're trying to sleep.

# Smitty's Fly Box - Flute Fly



Layne (Smitty) Smith

This is a favorite fly of Pat Damico for Snook. Although it is a "popper-style fly," its construction makes it very different as the "flutes" spray water out in different directions as a subtle indication of a wounded baitfish. It's different than the loud "POP" of a cup-faced popper (the sound of a baitfish under attack). This subtle difference seems to draw



Flute Fly for docklights and beaches

more strikes from snook. Pat favors a simple variation using just bucktail and a few strands of Krystal flash for the tail and a collar of Estaz. Mine is a little fancier but not much!

## Materials:

Hook: Mustad #CK74S SS Signature Kink Shank Hook #2 - 2/0

Thread: Danville Flatwaxed Nylon white

Tail: White bucktail w/ splayed white hackle feathers (or you favorite tail material)

Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash (or your favorite pearl flash)

Collar: Palmered white hackle feathers. Option: under-wrap Estaz in hot pink or red to give hint of gills

Head: Flute head

Cement: Fletch-Tite Platinum

## Tying Sequence:

1. Place hook in vise and measure flute head length from hook eye to rear of head and mark on hook shank with either a few red thread wraps (my choice) or a permanent marker. This will give you a reference point on where your tying materials should end.
2. Tie in your tailing material (i.e. white bucktail) just above the hook point with a set of tapered wraps to make transition for hackle feathers 2 or 3 each side. The feathers may be tied in splayed or concave sides facing each other depending on the profile you want for you fly.
3. Tie in a half dozen strands of Krystal Flash in "Vee" configuration down each side of tail and trim slightly longer than tail.
- 4a. If you option to use the under-wrap of Estaz, tie in Estaz first followed by feather(s). Do 1 or 2 wraps behind hackle feathers then palmer forward to the mark on your hook shank and tie off. Trim off excess and then palmer feather(s) forward to the mark allowing the Estaz to show through somewhat and then tie off and trim.
- 4b. Tie in hackle (1 or 2 feathers depending how full you want the collar) and palmer forward to the mark on your hook shank. Tie off and trim excess.
5. Wrap your thread forward to just behind hook eye in tight side-by-side wraps and then wrap thread back to mark on hook with the same type of wraps. Tie off and cut thread. This will give you a good base to lay down your adhesive for a solid set as you slide on the flute head.
6. Slide head onto hook with one continuous push to meet the collar. An option here is to stop at collar for a nice full collar or you can push it slightly up onto the hackle to make it flare backwards (that would help in making it cast a little easier).



# Smitty's Fly Box - Hefty Crab, Revised



Layne (Smitty) Smith

*Oops I had some errors in the Hefty Crab write-up in the June issue of On The Fly. Here is the revised version. Smitty*

## Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu SC15 #1/0.  
Thread: Brown Flat Waxed Nylon  
Weight: Medium lead eye

Claws: Four grizzly hackles, splayed Eyes:

EZ Crab/Shrimp eyes or melted mono eyes (optional)

Tail: Brown barred magnum rabbit strip, marabou to cover rear wraps

Legs: Pumpkin/Green Sili Legs

Body: Medium root beer or copper palmering chenille

Weed Guard: 20-pound hard mono

Cement: Favorite head cement or UV Resin



## Tying Sequence:

**Step 1:** Tie in lead eyes securely one eye length behind hook eye. Rotate vise 180° so hook ends hook point up.

**Step 2:** Tie Bunny strip with fur side facing upwards to inside of hook shank (fly will ride hook point up) by first piercing bunny strip with hook point so about ¾" of strip extends past hook bend.

**Step 3:** Tie in and splay two grizzly hackles on each side, making sure feathers curve outwards. Tie in a pair of rubber legs on each side of splayed hackles.

**Step 4:** Tie in eyes on each side of hook shank so they extend just beyond hook bend.

**Step 5:** Palmer marabou to hide rear wraps for a neat fly.

**Step 6:** Tie in palmering chenille and wrap forward, stopping behind eye.

**Step 7:** Tie in second pair of legs on each side just behind lead eyes.

**Step 8:** Add 20-pound hard mono weed guard by folding in half and tying in from bottom of fly. Make sure to separate weed guards and cross wrap to secure. Apply liberal coating of your favorite head cement or UV Resin (my preference). Let dry or cure with UV Light.

## Anne Hays: Full Twitch Ahead



*SFF member Anne Hays*

After Mandy, my dad, and my own success fishing the Everglades in April, we all hit a bit of a fishing slump. Dad, my boyfriend Robert, and I tried our hand at night fishing the docks near Blind Pass in Treasure Island during May. Robert hooked a dock twice, and a shrimp jumped in our boat, but we may as well have tried fishing in the middle of Hurricane Katrina it was so windy.

To add insult to our injured pride, that was the night my cousin Adam caught the biggest Snook of his life at one of the docks Robert hooked.

Mandy traveled across the country to Taos, New Mexico and hired a fly-fishing guide there. Taos is in a southern stretch of the Rocky Mountains. While she said the scenery was beautiful, her guide skunked her.

Dad and I vowed that the Pinellas Point outing would not end in vain. Pinellas Point is my favorite fishing ground in the county. Nearly all of our greatest fish tales come from that area, including the 125 lb. Tarpon I caught when I was twelve, and many coolers full of Spanish Mackerel that later became my dad's famous smoked fish spread.

To ensure a successful outing, Dad took Mom and the unofficial Suncoast Fly Fishers mascot, *Mayhem*, our yellow lab, to Pinellas Point the weekend before. They brought home nine bluefish and released many more fish than that. *(I will not say what these fish were caught on, only that my mom does not fly fish and May has a habit of sitting on fly line, so certain accommodations had to be made on their trip.)*



*Mandy McGarry and a spotted seatrout she caught fly fishing the June outing near Pinellas Point.*



*Mandy and a jack crevalle, one of many.*

Dad, Mandy, and I launched the morning of the outing around 7:30 a.m. and took the boat out of the water around 10:30. There was not a single point during the morning that we were not surrounded by Tarpon. That did not do us much good as the Tarpon did not want to eat Dad's black and purple fly, but it was still a very cool experience.

*Continued on next page*

## P 2/Anne Hays: Full Twitch Ahead

While the tarpon were not interested in flies, we did get jacks, bluefish, speckled trout, ladyfish, mackerel, and a silver trout to take them. Dad learned the previous week (during the brief periods that May was not laying on his line like a beached Beluga) that you cannot move the fly fast enough for bluefish and mackerel. The secret was, when you knew the fish were eyeing the fly, to put the rod under your arm and strip with both hands.

The three of us primarily used Craft Fur greenback imitations on number two hooks. There was no reason to change flies when this one worked so well all morning.

Mandy learned that not all fishing is as easy as the Everglades canals. We both got a lesson on how to cast heavy saltwater flies, and Mandy learned on her first fish, the jack, how crucial the fundamentals of keeping the rod up and the line tight are during a fight.

At some point, a frustrated mackerel fisherman with a fish spread craving will invest in a titanium fly leader. Both times I hooked a mackerel, I felt the fish saw through my line. Mandy and I both managed to get baby bluefish to the boat, but I was saying a *Hail Mary* as we pulled both fish in.

Besides the highlight of seeing Tarpon, a school of permit daisy chaining by our boat, and a handful of sea turtles come up on the flats, the best part of the day was seeing two eagle rays swim past the boat. For those new to the area, eagle rays are large rays with blue/grey backs covered in white spots. They looked more like they were flying through the water than swimming.

When the three of us arrived at Maximo Park for the outing lunch there was no parking left for trailers. We were fine with taking our sandwiches home and eating in the air conditioning, but we did miss the fellowship of eating lunch with the whole club.

###



*Mark Hays' fly leader survived this ladyfish. For catch-and-consume mackerel, he prefers a titanium fly leader.*



*Anne and a spotted seatrout*



# Suncoast Fly Fishers: Ontario on the Fly



Tony Piazza with a fat Lac la Croix, Ontario smallmouth bass caught on the fly in late June.

Mike Simmons, Bill Scarola, and Tony Piazza fly fished Ontario four days in June from Zups Resort and caught their share of Smallmouth Bass and Northern Pike. Tony and Bill fished together. Mike fished with another buddy who was not an SFF member.

Four great days with a lot of catching. Largest smallmouth was 19 3/4" on a white Lefty Deceiver tied on a #4 hook. Largest Northern Pike was 25" on a #2 Lt Gray Merkin Minnow. Highly recommend Zup's to anyone looking for four days of tight line. *Tony*



Bill Scarola with a scrapper smallmouth bass he caught.

Tony and I fished together this year. Mike was with another of his buddies. It was Tony's first trip to ZUPS! *Bill*

Had a great bunch of fishermen and great weather and great fishing. Not everyone used a fly rod but all caught some really nice fish. A Great Gamefish Is Too Precious To Kill. Catch and Release. *Mike*



SFFer Mike Simmons with a smallmouth bass. He organizes the annual trip to Zup's resort knowing how good the fishing is on Lac la Croix.



Northern pike liked Tony's fly.



Who knew? Anglers eat, too.



Yeah, watch out for those teeth.



## Dennis Marquis: “Relative” Good Fishing



*Dennis Marquis with one of many trout he and his brother and nephew caught fishing lower Tampa Bay in early July.*

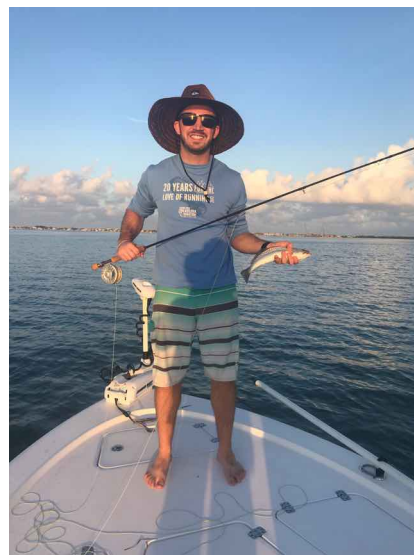
**Wednesday, July 3** - My nephew Matt, 28, from Boca who has been catching the peacock bass down there on the fly was up for few days. Went out this morning with a plan to fish Pinellas Point, but never got there. As we passed the south side of Indian Key near Maximo we could see fish feeding so we headed in. Caught trout, jacks and ladyfish, more than we could count, on the Clouser, Mirrodine, and Zara Spook Jr.

These were Matt’s first saltwater fish on the fly! We

had to change out our shredded Clousers (chartreuse/w, burnt orange/w and olive/w) several times. Then we headed out to some spoils off of Pinellas Point in the bay and found trout, bluefish and jacks on the fly and spin rod. We stopped taking pics because we were having too much fun

**July 5 Repeat Performance** - With Matt and his father Rob (my brother – not a fly fisher), we quickly found blitzing fish all around the boat off the south side of Indian Key – again! Water was boiling in multiple spots at a time for nearly two hours with jacks, ladyfish and trout all feeding together. Then we headed out to the same point on the spoils off Pinellas Point where we found blues, mackerel, jacks and trout. In two days of inshore fishing, 60+ fish (touched leaders). Easily add 20+ fish hooked/loosed or with a quick release. For all of us it was an epic two days of fishing. Largest trout was 22”, most 15-20” range.

*Dennis*



*Matt Marquis of Boca Raton, Dennis’ nephew, visited Dennis in early July and scored his first saltwater fishes on the fly. Here’s one of his spotted seatrout.*



*Robert Marquis, Dennis’ brother. The trio caught trout, macs, blues and ladyfish fishing below surface spoil islands off Pinellas Point.*

## Robert Fischer: Ride, Ride, Ride, Fish, Ride, Ride

Here's Robert Fischer and a 19-inch brown trout he caught on his latest motorcycle trip. He caught this on the lower Madison River in Montana, just north of Yellowstone National Park.



*Robert Fischer with a 19-inch brown trout caught on the lower Madison River in Montana in late June.*



*"Seems kind of crazy to drive 4500 miles to catch trout, but the scenery along the way was outstanding," said Robert.*

*Robert*



## Tom Gadacz: Meet the Next Generation of Fly Fishers



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

The Upper Tampa Bay Park in Tampa, Florida offers youths a two-week experience learning fishing skills. Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF), a FFI Charter club and member of the Florida Council, participated in the program by providing two hours of fly casting instructions to youths in the older age group (12 to 15 years of age). This is our first year at Upper Tampa Bay Park which has great facilities. We had 35 young anglers on June 18 and 34 on June 26.



*Club members Dennis Marquis and Ted Faulkner helped with the fly casting lessons.*

Most of the time is spent fly casting. Our program consisted of an introduction to fly fishing, fly fishing equipment, differences between fly casting and spin casting, differences between fresh and salt water fishing, fresh and salt water flies, and several other topics including expressing the joy of fly fishing. The kids are paired up and help each other.

*The youth fly casting sessions at Upper Tampa Bay Park were staffed by Patty Anderson (Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club), and SFF members David Redd, Quin Berry, Dennis Marquis, Tex Faulkner, and Tom Gadacz. We wish to thank Brad Lympany and his staff for their help during the sessions.*



*Throw it this way, said David Redd*

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 of them using as little wrist as possible. They turn around and then practice the back stroke. The kids practice the paint brush drill for 30 minutes and then began casting with 5 weight 8' 6" fly rods. Hula hoop targets are placed at 30 to 35 feet and they cast to the target. The non-casting partner stands at the target. Avoiding rotation of the wrist is the greatest initial challenge. We conclude the sessions with fly tying. Every youth received a SFF Certificate of Completion of having completed the Junior Training Clinic for Fly Casting.



*Future fly fishers and FFI club instructors at Upper Tampa Bay Park on June 18*



*Future fly fishers and FFI club instructors at Upper Tampa Bay Park on June 26.*

## Tom Gadacz: Fly Casting at Suncoast Youth Conservation Center

**This is the third year Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) has provided fly casting lessons at Suncoast Youth Conservation Center in Apollo Beach.**

The facility is the result of efforts by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission partnering with TECO and the Florida Aquarium. The official name is the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network (FWC-FYCCN).



*First Cast: Rick Warfel at Apollo Beach*

On June 19 we had the opportunity to meet 24 youths and had a planned program that depended on getting outside and fly casting. Despite a bad weather prediction of thunder storms, the two-hour morning session was 90 and 90 (temperature & humidity) and no rain or thunder. Another great day in paradise!

Our program consisted of an introduction to fly fishing, fly fishing equipment, differences

between fly casting and spin casting, differences between fresh and salt water fishing, fresh and salt water flies, and several other topics. We also showed a video which demonstrated and explained the fly casting stroke and errors to avoid. After demonstrating the casting stroke, the kids practiced splashing water with a paint brush. They then practiced casting using 5 wt rods that were 8' 6" long. Each youngster received a SFF Certificate of Completion of the Junior Training Clinic for Fly Casting.



*Paint brush drill*



*Patty Anderson of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club guides a student through the fly cast steps.*

*The casting session was staffed by Rick Warfel (SFF vice president), Patty Anderson (Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club), and SFF members Quin Berry, Dennis Marquis, David Redd, and Tom Gadacz. We wish to thank Director Kathy Guindon and her staff for their help. We had a great time and were impressed with the number of young ladies interested in fishing and conservation.*





## Fly Gear for Sale or Swap

**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](mailto: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

**Alan Sewell is selling his Old Town Kayak/Canoe hybrid. And more.**

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

**Larry Huffman is selling his Hobie Outback.**

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



*Hand-made hook and eye holder*

**Jack Cason is selling his sit-on-top Perception Pescador kayak. It's a deal.**

**Call him at 727-864-7444**

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

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

## Capt. Pat Damico: Tampa Bay Times Captain's Corner



### Warm Weather Fly Lines

Your fly pattern is very important, but not putting the fly in the proper location is even more necessary for success. If casting with your normal setup is giving you poor results, your fly line is probably the culprit because of much warmer weather and especially an increase in water temperature. One well-known fly line company makes more than 1,000 different fly lines for a good reason. In the spring when gulf water temperatures were in the low sixties a line that performed perfectly will not do the same now when the same water temperature is above 85. I see this frequently with clients from northern states and find they are trying to cast a line that behaves like limp spaghetti. A line that performed perfectly for striped bass in New York in the spring will be a disaster now. Some fly lines will have designations such as tropic or warm weather on the box. Fly fishing guides understand this and will have the proper lines on their reels. When clients are having difficulty with the equipment they brought with them, I frequently give them a reel to use with a suitable line on their rod that they feel comfortable with. This will restore their confidence and go a long way to eliminate their frustration resulting in a successful day.

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

*Editor's note: Thanks, Pat. I used a supple fly line at Fort DeSoto Park and got a limp spaghetti tangle that took 30 minutes to unravel. -*

## “Demystifying” Beach Fishing

**This may be the best online article** about how to catch beach snook on the fly. Here are some excerpts. Read the whole thing on Demystify.com.

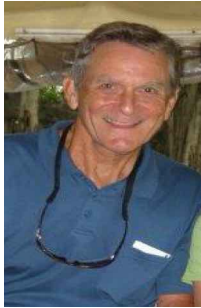
*The beaches offer such unique fishing because they are so easily accessible and you can [sight-fish](#). As long as the water is calm and clear, snook can be seen cruising along the shallows, often just feet from shore in extremely shallow water.*

*An ideal wind will be one that's coming off the shoreline. With the wind at your back, this keeps the water along the beach calm and clear.*

*When sight-fishing the beaches, the fish can be very, very close to shore and often hang along or near the first "trough" which is the first little slope/dropoff close to shore.*

*In casting at a school of cruising snook ... I'll start by making my presentations to the lead fish. If there's no interest, I then want to show my fly to the fish further back in the school. To do this, I'll cast the fly well ahead of the school and let it settle to the bottom. I then let the school actually swim over the fly and start stripping when the fly is under the middle or back of the school. I use just little twitches here so that it looks like my fly is popping out of the sand or just subtly inching along underneath those snook.###*

## Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



### *On The Fly Browses ICAST Trade Show*

I went to the **ICAST** trade show in Orlando earlier this month. It's the world's largest sportfishing trade show put on annually by the American Sportfishing Association (**ASA**). This was the biggest ICAST ever even though it didn't have all of the fly fishing gear it usually has. That's because American Fly Fishing Trade Association (**AFFTA**) will be holding its own trade show in Denver in October. Still, this year's ICAST in Orlando had lots of gear of interest to fly fishers. Here are some of the winners.



*Garmin has entered the freshwater trolling motor biz and says its unit is more powerful and that thrust doesn't affect sonar imaging.*

- Best of show/Best boating accessory **Garmin FORCE**
  - Best Kayak Accessory – **Hobie Mirage 360 Angler**
  - Best Eyewear- **Costa Waterwoman**
  - Best Footwear – **Frogg Toggs Skipper**
  - Best Giftwear – **13 Fishing Fillet Table Beverage Management System**
  - Best Lifestyle Apparel – **AFTCO Yurei Air-O-Mesh Performance Shirt**
  - Best Technical Apparel Cold Weather- **SIMMS M's G4Z Stockingfoot Wader**
  - Best Technical Apparel Warm Weather- **AFTCO Overboard Submersible Shorts**
  - Best Cutlery Hand Pliers & Tools – **BUBBA 110V Electric Fillet Knife**
  - Best Electronics – **Humminbird MEGA 360 Imaging**
  - Best Fly Fishing Accessory – **SIMMS Dry Creek Z Sling Pack**
  - Best Tackle Management – **Plano Edge**
  - Best Fly Reel – **SEIGLER Reels SF**
  - Best Fly Fishing Rod – **St. Croix Rods Imperial Salt**



*Humminbird Mega 360. Hey, look at those spawning beds.*

**And here are some other items that caught my eye.**



*Lake Okeechobee needs everybody to get on board to keep the pressure on the pols to stop the blue-green algae. **Anglers for Lake Okeechobee.***



**Daiwa pliers.** Now you can see what you're doing. You don't have to raise your elbow and awkwardly angle your wrist to reach in and remove a hook from a fish's mouth.



**Bote Rover.** It's inflatable and yet it's almost as rigid as a fiberglass boat. This is not a pool toy, believe me.

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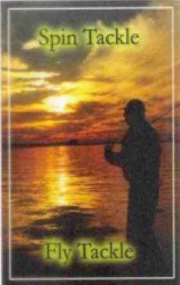
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