

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

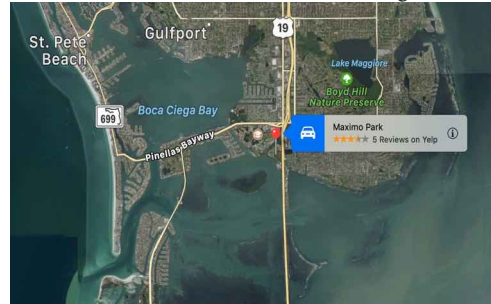
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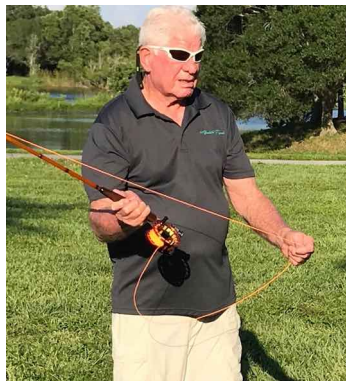
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SFF President Letter – June 2019

Hello Everyone,

At our Board meeting Bob Burkhart asked: With 120+ members, why do only 30+ attend our outings?

Why do you participate, or not? Why did you join? What attracted you?

Since I joined the SFF approximately 7 years ago, I have: bought a Gheenoe and a kayak and enjoyed using them to share many enjoyable hours with you in places that I would have never otherwise gone, experiences that I would have missed completely. You all made me set specific dates to fish and have lunch together.

I also learned (to only mention a few things) to:

- Cast a fly with enough skill to catch fish
- Fish the beach and not even get in the water
- Watch for the turtles on a log (ask Jim Swann)
- Check out my favorite flats at LOW tide
- Catch a grand slam on a night dock light excursion (thanks to Ken Doty)
- Be mindful of the importance of the first 30' of fly line
- Put a 6 or 7 weight line on a 5 wt. rod to help with the short casting distances
- To PULL the fly line SMOOTHLY, never pushing, jerking or snapping it (thanks to Dayle Mazzarella).

Suncoast Fly Fishers (you, the people, I mean) have helped me to rediscover the outdoors that I enjoyed and loved so much as a kid before family and work obligations became more important.

Then, in the same Board Meeting, Karen Warfel made an astounding observation:

WE ARE A MENTORING CLUB.

Wham! Blam! Rock 'em, Sock 'em. Holy wake up call, Batman!

That is exactly what we are! We can all mentor someone; new member or not.

Bill AuCoin set an example by being available early at our outings to fish with anyone interested. David Redd and Cliff Nigh are teaching casting before the meetings. Alan Sewell is at the VA. Bruce Evensen teaches fly tying every Monday Night, and numerous others are doing the same. Can't we all do that in some way?

If any of us can help you get a greater enjoyment out of your membership, please let us know.

Never lose your sense of adventure.

George

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

Meetings, Outings, and More

Thursday, June 20 Meeting
6:30 pm, Walter Fuller Park Rec Center
7291 26th Avenue N. St. Pete



Our June speaker is Leigh West, an avid fly fisher and an active member of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. He's a top-notch wade-fisher. He has an uncanny ability to spot fish in the water, even when the lighting is wrong or the water is too disturbed or murky to glimpse below the

surface. He can't teach us how to see in the dark, but he will share insights on how we can catch more, and bigger fish.

- **Drawing:** Members-only free guided trip giveaway. Details and entry form below.
- **Drawing:** Free Tail Fly Fishing Magazine subscription
- **Fly swap:** Bring three redfish flies.

Saturday June 22 Outing, Maximo Park, St. Petersburg

- Fish anywhere in lower Tampa Bay or the Gulf.
- Designated species: Redfish
- Meet up at Maximo Park pavilion for lunch at noon

Save these Dates

- July 18 Meeting: Presentation: Dock-lights and Beaches Panel discussion with Mark Hays, Alan Sewell, Mark Craig
- July 20 Outing: Dock light and beach fishing
- August 15 Meeting: Tie-a-Thon with free pizza and prizes.
- August 17 Outing: Bay Vista Park, Pinellas Point, St. Petersburg
- September 19 Meeting: Speaker is Walt Durkin
- September 21 Outing: Cypress Point Park, Tampa
- October 17 Meeting: Speaker, Steve Gibson, kayak fishing guide. He will tie the Mighty Myakka Minnow fly.
- October 19 Outing: Carl Hanson Competition with Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club on the Hillsborough River. Fly of the month: Worm fly.

Watch the **club calendar** for updates

Members-Only Guided Trip Giveaway

Win a Free Guided Trip with Jim Swann

Two things that our club wants to be able to do is to give back to members and to get folks fishing! To this end we are going to periodically raffle off a guided fishing trip to one of our lucky members. 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. There is no cost to enter but you must be a club member in good standing at the time of the drawing and you must register to participate. If you registered for a previous guided trip raffle, we will keep you registered unless you request us to remove you from the list. Our next trip will be a fresh water outing with our very own Jim Swann. Jim only does ½ day trips. He offers the choice of a bass trip in a private lake for one or two anglers or a river trip for one fishing out of his Gheenoe. The river trip is limited to only one angler. The drawing will be held at the June member meeting. Registration is easy. Complete the form below and bring it to the next club sponsored event, mail it to our PO Box, sign up at a club meeting or contact Rick Warfel at rh_warfel@yahoo.com or by phone/text at 813-523-0692.

SFF Members Only Guided Trip Give Away Registration Form June 20, 2019 Drawing

Name _____

Phone _____

Winner is entitled to ½ day guided private lake trip for 1 or 2* anglers or a ½-day trip for one on the river.

Voucher expires 90 days from the time of the drawing. You do not need to be present to win.

Suncoast Fly Fishers, P. O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg



Suncoast Fly Fishers

P. O. Box 40821
St Petersburg, FL 33743
www.suncoastflyfishers.org

Club Officers

Pres: George Haseltine
Vice Pres: Rick Warfel
Secretary: David Redd
Treasurer: Tom Gadacz

Board of Directors

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

Committees

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

Casting Skills -- Pat Damico, Dayle Mazzarella

FFI Liaison -- Pat Damico

Conservation -- Cliff Nigh

Fly Tying -- Myron Hansen

Membership -- Ton Gadacz

New Members -- Rick Warfel

Webmaster -- Dennis Marquis, Bob Burkard

Facebook -- Woody Miller

Hog Roast -- 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,
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 22nd Avenue N turn North on 72nd St. N. Turn left (West) on 26th Avenue N. Then turn right into the rec center parking lot.

Monthly Outings

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

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

Visit our website:

Suncoastflyfishers.com

Membership

Suncoast Fly Fishers currently has 124 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

Join. Renew. Application
www.suncoastflyfishers.com

Suncoast Fly Fisher News 'n' Notes



Thanks, Dick Miekka

At the April meeting President George Haseltine thanked outgoing officers and board members and presented outgoing treasurer Karen Warfel with a “bouquet” of fly tying materials. At the May meeting he thanked outgoing secretary Dick Miekka and presented him with display-quality flies for all of the time and work he has put into Suncoast fly Fishers. The item in Dick’s right hand is a grouping of identical red-and-white flies attached to a piece of driftwood, all mounted on a wooden base. The flies and the display quality

mounts were all crafted by Bruce Evensen.

2019 Hog Roast and Silent Auction was our second-most profitable

We took in \$5,418. With expenses of \$1,969 that gave us a net of \$3,497, The club extends a special thanks to Hog Roast Committee Chairs Rick and Karen Warfel.



Bruce Evensen’s outing *Flies of the Month* for 2019

- January: Bunny Clouser
- February: Crappie Jig (Walsingham Lake)
- March: Deceiver (South Skyway Rest Area)
- April: Bendback (Fort DeSoto Park)
- May: Myakka Minnow (Chassahowitzka River)
- June: Red Rouser (Maximo Park)**
- July: White Minnow (Docklights)
- August: Lipstick Fly (Bay Vista Park, St. Pete)
- September: Holiday Fly (Cypress Pt Park, Tampa)
- October: Squirmy Wormy (Hillsborough River)
- November: Electric Bunny (Bay Pines)
- December: Fly not shown (Fort DeSoto Park)



*These are the Suncoast Fly Fishers proven Flies of the Month for the 2019 outings as chosen by Bruce Evensen. Bruce leads fly tying instruction every Monday night at his studio and members are welcome at all sessions. To tie the fly of the month, though, be sure to attend Bruce’s fly tying session on the **second Monday** of each month at 6 pm. Address: 531 80th Avenue, St. Pete. Bring vise, tools, and materials.*



Red Rouser, Fly of the month for the Maximo Park outing.

Suncoast Fly Fishers met up Monday, June 10 at Bruce Evensen’s fly tying studio to tie the fly of the month, a fly that increases chances of catching a redfish, the designated outing species for the June outing at Maximo Park. **Next fly of the month tying session is Monday, July 8. Meet at Bruce’s studio to tie the Dock-light White Minnow**

News & Notes Continues on next page

Suncoast Fly Fisher News 'n' Notes



*Patrick Berry,
President, FFI*

Meet the new president of Fly Fishers International

Fly Fishers International (FFI), announced that Patrick H. Berry has been hired as FFI's new president and chief executive officer. Berry brings over 27 years of experience within the environmental conservation field, having come to FFI from the Vermont Community Foundation where he served as vice president of philanthropy. A former commissioner of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, Berry is recognized as a visionary conservationist and is widely respected by his peers. He'll be at the 2019 Expo in Bozeman in July.

Are you going to 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.



Teach youths how to tie flies and cast a fly rod

Tom Gadacz has arranged for Suncoast Fly Fishers to introduce fly fishing to boys and girls on five days at three summer youth camps. Sessions in Upper Tampa Bay Park were held on June 18. Another is scheduled June 26. Sessions at E.G. Simmons Park in Ruskin are June 28 and July 12. Sessions at FWC Youth Conservation Center in Apollo Beach are June 19. See Tom at the meeting or phone him, 706-726-7899. Check details in Tom's memo attachment E-blasted to members on June 10.

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 me after SFF meetings for info on volunteering. There's a lot going on and we need you.



Smitty Ties the Baby Flounder Fly

That's Layne (Smitty) Smith at the April meeting fly table tying a fly you probably have never fished, a Baby Flounder Fly. Sounds delicious.



Smitty crafts the Baby

June 25-June 30: The fly fishing trip at Zups Fishing Outfitters is still on.

The fly fishing expedition to Ontario to catch 100+ smallmouth bass in a day is still on. June 25-June 30, 5 nights, 4 days: \$1335 Transportation extra. Email Mike Simmons at yankee3047@yahoo.com. Or, email Bill Scarola at poppyscar@gmail.com

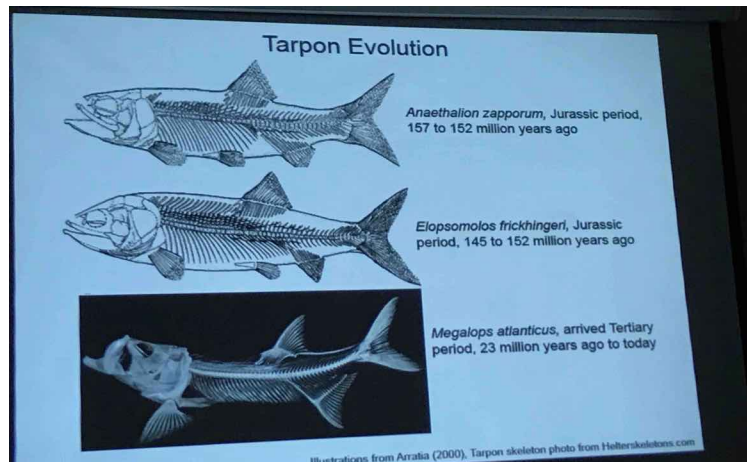
Mike Larkin Dives Deep into Tarpon World

By Duane Mertz

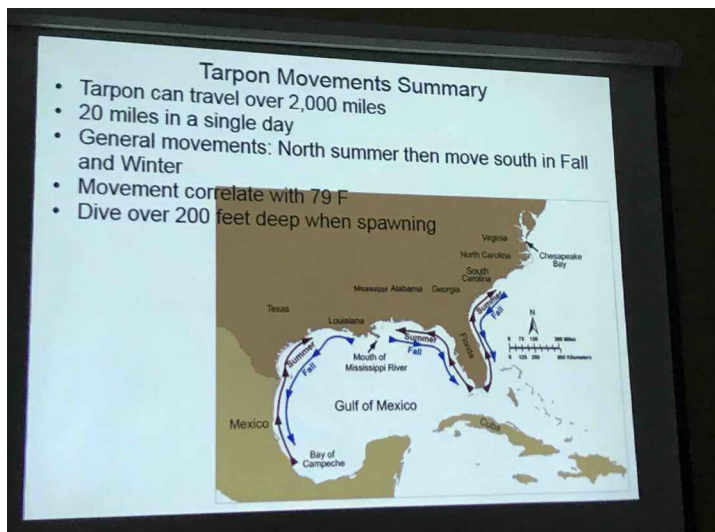


The Life and Science of Tarpon was the topic of a talk by Michael Larkin of NOAA Fisheries at the May 16 meeting. Michael Larkin has a PhD in fisheries from the University of Miami's Bonefish and Tarpon Conservation Center. Along with being an SFF member, Michael is a leading expert on tarpon around the world. His talk was a tour-de-force covering tarpon history, physiology, breeding habits, longevity, and feeding habits, and migratory patterns as well as practical information regarding catch and release.

The first tarpon lived in the Jurassic Period 160-million years ago. Today's species arrived on the scene 23 million years ago. There are two species, our Atlantic tarpon that reach 90 inches in fork length and the Indo-Pacific tarpon that grow to 24 inches.



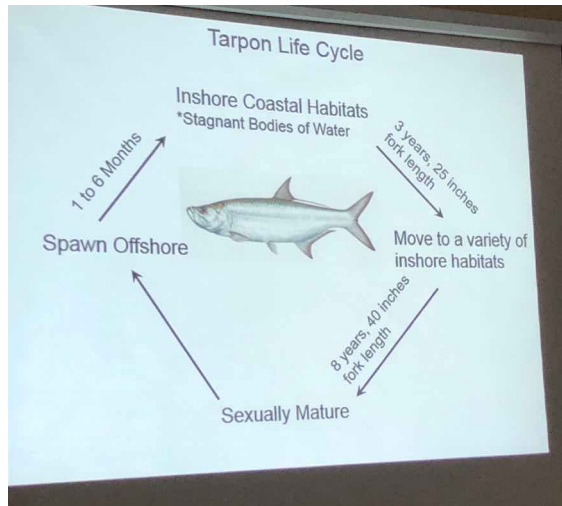
Using satellite technology scientists have tracked Florida tarpon ranging from Florida Bay to Louisiana in the Gulf of Mexico, and from Miami to Chesapeake Bay on the east coast of the U.S. A second body of tarpon range from Louisiana near the mouth of the Mississippi River to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. These are separate populations (east and west Gulf of Mexico tarpon) and they do not cross to the other side. Tarpon travel as far as 20 miles in a day and over 2,000 miles total in their annual migrations. They generally move north in summer months and south in winter following water at 79 degrees.



Tarpon can travel over 100 miles offshore and reach depths of 200 feet. Once there the females and males take steep vertical dives to lay and fertilize their eggs. Scientists believe the deep dives use building water pressure to release eggs from the females. They spawn on full and new moons (the major spawning time for Tampa Bay tarpon is on the first full moon of June). There are four main pre-spawning areas for Atlantic tarpon including Florida Bay, near Homosassa Springs Florida, near the mouth of the Mississippi river, and off the Yucatan Peninsula. However, there are likely other tarpon spawning locations that have yet to be discovered.

Continued on next page

Continued... Mike Larkin's Deep Dive into Tarpon



Using radiometric scientists have learned that tarpon can live up to 78 years. Their forked tails permit fast sustained swimming, while their reflective scales provide protective armor. They can change color to match their surroundings. Females can reach 200 pounds while males generally top out at 100. Juvenile tarpon are eight years old or younger and measure less than 40 inches in fork length. In the juvenile stage they'll live in inshore coastal habitats, often in low-oxygen stagnant water while adults will move to a variety of inshore habitats and travel offshore to spawn.



Tarpon have large eyes that provide excellent visual sensitivity. They are excellent night feeders because of their strong eyesight. Their best field of vision is upward and forward of their head. When tarpon feed they suction-strike their prey. Favorite prey are crabs, and bait fishes such as menhaden. Tarpon breathe through their gills and can also breathe through their "lung-like" swim bladders. When they're in stagnant, low oxygen water, in the early morning or in high temperature water they will often be seen rolling on the surface to take air into their swim bladders and to adjust their buoyancy.

Anglers should always use circle hooks to avoid gut-hooking Tarpon. Always keep your hands away from their gill plates to keep away from the gills. Keeping the fish in the water, anglers should gently revive the fish before the release.



Citing years of research, Larkin said he has never discovered adult tarpon that reside in a particular area on a permanent basis.

Review: May Outing on the Chassahowitzka River

"The river around the launch area was just shy of a madhouse..."



David Redd, outings committee

By David Redd

We arrived at the launch area around 6:45 a.m. to find 15 parked trailers of boats that had already launched, this made us skeptical of what the day would bring. As we unloaded our kayaks, it seemed there was a steady stream of others coming behind us to do the same.

The morning was very pleasant, mild temperature, clear skies and just a light breeze. Quin Berry and I set out and made our way down river to fish Baird Creek, where I had fished during last year's outing and had good success with floating beetle and hopper patterns; catching a fair number of nice sized bluegill.

This day proved to be quite different however. There was a lot of floating algae like grass in the river which made it difficult to cast. Almost every cast I had to clean the grass from my fly and leader. I would make what I thought was a good cast into a pocket or next to a fallen tree only to find that I had cast into some of this grass. It made for some frustrating fishing.

As the morning went on we could hear people coming up the creek, and as typical on the Chaz, the people just kept coming. With only one fish caught between us (and it was not even picture worthy) Quin and I decided we would head back to the launch and call it a day. We made it back to the launch about 10:30 to find that we were the only club members there (at least as I could tell, I apologize if I missed someone). {Editor's note: as it turned out, our President George Haseltine was there, too.} The river around the launch area was just shy of a madhouse, large groups of people launching their kayaks and canoes.



Quin Berry fly fishes the busy-on-the-weekends Chassahowitzka River



Photo by George Haseltine

It saddens me to think that this was probably the last club outing on the Chaz, but I understand why. The river is beautiful and majestic and should be on anyone's list of places to fish freshwater. I would suggest fishing this river in the fall or early winter and definitely during the week. As I am an outings committee member, I know we are looking for options to replace the Chaz outing, so any suggestions would certainly be welcomed.

David

Note from George: David, I'm sorry I missed you. It definitely was a madhouse. I couldn't even rent a kayak. All 40 were rented.

Preview: June 22 Outing at Maximo Park in St. Pete

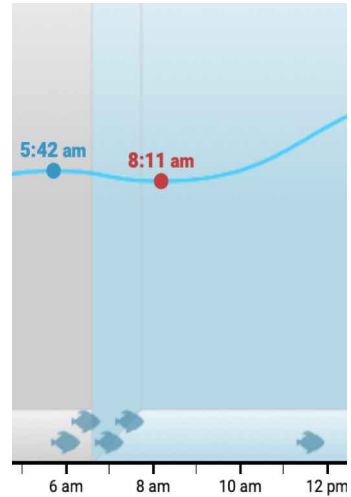
By David Redd, Outings Committee

- Fish Boca Ciega Bay or lower Tampa Bay but stay on the Gulf side of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge
- Outing prize winner: longest redfish
- Lunch at noon at Shelters 12 and 13



Apple Maps

This month the outing is headquartered at Maximo Park in South St. Pete. We were there last year but it was the July outing. In other years our June outing has often been the docklight outing but we'll make that our July outing this year. Fish anywhere within sight of the Skyway or Maximo Park.



Tides at Maximo Park on June 22, courtesy of Tides4Fishing.com

We'll meet for lunch at Maximo Park. We will be in shelters 12 and 13. The target fish for the outing is redfish. Currently on

the annual tournament leader board we are lacking a redfish so the field is wide open. So tie up some of your favorite redfish flies or hit up Bruce Evensen. He might have one or two. Join us for lunch and fellowship. I hope to see you there.

David

2019 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS THROUGH MAY

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

June/July Outings in Recent Years

2012	June Docklights	July Hillsborough River
2013	June Hillsborough River	July Docklights
2014	June Hillsborough River	July Docklights
2015	June Docklights	July Blackstone Memorial (North Skyway Rest Area)
2016	June Docklights	July Picnic Island Park (Tampa)
2017	June Docklights	July Blackstone Memorial (North Skyway Rest Area)
2018	June Docklights/Beach	July Maximo Park

Smitty's Fly Box - Hefty Crab



Layne (Smitty) Smith



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: 40-pound hard mono
- Cement: Favorite head cement or UV Resin

Tying Instructions

- Step 1:** Tie in lead eyes securely one eye length behind hook eye.
- Step 2:** Tie in and splay two grizzly hackles on each side, making sure feathers curve outwards.
- Step 3:** Tie Bunny strip with hide facing upwards – fly will ride hook point up. Tie in a pair of rubber legs on each side of bunny strip.
- Step 4:** Palmer marabou to hide rear wraps for a neat fly.
- Step 5:** Tie in palmering chenille and wrap forward, stopping behind eye.
- Step 6:** Tie in second pair of legs on each side just behind lead eyes.
- Step 7:** Add 40-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.

Tex Faulkner Shows Off Hand-Crafted Fly Rods



Tex Faulkner brought his beautiful hand-made fly rods to the May meeting so Suncoast Fly Fishers could feel how smoothly they load up and deliver the fly to the target.

Tex Faulkner started building rods about five years ago. He was looking for a hobby to keep him busy between fishing trips with his son, when he heard about a rod building class. After the class, he built a few rods and found out that it was really satisfying to catch fish on rods that he built himself.

Matching the components and blanks to the different styles of fishing can be a little daunting, but Tex continued to pour himself into the craft. Repairing rods for

local tackle shops allowed him to see firsthand, the many different techniques that are used to build rods and how the techniques hold up to the different strains that are put on rods

After building conventional rods for both freshwater and saltwater for a few years, Tex tried his hand at building his first fly rod. While most of the process was interchangeable with the methods he was accustomed to, the biggest challenge was learning the art of fly fishing itself. From the first cast, he was hooked on the mechanics it takes to place a small fly in the target zone.

Today, Tex builds high quality rods and he is passionate about building rods that are affordable to people just starting out. If you would like to check out his rods, or just have a simple repair, feel free to give Tex a call at 727-919-2903.



Today, Tex builds high quality rods and is passionate about building rods that are affordable to people just starting out. If you would like to check out his rods, or just have a simple repair, feel free to give Tex a call at 727-919-2903.

Bill AuCoin: Double-Hauling On the Fly

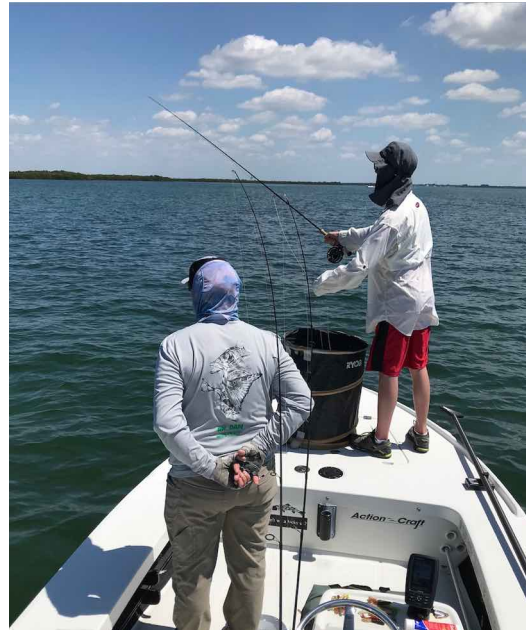
Capt. Rick Grasset, an Orvis-endorsed guide in Sarasota, put me and my grandson Leif on the fish in Terra Ceia Bay on a clear morning in late March. We were drifting deep grassy areas on the incoming tide and catching so many seatrout I was actually -- *please, don't tell anybody* -- feeling sorry for the fish.

So even Leif, then 15, visiting from Colorado, was open to Capt. Rick's suggestion that we try for a snook on a mangrove shoreline. Rick quietly poled the boat along a nice stretch and, sure enough, a snook pounced from the shadows. And it ran right toward the boat, then it made a beautiful leap...and then it spit the hook. It was about 22 inches, maybe. It all happened too fast. I never got a good hook set.

One of the best parts of the day was when Leif asked the Captain to help him improve his fly casting. (This may have been right after I told Leif I'd leave all of my fly rods to him in my will.)

Rick stood back and told Leif to do this and do that and before long Leif got the feel of the rod loading up then delivering the fly with the forward cast. Lift up the rod and line then take it back in one accelerating movement. Then bring it forward in one accelerating motion. Rick talked him through it. A tip here; a suggestion there. And just like that Leif was double-hauling and putting the fly out there 60-70 feet.

Smiles all around. We were in a zone, all three of us. Thank you, Captain, Leif said.



Capt. Rick Grasset taught my Grandson Leif how to double-haul in just a few minutes.



Call Capt. Rick Grasset at 941-923-7799. Email him at snookfin@aol.com

Steve Udovich: Key West Bonefish, Cuda, Tarpon



In early May I was fishing near Key West and I caught my first bonefish and my first barracuda and I also caught two tarpon over the course of about an hour. Not bad for a beginner! That's



an afternoon I'll not soon forget. This was in the seven sisters area. Bonefish took a shrimp pattern. The barracuda were taken on a spin rod with a chartreuse lure. (I had to switch to a spin rod as I could not cast far enough, or strip in fast enough with the fly rod). I thought big Montana browns and rainbows took line fast, I was wrong, they have nothing on a bonefish.

Steve

Ray Smith: Rhode Island Striper Schoolies

I've been playing catch and release with schoolie stripers in the Narrow River located in Narragansett, Rhode Island. My go-to is a fly pattern from a local guide and member of the Rhoddy Fly Rodders Club I belong to in Rhode Island.



Here's how I tie this fly: Brown marabou tail, root beer polar chenille body, gold flashabou wing, 8 turns .030 lead wire, #2 stinger hook, green flat waxed thread. We think it may represent a baby flounder, crab or mummychug being flushed out of the estuary into the river with the tide.



Ray

Jimmie O. Carroll: Fly Fishing and “Rock Climbing” In NC



Jennifer and her Dad, Suncoast Fly

My daughter Jennifer invited me over to Asheville to go fly fishing for my birthday.

Here are some pictures of Jennifer and Matt and me. It was a brilliant day and included some “rock climbing.” Rock climbing and fly fishing will wear one out.



Success for Jennifer



Jennifer, Jimmie, and Matt. A good time was had by all.



Matt landed one fly casting over the rocks.



River rolls over the rocks. Nice day. Nice place.

Jimmie

Bill Scarola: Kayak Fishing Upper Tampa Bay



Here’s pic of a 17-inch redfish I got off 4th street kayak fishing with Bruce Evensen. It was the only fish caught!! Bruce and I fished out of our kayaks. My red was released after taking the pic. It hit a baitfish fly pattern, grey over white.

Bill

Walt Durkin: Quite a Day on the MacDill Flats

[Walt is president of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers Club. Walt's article originally appeared in the June TBFFC newsletter.]



Walt Durkin with a Macdill flats snook.

I had an interesting day at MacDill this month catching three snook and seeing many other fish. Let me tell you about it. The tide was low, incoming, and the water clear for May. Grass has filled in much of the sand leaving some light bare areas and grass with potholes. Calm or light winds combined with full sun made for great conditions.

I launched my Nucanoe Frontier kayak at the Marina boat ramp and headed out. Once in the channel I noticed bubbles rising to the surface and thought they might indicate a school of baby tarpon in the area, so I stopped and made a few cast while looking for rollers. I was fishing a nine weight rod with a nine foot Orvis Super Strong leader. I had tied on two

feet of 25-pound pink Yo-Zuri as a tippet. I like the Yo-Zuri for its toughness and stealth. I had on a shrimp fly, which produced no hits while looking for tarpon.

I changed to a Lefty Deceiver white minnow pattern for snook and paddled over to the flat. Right away I saw little shark coming my way. No....it's not a shark but a cobia of about 3 feet. I did not get a shot at it and watched the fish swim away. However, cobia are curious fish and it was soon back. It followed the fly several times, but did not take. Oh well, I continued on to the west about 100 yards from shore looking at the sandy areas and pot holes. I soon spooked several big snook, which I did not see and they took off and made big wakes. I vowed to slow down and try to see them first. Next, I saw a medium-sized ray and it had a jack swimming close by and following. Gamefish sometimes follow rays like that, looking for something the ray may flush out.

I continued west on the flat and did not see much. When I got to the second creek, I headed out a couple of hundred yards to some stakes in the water. Lush grass is in this area and it often holds fish. Here, I found a six foot bull shark sitting in a pot hole with a four foot cobia right behind him.

As I drifted up I started to poke the shark, but then remembered our agreement not to mess with each other. When I got close, they moved off and I was happy to have my boat and not be wading.

Next, I circled back to the east and looked by an old tire in the water. I remember finding tailing reds there 20 years ago, but today just a few baitfish. I headed back to the east and checked out the mouth of the creek where I found a snook looking into the current over the sand. I showed it my deceiver and the fish followed for about ten feet before taking it at the last second. I discovered it's best to have the anchor out when hooking a fish as that snook quickly pulled me into the bank and mangroves. Nonetheless, I bought it to hand, snapped a quick shot and let it go.

Moving east along the shore over sand I saw another ray with a jack and they were both moving quickly. Soon, I spotted another snook and the same scenario played out. It liked the fly and followed closely. When I stopped it, the tail wagged nicely and that finally triggered the strike. This time I had the anchor out, which made the fight easier for me at least. When I got down to within 100 yards of the first creek, I started to see a lot of snook. And, cobia showed up again, about six of them. I ended up hooking two and lost them both. They took the deceiver with some reluctance, but they did hit it. I also had a few big reds come by and never got a shot at them. Sheepshead were also around, but, I did not throw my minnow fly at them. I did get one more snook and had lots of shots. I got follows from two big snook, which was exciting. All in all, a great day sight fishing in clear water and seeing lots of different fish. I had not fished a Lefty Deceiver in years and would recommend it as a good lively minnow imitation.

Tight lines and hope to see you on the flats. Walt

Tom Gadacz: Fly-Fishing with Bay Pines Veterans

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing May 15, 2019

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF), a charter club of Fly Fishers International (FFI), participated in an outing with veterans from the Bay Pines Veterans Medical Center. Ten veterans and five volunteers fly-fished a new spot, the War Veterans Memorial Park, on Boca Ciega Bay. The Battlefield Cross Monument at War Veterans Memorial Park honors Pinellas County's fallen service members of the Gulf War Era. There is also a four-man Army tank, known as the "Walker Bulldog" from the Korean War. The Park has a boat ramp and a canoe/kayak launching area plus several picnic shelters.



Suncoast Fly Fishers and Bay Pines veterans fly fished and got a bit of fresh air with World War II veteran Bud Schell who is 102 years old. That's Bud with the fly rod seated front row, center next to Tom Gadacz.

Alan Sewell and others brought several kayaks. We enjoyed great weather with sunny skies and a mild breeze. We started fishing by 8:30. There were a few strikes and a few landings including a good sized snook. Several of our veterans were casting with a rod they had built in the PHWFF Program at the Bay Pines Veterans Medical Center. Wading and casting from the sea wall provided great casting practice. After a great lunch, we got some more casting practice for the newcomers and all had tons of fun and enjoyment.



SFF member Dennis Marquis (right) with three fly fishing vets.

Peter Jonsson, Recreation Specialist, coordinated the activity. Alan Sewell, Dennis Marquis, Ted Rich, Dave Barson, and Tom Gadacz were the volunteers from SFF. We were joined by Bud Schell, a World War II veteran who is in the VA Home Based Primary Care Program. He just celebrated his 102nd birthday. Bud lives and fishes the Pass-a-Grille area. His suggestion to a long and active life is staying in motion, getting plenty of fresh air, and making new friends. He loved being out with us and had plenty of smiles for everyone.

Tom Gadacz
President, Florida Council, FFI
Treasurer, Suncoast Fly Fishers

Tom

Successful Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing in Bradenton

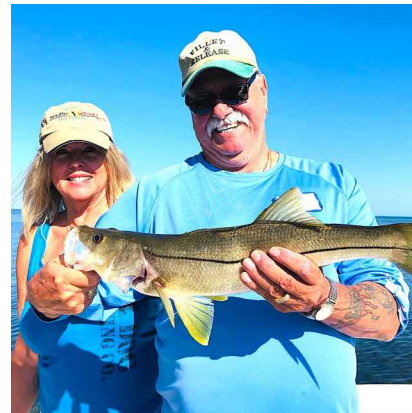


Tom Gadacz

By Tom Gadacz
President, Florida Council of Fly Fishers
International
Treasurer, Suncoast Fly Fishers

The 36th Annual **Crosthwait Memorial Fishing Tournament** and the Bradenton Yacht Club hosted the eighth annual Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing gettogether May 18.

PHWFF is a national non-profit (501c3) program that teaches veterans, with PTSD and TBI, fly fishing, fly casting, fly tying, and fly rod building. It is helping heal the physical and emotional wounds of our veterans. Fly fishers all over the country organize fly fishing activities in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and Clinics. This program is promoted and supported by Fly Fishers International and its charter and affiliated clubs.



Memories are made of this.



Event founder Mike Reeves (l) and Robert Gause who organized this year's event with 14 PHWFF area programs.

This year we had 36 veterans and PHWFF volunteers/instructors fishing on the water. Twenty-two Florida captains provided their boat and guiding experience. In addition to the returning captains we had several new captains. The veterans were from local PHWFF programs in St. Petersburg and Tampa, Florida. The volunteers were also from regional Florida PHWFF programs.

Robert Gause organized the day's event from the 14 programs in the region. Members of the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers, the Suncoast Fly Fishers, the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club, Crosthwait Committee, and Manatee County fishing guides supported the event with many volunteers and boats. Coffee and snacks were provided in the morning by the Bradenton Yacht Club and the veterans were assigned to a captain and volunteer.



That's Captain Mark Conner (right) with the hefty jack crevalle landed by veteran Ray.

After a brief orientation the captains, volunteers and veterans headed out to fish the Manatee River, Terra Ceia Bay, and Tampa Bay for 4 to 5 hours. We could not have wished for a better day with minimal winds and a moving tide. This year many fish were caught! Catches included many large fish including snook, sea trout, redfish, flounder, mackerel, jack crevalle, grunts, and snapper. The veterans returned to have lunch provided by the **Anna Maria Oyster Bar** and exchanged their experiences. Unlike previous years, the stories and sizes of the catch were substantiated with photos. Those cell phone cameras are terrific.

Continued on the following page

Tom Gadacz: PHWFF at Crosthwait Memorial Tournament



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Continued from previous page

Captain Mark Conner, Ray (veteran from Bay Pines VA Medical Center), and I fished Terra Ceia Bay and Mark put us on fish which included snook, flounder, a jack, and a 27-inch redfish. Volunteers from our Suncoast Fly Fishers included Alan Sewell, Ted Rich, Dennis Marquis, Dave Barson, Terry Kirkpatrick, and Tom Gadacz. We had 6 veterans from our Bay Pines VA Medical Center. Many thanks to those volunteers from Tampa, Sarasota, and the Bradenton surrounding area. They have continued to support this event for the past 8 years.

We greatly appreciate the support of Mike Reeves who initiated and led the event for many years, the Bradenton Yacht Club, Annual Crosthwait Memorial Fishing Tournament, and all who volunteered their time and boats to honor our veterans. It was a special day to fish with veterans who have served our country. Many of the captains and volunteers were also veterans and it was great giving back to our fellow veterans!

###

Volunteers from our Suncoast Fly Fishers included Alan Sewell, Ted Rich, Dennis Marquis, Dave Barson, Terry Kirkpatrick, and Tom Gadacz. We had six veterans from St. Pete's Bay Pines VA Medical Center.

Thank you all, Tom



Veteran Ray (left) caught this 27-inch redfish fishing Terra Ceia Bay. SFF'er Tom Gadacz served as the first mate for Capt. Mark Conner.

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. 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

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



Walk the Beaches with a Fly Rod

Get out early and walk our beaches with your fly rod. The sun at your back and an easterly wind that provides smooth water will improve visibility so that protected snook can be seen in the wash within feet of the sand. Generally, a large female will be surrounded by smaller males involved in the courting process. Tides that provide moving water will improve the bite. Locations close to passes containing structure are hot spots. A fast action 8 weight fly rod with a clear sinking tip rather than a floating line will perform better if there is any wave action. Stay on the sand casting parallel to the shoreline and keep your shadow away from the fish you target. Good brown to yellow tinted polaroid glasses are a necessity to improve vision. Hold your cast until fish are spotted. Concentrate on fish that are facing you. Then carefully cast a size 1 to 2 white baitfish pattern in front of or to the side of the snook working the offering in long erratic strips. When a snook shows interest, increase the speed of your retrieve to mimic a frantic, escaping baitfish to trigger a violent strike. Barbs should be crimped facilitating a quick careful release.

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

Tom Gadacz: Florida Council Salutes Longcaster David Olson

In case you missed it, be sure to read the online article about David in the [Spring Issue of Flyfisher](#). Page 11.



David Olson lets loose one of his super-long fly casts at the Big Gun Shootout in Tampa. Olson has competed in this event for nine years and won it several times. In 2010, with an 8-weight rod, he set the record with a cast of 138-feet, 6-inches.

Florida Council

Growing up in Fort Lauderdale and Vero beach, David Olson was introduced to fly fishing by his uncle. Fly fishing was not his uncle's cup of tea so David inherited a fly rod at the age of 12. David became friends with the rod, but did not have a mentor, as fly fishing had not yet caught on in Florida. He practiced and learned from watching others and occasionally received some tips from the likes of Chico Fernandez, Lefty Kreh, and Jon Cave. A friend invited David to a South Eastern Council Conclave in Ashville in 1990. David was tying flies at the time and one of his patterns earned him a seat at the Conclave. It was at this time that David joined the Federation of Fly Fishers. He became interested in the fly-casting program and became a certified instructor. He was later certified as a Master Certified Casting Instructor by Dusty Sprague. Fly casting and fishing have become his career and he has worked

primarily in southeastern Florida. David is an excellent fly fisherman and enjoys reconnoitering the beaches with a spey rod. David is a very active supporter of the Florida Council and has put together our Council Expo programs for the last five years. He has given programs on distance casting, spey casting, and fly casting from a paddle board. David has also competed in several distance-casting events, including the Big Gun Shoot Out, started by Dan Lagace in 1993 and sponsored by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. David has competed in this event for nine years and won it several times. In 2010 he set an event record with a cast of 138 feet, 6 inches with an 8-weight rod. David also won the Shoot Out session in the Ritz-Carlton Outfitters Event on January 12 of this year with a cast of 112 feet, 11 inches. Not bad for a lefthanded caster! We greatly appreciate the contributions David continues to make to fly fishing and the Florida Council.

Tom

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



OMG. So it really is this serious? FWC has extended the catch-and-release regulation on snook, redfish, and speckled trout in SW Florida through May 31, 2020. The hope is that the additional time will help these stocks recover from the die-offs from red tide in 2017 and 2018. They'll be watching snook and say they'll reopen snook earlier if the recovery is significant. (FWC)

Why do we even need ethanol in our fuel? The unspoken but pathetic answer is to keep U.S. Senators from the corn belt happy. Now they're talking about increasing our fuel from 10 to 15 percent ethanol. Outboard motors hate E-15. I go to WAWAs and

fuel up with ethanol-free fuel. I hope they keep selling it. (Soundings)

I think BTT is on to something really, really big. Fisheries regulators consider fish populations and then decide whether to reduce or expand total catches. Now Bonefish and Tarpon Trust has started a push for regulators to consider something else: Habitat. The point BTT makes is that regulations alone cannot prevent further decline to our fisheries when the loss is caused by the loss of habitat. It wants a new approach, one that makes habitat a central part of fisheries management. (Bonefish and Tarpon Trust)

Don't expect a person who is drowning to call for help. Except in rare circumstances, drowning people are physiologically unable to call out for help. The respiratory system was designed for breathing. Speech is a secondary or overlaid function. Breathing must be fulfilled before speech occurs. (Soundings)

Can you say T A R P O N? Lots of good how to, where-to, when-to catch tarpon. Videos, too. Also, we are told, some tarpon will be around all year. (Salt Strong)

St. Pete reopens lakes for summer fishing. And some, including Walter Fuller Lake, are open year 'round. Two lakes, Bartlett and Fossil Park, are described as saltwater lakes. So, snook maybe? (City of St. Petersburg)

A rod and reel is a device, too, you know. Bass Pro Shops founder Johnny Morris is challenging young boys and girls everywhere to put down their digital devices and head outside to discover the joys of fishing. Morris, Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's are donating more than 55,000 rods and reels to partners to recruit and teach kids for its *Gone Fishing* promotion. (The Fishing Wire)

Most popular boat names for this year.

They're okay, I guess. Some of the ones from previous years are much better. I read somewhere that if you have to call Mayday then you want to have a boat name that is long with crisp consonants. This is so the Coast Guard and others listening to the VHF hear and understand. The boat name they liked?

Serendipity. (BoatU.S.)



A good boat name... if your boat flips.

Birds got to fly. Fish got to swim. Salmon got to spawn. This video was taken near the Skokomish River, near Shelton Washington. H/T Jimmie O. Carroll. (You Tube).

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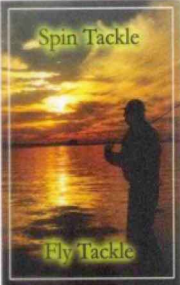
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