

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



Woody works Lake Walsingham. P10



South Skyway Outing March 23. P11



Introduction to Fly Fishing at East Lake Woodlands CC. P18



Tony Piazza and his very big jack. P15



Clinic: That's a redfish on the move. P16



James Davis' tilapia. P17



SFF President Letter – March 2019

Hello Everyone,

Time: Our greatest ally, our greatest enemy.

We divide it, make it, take it, bide it, kill it, waste it, watch it fly by and cherish it, but we can never stop it.

Actually, time is short even though there have been billions of years of it. It is fast because it moves quicker as we get older. I swear it does.

We can lose track of time and our parents are older and need our care, our children are grown and out on their own and we feel more aches and pains each day.

But we can slow time down; if not literally, then in our minds and to the healing and satisfaction of our bodies. We have to.

“Where do you do this?”

In the woods, on the water, near a stream, anywhere you can get away from everyday life and its demands. Things are slower in the country. Even a short visit with nature can refresh your mind and your thoughts. Usually, if you don't take the time, you won't have the time and you will not enjoy our Club General Meetings, Outings, Hog Roast, Fly Tying Classes or Casting Clinics.

Not only do these things, and the people involved, enrich our lives, they add to it.

And those aches and pains, they can be treated with cork. The cork on the handle of a fly rod. Your casting hand on the cork causes a reaction that can only be explained by experiencing it. Suddenly you can be in another dimension because you're usually in a different environment.

And practicing the movement of the rod itself in casting is as therapeutic as Tai Chi, giving your life and movements a new rhythm; bringing time almost to a standstill as the whole experience transforms you. I thank all of you who selflessly volunteer your time, talents, training and expertise to make everything educational, entertaining and friendly.

We have a lot going on at Suncoast Fly Fishers. If you haven't yet, take time to join in and experience a difference in your life.

Never lose your sense of adventure.

George

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

Meetings, Outings, and More

Thursday, March 21 meeting

6:30 pm, Walter Fuller Park, Rec Center, 7891 26th Ave. N., St Pete

Guests welcome

- Speaker, Jim Swann, **Swann's Flyfishing Outfitters**, Dade City
- Coffee, water, soft drinks, pastries
- Vote for new officers and board members
- Raffle for a free subscription to **TAIL** magazine
- Reminder to all SFF fly tiers: Our March meeting is the last meeting before our hog roast. Bring your fly contributions for the silent auction to the meeting. This year we are urging more members to get involved. Each member who ties is invited to bring one set of flies (6-12 flies) for the auction. The flies you donate may be a matched set or a variety. Everyone enjoys seeing and buying the flies members tie (be sure to label your fly contribution). Flies may also be donated the afternoon of the banquet.



Bill Scarola's flounder caught on his electric chicken fly near the South Skyway Rest Area.

Saturday, March 23, outing

Lower Tampa Bay in sight of the Sunshine Skyway

- This is the South Skyway outing. Park and wade in on either side of the rest area. Kayak launching is possible, but kind of rocky. If you're fishing from a boat, just make sure you're fishing within sight of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge.
- Lunch is a noon. (Venison by Mark Hays)
- Prize for longest jack crevalle

Saturday, March 30,

Hog Roast and Silent Auction

- 4 to 8 pm, City of Treasure Island Auditorium, 120 -108th Avenue, Treasure Island, Florida.
- Tickets, \$20. Children 12 and under are free with a paid adult.
- Buy tickets at the meeting or next club outing. See Treasurer Karen Warfel or contact her by phone 813-505-3162 or email kmwarfel@yahoo.com . You can pay by cash, check or credit card.
- Fly tiers, please tie 6 to 12 of your go-to flies. Email Myron Hansen, hansen3@tampabay.rr.com

Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg



Monthly Meetings:

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

Monthly Outings

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

Membership

Suncoast Fly Fishers currently has 103 members including 15 family members and 6 honorary members. Annual dues are \$15, payable in September.

Welcome new members

Rick Yarn (welcome back Rick), Mike Wilde, Tim Gibian, Rocky Cimbrec, Gary Capuano

FFI Charter Club.

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

Meetings, Outings, and More



Capt. Nick Angelo

Thursday, April 18, Meeting

6:30 pm, Walter Fuller Park, Recreation Center
7891 26th Avenue N., St Pete

- Speaker, **Capt. Nick Angelo**
- New officers and board officially in place

Saturday, April 20, outing Fort De Soto Park

- Fish within sight of the park
- Lunch at noon



Fort DeSoto Park, Tierra Verde

Everglades Canal Outing, April 26-28

Contact Alan Sewell for details: sewellalan@yahoo.com

- 4 rooms reserved at Sunrise La Quinta Inn for April 24-28
- 6 rooms reserved at Sunrise La Quinta for April 26-28
- After the first week in April rooms that are not taken will be cancelled.

Thursday, May 16 Meeting

6:30 pm, Walter Fuller Park Recreation Center
7291 26th Avenue N. St. Pete

- Speaker, **Craig Smothers**, fly tying secrets



Craig Smothers

Saturday, May 18 outing Chassahowitzka River

- Chassahowitzka River Boat Ramp (County Park)
8690 Miss Maggie Drive,
Chassahowitzka, Florida



Chassahowitzka River, Chassahowitzka, Florida (Apple Maps)

Robert Fischer: Fly Fishing from a Motorcycle

By Duane Mertz

Fly Fishing from a Motorcycle was the subject of a talk from long-time SFF member, Robert Fischer at the Club's February 21st meeting.

Robert doesn't actually fish from his Honda Sport Touring Bike, but he has logged over 220,000 miles on motorcycles in search of great fly-fishing across the U.S.

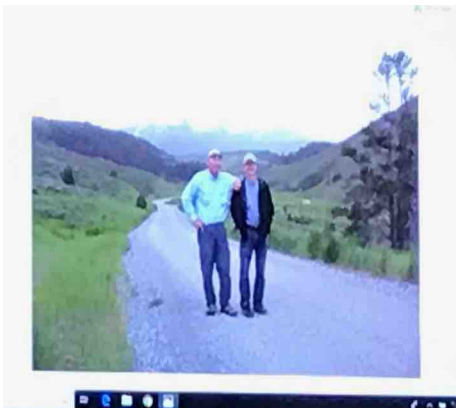
He has crossed the country a number of times and has travelled to the North East corner of the U.S. in Maine to the Southern-most point of the country in Key West to many picturesque points out West.

Robert's quest to enjoy the aesthetic pleasures of the open road is the key reason he travels by motorcycle. "It's the best way to feel the weather, enjoy the smells of the outdoors, see lots of animals and collect unusual souvenirs," he said.

Of course being exposed to the elements on a motorcycle does have its downsides. "A real biker can tell you about the bugs he ran into - by their taste."

For his 2-4 week trips Robert packs everything he can handle until he can't take anything else along with one fly rod - a five weight and two fly boxes, one for cold-water trout and another for warm water bass and blue gills.

He'll fish with local guides or alone wherever he finds good fishing.



Member Dayle Mazzarella guided Robert to some big trout in Wyoming.

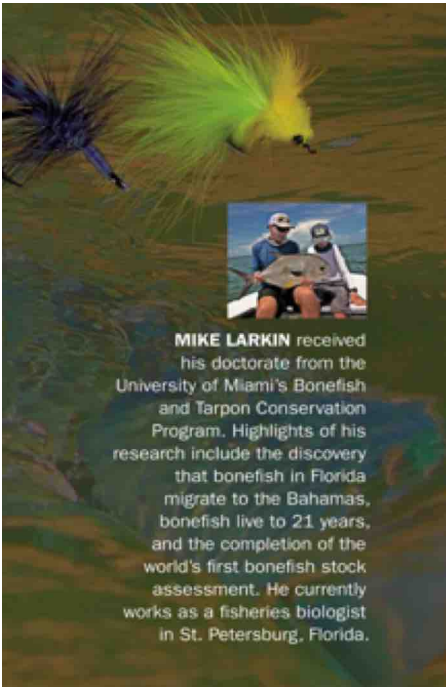
While you don't have to be in a hurry on a motorcycle, you do have to be in reasonably good shape as Robert's day-long rides can run 10-12 hours.

Among the eighty different species Robert has caught on a fly rod, barracuda are his favorite in salt water with bonefish and dolphin a close second. In freshwater trout are his favorite - along with the occasional 10-pound carp.



Did somebody say carp?

Suncoast Fly Fisher News 'n' Notes



SFF Member Mike Larkins writes three-part series on tarpon in TAIL Fly Fishing

SFF Member Mike Larkin, PhD, has written a three-part series about *The Science of Tarpon* starting in the March issue of TAIL magazine. Mike is a fisheries biologist with NOAA based in St. Petersburg.



Michael Larkin, PhD



You can view some of the March issue contents [here](#)

Volunteers needed for Project Healing Waters committee

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

Alan Sewell, chairman PHWFF committee



Bruce Evensen's 'cуда caught in the Snug Harbor area of Tampa Bay.

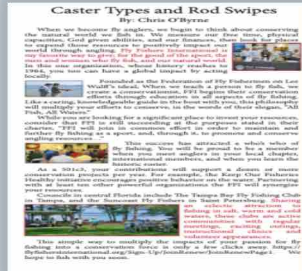
Who knew?

Fishing the Snug Harbor area of middle/upper Tampa Bay, Bruce Evensen caught a barracuda. That's a fish we don't usually catch in Tampa Bay. The Snug Harbor backcountry waters is just north of Weedon Island Preserve. Catching a 'cуда in Tampa Bay is not unheard of, former member David Putnam caught one in Frenchman's Creek at an outing a few years ago.



David Putnam's 'cуда caught in Frenchman's Creek at an SFF outing at Maximo Park.

Suncoast Fly Fisher News 'n' Notes

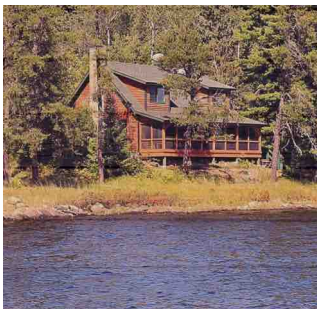


Member Chris O'Byrne saluted Fly Fishers International, Suncoast Fly Fishers, and Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club in the March issue of *Coastal Angler* in his column titled *Caster Types and Rod Swipes*.

Read Chris' article [here](#).



Chris instructing an SFF Fly Casting Clinic



Zups Resort, Lac la Croix

Lac la Croix, Ontario, June 25-June 30, 5 nights, 4 days: \$1335
Transportation extra.

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



SFF member Mike Simmons with a Lac la Croix Smallee

Fly Gear for Sale or Swap

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

Woody Miller's Native Slayer 12 kayak

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

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

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

Want to run an ad? Email Bill AuCoin at wmaucoin@verizon.net

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg, Florida



Suncoast Fly Fishers

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

Club Officers

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

Board of Directors

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

Committees

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

Casting Skills -- Pat Damico, MCI, Dayle

Mazzarella, MCI

FFI Liaison -- Pat Damico

Conservation -- Cliff Nigh

Fly Tying -- Myron Hansen

Membership -- Karen Warfel

New Members -- Rick Warfel

Webmaster --Open

Hog Roast -- Karen+Rick Warfel

Outings --Bob Burkard, Hilton Bruch, David
Redd

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

Outreach, shows -- David Redd, Bob Burkard

Raffles -- Dave Barson

Succession Planning -- Rick Warfel, Dick
Miekka

Programs -- Board of Directors

Public relations -- Bill AuCoin

On The Fly

Bill AuCoin, editor; Duane Mertz

Aims and Purposes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Join. Renew. Application
www.suncoastflyfishers.com

Review: February Outing at Walsingham Park



Bob Burkard, outings committee chairman

By Tom Gadacz

Our members enjoyed great weather and great food at our February outing. Some fish were caught which also make it a successful fishing day.

Alan Swell provided lunch with his famous smoked Italian sausages and sides. Those of us who attended this outing enjoyed fishing and, as what always happens on a Suncoast Fly Fishers



Thank you, Alan -- Alan Sewell served an amazing lunch with Italian sausages and sides.

adventure, the accompanying fishing stories and lessons provided by our fly-fishing cohorts.

I have personally learned more about fishing in Florida from members at our outings than I could have garnered from many lifetimes of fishing. It goes without saying that I am extremely grateful for our club and the experiences it provides.

Karen and Arthur Birnkrant wade-fished along the playground shoreline at Walsingham Lake. Karen caught her first bluegill on a fly she tied at Bruce Evensen's fly tying class.

Dave Redd's 13.5-inch bass took the day's prize. He caught his prize-winning fish on a grasshopper imitation.

Bob



David Redd's award-winning grasshopper fly

2019 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS

<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			
Longest redfish			
Longest ladyfish	22 1/4"	Dennis Marquis	Weedon Island Preserve (Jan)
Longest seatrout			

March Outing Preview: South Skyway Rest Area

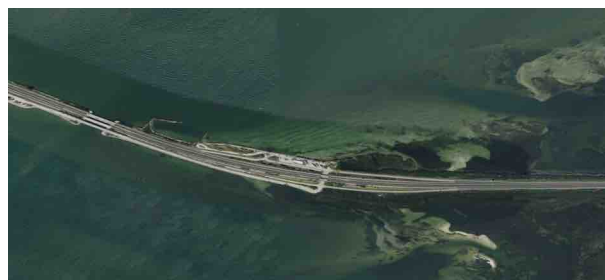
The designated species: Jack Crevalle

By Bob Burkard, Outings Committee

Our next outing is March 23. It's our South of the Skyway Bridge location. We can fish in lower Tampa Bay on either side of the bridge. This outing provides a lot of water open for fishing with great wading and boating opportunities. I usually let the wind determine which side I go to.

Our target fish is the Jack Crevalle. I have caught some nice Jack Crevalles on both sides of the bridge. The bay side of the rest area south of the bridge is one of my favorite locations. I try to fish this area throughout the year, and I have caught snook and redfish on chartreuse and white Clousers and spotted seatrout on EP Minnows at this location. I also have caught snook on a jointed chartreuse and white deceiver.

This is a great area for both wading and boating, and I have caught fish while wading and from my kayak. Waders usually put in at the South Skyway Rest Area. From the bay side of the rest area, I usually like to wade straight out and work my way to the right. This is a large flat where almost any species of fish can be caught. The gulf side of the bridge is a little harder to launch a kayak but does have nice wading with plenty structure and mangrove islands to fish around. Lunch will be at the picnic area at the south rest stop.



Satellite image of South Skyway Rest Area at the Manatee County side of the I275 bridge. Wade in and fish the grass and sand flats on either side. Lunch at noon. (Apple Maps)

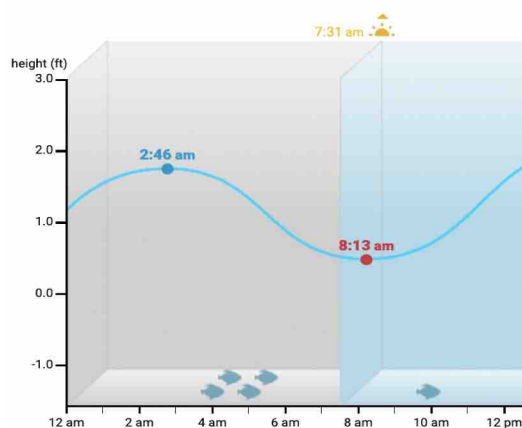
South Skyway Fly Fishing Tips Capt. Ray Markham

Wade out on the sand bar on the Joe Island side of the rest stop toward a point that drops off to the east. It has a deep channel looking at Joe Island, that parallels the causeway out about 200-400 feet or more if you get back toward Joe Bay. The flat there has snook, trout, and redfish. Ladyfish should be available on the drop off that ranges to 13-feet deep. There are a few flounder also in that area and you might get a hit with a Clouser any pattern that gets to the bottom. An 8 weight rod is good. Also 7 weight. Weight forward floating lines like the SA Mastry Series bonefish taper or redfish taper work well, and over all are your best choices, but you could use a sink tip if you plan on working the edge of the channel. If the wind is out of the south/ southwest, the opposite side of the rest stop toward Bradenton can hold trout and snook with the possibility of redfish or even a pompano from the rocky jetty to the east along the shoreline toward Miguel Bay. For snook, it's hard to beat flies that are predominately white with some crystal flash like the Grasset Snook Minnow, Grasset's Flats Minnow, or the Backwater Muddler. But my all-time favorite fly for snook is the DT Special. Another version of the same fly, tied by Capt. Steve Gibson of Sarasota is Gibby's DT Variation that is also excellent. If I had to choose one hook size for all of these flies here it would be a #4.

Ray

Capt. Ray Markham
(941) 723-2655
(941) 228-3474

www.CaptainRayMarkham.com



*Steep outgoing tide until approximately 8:13
then the water comes back in fast.*

Tying Bench – Bruce Evensen Ties Lefty's Deceiver *Bruce's Fly of the Month for the South Skyway Outing*

Tying instructions by Bill Scarola

This is what Lefty told his fishing buddy, Dan Blanton about the Deceiver. "I'm going to design a fly that won't foul on the cast! It will have a fish shape, but can be made in many lengths. You can vary the color combinations; it will also swim well, but when lifted for the back cast, it will be sleek and have little air resistance." (Orvis News)



Materials

Hook- sizes 1-1/0, 2, 2/0 stingers or 34007's
Body- bucktail (white, yellow, chartreuse, olive)
Body-- saddle hackles (your call on colors)
Body--accent - peacock herl
Neck-- micro fibers, or Flashabou (red and/or orange)
Eyes-- small stick on, or black magic marker.
Thread--white flat waxed in red or green to build up a head.
Glue--UV epoxy.

Instructions

1. Wrap thread to hook bend
2. Attach a small bunch of white bucktail to hook just in front of hook bend. Measure bucktail to be about 1/2 length of hook shank. Be sure to spread all bucktail around the entire hook shank!
3. Attach four saddle hackles, two on each side. Be sure to "marry" each pair. Color is your choice. White is most common. But you can add any color.
NOTE You can either add the saddle hackle first, then add a larger batch Deer Hair in front of the hackle, or add a small clump of deer hair first, then the hackles. Either is acceptable.
4. Add another small batch of white bucktail in front of the hackles. If you'd like to add another color add it on top of the shank with white being in the bottom. Wrap thread forward so to forms tapered head. Should be about one-fourth to one-third of an inch long up to the hook eye. NOTE: you can also add a different color saddle hackle to the top half to create a green back type fly! One each side. As shown in pix!
5. Tie in a short half-inch of red or orange flash or micro fiber, to the underside of the head.
6. Three to four strands of peacock herl can be added to the top of the fly stretching the full length of your fly. Curl the herl by sliding the back of your scissors under the herl as you would put a curl in a gift wrap ribbon. This forms a slight arch, giving it a natural minnow shape.
6. Add small stick-on eyes to the head or use a black marker to make eyes.
7. Add UV EPOXY to head of fly. Cure with UV light then add a drop of Sally Hansen Hard as Nails.
NOTE: TIE SEVERAL OF DIFFERENT COLORS. Ex. All white, chartreuse over white. Grey over white. Or add a set of red or orange hackles under the last added bucktail!

Tying Bench – Layne Smith Ties Broke-Back Minnow
Smitty's Fly of the Month for the South Skyway Outing

Broke-back Minnow



Materials:

Hook: Gamakatsu B10s #2,
Thread: Danville Flatwaxed Nylon (color to match)
Tail: Marabou and Krystal Flash (white / pearl)
Body Flash: Flat Diamond Braid
Body: Body Tubing ¼ inch
Head Shank: articulated shank 20mm
Gills: Sanyo' Laser Dub Red
Head: Body Tubing ¼ inch
Eyes: 5/16 molded eyes
Cement / Resin: SHHAN / Solarez UV Resin

Tying Sequence:

- Step 1:** Attach the thread.
- Step 2:** Tie on the marabou tail and add the Krystal flash to the tail.
- Step 3:** Attach the diamond braid and wrap forward and tie off.
- Step 4:** Tie in a piece of the body tubing about 1.5X the hook shank. Whip finish and glue thread.
- Step 5:** Fold the tubing over it's self and reattach your thread. Finish off with a whip finish and UV.
- Step 6:** Add the 20mm Shank.
- Step 7:** Dub a big ball of Sanyo's to cover the shank leaving room for the head. Pick out slightly.
- Step 8:** Tie in another piece of tubing. About the same size as the one for the body.
- Step 9:** Fold it over itself and tie off.
- Step 10:** Roll it back over itself again forming the head. Tie in a thread dam in front of head.
- Step 11:** Glue on the eyes and then coat the eyes and head with Solarez UV Resin and cure.

Tying Bench – Bruce Evensen’s Recessed Pinfish

Tying instructions by Bill Scarola



The recessed pinfish is usually tied in tans and browns. but you can use any colors you think will work for different conditions.

Materials

Hook: Stinger, or 34007 size 1

Eyes: Three stick-on eyes

Thread: Flat-waxed, brown or green

Body: Brown, tan and light green fibers from EP, 3D, and/or add multicolored fibers by Steve Farrar

Hook guard: monofilament from 20 to 40-pound test.

Magic Markers: Brown, black and green

Tying Sequence

Step 1- Wrap thread from midway down hook shank to hook bend.

Step 2- Add a batch of your light EP fibers to underside of hook shank. Allow fibers to extend about 2 to 2.5-inches behind the hook bend.

Step 3- to the top of the hook shank add Steve Farrar fibers fiber to match the bottom color fibers and length.

(Note: If you don't use sf fibers you can add some Flashabou in pearl, or silver in between the two colors

Step 4- Whip finish the head of the fly; form a tapered head.

Step 5- Add eyes. use fletching glue or similar to top color and glue eyes onto the top color fibers; that is, above the hook shank.



Step 6- Hook guard. Measure a 3-4-inch piece of mono and fold in half and tie the fold to the hook just behind the hook eye. Bend the mono toward the hook point so that both tail ends reach just past the point.

Capt. Pat Damico finds 'em on the Little Manatee River

Tony Piazza: "This Jack Crevalle straightened my fly line."



I went out with Pat Damico Friday (3/1) and we ran into a school of jack crevalle that looked like they were trying to attack us. My nerves kicked in so naturally I made the worst cast you can imagine but the results turned out well.

Tony

Rich Peterson: Snook sign? Bubbles in the water



Rich Peterson landed his snook between two residential docks. Capt. Pat said, "Cast it near those shallow shoreline bubbles; there's a fish feeding there." He was right.

Snook under residential river docks



Bill AuCoin (l) caught this snook feeding near dock pilings. Pat's 8-weight rod with a clear sinking tip fly line helped get the fly down into the feeding zone quickly. In a fast moving current you only have a few seconds to keep the fly in the right zone.



Rich Peterson high fives the camera after a successful day on the Little Manatee River fly fishing with Capt. Pat (Fly Guy) Damico.

Tom Gadacz: SFF 2019 Fly Casting and Fishing Clinic

We had our spring casting event on March 2 but expanded it to a casting and fishing event. It was a gorgeous 80-degree day with a mild wind and a very sunny sky. We had an excellent field which was one of the St. Petersburg's City softball parks with a groomed grassy outfield. In addition to casting exercises, which included loop formation, accuracy, curve casts, and hauling, a series of simulated fishing conditions were added. These included casting in different directions (directly into the wind, casting side into the wind, etc.), targets at varying distances, into upright PVC frames and under the dock/mangroves, and narrow loops into a 3' diameter hoop. We introduced a new feature which was a race car with the figure of a red fish mounted to the top of the car.



Put the loop through the hoop

Chris O'Byrne used the remote control to direct the car across a line of 4 casters who tried to lead the fish so it crossed the yarn at the end of their leader. After lunch, the instructors helped with any casting needs which included distance casting, hauling, roll casts, and any other needs. Steve Smith demonstrated Spey casting.



Learn to cast the fly under and around mangroves and docks

The session was free to all FFI members and others paid a \$35.00 fee and received a FFI membership. These clinics are a benefit to all active FFI members. We had 7 instructors and 24 attendees of which 5 were new FFI members and 1 a new SFF member.

The instructors included FFI MCIs Pat Damico, Dayle Mazzarella, and Steve Smith, FFI CI Chris O'Byrne, and Toni Fernstrom, Leigh West, and Tom Gadacz. We greatly appreciated the support from SFF members especially Jeed Charoen, a new SFF member, David Redd, Rick Warfel, Kevin Kelly. Also special thanks to Mark Benson, Director of Fly Fishing at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club Orlando, Grande Lakes and a FFI CI, who introduced the mobile fish at their Outfitters Event on January 12, 2019.

Tom



Dayle Mazzarella shows how to make the fly land where you want it to land.



Casting to a moving target. Just think of it as a redfish on the move.

Dennis Marquis: Peacock Bass in Boca Raton



"I must be a great fly instructor (*sarc*). I brought my nephew his first new fly rod. He landed a peacock bass. He caught it in a spot on a beaten-down trail in Boca Raton behind a Publix grocery using a party worm fly."



Party worm fly, molested by peacock bass.

Dennis

Dennis Marquis: Speckled Trout at Indian Key

"I fished Indian Key last night (3/10) with Cindy. We found trout, landing six. Lost a few others. Lots of strikes. Orange and white Clouser was magic."

Dennis



Dennis Marquis with an Indian Key spotted seatrout

James Davis: Tilapia on the Fly



James Davis caught this tilapia on a residential lake in Tampa.

"I caught this tilapia at a friend's lake around his complex in Tampa's Raintree area."

"I caught it on a poop fly, basically a small, trimmed down Woolly Bugger."

James

Bob Burkard: East Lake Woodlands Country Club

East Lake Woodlands country club hosted a fly-fishing event on February 24 to introduce East Lake Woodlands community members to fly fishing. Representatives of Suncoast Fly Fishers, the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club, and Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure attended. A small but extremely enthusiastic crowd from the local community took advantage of this opportunity to learn about our amazing sport. We demonstrated fly-casting, tied flies, and helped introduce fly fishing to 20 people.



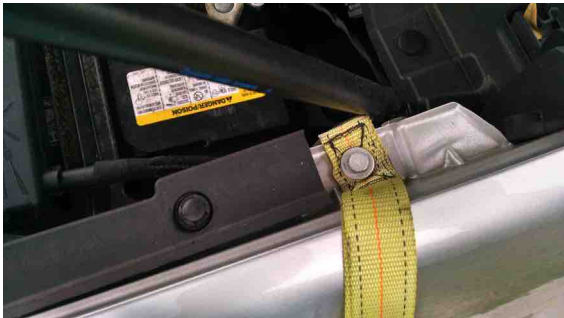
Bob Burkard (left, in blue) helped newbies tie their first fly. And they picked the colors. Very interesting.

David Redd and I tied flies and enjoyed entertaining the participants. It is amazing how happy people (both young and not-so-young) get when they can tie their first fly and pick the colors -- pink, white, green, purple and red. (Good colors? We'll have to ask the fish.)

Bob



Ted Rich: How to (really!) secure your kayak to the car



To really secure your kayak to the car, don't rely on criss-crossing straps on the roof rack. Instead, strap the bow and stern of your kayak to the vehicle frame.

You see cars on the Interstate with kayaks or canoes on top, and they often are only secured by crossing straps to the roof racks. For safety, the bow and stern should also be secured to the vehicle. But, because of all the plastic in cars these days, it is hard to find a solid place to tie your lines.

What to do?

The answer, in my opinion, is to mount a strap on each side of the car to the bolts under the hood that secure the fender or inner-fender to the frame.



Double the strap then sew the two ends together at one end. You will secure this end to the bolt under the hood.

When hauling a boat or a kayak, the straps are then extended outside the hood. When not hauling, you can leave them out of way in the engine compartment.

Two lines can be extended from the bow of the boat to each loop using the trucker's hitch knot ([YouTube](#)). If you have a trailer hitch, that's a good place to secure the boat's stern.

To make the straps, first measure the straps so that, when secured to the car, they are long enough to extend outside the hood when the hood is closed. The strap makes a loop with one end reinforced and sewn together as reinforcement for the bolt hole. ~~Then, sweet talk your wife into sewing them.~~ You can sew them yourself.



You connect the loop end of the strap to the lines on the bow of the kayak or boat. When not in use you can tuck them into the engine compartment.

Ted

Tampa Bay Times Captain's Corner



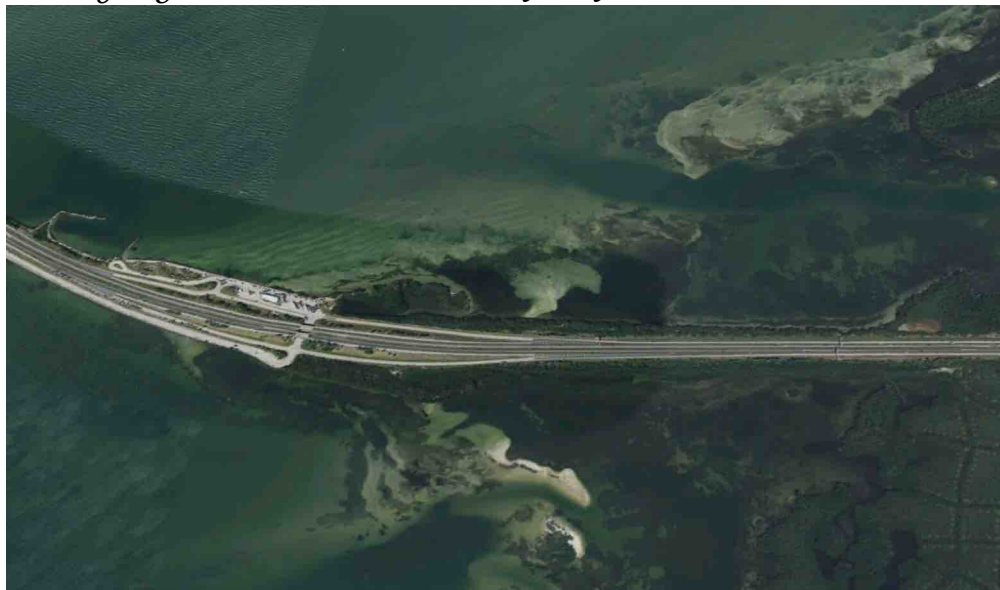
Capt. Pat Damico: What fly were you using?

What fly were you using?

Warmer water and more stable weather is finally ushering in our great spring shallow water fishing. An increase in larger white bait has filled the bill to finally lure redfish, trout, and snook into the shallows where they can be sight fished. When fly fishermen exchange information the definitive question always seems to be, yes but, "What fly were you using?" When conditions are favorable for a good bite, several successful fishermen will usually be using different fly patterns. Have you ever had someone who has fly fishing savvy pick up your rod after you have not caught anything begin to catch fish immediately? I've even exchanged rods with someone having a bad day and caught fish with their setup while they continued to not catch with the rod I was using. The fly is usually the least important part of the equation. On several recent river trips, snook were hanging very close to or under shoreline structure such as docks, mangroves, fallen trees, oyster bars and points. If the fly was not presented within inches of structure, fish weren't caught. If a cast was close to a fish's lair and it landed with a disturbing splash or was picked up too suddenly with a surface rip the fish not only ignored the fly but could be seen racing to deeper water for safety. Casting accuracy, proper presentation and minimal disruption will vastly improve your success with the long rod when using any fly pattern.

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

Amazing: South Sunshine Skyway Grass and Sand Flats



Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Red Tide update – Last month MyFWC told us we couldn't keep a slot redfish until May 10. Snook remain out of season. Now, they've blocked us from keeping speckled trout over 20 inches. H/T Ted Rich. ([MYFWC](#))

Want to catch a snook from shore? Here are some places to consider. ([Salt Strong](#))

Hello Mississippi. Where do Gulf tarpon go when they depart Florida's SW coast? "In July 2018, we deployed satellite tags on 10 tarpon as they moved westward on their annual migration. Over the past month, the tags have transmitted over 5,000 messages, and have generated nearly 1000 position estimates. In general, these tarpon are moving west, often stopping at the Chandeleur Islands. However, a few have ventured offshore before returning inshore and resuming their westward migration. ([Southern Saltwater](#))

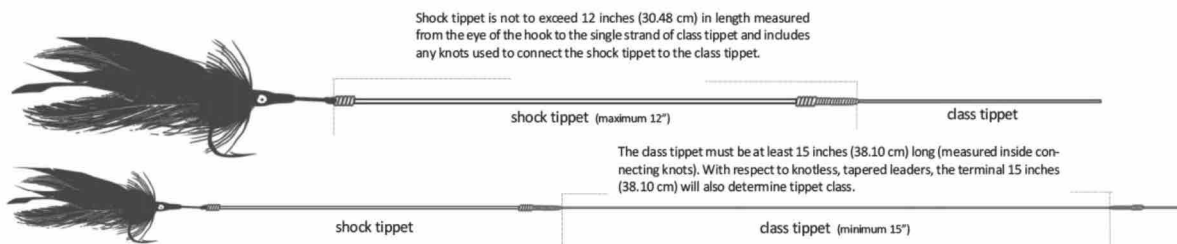
Fly fishing is the gift that keeps on giving. I fished with Captain Denny Blue several times out of Englewood. He had the snook and redfish nailed in Charlotte Harbor. Back in his home state of Michigan he's a salmon guide and he writes books, too. ([Trueblueauthor](#))

A little cabin on a mountain stream. Life is good. I've known some resourceful people (hello Tom Jones) but I'd have to put fly fisherman at the top of the list. Here's another one. H/T Ryan Sollars. ([You Tube](#))

You don't have to go to Boseman to win this FFI contest. Fly Fishers International has announced the Fly Tying Challenge. It's open to all. There's even a junior category for those 16 and under. Five categories: overall, Dry fly, wet fly, Nymph, Crustacean, and streamer. The winners will be announced July 27 at the 2019 Fly Fishing Expo in Bozeman, Montana. ([FFI](#))

Latest E-News from FFI. That motorized redfish used in the SFF clinic is in here. ([FFI E-News](#))

It's not likely...but better safe than sorry. Any one of us could catch a potential IGFA fly fishing record. That's why I try to remember to keep my class tippets at 12-pound test or less. (You don't want it to test more than 20#). Shock tippets can be stronger, of course. Go to the site. Scroll down for the fly fishing requirements. Also, see graphic below. ([IGFA](#))



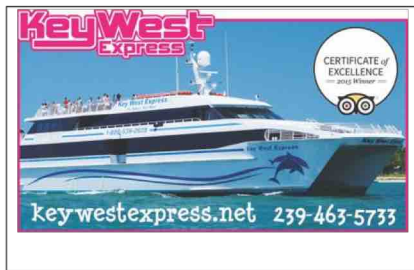
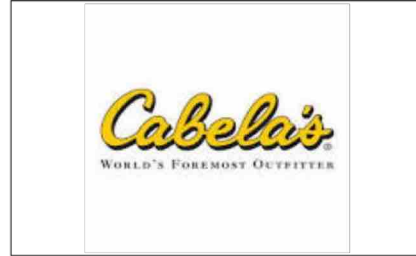
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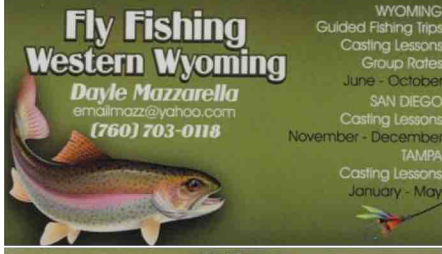
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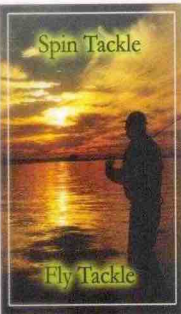
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