

# 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

Who caught this peacock bass? 10



Yes, we have no bananas. 9



The life of a guide. 6



Chassahowitzka Fly of the Month 13



Fort DeSoto Park. No escape from 30 MPH winds. 16



NextGen 15



Smitty's Fly Box P14





## *SFF President Letter – May 2019*

Hello Everyone,

This month I'm going to share something with you that you could probably care less about. I am sharing to commit myself before you so I won't slack off or drop out.

At one of our casting clinics, Pat Damico taught me to cast left handed; in about 2 minutes. Maybe I can do this after all.

At the Hog Roast I won the bid for a two-hour casting session with Dayle Mazzarella. It really opened my eyes. I already knew it from attending the casting clinics, but he really knows a lot and definitely knows how to teach it. And his video instructions through "Fly Fishing Coach International" are so easy to understand that even I can follow them.

After the first two hours of instruction, I knew I had to continue and work toward a Casting Instructor Certificate. There is so much to it and I love it and want to learn more.

Hilton asked "why"?

Hmm...Here is what I come up with.

First the "nots:" **Not** to impress anybody, **not** to be able to cast 130-feet and win the Big Gun Shootout. **Not** to even be able to cast like Pat or Dayle or Leigh West.

Now the "Whys:"

Because Dayle told me I have a good chance of passing. (It may take me 5 years:) If you know Dayle, you know that he tells it like it is and right to the point. Ouch! I like that.

To be a better caster and therefore a better fly fisherman.

I believe in training to be the best that I can be at what I do.

Respect for the tradition of the art, myself and those who take this skill seriously, and have the ability to teach our new members.

I'm even "Cross training." Did you know there is a "bow and arrow" cast? I love traditional archery too!

*Never lose your sense of adventure.*

*George*

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

# 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

Raffles -- Dave Barson

Succession Plan -- Rick Warfel, Dick Miekka

Programs -- Board of Directors

## On The Fly

Bill AuCoin, editor; Duane Mertz

Publicity -- Bill AuCoin

## Aims and Purposes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Meetings, Outings, and More

### Thursday, May 16 Meeting



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

- May speaker is SFF member Mike Larkin, PhD, a fisheries biologist for NOAA Fisheries in the office of Sustainable Fisheries in St. Petersburg. He will be talking about tarpon. When do they arrive? Where are they? Where do they go from here?

- Mike has written and Tail Fly Fishing

magazine is publishing his three-part series on tarpon habits.

- Fly Swap three poppers – Tie up some poppers and trade them for three tied by another fly swapper.
- Sign up for the May 18 outing on the Chassahowitzka River. More details below and on the Outing Preview page.
- Fly of the Month: Myakka Minnow

### Saturday May 18 Outing, Chassahowitzka River

- Chassahowitzka River Boat Ramp, 8690 Miss Maggie Drive, Chassahowitzka
- Prizes for the longest bluegill and longest bass

#### Note:

**Midweek outings have been suspended  
due to lack of interest**

#### Save the dates...

- June 20 Meeting: Speaker, Leigh West, wade-fishing specialist.
- June 22 Outing: South Skyway Rest Area.
- July 18 Meeting: Presentation: Docklights/Beaches Panel.
- July 20 Outing: Dock light and beach fishing
- August 15 Meeting: Tie-a-thon, pizza
- August 17 Outing: Bay Vista Park, Pinellas Point, St. Petersburg
- December: Master Caster Instruction, Norwood Field

Keep an eye on the club calendar for updates

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 121 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

### 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.



## Suncoast Fly Fisher News 'n' Notes

### Board of Directors May meeting

- Directors agreed that in the future SFF annual dues and FFI annual dues will be collected at the same time to make it smoother all around. Club dues are \$15. FFI dues are \$35 a year; \$25 for seniors.
  - Suncoast Fly Fishers will renew its annual sponsorship/membership with [Tampa Bay Watch](#).
  - The Board agreed that members may see club financial documents by putting the request in writing. Then a meeting date and time will be established for the club Treasurer to meet with the requesting member in the presence of another board member.
- 

### 2019 Fly Film Tour in Tampa. Beer included.

The [2019 Fly Film Tour](#) comes to Hyde Park Village in Tampa May 18. It starts at 3 with a silent auction of gear and trips and continues to 6:30 so you should have time to get back from our Chassahowitzka River outing. The fly fishing films are said to be outstanding and take viewers from Alaska to Florida, from South Dakota to British Columbia, from Australia to French Polynesia. And we're told that there will be *Sweetwater Beer*.

---

### Thanks, Karen Warfel and Dick Miekka

At the April meeting President George Haseltine thanked outgoing officers and board members. He presented outgoing treasurer Karen Warfel with a "bouquet" of fly tying materials – actually, gorgeous peacock feathers and maribou – for her beyond-the-call of duty service to Suncoast Fly Fishers. She is handing over most of the duties to our new treasurer, Tom Gadacz. Outgoing Secretary Dick Miekka wasn't at the meeting but George sent him a thank you card and is holding a "plaque" with his name on it plus a "bouquet" of flies. Meanwhile, Dick continues to work on updating and upgrading our website.

Karen's "bouquet"



### Capt. Pat Damico's 14-minute fly fishing video from the channel 13 feature is on the club website

Dick Miekka has posted it on the [Events and Special Features](#) page. Click on the video announcement.

---

### Volunteer for this

- 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 are the afternoons of June 13 and 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. Tom writes, "You do not have to be a master caster. Our goal is to teach them the basic casting stroke and have fun! The sessions are two hours each with a background and introduction to fly fishing, a word about flies, bait, demonstration of the casting stroke, etc. Splashing paint and the pick up the telephone for the casting stroke. We usually pair up the kids and ask them to help each other. We have targets (hula hoops and flower pot dishes) at 20 to 30 feet. We take a break and then do some more casting and end with a brief video clip of Mel Krieger teaching casting. Bring some flies or whatever. Rods, reels, targets etc. are provided.
- 

### The fly trip to Canada is still on. Destination: [Zups Fishing Outfitters](#).

Mike Simmons had a heart event last month but his trip 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 at [yankee3047@yahoo.com](mailto:yankee3047@yahoo.com). Or, email Bill Scarola at [poppyscar@gmail.com](mailto:poppyscar@gmail.com)

---

# Capt. Nick Angelo: A Peek Into the Life of a Guide

By Bill AuCoin



*Capt. Nick Angelo*

Before he was a guide, Capt. Nick Angelo was a chef. His fresh fish and other dishes cooked on the grill testify to that. But the captain is really glad he pivoted to guiding 14 years ago. At the April meeting he shared some of those guide-client stories and the lessons he has learned guiding mostly fly anglers for snook, redfish, speckled trout, pompano and jacks, and – most certainly – tarpon.

He said the first lesson he learned kind of hit him between the eyes. “Guiding is very different from fishing as a hobby. That’s not to say it’s not enjoyable; it’s just that you get your kicks in different ways.” You have to be more than a fisher. You have wear a lot of hats –financial, marketing, tax agent, boat and gear fixer, web designer and content provider, and more.

And, sometimes, like when you have to remove a hook from somebody’s flesh, you’re an emergency care clinic.

“It’s fun to meet different people and I like it as much as the fishing,” said Angelo.

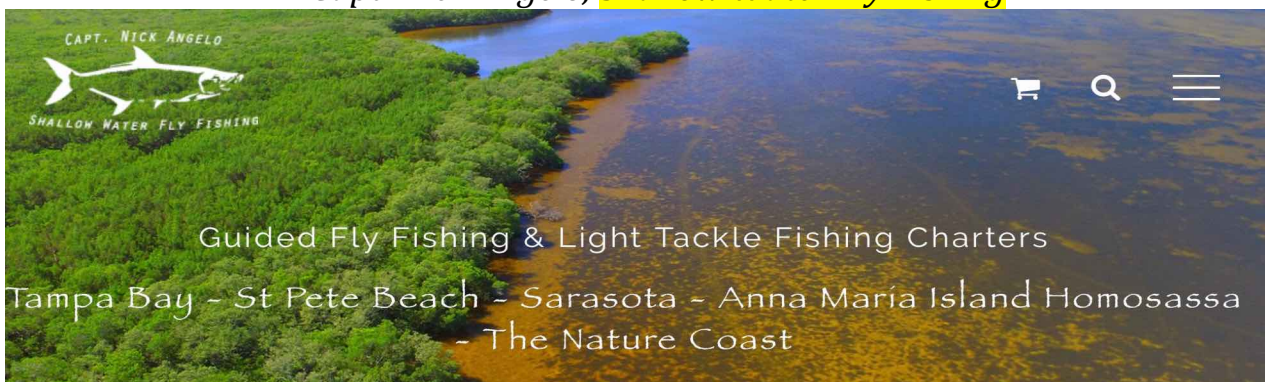
He likes to get in sync with the client objectives, and then deliver the fun they are looking for. Some just want to be out on the boat and talk to somebody. Some want to catch lots of fish. Some want to catch a certain big fish. Some talk. A lot. Maybe too much. There’s a saying among guides that “more sins are told on a boat than in the confessional.” There are some serious no-nos. For example, the best guides never, ever, ever show up and fish at another guide’s fishing spot. Over time the best guides become friends, chat on the phone, hang out, share the latest info about where and when the fish are feeding.

Angelo really enjoys being on the water, of course, and when his clients are happy, he’s very happy. When he’s not on the water, he’s cooking on his Green Egg, reading novels and non-fiction, playing with his boys, and double-checking gear and his Hells Bay for the next expedition.



*Doctor Angelo demonstrates his hook removal technique.*

## *Capt. Nick Angelo, Shallow Water Fly Fishing*



**CONTACT: 813-230-8473 or email [fishonthefly25@aol.com](mailto:fishonthefly25@aol.com)**

## George Haseltine: E-Glades Canal Outing a Big Success

Thanks to all of you who made our Everglades trip a success this year!

We had a great time and once again I witnessed the spirit of friendship, sharing and cooperation that you all are famous for.

**SFF members are “friendship & cooperation” personified.**

A couple of the days were windy, but overall the weather was great.

Special recognition to Mark & Annie Hays for taking one of our new members, Mandy McGarry. As usual, Mark put them on fish and all of them caught Peacock Bass! On her first trip, Mandy caught a Peacock Bass! Congratulations to all of you.

Alan Sewell stepped up and helped to provide our share of the fish fry on Saturday. We went to Sam’s Club and stocked up on chips, potato salad, plates, plastic ware, etc.

Dave Harbour, the former President of the Florida Fly Fishing Association (the Cocoa Club according to Ken Hofmeister) introduced us to the new President Stephen M. Moon. The fellowship and food at the fish fry was great!

Nine of us went to Sunrise and stayed in the La Quinta Inn. We kept up the age-old tradition of eating at Lester’s Diner on Friday night and told of the old days when we filled the dining room with Ken Hofmeister, Don Manning, Jim Swann, Paul Sequira and others.



*Ken Hofmeister, RIP, with an Eglades canal snook he caught in April of 2015.*



*Clewiston crew at dinner – Somebody described it as “An eating club with a fishing problem.” (Ray Smith Photo)*

Some don’t like to go to Sunrise because of the traffic, but Alan knows a way around the traffic that took us to the hotel without any problems. Ask him when you get a chance and join us next time.

Fourteen of our members went to Clewiston and stayed there. They fished from kayaks and found no problems with the alligators.

Thanks to Bruce Evensen and Bill Scarola and their group for traveling the extra distance down to meet us for lunch on Saturday and for bringing fish.

*George*

**Scroll down to read Anne Hays’ Everglades Canal Outing Article**



## Anne Hays: Every Banana Has Her Day

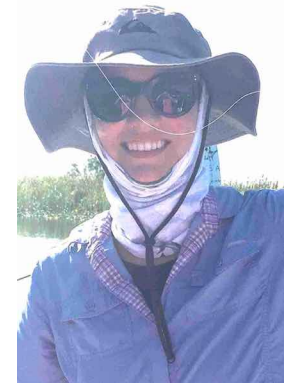
“So, Mandy,” I said in between demolishing pecan pancakes at Cracker Barrel, “what do you think you’ll catch first?”



Anne Hays with a nice Everglades canal bass.

She didn’t want to venture a hubristic guess. However, I knew for a fact that Mandy McGarry, one of the newest members of the SFF, would catch her first fish ever later that day.

“I think it’ll be a Bluegill,” I said. My dad, Mark Hays, guessed a Stumpknocker. Mandy finally ventured to guess a Bass, but she was still skeptical at the thought of finally getting a fish. She had taken to referring to herself as the “banana” as the fishing on all four SFF outings she had been to was challenging even for the veteran fly fishers.



Did Mandy catch her first on the fly? Oh yeah. She is no longer the “banana” on the boat.

We arrived at the first boat ramp on the west side of Alligator Alley around lunchtime on Friday. When Dad asked what I wanted tied to my line, I didn’t hesitate to answer, “White Spider.” Dad sighed because I always want to fish with the same fly in the Everglades. This year, he made me change things just a bit by giving me a spider with orange legs instead of white ones.

Mandy got a neon green number ten chartreuse foam beetle, and Dad, ever the fly-fishing contrarian, tried a number four snake fly. After about five casts, I landed a Mayan Cichlid that was little bigger than my hand. A few minutes later, Mandy finally brought her first fish to the boat. This exercise was further proof that none of us should ever bet competitively. Mandy’s first fish was a Mayan Cichlid that was a little bigger than mine.

As usual, the fishing had picked up instantly as soon as we went from a mud bank to a rocky bank. The Cichlids and Oscars tend to live in the craggy outcroppings of the lime rock. Bluegills, Stumpknockers, and bass were more common in the weeds and lily pads. The shallow, sandy shores are friendly territory to all species.

The rest of the early afternoon was a blur of firsts for Mandy. First Bass, first Bluegill, first Stumpknocker, and for all three of us in the boat, that was the first time an alligator growled at us. The seven-foot dinosaur rested his jowls on one downed log and his tail on another. He bellowed at us from across the canal, but it was so loud he may as well have been right next to the boat.

As we drifted under the bridge, the fishing went from below average for an Everglades trip; about one fish in the boat every five minutes, to average; one fish every two minutes at least. After we finished our drift under the bridge, I saw a school of Peacock Bass huddled together by the bank. Some of the bass were just floating stationary while some were swimming around.



Mandy’s first fish on the fly—a Mayan cichlid

-continued on next page-



## Continued...Anne Hays' Every Banana Has Her Day

*"The only way to snap Dad out of his frenzy was to pull out a Publix sandwich covered in oil and vinegar."*

The sight of the Peacock Bass drove Dad insane. He hurled his minnow at them for fifteen minutes. He even bounced the fly on their noses. They reacted like marble statues each time. The only way to snap Dad out of his frenzy was to open the cooler and pull out a Publix sandwich covered in oil and vinegar.

The wind pushed our boat in to the lily pads as we ate lunch. Mandy noticed a baby alligator gar floating in the lilies. A few minutes later, I also saw an alligator gar. But this one was, and I have two corroborating witnesses, an albino. It bobbed along almost straight up with a fraction of an inch of its nose sticking out of the water until it would turn like a clock hand to eat gambusia minnows. The coloration didn't seem to be a problem for the gar because it looked like a dead reed stalk.

After we fished the back canal, the Peacock Bass were still on the same bank by the bridge. Dad tried once again to anger them into biting. After another ten minutes, just as we were about the drift past the pilings, a Peacock took his fly. And it was being chased by its brother all the way to the boat.

As we waited for the boat ramp to clear up, we tried one last spot near some downed tree limbs. Mandy caught a small Peacock Bass on her green spider, and at the same time I hooked an Oscar. Dad has said for years that the best fishing in the canals is within sight of the boat ramps, and he's never been proven wrong.

The next day we tried the Big Bass Canal near the Alligator Alley rest area all morning, but the fish seemed to have known most of the SFF would be there that day, and they swam to safer territory.

Once we wolfed down a socially unacceptable number of hushpuppies and chips at the fish fry, Dad drove us to the Highway 27 Canal. There were only five other cars in the parking lot, and as we drifted the canal, a bloated gator corpse bobbed in the bushes as if to warn us not to enter this place. We held our breaths and fished anyway. Good thing we did, because this canal more than made up for the disappointing morning. Every three casts yielded another fish. Mandy finally got the hang of bringing fish in and unhooking them after a whole afternoon of practice.

Besides Dad always using a different fly than me, we had a second experiment going all weekend. I kept my fly, which was a spider variation both days, as stationary as possible. Dad twitched his various flies all weekend. To be fair to Dad since he was fighting the wind with the trolling motor all weekend and retying



*Mandy and Anne pose with their double – a peacock bass for Mandy and an Oscar for Anne.*

flies for Mandy and myself, I out-fished him three to one. Apart from the Peacock Bass, all the other species would take a non-moving fly. However, the moving fly attracted larger and more aggressive fish like Largemouth Bass, Cichlids, and Oscars.

For myself and my dad, all of Mandy's fish meant more to us than anything we caught. If any club members know anyone who is learning to fish, even if he or she does not care for fly fishing, I encourage you to bring the neophyte to the Everglades trip for three days of absolute fool-proof fishing and wonderful fellowship with the club.

## More snapshots from the Everglades Canal Outing

*With a special thanks to photographers Ray Smith, George Haseltine, Bill Scarola, Truk Trukenbrod, and Anne Hays*



*Mark Hays with a peacock bass, the hungry little brother to the big one below.*



*Bill Scarola landed this gar on the May fly of the month, Myakka Minnow.*



*Art Birnkrant with a handsome Everglades canal bass, one of many. Below, Art shows off one of his Mayan cichlids.*



*Ray Smith and a beautiful Mayan cichlid.*



*Trukenbrod's oscar.*



*Gurgler bags a bigmouth bass*



*Hey mister, throw me a fish. Or else!*



## Review: April Outing at Fort DeSoto Park

### *The wind was not our friend*



*Bob Burkard, outings committee chairman*

#### **By Bob Burkard, Outings Committee Chairman**

A group of hardy fly fishers descended on Fort De Soto Park on Saturday, April 20 in pursuit of the elusive seatrout; and what a day it was. This was probably the windiest day that I have ever experienced at one of our fly-fishing outings. Not only was it nearly impossible to fish, the food and drinks kept blowing off our picnic tables. (Chips ahoy) I still enjoyed the company and the comradery, but even the most experienced of our club could not find a protected area to cast in. One of our group did catch a lizard fish – Coulda been Mark Hays -- but he/she did not seem very proud of this accomplishment and did not supply a photo.

So, we enjoyed our coffee and sandwiches, and told great stories about the fish previously caught and ones that got away. As always, our club members took a lemon of a day and made lemonade!



*Dennis Marquis points to what might be a friendlier, less windy spot to cast a fly.*



*Bob Hood found a seam at Arrowhead Picnic Area and made the wind his friend. Sort of.*



*Thinking ahead, Andrew Norman loaded his 7-weight rod with 9-weight line to help casting into the wind.*

*No fish to show for the effort but the effort was still worth it. Now let's go get some coffee. From left, Tony Piazza, Truk Trukenbrod, Bob Hood, and Dennis Marquis. >>>>*



## Preview: May 18 Outing at Chassahowitzka

By Bob Burkard, Chairman, Outings Committee

Prizes for the longest bass and longest bream. Bring your own lunch. Meet at noon at the Chassahowitzka River Boat Ramp (County Park), 8690 Miss Maggie Drive, Chassahowitzka.

I have previously fished on the Chassahowitzka River and I enjoyed the natural beauty and clear fresh water fishing. It is a crystal-clear, spring-fed river that provides miles of fishing opportunities both in the river and in its many tributaries. For this outing, there are two target fish: the longest bass and the longest bream. (And it's a good opportunity to take the lead in the annual outing contest.)

This is a brown bag lunch event. Suncoast Fly Fishers club is providing drinks and we hope to meet up at noon for lunch by the boat launch to eat and swap fishing stories.

This is one of our "far from Tampa" outings where members fishing cannot wade and will need a kayak, boats, or canoe. Members in need of boats can rent a kayak, canoes, or johnboats at the campground: Also, there is a launching fee, payable at the campground store. Parking is \$5 or, with trailer, \$7.

### Directions from St. Pete to Chassahowitzka River Campground and boat launch:

Driving time about 90 minutes.

- Drive east across the Howard Frankland Bridge (I-275). • Exit 39 (airport ramp) to SR 60 then merge onto Memorial Highway.

- Continue north then merge left onto the Veterans Highway (589).

- Continue north on 589 which becomes the Suncoast Parkway.

- Take the US 9 8 WEST exit toward Crystal River. Go ½ mile and turn left on US-98 NORTH/SR 700/Ponce de Leon Blvd.

- Go 4.5 miles then cross over Highway 19 and bear left onto state road 480/W. Miss Maggie Drive. • Proceed to the Chassahowitzka River Campground and boat launch.

*See you there Bob*

### 2019 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS

<i>Species</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Leader to date</i>	<i>Outing (Month)</i>
<b>Longest sunfish</b>			
<b>Longest black bass</b>	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>			



## Tying Bench – Bruce Evensen Ties Myakka Minnow *Bruce's Fly of the Month for the Chassahowitzka River*



*Myakka Minnow for the  
Chassahowitzka River*

### *Tying instructions provided by Bill Scarola*

This is a great fly in fresh water. I've caught bass, brim, cichlids, oscar, and gar this last trip to the glades. Larger versions should work well in the salt, too.

### **Materials**

1. Hooks: sizes 4, 6,8,10, You can also tie some with larger hooks up to 1/0
2. Tinsel or braid: Silver and gold, copper, etc.
3. Eyes: Stick on 4 - 4.5mm
4. Weight: Lead wrap to add weight to hook shaft, if desired
5. Tail: Marabou, options=use several colors, ex. chartreuse, olive, pink, yellow, etc.
6. Thread: Flat-waxed; colors to match marabou
7. Glues: UV Epoxy. Sally Hansen Hard As Nails added to zapped epoxy

### **Tying Sequence**

1. Wrap hook from eye to point
2. Add marabou. Tie in a clump of marabou above the hook point on the rear of the hook shaft.
3. Lead wrap (optional). Add several wraps of lead for weight. Add to the shaft.
4. Add tinsel, color of your choice, but silver and gold work well. Anchor it from in front of marabou and wrap forward, be sure to bring thread forward after anchoring it. Build up a small body from marabou to hook eye. You can also add a drop of glue or two to shaft before bringing the tinsel forward. Whip finish just behind hook eye.
5. Add eyes to the tinsel either before or after first layer of epoxy then add more epoxy making sure to cover stick-on eyes.
6. Add UV epoxy. Build up a tear-shaped bead over the tinsel. Do this in several layers to insure a smooth, even bead.

# Smitty's Fly Box

## Skull 'n' Bones



Layne (Smitty) Smith

*I sent a bunch of these flies to a friend of mine who was going bonefishing in the Bahamas and he said he hooked up almost every cast. He was very pleased with the performance of the flies enough that he wanted me to make some more for himself and some for his friends as well. The fly can be fished three different ways ...as a shrimp or as a crab or as a baitfish, all depending on your retrieve.*



### Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu B10S size 6.  
Thread: Pink Flat-waxed Nylon  
Tail: Rose DNA Frosty Fish Fiber  
Flash: Pink Crystal Flash  
Body: Creamy Pink Cross-cut Rabbit Flesh Strips  
Collar: Ice Dub UV Pink Shrimp  
Head: Fish Skulls Pinky Purple Pearl small

### Tying Instructions



1. Tie in sparse hank (doubled V-style) of Rose Fish Fiber 2½ times shank length.



2. Tie in 2 strands Pink Crystal Flash in the same manner.



3. Tie in Cross-cut Rabbit and palmer forward, leaving room for collar.

4. Tie in collar of UV Ice Dub and whip finish.

5. Apply a dab of Fletch-Tite Gel (or Zap-a-Gap Gel) on front of collar then slide the Fish Skull over the eye and press into place.

6. Re-attach thread and tie a thread dam in front of Skull to hold in place. Apply coat of favorite head cement.

# Tom Gadacz: Fly Casting at the Green Thumb Festival

Suncoast Fly Fishers club was invited to participate in the St.

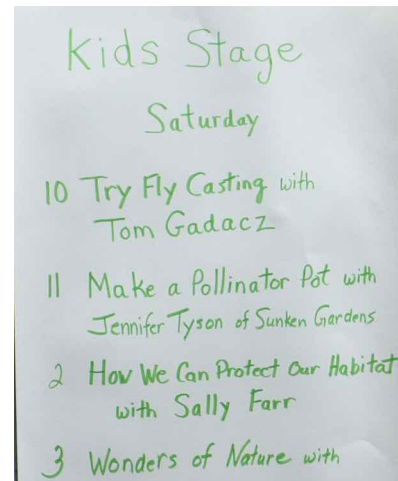


*Tom plants another fly fishing seedling.*

Petersburg Green Thumb Festival (Arbor Day Weekend) on April 27 at Walter Fuller Park. We participated last year and by popular demand were invited back to talk about fly fishing and a 6 hour youths' fly casting session.

The casting area was located near the

Recreation Center at the Kid's Stage and was marked with orange flagging tape for 30-foot casts and no interference from any trees.



*See, it's just like picking up the phone.*

The group included preteens and teens plus a few adults. All had an enjoyable time and it was fun working with such a diverse group. Several of the teens made some narrow loop casts. The adults were interested in salt water fly fishing and some (mainly the snowbirds) were amazed that we had such great fly fishing opportunities in the Tampa Bay area. Several took literature about Suncoast Fly Fishing club and Fly Fishers International. Other adults stopped to talk about their or a relative's fly fishing interests. The most difficult teaching challenge was minimizing rotation during the casting stroke. Some of the youngest casters used a two-handed casting style. We used 5 wt , 8' 6" rods from Redington.

This was the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Festival and is a St. Petersburg Parks and

Recreation Department operated event with some 33,000 people buying and selling all sorts of garden plants and materials on Saturday and Sunday. There were over 264 booth spaces representing environmental and horticultural exhibits and vendors plus food and beverage vendors. Attendees had wagons full of tree and plant purchases. Parking was extremely crowded and the park swarmed with people. It was a humongous event with educational programs, plant diagnostic clinics, and demonstrations. Mayor Rick Kriseman presented the Tree City USA Award and Green Thumb Awards.

I wish to thank Dottie Tutt-Hutchinson for again including us in this Arbor Day community event. It was a great opportunity to introduce fly fishing and casting to some very serious gardeners.

*Tom*



*St. Pete Mayor Rick Kriseman came to show his support.*

## Robert Fischer: Reds and Snook Near Cypress Point Park

The flats at the west end of Cypress Street in Tampa are very wader friendly and have been holding some nice redfish and lots of snook in the 18 to 24" range.

*Robert*

## David Redd and friends: The snook bite is on



A small group of club members got together on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 27th. Bruce Evensen, Ray Smith, Jack Collins and David Redd fished the north end of 4th Street near I-275. The weather was beautiful and the wind cooperated. We caught a collective bag of 5 snook, some ladyfish and one catfish.

*David*

## 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

**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 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)



## Tampa Bay Times Captain's Corner



### Capt. Pat Damico: Fly fishers get better as we age

Fly fishing is one of the few sports, maybe the only one, where you get better as you age. This depends very much on how you do it. In saltwater we use heavier equipment, must cast further with accuracy, and are constantly confronted with adverse wind conditions, a combination of issues that if not approached properly will cause physical deterioration of muscles, ligaments and joints. Younger sports enthusiasts in tennis or golf often are plagued with these issues that can be debilitating. Tennis elbow and golf wrist are frequent results. The reason is usually poor execution of fundamentals. Someone who never fly fished can have an advantage over a veteran who has many issues with poor, "Muscle memory." Watching any accomplished sports enthusiast perform looks easy because flaws are eliminated. An excuse I often hear is, "Fly fishing is too much work!" Do a search of Fly Fishing Clubs in your area and you will find a group of fly fisher's that share the same interests at many different levels. There are capable instructors that will be only too happy to get you on the correct path to make this an enjoyable pastime.

### Capt. Pat Damico: Where to score an inshore slam on the fly



Getting a trout, redfish and snook on the same outing with a fly rod is very challenging. Increase your chances by concentrating on lighted docks and bridges. We often go out a few hours before daylight and can usually fish without seeing another boat, especially on weekdays. Trout and snook have been the primary targets; reds can be very regional and docks near flats that hold reds during the day are always preferred. The tide must be moving to produce feeding frenzies that often allow doubles when two fly casters are working carefully covering an area.

Position one caster on each end of the boat.

Rather than anchor, a bow mounted electric trolling motor will keep your boat in the proper position parallel to the shoreline. Use it to get large fish away from barnacle encrusted pilings that ruin fly lines and break off fish. Baby tarpon have been a recent bonus and will require a quick accurate cast as they usually do not hang around like other species. Use a 30- pound shock tippet and white baitfish patterns that match the size of bait around the lights. Crimp all barbs to make releasing easier. Respect the dock owner's privacy or you will find the light out on your next trip.



Adam Hays' docklight snook won the 2018 club outing tournament

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

## Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



**Sad news; good news.** FWC has extended the ban on snook, redfish and, now, speckled trout. The catch-and-release only deadline has been extended through May 31. And, who knows, maybe the FWC will decide to extend it even longer. They're trying to bring back the populations whacked hard by the red tide in 2017 and 2018. I don't know about you, but I've caught more trout, snook and redfish this spring/summer than previous years. ([My FWC](#))

**Probiotics for fish?** I always thought it was a shame that so many fish eggs and minnows have to die. Now they're testing it on snook larvae. And it's working! Gamefish are most vulnerable in the larval stage. Mote Marine has tested it and, you know what? Snook survival went up 20%. ([Salt Strong](#))

**These photos have not been edited.** It appears there is a new, flesh-eating bacteria making a bad name for itself. A Pinellas County angler got a hook stuck in his thumb. Next day, it looked infected. He went to the urgent care facility. Antibiotics didn't work. He went to Tampa General ER. Then, amputation? Sometimes nature is out to get us. H/T Bob Hood. ([Spectrum](#))

**Summer rains are coming. Sooooo...** This program doesn't cover all of our fishing spots but it is helpful to check water quality of Tampa Bay and Suncoast Beaches during the rainy season. ([Florida's Healthy Beaches](#))

**Will we get red tide this summer?** Blooms occur offshore, infrequently and unpredictably. We got a double dose in 2017 and 2018. Now scientists are learning how it all starts some 50 miles offshore. It seems Gulf loop currents and eddies usually come in the spring, But some years they push in later than normal, in the summer, and deliver natural offshore nutrients to the K. brevis algae. The K. brevis algae then turns into the killer red tide. Currents then deliver it to our west-central Florida shoreline. Now, utilizing a robotic mini-submarine, scientists will be able to determine if a bloom is occurring and also give us some advance warning of a coastline event. Can they stop it from coming to shore? Probably not. Nature does what nature does. Still... ([University of South Florida](#))

**Enter your best fly fishing photo in this FFI contest.** Our club has some amazing photographers. Al Pitcher and Kevin Kelly come to mind. I encourage them and other club members to enter the 2019 FFI photo contest. Deadline is June 15. Photos will be on display at Montana State University, Strand Union Building during the Expo Hall days July 25-27, 2019. Click the link for the rules and previous winners. ([Fly Fishers International](#))

**So, club member Woody Miller has been right all along?** Here are all the reasons you do NOT want to have bananas on your boat. ([Salt Strong](#))

**The #2 secret for living longer.** Well, fly fishing gives us longer lives, right? But what's #2? Glad you asked. Working with more than 68,000 participants, Kaluza and a team of scientists found that individuals with diets that included beer, wine, and chocolate were up to 20 percent less likely to die prematurely than those who ate a lot of red meat, sugary sodas, and processed foods. ([VinePair](#))

**They had me at butter, sugar, and maraschino cherries.** H/T Layne (Smitty) Smith. ([Taste of Home](#))

###

*Special Friends of  
Suncoast Fly Fishers*



*Affordable Flyrods*  
texfaulkner@gmail.com 727-919-2903  
**9841 Lema Court New Port Richey**



**ORVIS**  
ORVIS  
5%  
FOR NATURE  
*orvis.com/fly-fishing*



**PLANTATION**  
on Crystal River  
plantationoncrystalriver.com  
800-632-6262



**Star brite**  
www.starbrite.com



**Bill Jackson**  
Shop For Adventure  
WWW.BILLJACKSONS.COM  
727-576-4169

**To place an ad in *On The Fly* please email  
Tom Gadacz at  
thomasgadacz@yahoo.com**



*Bee haven honey farm*  
~ our toil doth sweeten others ~  
www.beehavenhoneyfarm.com

*Special Friends of  
Suncoast Fly Fishers*



[WWW.SHOP.CARBONMARINE.COM](http://WWW.SHOP.CARBONMARINE.COM)



**3625 S. Manhattan Avenue  
Tampa, Florida 33629  
727-504-4062**

GOODYEAR • TOYO • COOPER • MICHELIN



**727-822-3981**  
TODD MURRIAN [www.bobleetire.com](http://www.bobleetire.com)  
1831 • 4th STREET NORTH • ST. PETERSBURG, FL. 33704



**Hand Tied Flies**  
By Bruce Evensen  
Phone 727-403-9010  
Thousands to Choose From  
[etsy.com/shop/poppabrucesflies](http://etsy.com/shop/poppabrucesflies)



**Capt. Jerry Allen**  
6647 Central Ave. St. Petersburg, FL 33710  
727.954.8814 • [www.West-Coast-Kayaks.com](http://www.West-Coast-Kayaks.com)  
✂ Jerry @ West-Coast-Kayaks.com ✂

[WWW.WEST-COAST-KAYAKS.COM](http://WWW.WEST-COAST-KAYAKS.COM)

ANDY THORNAL COMPANY Since 1945

GATEWAY TO ADVENTURE SINCE 1945

(800) 499-9890

[WWW.ANDYTHORNAL.COM](http://WWW.ANDYTHORNAL.COM)





*Special Friends of  
Suncoast Fly Fishers*

**Fly Fishing  
Western Wyoming**  
Dayle Mazarella  
emailmazz@yahoo.com  
(760) 703-0118

WYOMING  
Guided Fishing Trips  
Casting Lessons  
Group Rates  
June - October  
SAN DIEGO  
Casting Lessons  
November - December  
TAMPA  
Casting Lessons  
January - May

Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Master Casting Instructor

Fly Fishing Western Wyoming .com  
Guided Trips - Casting Lessons

flyfishingwesternwyoming.com

**Metalfab Inc**  
ARCHITECTURAL METAL SPECIALISTS

WALTER RUDA, PRESIDENT

[METALFAB-INC.COM/CONTACT.PHP](http://METALFAB-INC.COM/CONTACT.PHP)

Custom Bamboo Fly Rods

[www.nighflyrods.com](http://www.nighflyrods.com)

CAPTAIN SHAWN McCOLE

Captain Shawn McCole  
Inshore Fly Fishing and Light Tackle  
Tarpon • Snook • Redfish  
Phone: 863•608•3758  
Email: captshawnmccole@gmail.com  
U.S.C.G. Licensed & Insured  
[www.captainshawnmccole.com](http://www.captainshawnmccole.com)

AFFORDABLE  
Temple Fork Outfitters  
RODS  
HIGH-PERFORMANCE

[www.tforods.com](http://www.tforods.com)

**FLY FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL**

*Special Friends of  
Suncoast Fly Fishers*



**St. Pete**  
FISHING OUTFITTERS  
3450 34<sup>th</sup> St. N. St. Pete



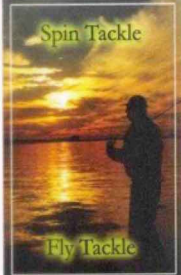
**CANOE COUNTRY FL.COM**  
"Wherever the  
WATER  
may take you!"  
727.545.4554  
Kayaks - Paddleboards - Canoes



**THOMAS BRUCE**  
*Studio*  
[www.thomasbruce.com](http://www.thomasbruce.com)



**JIM SWANN'S**  
Complete Fly Fishing Shop  
Rods - Reels - Hand Tied Flies - Guide Service  
Fly Tying Materials  
Classes in Fly Tying and Casting  
352-567-6029 13650 S. 98 By Pass  
Dade City, FL 33525



**The Fly Guy**  
Capt. Pat Damico  
2981 E. Vina del Mar Blvd.  
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706  
Tel: 727-360-6466  
Web: <http://captpat.com>  
Email: [flyguy@captpat.com](mailto:flyguy@captpat.com)

[WWW.CAPTPATDAMICO.COM](http://WWW.CAPTPATDAMICO.COM)



**CUSTOM ROD**  
BUILDING AND REPAIR  
**ALAN SEWELL**  
*Owner*  
Phone: (727) 470-4570  
Fax: (727) 344-0503  
[sewellalan@yahoo.com](mailto:sewellalan@yahoo.com)  
SALT - FRESH - FLY