

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

Bob Morrison P5,28



Guided Trip Raffle. P4



Big Gun Shootout. P7



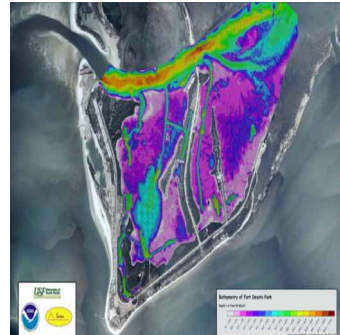
Gibson's Eglades. P13



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SFF President Letter – November 2019

Hello Everyone,

Lead, Follow, or Get out of the way. I believe in that.

In the last 6 years, you all have helped me learn a lot about Fly Fishing and even more about Fly Fishers; and in the last 4 years, a lot about Leading, Following and Getting out of the way.

After you elected me to the Presidency (which is a miracle in itself) I began to get a glimpse of the potential for greatness in our members. A greatness that I had nothing to do with. A greatness that I have enjoyed witnessing.

You motivate each other through Fellowship, Teamwork and Cooperation. A unique combination that led to all the fun, entertaining and interesting things we are doing. Of course, the meals we share have a little to do with it. After all we **are** an eating club with a fishing habit.

I learned to **LEAD** the General meetings, Board meetings and some of the Presentations at our outings more as an MC rather than an Officer in the Club. Your wit, humor and general love for fun made it easy for me to get up in front of you.

I learned to **FOLLOW** those of you who had a better idea or way of doing things. I saw it as my job, opportunity and pleasure to get behind your ideas and enthusiasm and watch you work; to put my shoulder to the wheel to provide support and whatever resources available to make it happen.

I learned to **GET OUT OF THE WAY**, stand back and watch you take on more and more responsibilities: Board positions, Committees and behind-the-scene tasks. I am amazed at how many of you step up without any need of recognition or credit for your accomplishments.

And to think, it all comes about because of a Fly Rod; that mystical Instrument that entices fish and stirs something deep within all of us. Oh, how I love this sport and the people associated with it.

Never lose your sense of adventure.

George

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

Meetings and Outings

NOVEMBER 21 MEETING, Walter Fuller Park

- **Speaker:** Captain Court Douthit of Dunedin pin-points the action all-around Tampa Bay putting you on scoring the inshore slam plus targeted species like tarpon and migrating schools of black drum.
- **Learn about *The Mayfly Project*.**
- **Raffle:** Win a free trip with Capt. Ray Markham. Your membership must be up to date. Instructions and sign up form on the next page.
- **Raffle:** Win a subscription to *Tail Fly Fishing Magazine*.
- **Got a good chili recipe?** Sign up for the chili contest at the December outing.
- **Paid your dues?** Pay SFF and FFI dues at the same time. See Treasurer Tom Gadacz.
- **Coffee, soda, tea, water, cookies, pastries**

NOVEMBER 23 OUTING, Boca Ciega Bay/War Veterans Memorial Park

Meet up for lunch at 11:30 at Glory Days Grill, 4080 Park Street.

- Fish anywhere in Boca Ciega Bay. Target fish for the outing prize is snook. Take a picture and email it to Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin@verizon.net
- War Veterans Memorial Park, next to Bay Pines VA Medical center, has a boat ramp, kayak launch areas, and many friendly and fishable wade-in spots. More info [here](#).
- Meet up for lunch at 11:30 at Glory Days Grill at the corner of Park Street N. and Tyrone Blvd.
- Also a prize will go to anybody who confesses to catching the "Junk Slam" – puffer, ladyfish and a catfish
- Somebody has suggested we call this the *End of Hurricane Season* celebration.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

DECEMBER 7 OUTING, FORT DE SOTO PARK. DON COLEMAN CLASSIC AND CHILI COOKOFF

- Fish anywhere in Tampa Bay or nearshore Gulf of Mexico.
- Meet up at Pavilion #1 at 11:30 for the chili cook-off. Pavilion #1 is at the north end of North Beach.
- Outing prize goes to the member catching the longest fish of any species. Measure it. Take a picture and email it to Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin@verizon.net

Bruce Evensen fly tying Mondays. But not in December

Note: There will not be any fly tying sessions at Bruce Evensen's home in December. Fly tying Mondays resume January 6. On January 13 Bruce and fly tyers will tie his Fly of the Month recommended for the January outing at Weedon Island Preserve.

December 20 Holiday Party.

- We'll meet in the Social Hall in Gulfport's Most Holy Name Church. (5800 15th Ave. S.) Starting time and other details will be shared at the November meeting. We had a Hog Roast here some years ago.

MARCH 28, Hog Roast and Silent Auction -- Hog Roast March 28th 2020 – Call for volunteers

- The Hog Roast Committee is looking for volunteers. Some of the areas where we could use help are: Decorations, Catering, Silent Auction, Bucket Raffle, Donations, Ticket Sales, Registration and Member Tied Flies. If you would like to be involved in this year's Hog Roast please contact Rick Warfel by text or email. 813-523-0692 / rh_warfel@yahoo.com

Rick Warfel: Members-only Guided Fly Trip Giveaway



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 will include \$50 towards the gratuity. The winning entry

can invite a fishing partner of their choice. The winner can coordinate with the guide to extend the trip at their own expense. An additional gratuity would be appropriate if you have a good experience.

There is no cost to enter but entrants must be a club member in good standing at the time of the drawing. In order to identify members that are interested in participating you must register to enter. 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 guide will be **Capt. Ray Markham**. The drawing will be held at the November 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.



This guide is good! You could win a trip with Capt. Ray Markham at the November meeting.

**SFF Members Only Guided Trip Give Away
Registration Form November 21, 2019 Drawing**

Name _____

Phone _____

Winner is entitled to ½ day guided trip for 1 or 2 anglers. 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

News and Notes

Robert Morrison has died...



Our longtime member and friend has died. Bob, who had been in a nursing facility for some months, died October 28. He developed a pleural effusion which is fluid in the lining between the lungs. The club extends its sincerest condolences to his nieces Mary and Nina and other members of his family. For some years he wrote the *How to and Fishy Factoids* column monthly for our newsletter. Services were held at St. Matthew's Church in Largo on Nov. 18. Bob, a U.S. Army veteran, was interred at Bay Pines National Cemetery. Suncoast Fly Fishers has donated \$100 in his memory to Suncoast Hospice Foundation, 5771 Roosevelt Blvd., Clearwater, FL 33760. Other member donations are welcomed. More information and photos are on page 28.

To Suncoast Hospice

On behalf of the members of Suncoast Fly Fishers, the Officers and Board of Directors of Suncoast Fly Fishers have approved \$100 as a donation to the memory of Robert Morrison, a member of Suncoast Fly Fishers.

Bob contributed much to Fly fishing and the Suncoast Fly Fishers. He was a very active member, wrote articles for our newsletter, participated in meetings and outings, and designed several unique flies including his famous Donald Trump fly. We will miss Bob and his many stories of his fly fishing adventures. May he rest in peace.

Sincerely, Tom Gadacz, Treasurer, Suncoast Fly Fishers

Fly casting and fly fishing clinic, Saturday, Dec. 14

Woodlawn Sports Center, Field #2, 1450 16th Street N., St. Pete

Learn the casts you need in real fishing conditions.

Everybody is welcome.

- Free lessons. Well, it's free to Suncoast Fly Fishers and others who are already members of Fly Fishers International. Or, you can join FFI on site for a year (\$35, \$15 Juniors, \$25 Seniors).
- Free breakfast, free lunch, courtesy of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club
- INSTRUCTORS: Master Casting Instructors Dayle Mazzarella and Capt. Pat Damico will lead a team of the best instructors including Tom Gadacz, Steve Smith, Leigh West, and Chris O'Byrne. (Plus, one of our instructors will steer a battery powered "redfish" skateboard around the field. That'll keep everybody on their toes.)
- Pat Damico said, "We will be using a different format! We'll keep working on fundamental skills but will make the drills much more like real fishing conditions. It will be fun to use varying degrees of acceleration and momentum, the keys to casting well and with ease even into the wind. This will help you learn to make curve casts, to cast into the wind and to create slack with control as in pile and dump casts. Beginners, advanced and everybody in between will learn a lot and have fun, too."
- Contact Pat Damico for further information (727) 504-8649.

News and Notes

Update: Board Decisions

Elections are coming for President, Vice President, and four members of the board of directors. A nominating committee will be formed in January.

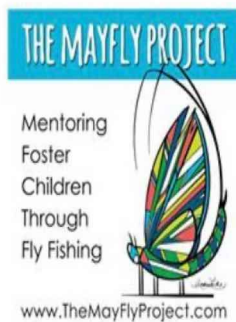
The Board has established the Suncoast Fly Fishers Scholarship for advanced fisheries research at the University of South Florida. See Conservation Committee Chairman Cliff Nigh's report on page 9.

Cliff Nigh also has presented the board with information about the **Mayfly Project** to take youths fishing on five outings over a three-month period. See the letter below from Scott Russell, lead mentor for The Mayfly Project.

Our club **website** is being redesigned. Club member Dennis Marquis is working with designer Craig Smothers of Sarasota. It's a big deal.

We are still in need of a Hog Roast Committee Chairperson. Rick and Karen Warfel have volunteered to oversee the delegation of tasks for the 2020 Hog Roast. Thank you Karen and Rick.

Suncoast Fly Fishers has signed on to a **letter** asking Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and legislators to pass legislation in 2020 to fully fund the Florida Forever land conservation program and more. This is an initiative by the **Florida Conservation Coalition**. The Florida Council of Fly Fishers International has also signed the letter.



Are you looking for an additional reason to spend time talking about fly fishing? How about helping youth in the foster care system? Well, here's your chance to do both! The Mayfly Project is launching their first project in the state of Florida next year in St. Petersburg.

The Mayfly Project is a non-profit organization that uses fly fishing as a catalyst to mentor youth in foster care. The five outing program is designed to meet foster care youth where they are at, introduce them to the great outdoors through fly fishing, and provide some fun during a most chaotic time in their lives. From learning to tie a fly on their line to landing their first fish in the net, fly fishing offers several opportunities for youth to build character and self-esteem.

I'll be providing a brief overview of the project at the November 21st club meeting. For more information about The Mayfly Project and/or about becoming one of the eight mentors for the 2020 project, please contact me at 727-403-8165 or at russelli@me.com.

Scott Russell
Local TMP Lead Mentor

Save these Dates

December 20.
Holiday Party, 6:30-8:00. Social Hall of Most Holy Name Catholic Church, 5800 15h Ave. S., Gulfport

Tie-Fly Mondays (But not in December)
Tie Flies Every Monday, 6-8 pm, Bruce Evensen's Studio, 531 80th Ave. N., St. Petersburg. All are welcome, including beginners who don't have equipment. On the second Monday of each month members will tie the fly that Bruce has selected as the fly of the month for that month's outing.

Check the **club calendar** for updates

News and Notes

Suncoast Fly Fishers Compete at the Big Gun Shootout

Led by member Quin Berry, 13 Suncoast Fly Fishers Competed Sunday, Nov. 17, in the annual Big Gun Shootout competition at Picnic Island Park in Tampa. And your club casters did well, helped hugely by twice-a-month practices at Walter Fuller Park before the big event.

We'll have results in the December newsletter. Meanwhile, here are some pictures of your club's fly casters.



Dennis Marquis lets loose with a tight loop to the target.



Bob Burkard launches a cast to earn distance points for his team – Burkard, Marquis, AuCoin -- known as Team Hold My Beer.



Rick Warfel practices putting a tight loop through a hoop, one of the toughest fly casting challenges featured at the Big Gun Shootout.

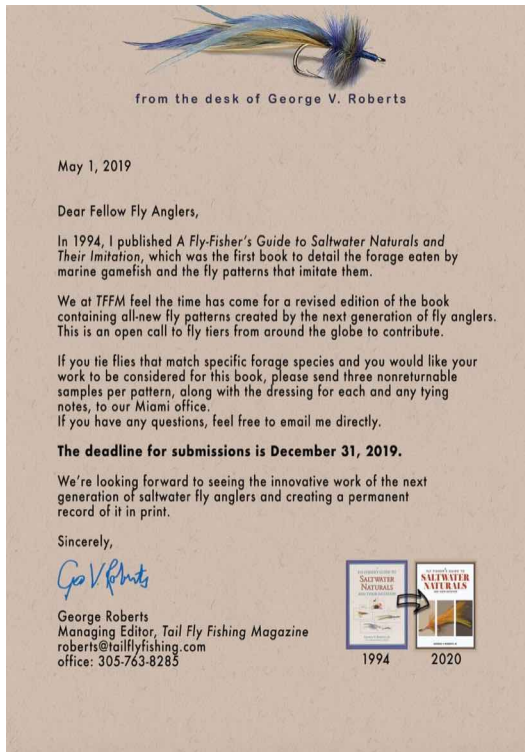
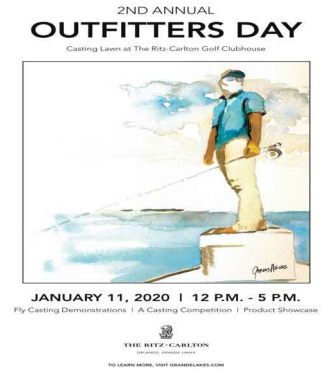


Tim Elms feels it. Yeah, it was a chilly day. The bagel and cream cheese may have helped the cause.

News and Notes

Ritz Carlton Outfitters Day, January 11

The Ritz-Carlton Outfitters' Day in Orlando is Saturday, January 11th from Noon to 5pm. It's free. This year also features the *Ritz-Carlton Top Gun Long Distance Fly Casting Competition* to determine the best long distance fly caster in Florida. The Ritz Carlton address is 4048 Central Florida Parkway. To help promote the event renowned artist and adventurer Gordie Hinds has created a great poster with a capture-the-feeling image.



Did you create a natural forage fly? Put it in this book.

George Roberts is managing editor of *Tail Fly Fishing Magazine*. In 1994 he published *A Fly-Fishers Guide to Saltwater Naturals*. Now he's revising it and would like fly tyers from around the world to submit their forage-imitation patterns for consideration.

The deadline for submission is December 31. You'll be posting three samples of each pattern.

Email Roberts for the postal address and to answer other questions. Roberts@tailflyfishing.com

Habitat? Well, yeah!

Bonefish & Tarpon Trust (BTT) is working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to make fishing better for sport fishers. The proposed fisheries management plan adds habitat to the tools FWC can use to keep fish populations healthy. Believe it or not, to manage fish populations FWC is limited to using only seasonal shutdowns, slot sizes, and bag limits. But if we want FWC to be able to use habitat, B&TT needs us to step up and help the cause and there are a few ways that we can help including signing a petition. Go [here](#).



Suncoast Fly Fishers Starts Fisheries Scholarship



Cliff Nigh

By Cliff Nigh, Chairman, Conservation Committee

Suncoast Fly Fishers members have something new to be proud about: The club has just established the *Suncoast Fly Fishers Scholarship*.

In partnership with the University of South Florida, and with an eye toward our commitment to conservation, the Board of Directors recently approved a modest scholarship fund for graduate student research projects in the College of Marine Sciences.

While the \$500 allocated by the club's Board of Directors to establish this fund may seem modest, the university has assured us that it is a significant amount to a graduate student attempting to fund their own research. It is the Board's hope that supporting such research will help ensure the continued health and future growth of the fisheries that provide each of us with so much enjoyment.

As outlined in the club's stated criteria for award, the research project must focus on conservation, restoration and/or reclamation of Tampa Bay or Florida's West Coast fisheries. The award will be made by the university based on SFF's stated criteria and the student's academic standing. Again, this award is available only to students enrolled in the College of Marine Sciences at USF.

The initial award will be made in the spring of 2020 and the student selected will provide a pre and post project presentation at a general membership meeting in the late spring or early summer.

The university was also made aware of, and provided information on, FFI's scholarship availability and application process. A student applying for the both SFF and FFI scholarships could realize a potential funding total of \$2500.

Tom Gadacz and I were afforded a tour of small segment of USF's Marine Research efforts and it's quite impressive to learn about what they are doing and hoping to do in the future. Their research on Red Tide and Red Tide predictions is far more extensive and encompassing than we could have imagined.

Our club has also been offered the opportunity to arrange for a group tour of one of their research vessels when they are in port. This is an offer extended to any member interested and we'll be sharing information on that in the future.

It should go without saying that each member should be proud of the role they have and will play in helping to ensure that our fishery thrives for the enjoyment of future fly fishers.

Cliff

SFF New Shirts Available

New member Tim Elms' brother, Jeremy Elms, is an avid fly fisherman, a guide for carp and trout on the fly, and a maker of custom fishing shirts and accessories. His company www.draganddropfishing.com put together a new design for SFF. The snook on a fly design is by well-known Florida tattoo artist/angler Shane Woodward.

There are 3 new types of shirts available. Each can be in white, mint green, and grey.

- 1- A hooded SPF 50 Moisture wicking
\$45.00 ea or if we get interest of 20 or more \$40.00 ea
- 2- A non-hooded SPF 50 Moisture wicking
\$25.00 ea or if we get interest of 20 or more \$22.00 ea
- 3- Cotton T-shirt (Colors will be determined)
\$18.00 ea or if we get interest of 20 or more \$16.00 ea

The process is heat transfer printing, so the quality is excellent. All are machine wash and dryable.

If interested or need more info see Tim Elms at the meeting or you can email him at trelms@yahoo.com



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: Tom Gadacz

New Members: Rick Warfel

Webmaster: Dennis Marquis, Bob Burkard

Facebook: Woody Miller

Hog Roast: Open

Outings: Bob Burkard, Hilton Bruch, David Redd, Bill AuCoin

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

Publicity: Bill AuCoin

On The Fly

Bill AuCoin, editor
Duane Mertz, Anne Hays, Bob Hood, Tim Elms

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg



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 (c) 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 and Facebook pages, too
SuncoastFlyFishers.com

[Facebook/Suncoast Fly Fishers](#)

Club and FFI Membership combined

Suncoast Fly Fishers currently has 135 members including 16 family members and 6 honorary members. Annual dues are payable in September. This also includes benefits and annual membership in [Fly Fishers International](#) and the [Florida Council](#) of Fly Fishers International

[Join. Renew. Apply.](#)

Steve “Gibby” Gibson: Exotics of South Florida



Tim Elms

By Tim Elms

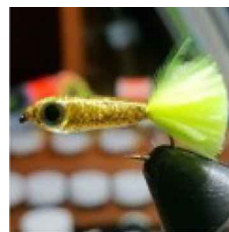
Since Duane Mertz was out with the flu I have the pleasure to bring you this recap of Steve Gibson’s October meeting tutorial on fly fishing for exotics and non-native fish in the ponds, creeks, and canals of South Florida.



Peacocks anyone? Gibson with an eglades sweet pea.

Steve is well known and revered in the fly world for his kayak guiding and fly creations. He has been in the Sarasota area for more than 40 years and has definitely put the time in. He is an avid angler and has many tournament trophies under his belt, including the Sarasota CCA All-Release Tarpon Tournament, the Orvis Dealers Fly Fishing School Tournament, the Sarasota CCA All-Release Snook and Trout Division and many more.

Before his talk Gibby tied his tried and true **Myakka Minnow**. This small, durable, and easy-to-tie fly has caught Steve 1,000s of exotics, Mayan Cichlids, Peacock Bass, Jaguar Guapote, and many more. Steve’s flies are always simple and easy to tie. He doesn’t like to tie any fly that takes more than 5 steps. And if it does take that long, he said, the fish had better just jump into the boat.



*Myakka Minnow.
Exotics Catch All*

When fishing in South Florida for exotics, Steve likes to go in the winter dry months as the daily thunderstorms, heat, bugs, and high water of the summer wetter season is not conducive to this type of fishing for him.

Locations



Steve with a beast of a Mayan Cichlid

Gibby took us on a mental fly fishing trip south with stops to fish the Myakka River at Snook Haven and exotics water along Alligator Alley (175) and the Old Tamiami Trail, which is US Highway 41. The Tamiami Trail crosses Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park and goes all the way to Miami. Google Earth is your friend. Scout out spots off the side of the road that look fishable.

1. Drive highway 41, Old Tamiami Trail, and turn right on the Loop Road off 41 just east of the town of Ochopee. There you can fly fish from culvert to culvert. Stop the car, pop your head over the side and look for fish. If they aren’t there, drive to the next one.
2. Many of the ponds on the trail are very good spots for peacock bass and all their exotic friends that are dying to be plucked out of the water.

Continued on next page

Continued... Steve Gibson's Exotics of South Florida

Tactics

Cast----Keep it simple stupid. Accuracy is more valuable than an 80ft casting machine.

Retrieve----Steve likes a slow steady retrieve most, but also fishes the Myakka Minnow at a dead drop, watching his end of his fly line as an indicator.

Catch----Oscars and Bowfin are notorious for taking whatever is in front of them, but if you are targeting Peacocks, sometimes you can't set fast enough as they will spit your fly in the blink of an eye.

Release or eat (Gibby is a release guy).



Oscar the grouch

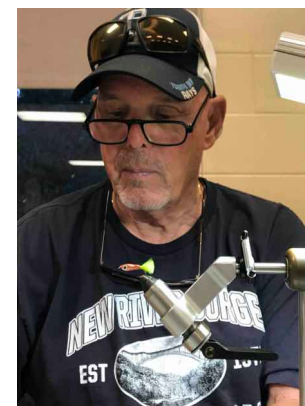
Fly's and Rigs

1. Myakka Minnow of course. Size appropriate for the targeted fish. Gold, copper, brown, black, and silver all work.
2. Poppers and Gurglers in white. Steve's advice is to pop it once and turn around to talk to your friend before you pop it again and he GAURANTEED a strike :)
3. Clousers are always popular for Peacocks with varied retrieves.
4. Nymphs. Yes, Gibby nymphs with an indicator for catching Tarpon. -no joke
5. Weed guard? More like fish deflector says this veteran.
6. 2 wt to 6 wt rods with floating line and 8lb leader.
7. Fluorocarbon for sinking and monofilament for surface flies.

Gibson continued with the joys of fishing for these ferocious little pan fish. The fight with many of these non-native fish is pound for pound some of the hardest in the state. But most importantly, it's a blast. His passion for the sport is very contagious. I don't know about you... but Gibby really hit the nail on the head with this one!

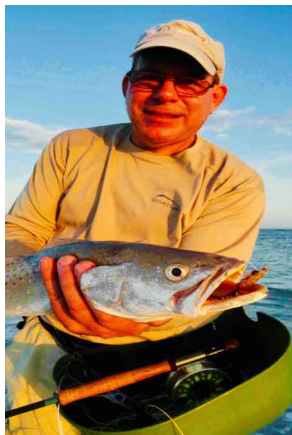
When you get a chance check out ALL of Gibby's [YouTube videos](#)/

And go to his website, too: [:kayakfishingsarasota.com](http://kayakfishingsarasota.com))

A promotional graphic for Southern Drawl Kayak Fishing. It features a green header with the text "Southern Drawl Kayak Fishing" and a tagline "We take you fishing, not for a boat ride!". Below this, it lists "FLY • SPIN" and various fish species: Redfish • Snook • Trout • Tarpon, Tilapia • Oscar • Bass • Bluegill. The name "Steve Gibson" and phone number "941.284.3406" are prominently displayed, along with the website "www.kayakfishingsarasota.com". The background shows a silhouette of a person in a kayak on a sunset.

Gibby ties his Myakka Minnow

Bob Burkard: November Outing. Boca Ciega Bay

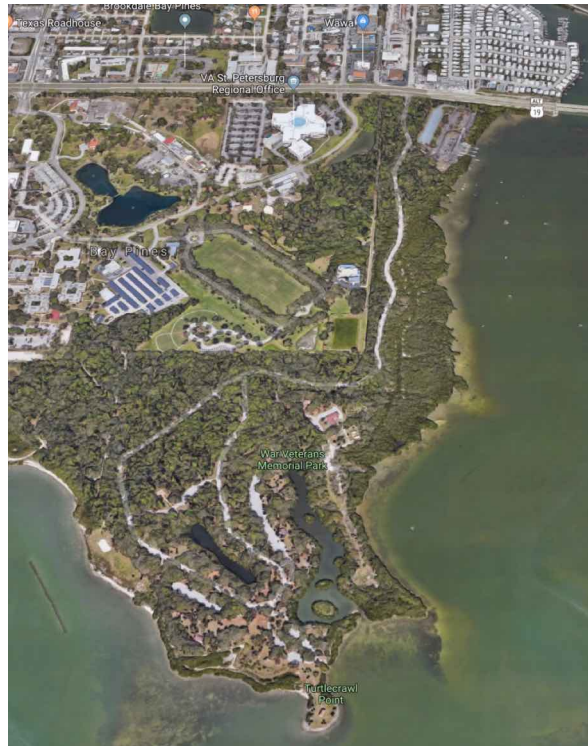


Outings Chairman Bob Burkard

Boca Ciega Bay hasn't been getting the fishy attention it deserves in recent years so this is the site of our November 23 outing. The outing prize will go to the member who catches the longest snook but you must catch it in Boca Ciega Bay. Tournament outing prizes are up for grabs, too. Redfish, seatrout, redfish, ladyfish. Take a picture and email it to Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin@verizon.net

War Veterans Memorial Park next door to Bay Pines VA Hospital is a great place to launch your boat or kayak or to just wade in and fly-fish. Turn south from Tyrone Blvd. (Alt. 19) and the boat launch is to your left (\$6 launch fee). You can slide your yak in there and there's also an official kayak launch area at the very south end of the park. Look for the kayak launch sign near Turtle Crawl Point.

NOVEMBER 23 OUTING, Boca Ciega Bay/War Veterans Memorial Park Lunch at Glory Days Grill 4080 Park Street N., St. Pete



War Veterans Memorial Park is next to Bay Pines VA Hospital. It has a boat launch near the entrance. There are many places to wade in and fish. Turtle Crawl Point at the south end has a kayak launching area. (Google Maps)

2019 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS THROUGH OCTOBER			
Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing (Month)
Longest sunfish			
Longest black bass	13.5"	David Redd	Walsingham Lake (February)
Longest snook	23.5"	Truk Trukenbrod	Dock-light/Beaches Outing (July)
Longest redfish			
Longest ladyfish	22 1/2"	Dennis Marquis	Weedon Island Preserve (Jan)
Longest seatrout	20"	Mark Hays	Dock-light/Beaches Outing (July)

Tom Gadacz: Who was Don Coleman?



Tom Gadacz

*Don passed away on April 5, 2006 and the Suncoast Fly Fishers Board agreed to name the December outing at Fort De Soto Park the "Don Coleman Classic."
(This article by Tom first appeared in the January 2012 issue of On The Fly)*

We honor C. W. "Don" Coleman at our outing at Fort De Soto Park. Most members today did not have the opportunity to meet and know Don Coleman. One of our deceased members, Paul Sequira, had those opportunities and wrote about it. Check out the **April, 2006 issue** of *On the Fly*.

Don was born in April of 1922 and spent most of his life in New York, mainly in Binghamton. When he was about eight years old, he began fishing with his father. They belonged to a fishing and hunting club and competed in various events.

Don had a good teacher, his father, who was a stonemason and bricklayer. Upon retirement, Don and his wife Beverly closed up their house in Binghamton to spend the winter months here in Florida.

SFF's Don Coleman Classic is December 7 at Fort DeSoto Park. Lunch at Pavilion #1



Don Coleman (right) doing what he loved best — teaching fly tying to a youngster. This picture was taken at Carl Hansen's house sometime in the mid-90s by Layne Smith

Don retired around 1987 and spent a couple of winters on the east coast of Florida, but then settled on the West Coast of Florida. He he was more familiar with Florida's Gulf Coast, having spent vacations as a youngster. He and Bev rented apartments for a while but then settled on a convenient trailer park where they purchased a comfortable trailer.

Don and Paul Sequira met (in 1992) at Carl Hanson's house and a great friendship began. Both had a common interest in fly fishing and had fished some of the same streams in New York's Catskill Mountains. They spent many a fishing day together, mainly wading along the coast from Honeymoon Island to Emerson Point. Fort De Soto Park and the Sunshine

Skyway shorelines were two favorite spots.

Don was a fly fishing enthusiast and teacher. He read about new techniques and tested them. He tried new fly tying materials and simplified tying techniques and would share them with others. One of his rules included that a fly had to take less than ten minutes to tie. He also read about new casting techniques and he and Paul would put them to the test in the field. Most were rejected but the good ones were passed along. Don was an amiable person and loved to meet and discuss fly fishing with anyone. He shared his experience and talent with anyone who was interested and many benefited from sitting at Don's table at Carl Hanson's house and at John Homer's shop. His go to favorite flies included the Clouser Deep Minnow, Carl's Bend Back, Lefty's Deceiver, Seaducer, and Tabory's Snake Fly.

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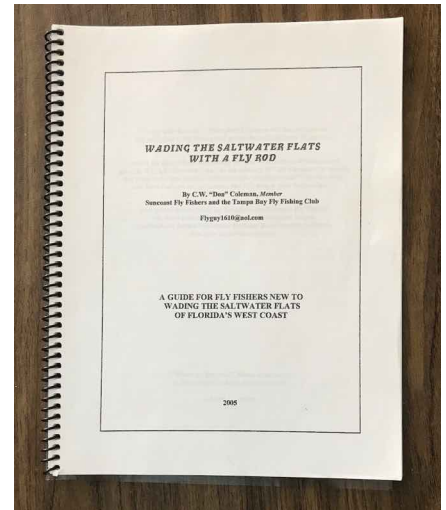
P2...Tom Gadacz: Who was Don Coleman?

Don compiled his fishing experience in the booklet entitled *Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod*. Don dedicated the publication to his wife Beverly "And to my good friend and fishing partner Paul Sequira who keeps me going in the right direction...And to the memory of Carl Hanson who went to fish from that other shore in 1988 and who taught me that *The only thing you have that you can give away and still keep is your knowledge.*"

This is great advice and part of the SFF Aims and Purpose. He also gave special thanks to all his friends in the Suncoast Fly Fishers. Don passed away on April 5, 2006 and the Suncoast Fly Fishers Board agreed to name the December outing at Fort De Soto Park the "Don Coleman Classic." We celebrate the 14th annual Don Coleman Classic on Saturday, December 7, 2019.

Every member receives a copy of Don's book. If you have not read the book, please do so. It has valuable information about fly fishing and life as a fly fisher. It is the go to source for anyone who fly fishes this area. Would you like to know what rod, reel, line and tippet to use? He gives you the scoop on wading the flats and how to catch fish. Don't wait for a windy or bad weather day to read it. Take a break from winter fly tying. For those of us who did not know Don, read his book and your life will also be richer. For those of you who knew Don, I envy you.

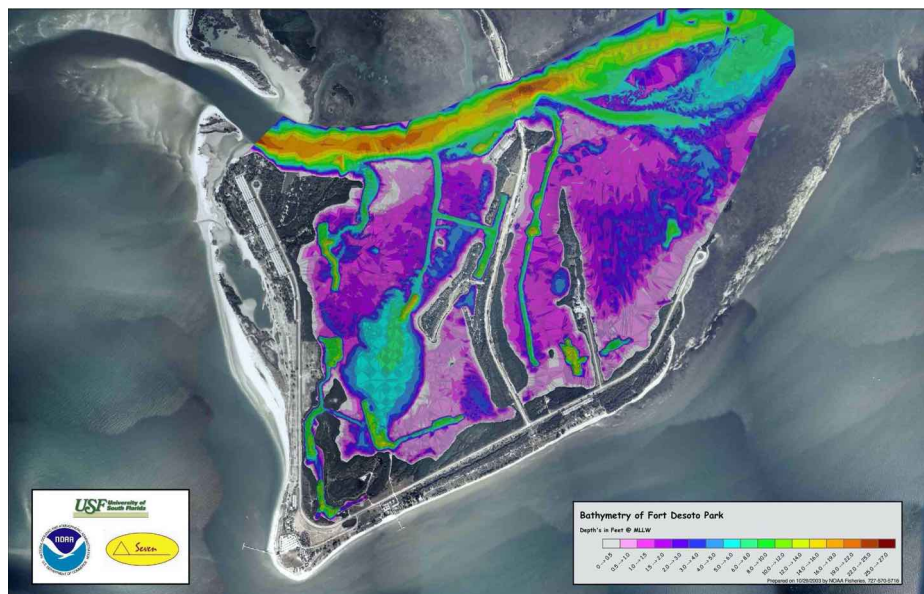
Tom



Cover of Don Coleman's booklet, which every member receives. It gives us the scoop on wading the flats and how to catch fish on the fly.

December 7 Don Coleman Outing: Fort DeSoto Park

Fort De Soto Park is always voted as the favorite outing location by Suncoast Fly Fishers. You can park and fly-fish the beach, the bay, or the mangrove backcountry flats. There's a boat ramp, too, one of the largest in the country. And the fishing is great. In the NOAA bathymetry image on the right depths are depicted in various colors. Enlarge the page to see more image details.



Smitty's Fly Box : MirrOlure Fly



Layne (Smitty)
Smith

Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu SP 11-3L3H size #1- 2/0

Thread: Danville 210 denier flat waxed nylon

Eyes: Silver ¼" 3D stick-on

Tail: White Polar Fibre

Body: A ⅜" wide horizontal strip

of White Polar Fibre cut from Polar Fibre patch

Flash: 4-5 strands of Pearl Flashabou (cut in a taper). See Note*

Skin: Softex

Glue: Fletchtite or UV Resin

Marker: Red Sanford Magic Marker

Tying Sequence

Step 1: Secure the thread to the hook shank and wrap back to form a base of thread covering the hook shank to just above the barb of the hook.

Step 2: Tie in a clump of Polar Fibre on top of the hook shank over the hook barb and secure with several wraps of thread.

Step 3: Tie in Polar Fibre body strip securely then wrap thread to ¼" from hook eye. Secure with two half hitches then proceed to wrap strip forward up the hook shank (stretching the material as you go). Stop wraps about ¼" from hook eye and secure with a few wraps of thread. **DO NOT CUT MATERIAL**

Step 4: Tie in strip of Flashabou material spacing strands evenly around fly body.

Step 5: Continue Polar Fibre wraps forward to hook eye. Tie off with a few thread wraps, trim off excess Polar Fibre and secure with a half dozen whip finishes.

Step 6: Use brush or comb to fluff out any fibers that were trapped in the forward wraps. The body should be full and fuzzy. Gently comb back the body fibers until they are smooth. The body should have a full round shape that tapers toward the tail.

Step 7: With a small spatula, coat head of fly with Softex using soft even strokes. Do not try to press Softex down into fibers. You are just trying to form a "skin" over the fibers just back to the hook bend.

Step 8: Using marker, color in head of fly ½ to ¾ inches long.

Step 9: Place a large dollop of Fletchtite on the back of a 3D eye and gently press the eye into the fly. The eye should nest in the Softex to ensure a good glue bond. The fly will dry to the touch in an hour or two, but it is important to let it dry for 36 hours before soaking it.

*** NOTE:** You can purchase Flashabou in 4" lengths that are attached in a band like cross-cut fur.



Look Familiar?



Dayle Mazzarella: Fly Fishing Remote Tierra Del Fuego



I recently spent 7 days exploring seldom, if ever, fished waters of western Tierra Del Fuego. My Chilean friend Cesar and I traveled almost 1,000 miles over mostly nasty dirt roads, had 3 flat tires, slept in the rain and snow with temperatures in the 20s, and 30s and hiked a total of nearly 60 miles.

We fished 15 different pieces of water including lakes, streams, rivers and what the Chileans call lagoons, which are really small lakes. We never saw another angler and most days saw fewer than 4 or 5 cars.

We caught fish in every place we fished, mostly brown trout a few rainbows all in the 18- to 24-inch range.

We are thinking about putting a guided trip together in a few years but need to iron out the accommodations and narrow down the details. (I think we'd do it in January when the temperatures are more reasonable!)

This is what fly fishing must have been like in Montana 100 years ago! Stunning scenery, nice people, and lots of hungry fish!

We'll see everyone at the casting clinic in December.

Dayle



Cesar, my Chilean friend



Anne Hays: Couples Who Canoe Together Stay Together



Anne Hays

Earlier this year, my parents celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

While there are many reasons they have stayed together this long, one of the main ones is that they both fish. My mom had almost no experience with the sport since she grew up in Pittsburgh, and in the 1970's the marine life in that stretch of the Allegheny River glowed in the dark.

On their second date, they bought a Navy-blue Old Town canoe. During the canoe's maiden voyage, my parents noticed a life preserver floating past them through Tampa Bay. Dad remarked that it looked like the one from his garage. Then they found a bait bucket just like Grandpa's. Then they found even more familiar debris. My grandfather and uncle were half a mile away stranded on a sand bar yelling for help. It's amazing anyone survived without cell phones back then.

My parents' canoe still sits on the side of my house. It leaks now, and it's significantly heavier from previous attempts to patch the leak with fiber glass, but it still floats. Robert Mitchell and I tested the canoe out on the September outing, and we were ready for the Carl Hanson tournament.



Bass on the fly. Mark Hays and a Hillsborough River bass he caught during the Carl Hanson memorial outing with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. It was a prize winner -- the longest bass of the day for both clubs.



The best part of fly fishing on a river is that every fish is exciting. The little leg snatchers fight as hard as their older brothers

I've been fortunate that Robert came into our relationship with fishing and canoeing experience. He and his father used to paddle out to Weedon Island in the middle of the night with a bait bucket and a lantern to wade the flats. For some reason I have yet to understand, they never fished while seated in the canoe. He had also never fly fished before we met.

On the morning of the Carl Hanson outing tournament on the Hillsborough River the canoe nearly blew off Robert's SUV on the Howard Frankland Bridge. While Dad and Robert adjusted the straps. I noticed a red shouldered hawk on the light pole off the interstate. I took that as a sign that someone was watching out for us as the strap hadn't come loose until the very end of the bridge.

Continued on next page

P2/Anne Hays: Couples Who Canoe Together Stay Together

Fishing in a two-person canoe requires a lot of trust. The paddler must trust that the fisher is competent enough with a fly rod to not snag him or her in the eye socket. The fisher has to trust that the paddler will not spook the fish or allow the boat to drift too fast at an awkward angle. Because Robert is not used to either fly fishing left-handed or fishing from a boat, a lot of our early morning was spent explaining how close I needed to be in relation to the shoreline. It did not help my self confidence that Dad and Mandy were in Dad's Gheenoe just ahead of us.

As fly fisher, I learned two lessons that morning. The first was that leaders matter. After not catching anything for what felt like ten hours, Dad inspected my line and asked why I had not changed my leader from the last outing as the line was rigged for salt water.

After another half an hour of futility with my new leader, it occurred to me that the floppy legged spider I was using looked



This white spider with stiff yellow legs earned second place for Anne Hays in the Carl Hanson Outing. "It's still very respectable to come in second behind Robert Fischer in the most fish caught contest.."



Anne's dad Mark surrendered the trophy for the most bream caught on the fly to Robert Fischer who belongs to both fly clubs, Suncoast Fly Fishers and the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Robert caught 21 bluegills.

exactly like the circles of duckweed wafting downstream. Normally, bream want a small, unmoving, unthreatening spider, but they couldn't distinguish it.

Finally, I threw out a white, stiff yellow legged spider and the fish woke up. I caught fourteen fish including a two-pound bass. Although I would have loved to have brought home the trophy to the Hays house, it's still very respectable to come in second behind Robert Fischer for most fish and my Dad for biggest fish. More importantly, Robert did not eject me from the boat despite multiple hours of me critiquing his positioning of the canoe and being frustrated at myself for not adequately preparing the night before.

###

Tim Elms: New Member - New Water



Mayan Madness

Howdy! Well, my saltwater game went down the tubes this month. I bought a new rod and am really starting all over again with the way it loads.

But I took Steve Gibson's advice this month and really went after some Cichlids. Alan Sewell and Mark Hays spoke to me at the last meeting and I challenged myself to catch a bunch more of these monsters.

I know quite a few honey holes for cichlids as far up north as Clearwater and I took some tips from the last meeting to heart. Slow down my retrieve, let it sit.....or drag and drop right in front of their face in a sight fishing situation..

If you haven't caught a Cichlid on a fly rod you are missing out. These little beasts will pull some drag. Dart into the weeds. And flop around until you get a tight hold on them. (Makes taking a picture of your self with one very difficult)

I found the secret that works for me is a warm afternoon and clear water for some exciting sight fishing. Cichlids in the area seem to be very rugged and not scared. When you walk up to the water first thing and make a cast, these Mayan monsters are the last fish to spook out of the hole in front of you. You can tell what they are by the vivid red color in the belly and usually the top of them looks greenish in color, as opposed to a Tilapia being greyish and a Bluegill being darker or even have a white tinge on their fins.



8wt bender!



Feisty Buggers

It seems I catch the most on tiny bonefish flies, nymphs, and olive colored bugs (I'm not sure of the name of it). They aren't leader shy, so if you see one and you have a large tippet on, don't be afraid to just swap out your fly. Even and 8wt will bend well on a decent Cichlid.

Did u know that the Florida state record for the Mayan Cichlid is only 2.37lbs! I know some of you here have caught some of these in the Everglades that rival that number. Next time you get a big red belly weigh it and enter it! It would be awesome to see an SFF member have the state record. I know I will be trying to beat that record. Especially on a fly.

Until next month, Strip.....Strip.....Strip!

--Tim

Eglade Exotics Lure Clewiston Crew

October speaker Steve Gibson turned on the light bulbs over the heads of members. A couple of weeks after Steve's October meeting tutorial on fly fishing for exotics, seven Suncoast Fly Fishers fueled up and drove down to Clewiston and fished the eglade canals.



Who dat? Bill Scarola, Mike Bandera (new member), Bruce Evensen, Tony Piazza, Ray Smith, Truk Trukenbrod. Not shown --David Redd and Dennis Marquis. Attaboys all around.



Tony Piazza with an eglades oscar



Bill Scarola and one of many oscars.



Mike Bandera with a 32-inch bowfin.



Truk Trukenbrod and an Oscar. He calls them "bream on steroids.". Truk's go to flies were a green mop fly and a small squirrel-tail Clouser.



Dennis Marquis: First Time Fishing the Eglades

After being a member of SFF for four years now and listening to all of the stories, I finally found the time to “fish the Everglades”. A group went down for a fall trip and I decided to tag along.

I’m not much of a kayak fisher. Truth is, I prefer fishing from my powerboat or getting into the water to wade. As a result, I have not invested money or energy into a serious fishing kayak. My sit on top paddle kayaks have a rod holder and one of those fold up back supports, that’s about it. Even so, I decided to use the two I own so that my nephew Matt and I could give it a try.

We arrived at Billy’s Bass Hole boat ramp on Monday November 4th around 10:30 a.m to meet the SFF crew and start fishing. You don’t need to arrive early – as I learned the fish seem eager to eat at any time. Those making the trip quickly set out on the water and disappeared down the canals in a combination of powered boats, canoes and kayaks. Matt and I were the last on the water. My nephew was more interested in watching a nearby gator than getting in the kayak to fish. I put up with his interest for a bit until I got antsy and told him it was time to go. Matt is a 28-year-old newly minted veterinarian, who has always enjoyed the outdoors and wildlife. For him, watching is as good as catching.

Into the kayaks we got and a paddling down the main canal we went. The first finger canal was occupied by a



Dennis Marquis: The fish fought with every ounce of muscle they had and treated my 6wt and me to a special time.

couple of the club members, so we started to paddle toward the next finger canal. Being anxious to start fishing, we opted to anchor in the main canal and get busy at a spot that looked like it would hold fish (lily pads, flooded grass and overhanging branches). I tied on a black and chartreuse “low sinking spider” and the fun began! We stayed in that first spot, in eye shot of the boat ramp, for about an hour catching our fill of brim, oscars and ayan cichlids. My nephew also found our first bass. I found that if I anchored in the near middle of the canal pointing the kayak to one bank or the other, I could comfortably and easily cast to spots along the bank to my left, straight ahead and then to the right, thereby hitting several areas each time we moved up the canal.

The fish fought with every ounce of muscle they had and treated my 6wt and I to a special time. I was giggling with every hookup. They leaped out of the water, pulled me in my kayak and dove under the boat. The fish put on quite a performance. My nephew was laughing at my giggling. The first day was good enough for us. We probably landed 30+ fish each from about 11am to 3pm. Not the 100+ I often hear of, but we were happy.

Day 2 was a bit different. We started fishing about the same time and worked hard till noon for a dozen fish between us. It wasn’t looking good. We pressed on and paddled farther. By early afternoon, we reached the third finger canal. We fished the lead into the canal for about an hour with not much success, picking up a fish here and there.

Continued on next page

P2/Dennis Marquis: I'm thumbs-up for the Eglades

On Day Two we continued to press on deeper toward the back end. As we approached it, we saw a large grouping of extra-large lily pads with a lot of space between each. It looked fishy with the exception of one not so small issue; there was a gator in the middle of the canal blocking our access to it. We pressed on very slowly, paddling toward its tail. My nephew insisted it would move on away from us. It did. We set up, Matt on the south side of the pads and me on the north. We both tied on brown marabou Myaka Minnows and started to cast. Have you ever had one of those times where you look at a spot and say, "There's a fish in that hole, or under that branch or in that grass"? Well, I did it seven times in a row. Every fishy looking "place" held a well-fed, eager eating, feisty oscar waiting to clobber my minnow after the first or second strip. My nephew on the south side was having the same experience. The giggling started all over again and did not stop for some time. We found a few bass and one gar in the mix. Unfortunately, the rain clouds came along and true to Florida form, we quickly were soaked through to the skin. We kept fishing however, as the bite did not stop. In the process, my nephew hooked a nice size bass, which I suspect he did not play particularly well, because the end section of his fly rod snapped while landing the fish.

With our bellies full of fun, wet through to the skin and a broken rod we decided to head back to the boat launch. On the paddle back we were treated to a special spectacle: the rain seemed to bring the gators up to the surface, we counted over a dozen just floating in place enjoying the fall showers.

Summary: Even though I used a kayak that was not optimal for fishing, I really enjoyed the experience and would eagerly go back again. While I was told the fishing was poor this trip, it seemed adequate and we were satisfied. Still, this trip doesn't stop me from dreaming of one of those 100+ fish days.

A special thanks to all of the members who gave me advice before the trip. It was appreciated. If you go for the first time, as I did, I would seek the advice of the veteran glades fishers. Most of what I am writing here, I got from them. A 6 wt seemed perfect. I ran a 10lb-tapered leader. I brought a small landing net, so that I could keep my hands out of the water, and I used it many times. I kept my tackle to a minimum, using one small collapsible tackle bag with two small trays of flies, a roll of 10lb leader material and my cell phone. Of course I had my nippers and hemostats easily accessible on a zinger. While my tackle bag is water resistant, it is not waterproof, in hindsight I might look for one that is. I tend to collect water in the bottom of my kayak and the bag and its contents got damp, especially when it rained. I brought several small microfiber towels, which came in handy to wipe my hands - the fish are somewhat slippery. Sunscreen, a very wide brimmed hat, long sleeves and long easy drying pants, plus plenty of water, lunch and snacks are all in order. I do have room for and did bring a cooler stowed behind the backrest of my kayak sit. The anchor I brought came in handy as we did experience wind and currents that moved the kayak away from fishy locations. The anchor kept us in place. The water I fished was anywhere from 4'-15' deep. It should go without saying that your kayak should have all of the typical/required safety gear. I choose to wear an auto-inflate life vest at all times. I used my cell phone camera for pics. On my next trip, I might bring a small pair of binoculars, as there was opportunity to view various birds of prey, alligators and a variety of other birds.

One final idea, I fished with my nephew. We worked as a team. Several times one or the other would get a fly hung up on the bank. It was helpful to have another person close by to help, especially considering the potential to be surprised by an unfriendly on the bank. In addition, rather than both of us lugging a cooler, we shared the one in my kayak, which gave us additional room in the other kayak for extra "just in case" stuff. Most of the time, my nephew and I were in easy talking distance apart.

###

Steve Udovich: Andros Bonefish. Huge Schools.

Here's a picture of me with one of many bonefish I caught in the vicinity of the Middle Bite of Andros Island. Huge schools. Even a novice like myself had plenty of shots at one bonefish after another. I'd recommend Two Boys Inn and Fishing Lodge. I had three great days of fishing at a reasonable cost. Guiding, accommodations, and meals were all top-notch and well worth the cost. Hooked 9 one day but just could not land number 10. Schools of 30-50 bones were a common sight. Frankie Neymour and his wife, Princess Melinda, run a very nice facility. Put them on your list, you'll be glad you did.



Steve Udovich: St. Joseph Sound Snook and Redfish

I caught both of these fish in St. Joseph Sound, near Dunedin October 16 fishing with Capt. Ethan Kiburz. As guides, go he is an ACE. (727-278-4707). I discovered Ethan on the Suncoast Fly Fisher [website](#).



Steve

Bruce Evensen is our Fly Tying Master Instructor



Every Monday night Bruce Evensen welcomes fly tiers of all skill levels into his fly tying “studio” – it used to be a garage – at his home at 531 80th Ave. N., in St. Petersburg. It’s an 11-month year. Bruce takes a break in December. Fly Tying Mondays restart on January 6. Arrive at 6 pm. You’ll learn to tie one fly like an expert, led by an expert at the head of the table. That would be Bruce.

It’s a fun night as we have learned from the Monday night regulars including Bill Scarola, Woody Miller, Gary Sandberg, Ray Smith, Barry Salzman, Truk Trukenbrod, Phil Mazur, Dennis Marquis, Jack Collins, Art and Karen Birnkrant, Ryan Sollars, Mike Hoppe, Gary Sandberg, and David Redd.

Here are just some of the testimonials:

Dennis Marquis: “For me, Bruce provides the perfect Monday night. We tie flies, talk, laugh and tell fish stories. It’s become one of the social highlights of my week.”

Barry Salzman: “While it’s true that you can find a YouTube video on tying almost any fly out there, having a real guru like Bruce to guide the effort can’t be done on a video. Tying these flies along with others is far more enjoyable than sitting alone in front of your iPad and adds to the learning experience. And then when it’s all over, we go to Miller’s Ale House and watch Bruce eat 35 fried shrimp, an extra helping of French fries, and a tall brew! Doesn’t get any better than that.

David Redd: “When I joined Suncoast Fly Fishers one of my objectives was to learn to be a better fly tier. I could not have picked a better club to join thanks to Bruce. He is a natural teacher and loves sharing his passion for fly tying with all who want to learn. Thank you Bruce.”

And there’s room for more, and Bruce would especially welcomes those who have never, ever tied a fly. Or, as Bill Scarola put it: “Beginners are welcome even if you don’t have fly tying equipment, and that’s no fish tail!!!”



Fly tie Mondays are lots of fun. To wit, here’s Mohican Miller, actually that’s Woody Miller showing off his deer hair toupee. Gary Sandberg whipped out his smart phone to memorialize this slice of life.

###

Members Demonstrate Fly Tying at Florida Sportsman Expo

A number of Suncoast Fly Fishers volunteered their time and expertise on the Nov. 16-17 weekend to tie flies and talk up fly fishing to showgoers at the annual Florida Sportsman Expo. David Redd organized the whole thing and reported that a number of fishers stopped by and expressed an interest in joining our club.



Suncoast Fly Fishers at the Florida Sportsman Expo. That's Woody Miller standing on the left. Seated, left to right, are Quin Berry, Ted Rich, Layne Smith, Alan Sewell, and David Redd, who organized the whole thing.

Remembering Suncoast Fly Fisher Bob Morrison

Robert Morrison, a longtime member and the affable, uplifting friend of many Suncoast Fly Fishers, died October 28. He was 87. For years Bob wrote the *How to Fishy Factoids* page for *On The Fly*.



Bob started fishing young when his father gave him his first rod and reel and taught him to fish. In his later years, Robert enjoyed membership in Trout Unlimited Croton Watershed Chapter where one of the projects was "Take a Kid Fishing" at the Rockefeller State Park Preserve. He also joined Trout Unlimited's Massabesic Chapter in Manchester, NH where he participated in

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing and assisted the NH Fish and Game Commission on projects. When he came to Florida he found Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg. He spoke fondly of the wonderful and much-valued friendships he had made there.

Robert also loved cooking. He amassed a collection of thousands of recipes and considered himself quite a foodie. He was an encyclopedia of suggested seasonings and cooking techniques to his family and friends. Bob's recipe won the Suncoast Fly Fishers annual Chili Cook-off at Fort De Soto Park in December of 2018.

Bob was a graduate of Cornell. He served two years in the 5th U.S. Army Artillery as a First Lieutenant and another six in the U.S. Army Reserves. His service included an assignment in Iceland where he was able to fly fish on his days off.



These are just some of Bob's good looking saltwater flies. Member Jack Collins wrote "Bob was a good man. I will miss his stories and good nature. He was always glad to see you and really loved the sport. I'm sure he's up in heaven tying some missing feathers on some tattered angel wings."

Bob Morrison: Six Fishy Factoids and one Fishing Tip



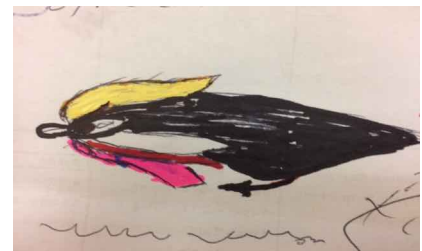
Nature always finds a way

Maybe the chub minnows feel good about themselves? -- In West Virginia streams over two dozen species of fish and amphibians spawn in nests built by chubs. How's that for charity?

Well, eggs are nutritious, you know -- An octopus lays eggs in the hundreds of millions every year but usually fewer than ten eggs from one pair of parents will survive because everything eats them. They're small, defenseless, and delicious, evidently. One of the principal dangers to west coast salmon eggs are jelly fish which arrive from the deep sea about the time the salmon come into the rivers and they devour salmon eggs by the millions.



A U. S. Army veteran, Bob was interred at the Bay Pines National Cemetery on Nov. 18 following services at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Largo.



After the 2016 elections Bob tied up a few of his Donald Trump Flies.

Fly Gear for Sale or Swap or Purchase

Lynn Skipper has two nice fly rods he'd like to sell. He can bring them to the November meeting. Email vintagevette@msn.com or call 813-541-3195)

1. ROSS WORLDWIDE FlyStik Heavy - 10 wt, 4 piece, 7'11" rod with sock and tube. Value \$200 +, sell \$150 OBO
2. ORVIS TLS Power Matrix Mid-Flex 4 piece 3 wt rod with sock and tube + ORVIS Battenkill DISC 3-4 reel with backing and 3 wt WFF line. Value - \$260+. \$160 OBO.

Dennis Marquis is selling his Hobie Quest kayak

It's a never used Hobie Quest 13 with wheels and rudder. \$800. Email marquisd59@gmail.com

Michael Larkin has fly lines to trade. Email him at elopomorph@hotmail.com

- Scientific Anglers Mastery Series bonefish taper 8 weight sinking light green fly line. I'm looking to trade for other fly lines in 5, 6, 7, or 9 weight. Or will trade for other fly fishing stuff.

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 2ftx2Fort, \$85.00
- Epoxy glue holder hand-made by Bruce Evensen, \$24.00

Alan Sewell is selling his Old Town Kayak/Canoe hybrid. And more. Email Sewellalan@yahoo.com

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.

Alan Sewell has something else you may be interested in

New, in the box, TAURUS 856, 6-round 38 special, 2-inch barrel, black ultra light revolver, with holster. \$225.00.

Jack Cason is selling his sit-on-top Perception Pescador kayak. Call him at [727-864-7444](tel: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.

Bill AuCoin wants to sell a never-used saltwater 9-weight. \$90

It's a Falcon brand, Made-in-America rod. When introduced in 2003 it retailed at \$200+. Here's a link to an article at that time in [Saltwater Sportsman](#). It's medium fast, loads smoothly, and can throw big poppers and wet-heavy flies. It's no longer under warranty. Falcon stopped making fly rods a few years ago to focus on casting and spinning rods. Sock and tube included. Bill will bring it to the November meeting if you want to check it out. Email Bill at wmaucoin@verizon.net

Want to sell or trade? Need some fly gear? Email Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin@verizon.net

Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner



Snook are still on the beaches

If you are an early riser and love to fly fish this time of year is made for you. Pods of snook are still within a few feet of the sand in the trough along our beaches. Although the season is closed, catch and release opportunities have never been better. A large female with a group of smaller males will do their courting in these locations especially if there is good current flow making passes with some structure the best location. A good pair of polaroid glasses will reveal some very large fish. Stay on the bank and out of the water, the rising sun behind you will reveal fish and also cast a shadow scaring fish if not careful. You will see some baitfish present; duplicate their size with white flies. Crimp all

hook barbs making easy penetration possible for effective hookups and release. Perform a quick release while the fish is still in the water. Hold your cast until the fish is facing you then cast ahead of the fish and to its side. Never retrieve a fly into the fishes face, baitfish would never make that fatal mistake. The fly, with a 30 pound shock tippet, is then retrieved duplicating an escaping baitfish and should trigger a violent strike. An eight weight fast action 9 foot rod is perfect and will allow you to quickly pick up a long cast if misplaced or refused. A second cast can be made immediately. Change fly patterns after several refusals of good presentations. If there is strong wave action or floating weeds a clear sinking tip line may work better than a floating one getting your offering down quickly.

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

Bill Scarola and Friends: Drum rolls, please

From Tom Gadacz...

I don't always make fish puns, but I do it for the *halibut*.
What is a fish's favorite TV show? *Tuna half men*.
There was a huge sale at the boat show. It was a big *oar-deal*.

Tom

From Bill Scarola...

My wife asked me to take her to one of those restaurants that prepare the food in front of you. So I took her to Subway, and that's how the fight started.

I'm reading a good book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.
Why did the high school student get detention? He was talking on his shell-phone.
What do you get when you cross a fishing lure with a gym sock? A hook, line, and *stinker*.
Why do fish never take responsibility? Because it's always *salmon* else's fault.
We need more puns. Send them in. Or, do you need more time to *mullet* over?

Bill

Padump Bump Ching

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Lots of winning – Here are some of the 2019 best of show awards at the recent fly fishing tackle trade show (IFTD) in Denver. Scott Fly Rods won “Best of Show” award for its new Sector Series saltwater rods. The IFTD is put on the American Fly Fishing Trade Association. ([AFFTA](#))

Here are some of the other winners:

- Lefty Kreh Industry Leadership Award – Joan Wulff
- Youth Gear/Apparel – Tenderfoot Youth Vest by Fishpond.
- Fly Hooks – XT050 Stubby T by Umpqua Feather merchants
- Fly Tying Tools – Streamer Pedestal Base by Renzetti
- Fly Fishing Accessories – Pro-Nipper by Simms
- Boat/personal watercraft – 1K Angler 11-footer by Outcast Sporting Gear
- Fly Line (Freshwater) – Amplitude Infinity by Scientific Anglers
- Fly Line (Saltwater) – Amplitude Smooth Infinity Salt by Scientific Anglers
- Fly Rod (Freshwater) – Trout LL by Sage Fly Fishing
- Fly Rod (2-handed Spey) – Trout Spey HD by Sage Fly Fishing
- Fly Reel (Freshwater) – San Miguel by Ross Reels
- Fly Reel (Saltwater) – Vaya by Abel Reels



Abel's Vaya reel is, a work of art.

Horses and fly fishing don't mix. I've seen these horses in the water many times on either side of the causeway leading to the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. Well, now the Pinellas County commission has passed an ordinance to stop horses in the bay and other waters inside the county. Good. ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

I'd rather be fishing than puttering but, okay, gear does need caring for. Got a squeaky reel? Wet backing? Fly line need lubricating? H/T Jack Collins. Actually, though, this is a comprehensive to-do list for fly fishers written by a longtime friend of the Suncoast Fly Fishers, author and fly casting instructor Chris O'Byrne. Chris' new book is called, *The Beautiful Addiction: Learning to Fly Fish Near your Home*. ([Featherwater.com](#))

Tougher seatrout rules are on the way. It's looking like the FWC is going to reduce our ability to keep seatrout from four to three and instead of allowing one over 20-inches, it will be one over 19-inches. In any case, because red tide hurt the population so much, we're not able to keep any seatrout until after May 31, 2020. ([TC Palm](#))

Goodie. These new fluorescent hooks from Gamakatsu sure look better than steel grey hooks. But then, I'm not a fish. ([Bass Pro Shops](#))

No, that's not weird at all. This guy ties flies but never fly fishes. Is there anybody in our club like that? ([Fishing Stage](#))

Oh deer. A lobster boat five miles offshore happened upon this creature that had apparently lost its way. They stopped fishing and took it back to shore. Feel-good story of the day. ([NY Post](#))

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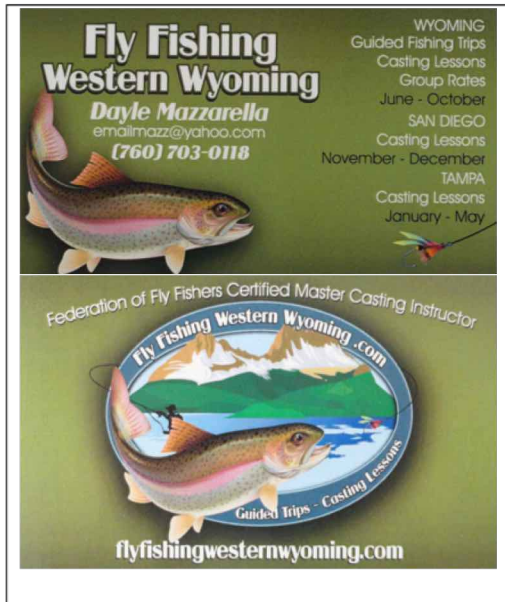
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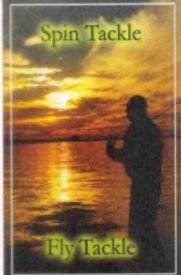
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