



The Prez Sez *by Ken Hofmeister*



REPORT, RESPONSE, RECOMMENDATION

An October 2006 membership satisfaction survey gave us a report of where we stood on some key indicators for Suncoast Fly Fishers. On a 1-5 scale, we found that we had mostly happy fishers with room for improvement in some areas.

VERY HAPPY

We registered considerable satisfaction with: Newsletter (4.9); Pig Roast/Auction (4.8); Special Events/Everglades (4.6); Outings (4.4) and Web Site (4.0). We've tried to make these even better and our last Pig Roast/Auction was a resounding success.

GOOD, BUT COULD BE BETTER

We saw room for improvement on Casting Skills (3.7); Fly Tying/Fly Fishing (3.5) and Conservation/Education (3.4). Your board and your committees responded by providing a casting clinic in February, a Mirror Lake cleanup in January, Crescent Lake cleanup in March. A March meeting featured fly tying and knot tying by SFF finest.

OK, BUT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

Members expressed a need to improve our Cooperation With Other Groups (3.3) and Meeting Facilities (3.2). We responded by scheduling joint outings with other clubs in December and January. Plans for a June outing with Mangrove Bay are in motion. We are finalizing charter membership with the Federation of Fly Fishers in April.

THE NEXT STEP

Paul Sequira and Mark Hays were asked by SFF Board to research and recommend a more suitable meeting facility that featured improved: climate control, parking, acoustics, access, visual aids, room, and cost. After considerable research and site visitation, the board met at Walter Fuller Park (7891 26th Avenue, N) to do a walk-through inspection and to consider all the options. Your board unanimously recommends that we move to this location beginning with our May meeting.

You will hear the report and recommendation at the regular April membership meeting. Questions, issues, and concerns will be addressed. Following discussion, all paid-up members of SFF will vote on this proposed move. Sure, it is hard to make a change from the familiar and the comfortable. The Wyoming Antelope Club has been our location a long time. But, we are not the building. Nor are we tied to a location. We are linked to a purpose and defined by our people.

Come with an open mind and a willingness to do what's best for SFF both now and the future. *Ken*

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

- April - 21 Lake Pasadena
- April - 27 & 28 Everglades trip
- May - 17 Snook program Alan Sewell
- May - 19 Night Snook Outing
- June - 21 Fishing Argentina Capt Pat

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Outings—Reviews and Previews *by Richard Oldenski*



April Outing—April 21, 2007 **Lake Pasadena**

April Outing

The April outing should provide some stellar freshwater fishing at Lake Pasadena. The water level is down so it should be easier to find fish along the shoreline. They should also be feeding by the lily pads. We'll sign up for fishing partners at the April meeting, where maps will be available. We've reserved the Lake Pasadena Fish Camp Clubhouse for lunch at Noon.

Future Outing Previews:

May - Night Snook Extravaganza

June - Emerson Point

March Outing

A stiff wind greeted us at the March outing at Snook Haven and made it difficult to paddle and cast on the Myakka River. Still, we caught a few fish. Some large bass were hooked but managed to free themselves before being brought to the boat. The largest fish was actually a 22 inch snook caught by Tiger Pertregt. Lunch at the restaurant was excellent and the service was outstanding.

Fishing Tournament

The 2007-2008 Tournament begins with the April Outing.

THE EVERGLADES — LAST CHANCE TO JUMP ON BOARD!

SFF's annual Everglades trip is April 27th and 28th (and Sunday morning the 29th before you head home) don't want to miss out on this great fishing weekend. Fish the canals along side of I 75; launch at any boat ramp conveniently located on both sides of the highway. If you don't catch 100 fish a day, you don't have a fly on your leader. Bass, Bream, Warmouths, Oscars, Mayan Cichlids you never know what will be next. On top of that, you get to enjoy fishing with your SFF pals for a couple of days. The local restaurants serve up some great food and the motel accommodations are excellent.

Don Manning has reserved 10 rooms at the La Quinta Inn (formerly the Baymont Suite & Inn Motel) 13651 Northwest 2nd Street, Sunrise, FL 33325. Call Gladys at 1-954-846-1200 between 7:00 am and 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday and tell her that you are with Don Manning's Suncoast Fly Fishers group and ask for our special room rate. If you need directions, just go to MapQuest <http://www.mapquest.com/main.adp> plug in your home address and the motel's address for excellent directions and map.PS



APRIL 19th PROGRAM

An excellent professionally done video featuring some of the club's best fly tiers demonstrating their favorite flies. This program was recorded at the Antelope Club several years ago by a professional film maker and hasn't been viewed at the club in a very long time. An enjoyable and informative film. Plus a special guest well know fly tier demonstrating deer hair bass bugs.....PS

More Suncoast Fly Fishers News and Activities

Time For A Change *by Mark Hays*

In a recent poll taken of our club members, the lowest grade was given to the location of our meeting hall. This is important to consider as at the April General Meeting, members will be asked to vote on relocating.

I have no ill will towards the Antelope Club as I personally shoot there and over the years, have enjoyed many evenings there with the club. But we can do better as a club with a brighter, more family friendly location.

Many nights the current location reminds me of a Southeast Asian war, complete with muddy roads, stifling heat, ravenous mosquitoes and frequent strafing runs.

I hope all members will show their support for our unanimous officers and directors vote to relocate to Walter Fuller Community Center. *Mark*

SFF Welcomes New Officer and Directors

Joe Dial was elected to a 2 year term as SFF Treasurer and Roger Blanton, Pat Damico and John Rodgers were elected to 2 year terms as Directors at the March General Meeting. All were welcomed at the April 5th Board of Directors meeting. Also at that meeting, new or continuing assignments to Standing Committees were made as follows:

- Casting — Pat Damico
- Fly Tying — Alan Sewell
- Fishing Locations & Knot Tying — Ken Doty
- Club Outings — Rick Oldenski and Mark Hays
- Programs — BOD
- Membership — Alan Sewell and Paul Sequira
- FFF — Pat Damico
- Web Site — Ken McKinnon
- Newsletter — Paul Sequira
- Publicity — Roger Blanton and Larry Cohen
- Pig Roast — open
- Monthly Raffle — Tom Hummel

Hog Roast 2007

SFF's 2007 edition of our Annual Hog Roast once more was a resounding success. Thanks in no small part to John and Stacey Zientarski for again opening their home to the Club. The pig was even better than last year and we have to thank John, Art Tassoni and Gerry Yancey for their culinary expertise. And of course Stacey and who ever else contributed to the wonderful side dishes and deserts. Capt. Bob's guitar playing and singing was most appreciated too. I know Sue Doty was there early to help with the setup and of course Joe Bolesina who kept track of the paying guests.

We also thank Bill Jackson's for donating our door prize of a Loomis fly rod, reel, fly line and backing. Certainly Forest Thibideau thanks them since he was the lucky winner. Also we thank Canoe Country Outfitters for the Featherweight kayak and paddle at a very special price and Mark Hays for arranging the deal. I know Ken McKinnon, this year's winner in this special raffle, thanks them too. Congratulations to the winners.

SFF also thanks Jim Swan who also gave us a very special price on many items including fly rods and reels. Thank you once again Jim. We also need to thank Art Tassoni for his hard work in gathering so many nice auction items.

Thanks also go to Capt. Pat Damico who donated a half day guided fishing trip and I'm sure that high bidder Jim Swan is going to enjoy that.

Let's not forget our club fly tiers who tied and donated lots of flies, one of the most popular auction items every year. They would include Charlie Most, Norm Sandy, Paul Sequira, Ken Doty and Alan Sewell. Other members who donated auction items were: Ann & Ken Hofmeister, Sue Doty and Siobhan Archard. Thank you all.

I may have left some names out, unfortunately I am doing this from memory as I put this newsletter together and I apologize in advance. If your name does not appear above, rest assured that SFF thanks you for your generosity and support. Without all of you, we could not have enjoyed a successful and profitable event. So, if I've left you out, I'll make up for it next month. There are a couple of Hog Roast pictures elsewhere in this newsletter, thanks to Michael TassoniPS

Weighted Flies

My last article, "Sink Tip Weather," (On The Fly, Jan. 2007) which emphasized getting our flies deeper using a fly line that had a sinking forward component attached to the leader and the fly, elicited a few questions that dealt with methods of making our flies heavier. If the end of our fly line sinks rapidly and the fly floats, or sinks very slowly, the combination will not work. Ideally, the fly should sink as fast, or faster, than the sinking tip line.

The shorter the leader between the fly and fly line, the better. If the sinking tip is clear, a leader of four feet or so is fine, unless the water is gin clear, then another foot or two can be added. Monofilament leader material is less dense than fluorocarbon so a leader of fluorocarbon will sink faster than monofilament. Now that we have our line and leader sinking, how do we get our flies to sink at a similar rate?

The hooks we choose can be very thin, or made heavier during the manufacturing process. A heavier and larger hook will help. Those of you that have fished freshwater have used split shot sinkers of varying sizes to place on the leader above a fly to help get it down. This can be placed very close or further from the fly. This isn't a great choice and usually impairs casting.

The materials we use to make the fly will affect its sink rate. Deer hair, which is hollow, will trap air and slow the sink rate. Fine deer hair, from the end of a tail, will sink better than thicker hollow body hair. Some synthetic hair repels water and will trap air between the strands and hinder sink rate. An example would be when I tie a Muddler minnow fly that I want to sink; I do not use deer hair for the head and collar. I select chenille either to match the natural deer hair, or a different color to make the fly more attractive. Yellow is one of my favorites. A sparse fly will sink faster than one tied with a lot of buoyant material. Making a fly a little sparse is always better than over dressing.

Using cement or clear nail polish during fly construction adds some weight. When using a tinsel or thin body, I coat the whole area with clear nail polish and let it get hard before I proceed to the next step. This makes the fly much more durable and resists the tooth damage that some salt water fish are noted for.

All of the above suggestions will help, but adding weight directly to the fly is the best and most effective method. Some flies, like a Clouser minnow, or a Crazy Charlie, re-

quire weighted eyes as part of the pattern's dressing. Dumbbell eyes vary in size. They are made of lead, nickel, copper, brass, and several other non-toxic materials. Their size can be from 1/60 to 1/10 ounce. Bead chain eyes are made from cutting two at a time from a bead chain, available in hardware stores. Both bead chain and dumbbell eyes are secured by wrapping thread in a criss-cross pattern on the hook shank on the side opposite the hook point. A drop of flexament or crazy glue will secure it. Cone heads, made of the same materials as dumbbell eyes, can

be slipped on the hook shank before tying the fly. Round beads are made for the same purpose, and used similarly. Not only are cone head weights and beads made in a variety of sizes and weights, they are also colored. My bead butt baitfish pattern uses a bead at the end of the fly's dressing instead of at the head. Adding lead, or non-toxic wire of varying diameters by wrapping it on the hook shank, before starting the fly, is one of

the oldest methods and still very effective. This can be used in combination with one of the above methods to

add even more weight.

As the fly's weight increases, casting becomes more of a problem. A Belgium cast, where the fly is picked up almost horizontally and delivered with a more vertical forward stroke will prevent tangling or hitting your rod tip with a weighted fly. This often will cause rod tip weakening and eventually breakage.

If you don't tie your own flies, your local fly shop should have some of the choices I've discussed to make your ability to fish deeper and slower easier. In the last few weeks, most of our trips used the above suggestions and resulted in some great fishing. Take advantage of this time of the year. The fish are concentrated and fly friendly when the presentation is in their face.

A certified casting instructor, Capt. Pat Damico fishes lower Tampa Bay and surrounding waters with light tackle and fly rod. His website www.captpat.com, will give you additional information.

This article originally appeared on Capt. Mel Berman's website www.capmel.com and is reprinted here with the permission of the author, Capt. Pat Damico.PS



Top: Clouser Deep Minnow, Bottom: Cone Head Bendback
Photo and flies by Pat Damico

More Suncoast Fly Fishers News

SFF Members In Action

March 2nd thru 4th was a busy time for SFF members. The Frank Sergeant show (I know, it isn't called that anymore but I can't think of the current name) saw members Don Manning, Ken Doty, Joe Bolesina, Joe Dial, John Rodgers, Al Pitcher, Ken Hofmeister and Pat Damico talking to the people, tying flies and fly casting. Don Manning and Ken Doty set up our booth on Friday and I understand that Pat Damico's fly casting demonstrations were outstanding. Thank you all for representing SFF once again.

Also, on March 3rd, several SFF members worked on a cleanup on Crescent Lake in downtown St. Petersburg. Members Myron Hansen and his wife, Sue Doty and Ken Hofmeister and his two grandsons volunteered to help cleanup this urban lake. It was reported that Ken's grandsons did double duty. Three year old Ryan in the front of the canoe was busy throwing things into the water while older brother Conner steadfastly retrieved the debris. Another job well done by SFF. Thank you all.PS

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

Our Aims and Purpose

The Suncoast Fly Fishers are dedicated to sharing their total fly fishing experiences and to developing interest in fly fishing in both fresh and saltwater. We shall 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 will help members become more skilled, have more fun and be more productive in the sport. Suncoast Fly Fishers support the conservation of natural resources, boating safety and fishing regulations.

SALT WATER FLY FISHERMAN NEWS

One of our favorite fly shops The Salt water Fly Fisherman has closed it's Dale Mabry Tampa location and is moving to 387½ Mandalay Ave. Clearwater Beach. The location is approximately 100' north of the roundabout. More details soon.PS

Protect your cell phone from telemarketing calls

Do to changes in the laws concerning telecommunications; all cell phone numbers were scheduled to be made public to telemarketing firms in February. These calls will be charged to your cell phone minutes just as any other call. To avoid most of the se calls, you may register your cell phone numbers with the National Do Not Call either by calling 1-888-382-1222 generally required to be made from the number you wish to register or electronically at <http://www.donotcall.gov> These registrations will be good for 5 years. More information is available at the above website.....PS

LOCAL FISHING GUIDES

Capt. Pat Damico, Tampa Bay 727-360-6466

Capt. Pete Greenan, Boca Grande and
The Everglades 941-923-6095

Capt. Mike Homer, Tampa Bay 727-418-5005

Capt. Ray Markham Sarasota and
Tampa Bay 941-723-2655

*** FOR SALE *** FOR SALE***

16 foot Mohawk canoe for sale- excellent shape- this canoe can catch fish \$ 300.00

contact

**Ken McKinnon
727-420- 2416**

Fly Tying Bench *by Paul Sequira*

Lefty's Deceiver *by Paul Sequira*

It is said that imitation is the greatest form of flattery. If that is true, then Lefty Kreh's Deceiver must be one of the most flattered flies in fly tying history. There are more "original" flies out there that bare a striking resemblance to a Lefty's Deceiver than you can imagine. It is one of the first salt water flies that I learned to tie and has always been one of the most productive flies I have used. I would never be without several of them in my fly box; it is perhaps my favorite fly. Last month I featured Bob Popovic's Bucktail Deceiver (BTD); a new (to me) version of this remarkable fly and different from the bucktail pattern I was familiar with. This month, let's cover the original.



Traditional Lefty's Deceiver Photo & Flies by Paul Sequira

Chartreuse and White

Materials:

- **Hook:** Mustad 3407 (or any equivalent) sizes 4 through 3/0 (or as larger)
- **Thread:** 3/0 flat waxed nylon color to compliment the fly
- **Wing:** 6 to 8 matched saddle hackles
- **Flash:** Flashabou, Krystal Flash, silver/gold mylar (your choice)
- **Body:** Silver mylar or none or mylar braid or spun strands of Krystal Flash (your choice)
- **Collar:** Bucktail, top and bottom. Sometimes a short grizzly hackle is used as a cheek.

Tying Instructions:

1. Pinch down the barb and secure the hook in the vise in the normal fashion. Attach the thread with a jam knot about ¼ inch behind the hook eye. Spiral the thread down to the start of the hook bend.
2. Select six to eight (or more if desired depending upon the size fly you are tying) saddle hackles. Remove the fluff from the base of each hackle; divide them into two equal sets, line up the tips and pair up the two sets with the curvature facing inward (praying hands style). I usually make them at least twice the length of the hook.
3. Place the grouped hackles on top of the hook, butts facing towards the eye and secure them to the top of the hook shank starting just forward of the bend. Tightly wrap the thread forward towards the eye stopping approximately ¼ inch from the eye. Cut off and discard excess hackle butts.
4. At this point, look at the hackles from the front of the fly. They should be centered on the hook shank,

Fly Tying Bench *Lefty's Deceiver continued by Paul Sequira*

standing on edge and not leaning to one side or the other. Straighten them out now by twisting the entire bunch.

5. Your Deceiver is now ready for a body. If you choose not to use a body, simply wrap the hackle butt tie-down area with several layers of close thread wraps and give it a coat of head cement.
6. Although the original used a double wrap of silver/gold mylar, it is a fussy wrapping procedure. I prefer to wrap a body of silver (pearl or gold depending upon the color fly I am tying) mylar lace. If you don't have any lace, you may use about a dozen strands of Krystal Flash twisted together to form a "rope". With the thread hanging at the front of the hackle butt tie-down point, secure the lace to the bottom of the hook shank and spiral wrap the thread towards the hook bend trapping the lace to the bottom of the hook all the way to the start of the hackles. Now spiral wrap the thread back to your starting point. Wrap the lace around the hook shank advancing to the tie-in point and secure it with the waiting thread. Cut off the excess lace.
7. Select a bunch of hair from the top 3rd of a bucktail, finger stack the tips and remove/discard all of the short and unruly hairs. Measure the bunch against the hook so that the tips extend beyond the hook bend; cut and discard the butts. Place this bunch on the side of the hook on the bare spot of the shank and take two slightly loose wraps of thread. As you tighten the thread, coax the hair around the hook shank. Take a few more tight turns of thread securing the hair to the hook. Examine the fly for any bare spots and add small bunches of hair where needed.
8. Take about ten strands of Krystal Flash or Flashabou and tie in on top of the hair collar using the center tie method. Cut the ends of the flash unevenly to produce more flash points.
9. Cut a small bunch of contrasting color bucktail and tie in on top of the collar as a topping. This topping should extend just beyond the collar.
10. Wrap a nice neat bullet shaped head and secure it with a whip finish. Give the head several coats of head cement and the fly is done.

Options:

You may add stick-on eyes to the head and coat the finished head with epoxy as I described last month. Also, some tiers like to add a short throat of bright red Krystal Flash or wool. Still others like to add cheeks of grizzly hackle (short) of a contrasting color and some tiers also like to add a topping of 8 to 10 strands of peacock herl.

Comments:

I might mention that when I tie Deceivers, I tie a ½ dozen or more up to step #6 above. Then I mix a batch of epoxy (see last month's BTM for my comments) and coat the bodies. After the epoxy has cured, I finish the flies. The important thing is that the finished fly should have a baitfish shape and that the bucktail collar is long enough to prevent the saddle hackle wing from wrapping around the hook bend during casting.

Suncoast Fly Fishers Pictures of Recent Activities



Ken Doty and Don Manning show them how its done at the Frank Sargeant show. Looks like the back of Norm Sandy's head.

Photo Ron Kelley



Lake Pasadena? Maybe, if you're lucky!



Ken Hofmeister and John Zientarski taking a break after dining on all that great pork barbeque.

Photo Michael Tassoni



Part of the SFF crowd enjoying the Zientarski's hospitality and the camaraderie of wonderful friends to say nothing of the terrific dining. Photo by Michael Tassoni

We're a little short on pictures this month. Why don't you bring your camera to the next SFF event, shoot a few frames and share them with the other members through "On The Fly".

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

Club Officers

President: Ken Hofmeister 727/521-1637

Vice President: John Zientarski 727/391-1480

Secretary: Joe Dial

Treasurer: Alan Sewell

Board of Directors

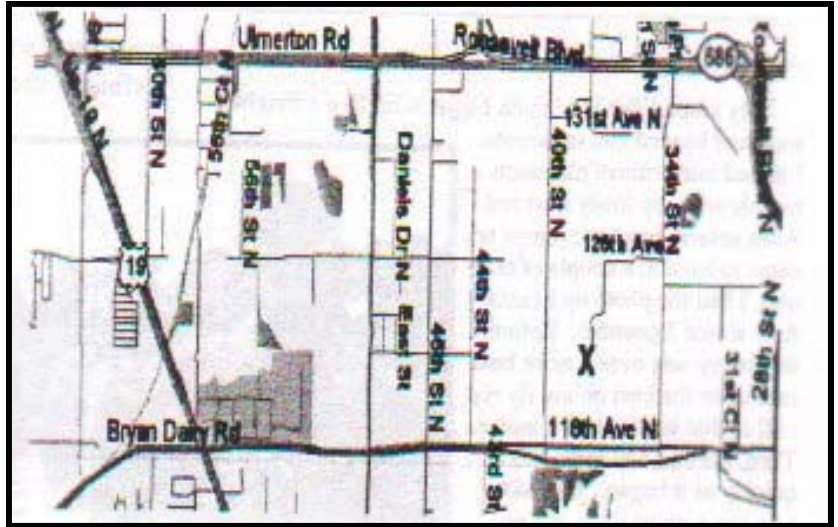
Roger Blanton - Larry Cohen - Pat Damico

Ken Doty - Mark Hays - Ken McKinnon

Richard Oldenski - John Rodgers - Paul Sequeira

“On the Fly” is the monthly newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF), a not-for-profit organization offering fly fishing and fly tying instruction to members and visitors. Club membership includes newsletter subscription. Send e-mail submissions to:

psequira@tampabay.rr.com



Next Club Meeting: Thursday, April 19, 2007

Time: 6:30-7:00 PM Outdoor Activities

7:00-8:30 Meeting & Program

Location: Wyoming Antelope Club

3700 126th Avenue, North, St. Petersburg

Program: Fly Tying Video Club Tiers and special guest tier

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com/>

Suncoast Fly Fishers

P.O. BOX 40821

St. Petersburg, FL 33743-40821