



Suncoast Fly Fishers

NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

On The Fly

The Prez Sez by Ken Hofmeister



BE A FRIEND . . . FIND A FRIEND

“SFF strives to be a friendly, inclusive, and unpretentious group of fly-fishers who have fun learning and fishing together. New members will find themselves welcomed, respected, invited, and needed.” Suncoast Fly Fishers Vision and Values

At the last Ft. DeSoto outing, we fished and ate with over twenty-five new friends from the Mangrove Coast Club. They were totally impressed by our food--from Mark’s amberjack fish spread to venison kabobs provided by Hays and Doty. Joe Dail’s dessert and Ann’s cookies, along with Richard’s watermelon clinched the deal.

Food was a big part of the hospitality; however, the friendliness of our members was the most memorable and lasting impression of our club. Our folks mixed and mingled as they offered boats, kayaks, and invited Mangrove fishers to join them in their search for scarce fish on a windy day.

The friendliness of SFF was on display at the Florida Sportsman Fishing Show September 29. Fly-casters, fly-tiers, and big talkers included: Charlie Most, Enver Hysni, Ken Doty, Don Manning, John Zientarski, Ken Hofmeister, Richard Oldenski, Mark Hays, Annie Hays, Paul Sequira, and Joe Dail. Several booth visitors commented upon our friendliness and noted that we were having fun. Of significance were the people who said they would visit us because they were looking for a “friendly” club that wasn’t “snobbish.”

Our slick new brochure (thanks Roger Blanton) invites people to join the club and “find a fly fishing buddy.” Mark Hays observed that he comes to SFF meetings because that is “where his friends are.”

We have some opportunities to bring some newcomers into our circle. At the Florida Sportsman Show, we signed up seven youth members. These youngsters are looking to us to help them learn to cast and fish. Their parents are expecting us to be “promoting fly fishing, fly tying, fly casting, and marine conservation in a family fun atmosphere”

October offers a chance to defend our trophy and renew our friendships with the Tampa Club. December’s Don Coleman Classic is open to all nearby clubs where Alan’s chili will fuel even more friendships with neighboring club members. ...Ken

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 20- Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament Hillsborough River
- Dec—No General meeting -Happy Holidays
- Dec - Don Coleman Classic—chili lunch
- March ‘08 - FFF Expo Lakeland
- Fly Tying 101—Dates to be announced

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Outings—Reviews and Previews *by Richard Oldenski*



October Outing:

October 20, 2007 - Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament on the Hillsborough River

The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club will be hosting our annual Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament on the Hillsborough River. Last year Ken Hofmeister won the coveted trophy for our club. Let's all come out for this outing to keep the trophy with our club and honor the memory of Carl Hanson who did so much to promote fly fishing in the Tampa Bay area. The tournament will start at 08:00 a.m. and end at Noon at Rotary Park with lunch and trophy ceremony. Maps and the sign up list will be at the October meeting where we will try to match everyone with a fishing partner. We will need boats for this outing and any extra canoes and kayaks will be welcomed. Canoe and kayak rentals with shuttle to and from the Hillsborough River are also available at Canoe Escape, 9335 E Fowler Ave. 813-986-2067, www.canooescape.com. Call or check their website for reservations and fees.

September Outing

We had a great time fishing with our new friends from the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishing Club. Although thunder and lightning drove us out of the water, a lot of fish were caught and the bigger ones broke off and got away. Joe Dail landed the largest fish, a 19 inch ladyfish. Ken Doty claimed an 18 inch Spanish mackerel, while Don Manning won a slot on the tour-

namment chart with a 17 inch trout. With thunder rumbling in the distance, our two clubs met in the picnic shelter and shared fishing stories and techniques. Mark Hays provided his tasty smoked amberjack spread to kick off the party. The main event at lunch was Mark's kabobs made of tender venison marinated in Spiedie sauce and grilled to perfection. Thanks to Ann Hofmeister and Martha Dail, we had chocolate chip oatmeal cookies and keylime bars for dessert. Special thanks to all club members who attended and made this joint outing a success by showing their friendliness and hospitality to the members of the MCFFC. You should have been there!

Future Outing Previews:

October - Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament on the Hillsborough River

November - Upper Tampa Bay—Double Branch

December - Don Coleman Invitational - Ft. DeSoto

January '08—Pinellas Point

Fishing Tournament

Sun Fish—Ken Doty (9¼ inches)

Redfish - Ted Rich (17 inches)

Trout - Don Manning (17 inches)

Other Species - Don Manning - Ladyfish (24½ inches)

This Month's Meeting — Thursday, October 18, 2007

Dr. George Stovall, kayaking expert, will tell us all there is to know about how to get the most out of our kayaks.

Urgent — Membership Renewals For 2008 — Final Notice

The title says it all. Your 2008 dues must be paid now and as we all know, SFF is now a Federation of Fly Fishers Charter Club. Our new status requires all SFF club members to be FFF members also. Fortunately, FFF currently has a special membership promotion which provides a one-year FFF membership at the special reduced price of \$15. This is a one time opportunity so now is the time to do it. **Those members not meeting their financial obligation to the club this month will be removed from the membership roles and this will be your last newsletter.**

See our treasurer Alan Sewell with your cash or check for: \$15 for regular SFF membership or \$25 for family SFF membership. If you currently are not a FFF member, you will need to pay an additional \$15 for FFF membership. If you will not be at the meeting, you may mail your dues to: **Suncoast Fly Fishers - P.O. Box 40821 - St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821 - Attn: Alan Sewell**

Renew now to avoid interrupting your SFF membership. See excerpt from SFF Bylaws below:

Section 3. Obligations. Members are required to pay Club dues and any fees assessed by the Club on its membership. The Club is a Charter Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers, Inc., and each regular member is required to join and maintain current membership in the Federation. New members shall pay to the Club their first-year dues for the Federation.

Section 4. Dues. All members, except honorary members, must pay annual Club dues at the September meeting. The amounts of dues for each class of membership shall be established annually by the Board of Directors. If dues are not paid within 30 days, the member may be removed from the membership rolls.

More SFF News

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 regula-

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

Capt. Wayne Simmons Tampa Bay area
727-204-4188

Suncoast Fly Fishers, Your Board Of Directors Working For You

Activities are at the heart of any successful organization. SFF's BOD has instituted the following Standing Committees to help us maintain a high level of activities that have proven to be popular with the membership and some new ones to fill a need as expressed through membership surveys. These committees are generally chaired by board members but you do not have to be a board member to fill that position. If you would like to volunteer to participate on any or these committees, please speak to any director.

Committees are as follows:

- Casting Skills - Pat Damico
- Club Outings - Richard Oldenski & Mark Hays
- FFF Liaison - Pat Damico
- Fishing Locations - Ken Doty
- Fly Tying - Alan Sewell
- Knot Tying - Ken Doty
- Membership - Alan Sewell & Paul Sequira
- Newsletter - Paul Sequira
- Publicity - Roger Blanton & Larry Cohen
- Programs - BOD
- Raffles - John Rodgers & Tom Hummel

Your Business Ad Here

A good way to help your club and advertise your business economically to fellow club members and other interested readers. Take a Business Membership and get a business card sized advertisement in every issue of "On The Fly". You provide copy ready advertisement. See Treasurer Alan Sewell or Secretary Joe Dail for cost.



"Never trust a man
who doesn't fish"
(Teddy Roosevelt)

Platinum Real Estate

Roger Blanton—Broker

Please contact me if you are buying or selling residential, commercial or investment property. A full service real estate and mortgage company.
Phone: 727-515-5247
Fax: 727-864-4950
E-mail: Roger.Blanton@hotmail.com
Website: PlatinumRealtyOfFlorida.com

How important is your fly pattern? by Capt. Pat Damico

In an earlier article I showed a fly pattern that represented both a shrimp and a baitfish. A few of the readers were concerned that the pattern was not specific enough to fool cagey fish. They felt that their percentage of takes would improve if the fly were a better representation of either a shrimp or a minnow.



I have always felt that there are many important issues that will trigger a strike besides an artificial that represents the chosen bait down to the last

detail. Observing others fishing, in addition to watching myself has taught me a few lessons that I'd like to share with you.

We will assume that we are fishing over fish. Location of our targeted species will not be the subject here, but rather how and why fish will refuse the "perfect" fly.

Much of my fishing in warm weather takes place around lighted areas at night. The fish, mostly Trout and Snook, are usually visible. Approaching the lighted area, fish can be seen on the surface. If they are all lined up facing into the tide, your chances are already very good. Hearing a distinct "Pop" on the surface as Snook feed tells you that you've picked the right time. Dragging out an anchor with a chain and banging it in the boat before throwing it over the side, with a big splash, close to the fish, is something I see too often. Bumping your boat into an adjacent structure is equally as bad. Having the wake from your outboard disrupt the area is never helpful. Dropping soda cans and other objects on the deck is a disaster. Tying up too close to the light is another big mistake. Any of these errors has ruined your chances before you begin.

Instead, approach slowly and take note the direction the fish are facing. Cut your engine well in advance of where you want the boat positioned before your first cast. I rarely anchor, choosing instead to use a bow-mounted electric to position the boat. Sometime I leave the electric down in the water, using it to move from one dock to the next. Not using the outboard at all has its advantages. Your first position should allow an accurate

cast to be made into your side of the dark area adjacent to the lighted place. A little down current from where you want to cast is preferred. The fish are expecting bait to drift with the current into their feeding zone requiring little effort to take an offering.

With the boat properly positioned, strip enough line to make your first cast accurately. Cast well ahead of the fish, and using your line hand to control distance, trap the line between your thumb and first finger to stop the cast. The line should be aimed above the water, almost at eye level. As the line straightens, the fly will delicately fall and make a quiet entrance into the water. Your line hand is ready to instantly respond if a strike occurs, or you can begin stripping if needed. This gives you complete control over the situation. Contrast this to a sequence that I frequently see.

After positioning the boat, a client begins to false cast to get enough line out to make his cast. While false casting, the line rips the water in front of him, short of the fish, but close enough to send them scurrying. If this doesn't happen, the first cast is a little short of the fish, and instead of fishing the cast, he will begin to pick line off of the water and rip the surface, having the same result. Let's say the cast is long enough, but lands on the back of a fish, and it spooks, scaring the others. Slapping the fly on the water close to the fish is another catastrophe. These happen to everyone. Try to be stealthy; a few more seconds to make the necessary corrections will increase your chances for success. If your casting needs some improvement, spend some time in your backyard to work on your technique. A good casting instructor can help you tremendously.

The fish swimming in front of you will be your best judges. Give the flies that you so meticulously tied the best chance of success by properly setting up your presentation. Success will increase with a little careful preparation.

A FFF, certified casting instructor, Capt. Pat Damico guides fly and light tackle trips in lower Tampa Bay and surrounding waterways. His website www.captpat.com will provide additional information.

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

Take Your Fly Rod Out After Dark *By Capt. Pat Damico*

Snook action is hot around lighted docks and bridges. At night, the forage that is most readily responsible for the “pop” made by Snook as they slam the surface is a small shrimp. A fly fishing friend, Brad Lowman, was night fishing along the sea wall at one of our passes during a strong outgoing tide and could see small shrimp being devoured by large Snook.

Using a shrimp pattern, Brad was able to connect with some Snook by having his fly duplicate the free-floating natural baits. Cast your fly across or up tide and mend your line to avoid “drag.” Mending can be accomplished by making an aerial mend with a reach cast. Do this by making your conventional cast, and as the line straightens, slip line with the line hand as you move the rod up current before the fly hits the water.

Conventional mending, using the rod tip in a slow roll, as used in stream fishing for trout or smallmouth bass, also works. A simple alternative is to shake your rod tip and release line with your line hand after the cast, as your offering drifts in the current. Some strikes are very subtle; others will be explosive. Pulling your shrimp fly against the current, will get constant refusals.

Always spend a few minutes observing the water and conditions before your first cast. Keen observations will tell you what pattern to use, size they are taking, location of most fish, and if their take is deep or shallow.

A nine-weight rod, with a weight forward line should work. Spend the extra money for fluorocarbon leader material. I usually use a thirty-pound tippet, which you should check carefully for damage after each fish. If there is any structure around, Snook will head for cover. When this happens, if you can't turn the fish with rod pressure, ease up on the tension and the fish will occasionally swim out to deeper water.

Shrimp patterns can be simple or complex. I'm including a simple pattern that works.

Additional Information for Simple Fly Pattern

This fly pattern is very versatile, because the size of the fly can be modified by increasing the length of the hook shank. Using a longer hook, such as a Mustad 34007 or Tiemco 9394 will increase the length of the body and result in a longer overall size. Walking along the beach this morning I saw newly hatched threadfins that were an inch and a half to two inches in length. The Snook were keying in on this size forage. As the season progresses, a longer profile will be more effective.



Simple Fly — fly tied and photo by Pat Damico

Captain Rick Grasset of Sarasota uses a shorter version as his Grass

Minnow; Florida outdoor writer Norm Zeigler's Schminnow has a longer body length, and usually uses Marabou material for the tail. The name implies a shrimp/minnow resemblance. White is the color that is most popular. I have used this pattern years ago on the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania for smallmouth bass in chartreuse, white and black. The black version, when tied with a longer tail represents a hellgrammite or clipper, which is deadly bass bait.

I couldn't think of a simpler pattern, which is so effective. A few minutes with a little instruction will have you turning out beautiful flies. Grab a handful and go fishing.

Note: Next month, Pat's Simple Fly will be featured in the Tying Bench column.

A FFF, certified casting instructor, Capt. Pat Damico guides fly and light tackle trips in lower Tampa Bay and surrounding waterways. Email: flyguy@captpat.com
Web Site: <http://captpat.com/>

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Fly Tying Bench — Flip Pallot's Prince of Tide *by Paul Sequira*

Several years ago, SFF had Flip Pallot as the guest speaker at our annual banquet; he also spent Saturday morning with us at the Antelope Club for fly casting demos and general fishing talk. Flip mentioned that his favorite fly for redfish was his "Prince of Tide". Lefty Kreh, in his revised edition of "Saltwater Flies" also said it is an excellent all around pattern for many saltwater species. Lefty doesn't describe it as a bendback but the photo in his book shows a bendback hook. Flip also told us that he ties it as a bendback; he also said he frequently ties it with a single wire weedguard. It is a simple fly to tie.....PS

Materials:

- Hook: 34007 size 1 to 3/0 or equivalent
- Thread: Brown 3/0 Monochord
- Body: Copper Krystal Flash and gold Flashabou over-wrapped with 12 or 15 # mono
- Wing: (bottom to top) white bucktail, green or olive bucktail and brown bucktail, copper Krystal Flash

Tying Instructions:

1. Pinch down the barb of your hook and then secure the eye of the hook in your pliers with the hook point up and with your thumb inserted into the hook bend, apply gentle downward pressure to create your bend back hook. You should have approximately 3/16" of straight hook shank and then a slight downward bend towards the hook bend with the point up.
2. Tie the mono in under the hook shank starting slightly behind the straight portion behind the hook eye and tie off at the hook bend. Leave approximately four inches of mono hanging.
3. Secure several strands of copper Krystal Flash and gold Flashabou (approximately 3 of each) at the bend of the hook and spiral the thread up to the point where you started the mono. Slightly twist the Flashabou and Krystal Flash into a loose rope and wrap it up the hook shank to the waiting thread. Tie off and discard excess flash material. Tightly wrap the mono up the hook shank completely covering the flash material and tie off at the waiting thread.
4. The wing is built with three layers of bucktail, white, topped with green (or olive) and then topped with brown. Each layer of bucktail should be approximately the thickness of a wooden matchstick when compacted and stretched. Finally, top it all with eight to ten strands of copper Krystal Flash which should extend about 1/4" beyond the bucktail. The total wing should be about 1 1/2 to 2 times the length of the hook. Wrap a neat bullet shaped head and whip finish, add yellow eyes with a black center, either painted or stick-on. Overcoat the head with a good hard clear finish.

Note: I have seen this fly in local fishing publications slightly modified with a topping of black bucktail over the copper flash and then some gold flash over all. Also on a straight hook rather than a bendback. I think the pattern as described in Lefty's book (and above) is more accurate to the original. A note on the body: You could also wrap the mono over the flash material using the easy nail knot method; or, I prefer to coat the Krystal Flash/Flashabou body with epoxy rather than mono. It adds a little weight to the fly and offers more protection; I do this on all my bendbacks or straight hook minnow imitations using an assembly line method. I finish about a dozen bodies and then mix up a batch of epoxy rod wrap finish. I then coat all the bodies with the epoxy and place them on my turning wheel for approximately three hours. I let the epoxy completely cure overnight and then complete the flies the next day or as time permits. I also do this for the fly heads after applying the eyes. This makes for a much more durable and attractive fly.PS



Prince of Tide: Fly tied by Don Coleman, Photo by Paul Sequira

Fly Tying Bench — Paul's Bay Anchovy *by Paul Sequira*

While going through some of my tackle recently, I came across a long forgotten small box of flies from my days of fishing Long Island Sound for stripers, bluefish, weakfish and bonito. Many of the baitfish that we find here are also prevalent in the Mid-Atlantic and the Bay Anchovy is one of them. Going through that fly box I found one of my favorite Bay Anchovy imitations. It is essentially a Joe Brooks Blonde but tied with my own touch and my selection of materials.PS

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 34007 (or equivalent) size 4 or 2
- Thread: Lava Lace (clear mono)
- Body: Rainbow Krystal Flash
- Tail: White bucktail
- Wing: Pale chartreuse (or light yellow) bucktail under tan bucktail
- Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash
- Lateral Stripe: Narrow holographic flash
- Eyes: Stick-on silver holographic 2 mm eyes

Directions:

1. Secure hook in vise and tie in thread behind hook eye.
2. Select a small amount of white bucktail for the tail (about the thickness of a round tooth pick when compressed and stretched) measure to $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the length of the hook shank and tie in just behind the hook eye. Tie in with close tight wraps all the way to the hook bend making sure that the bucktail remains on top of the hook. The last few wraps should be slightly looser to prevent the bucktail from flaring.
3. The body is created with 3 or 4 pieces of rainbow Krystal Flash tied in under the hook shank and secured with even wraps spiraling up to the start of the bucktail. Cut and discard the excess. Now twist the Krystal Flash into a rope and wrap the body up to the waiting thread. Tie off and discard the excess.
4. Select a small bunch of light chartreuse bucktail for the mid-wing (amount as with the tail) and tie in with several wraps. Length should be equal to the tail. Select a few strands of Pearl Krystal Flash and tie in on each side of the chartreuse mid-wing.
5. Select a small bunch of tan bucktail for the top wing (amount as with the mid-wing) and secure with several wraps directly on top of the mid-wing. Length should be equal to the mid-wing and tail.
6. Bay Anchovies have a very prominent lateral stripe. Add one strip of the narrow holographic silver flash to each side of the fly. Length is equal to the wing. The entire fly on a size 4 hook should be approximately $1\frac{3}{4}$ " long.
7. Wrap a neat bullet shaped head, whip finish and coat with head cement. Add the 2 mm holographic eyes to each side of the head. Coat the head with either 2-hour epoxy or rod wrapping finishing epoxy. Hold the wing down towards the body slightly and cover the base of the wing with epoxy to give the fly a more streamlined appearance. Avoid a wing that stands up away from the fly's body.

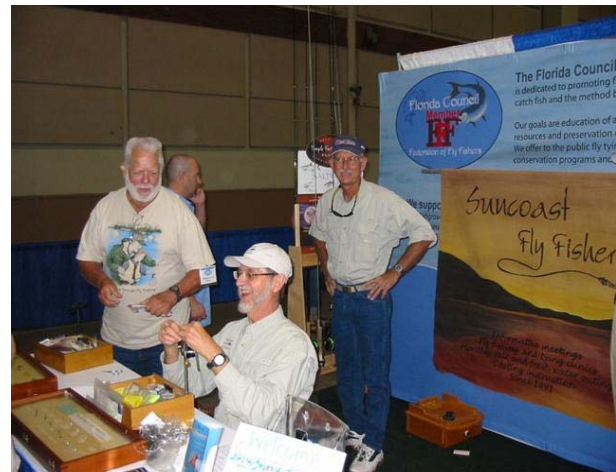
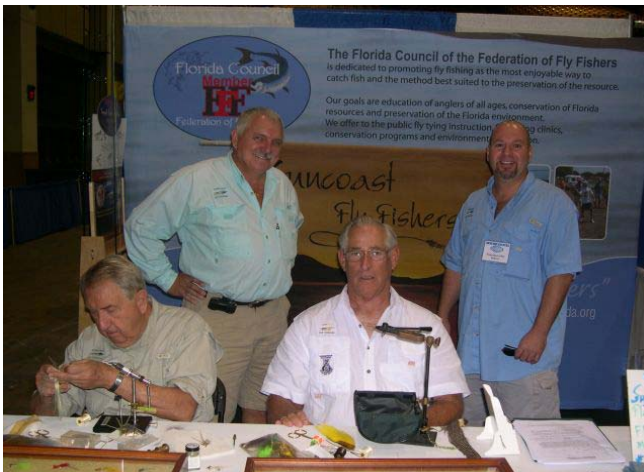


Paul's Bay Anchovy: Fly tied and photo by Paul Sequira

Suncoast Fly Fishers Recent Pictures



Sept. 22, 2007 The Mangrove Coast FFC and Suncoast FF's lined up for the traditional gang photo op after some fun fishing and a fabulous lunch. Everyone is looking forward to the next time. Photo — Ken Hofmeister



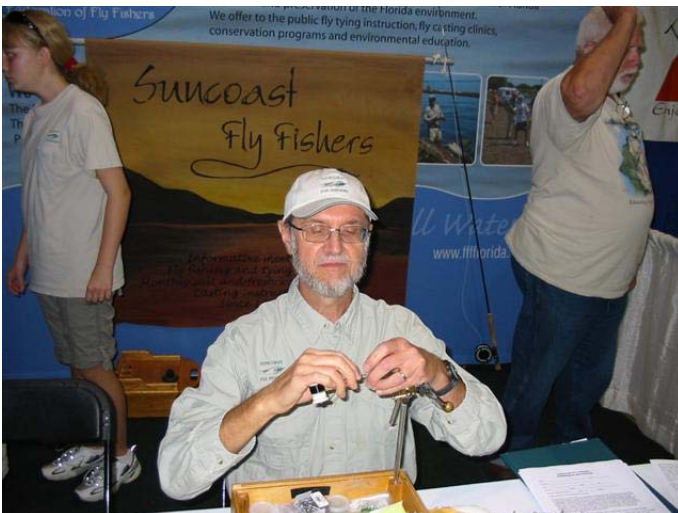
Charlie Most, John Zientarski, Enver Hysni, Ken Doty, Mark Hays and Don Manning did their collective best to chat up the crowd and sell SFF and FFF memberships.

Photos: Above left—Ken Hofmeister, Above right—Paul Sequira

More Action at the Florida Sportsman Show 9-29-07



Enver Hysni shows a future fly fisherman how easy it is. Photo: Ken Hofmeister



Above: Richard Oldenski ties some fish catchers, Annie Hays in the background..

Top right: Charlie Most teaches Don Manning the fine points.

Middle right: Richard tying while Joe Dail, Charlie Most, Mark Hays and Enver Hysni keep him honest.

Right: More action at the booth with the usual suspects.

Photos: Paul Sequira



SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

Club Officers

President: Ken Hofmeister 727-521-1637

Vice President: John Zientarski 727-391-1480

Secretary: Joe Dail

Treasurer: Alan Sewell

Board of Directors

Roger Blanton - Pat Damico

Mark Hays - Ken McKinnon

Richard Oldenski - John Rodgers - Paul Sequira

“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 the editor, Paul Sequira

psequira@tampabay.rr.com



Next Club Meeting: Thursday, October 18, 2007

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

7:00-8:30 Meeting & Program

Location: Walter Fuller Park

7891 26 Avenue, North, St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Program: Dr. George Stovall — Kayak Fishing

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers

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