



The Prez Sez *by Ken Hofmeister*



YOUR SFF MEMBERSHIP A BIG BANG FOR THE BUCK

HOW DID HE DO THAT?

In working with a skilled craftsman to do some renovation projects around the house, I noticed that he did some crafty things with tools, techniques, and tricks. As we worked on cabinets, sinks, Formica tops, and bookcases, I noticed that he did stuff that would have taken me much longer and got a much better result than I would have.

CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT

We believe we can always improve the way we tie, cast, fish, and educate. We are committed to continually improving how we function as we benchmark with other groups. We solicit improvement ideas for our processes, services, and ourselves. We are committed to preserving our waters and marine resources. We keep searching for safer and more productive ways to enjoy our sport. SFF VISION AND VALUES

CASTING CLINIC

August 11th Pat Damico gave over a dozen of us a second installment of a most helpful casting clinic. Skills and knowledge were improved and the lunch was great. Of significance is the opportunity to take “booster shots” before each meeting. Since SFF recently purchased some new club rods, we no longer can blame the rod for our blunders. We can practice those techniques and tricks with some club tools.

FLY TYING 101

Charlie Most offered to conduct “Fly Tying 101” for those who want to get started (or move past start) with this skill. Again, the club has some vices available and Charlie has the tips and techniques. Nearly a dozen members expressed interest. Watch for the start date.

ROD BUILDING 101

Federation of Fly Fishers is offering twelve free rod-building kits to charter FFF clubs who schedule a club rod-building class. Would you believe that we have over five rod builders? We’ll circulate a sign-up sheet at the September meeting and determine a schedule. Again, some tools, tricks, techniques are involved. Good news, we have them available.

FISHING

At the September outing we have a chance to fish with 26 members of the Mangrove Bay Fly Fishing Club at the joint Ft. DeSoto outing. Who knows, we might learn something from these fly fishers. Or, we might be teaching them. Sign up for the outing at the September meeting.
.....Ken

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 22 - Joint outing with Mangrove Coast Club at Ft. DeSoto

Sept 29 - Florida Sportsman Show - Florida State Fairgrounds

Oct - Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament date to be determined

Dec - Don Coleman Classic

Inside this issue:

Outing reviews, Previews, Tournament Results	2
Fish A Local Pond, Pat Damico	4
Wisconsin Bluegill Fishing, Norm Sande	5
Fly Tying Bench—Eyes On Flies, Charlie Most	6 & 7
Ft DeSoto Park map	8
SFF Pictures	9
Map and Meeting Preview	10

Outings—Reviews and Previews by *Richard Oldenski*



September Outing:

September 22, 2007 Ft. DeSoto Park - Joint Outing With Mangrove Bay Club

Our friends from the Mangrove Bay Club will join us at our September outing at Ft. DeSoto Park. The cooler Autumn weather usually turns on the fish feeding in the waters around Ft. DeSoto. We'll meet at the boat ramp at 07:30 and pair off SFF members with members of the Mangrove club. Lunch will be served at Noon at shelter # 10 at the North Beach picnic area. Mark Hays will be grilling something special to amuse our palates. Be sure to sign up at the meeting. See map elsewhere in this newsletter.

August Outing:

We had a "cool" outing at Fred Howard Park. The weather was not so hot, and neither was the fishing. A cool breeze kept us comfortable in the hot August sun. Only a

few fish were caught, mostly trout. Don Manning caught the biggest fish, a 24 and 1/2 inch ladyfish. But everyone was jovial at lunch where ice cold watermelon was a big hit. You should have been there.

Future Outing Previews:

October - Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament on the Hillsborough River

November - Pinellas Point

December - Don Coleman Invitational - Ft. DeSoto

Fishing Tournament

Sun Fish—Ken Doty 9¼ inches

Redfish - Ted Rich 17 inches

Trout - Jim McPhail 15 inches

Other Species - Don Manning - Ladyfish 24½ inches

This Month's Meeting — Thursday, Sept. 20, 2007

Captain Wayne Simmons, a U.S.C.G. licensed-full time fishing guide who has fished the Tampa Bay Area for over thirty years, specializes in light tackle fly and artificial lure flats and back bay sight fishing. Capt. Wayne will fill us in on what is happening in our local waters. Visit his website at www.captainwaynesimmons.com

Membership Renewals For 2008 — Due This Month

The title says it all. Your 2008 dues must be paid this month 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.

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.

Editor's Corner by Paul Sequira

This issue of "On The Fly" may appear to be a little heavy on bream fishing and "why not". We have two very nice bream fishing articles; one from Capt Pat Damico extolling the pleasures of a panfishing excursion close to home shared with a favorite child. This type of fishing is perfect for getting a child interested in our wonderful sport and it is a great deal of fun for us adults too.

A second article by member Norm Sande describes how you have to adapt your fishing to the existing conditions. In this case the very deep lakes in his native Wisconsin. Norm, a very serious fly fisherman, had some reservations about publishing his article in a fly fishing club's newsletter but I think it fits perfectly. We can't always fly fishing but that doesn't mean we can't still enjoy our favorite pastime.

Charlie Most is a highly skilled fly tyer and we'll all benefit from learning his technique for painting eyes on flies. Painting eyes may seem like more work than just sticking some paste-on eyes on our flies but the results speaks for itself and painted eyes are a lot more durable. You always get just the right size this way too.

Thank you Charlie, Norm and Pat for these excellent articles. Member contributions such as this make our newsletter informative and entertaining. I hope all our readers enjoy it.Paul

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

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.

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

Fish A Local Pond *by Capt. Pat Damico*

With the, “dog days of summer,” upon us, where can we have some consistent fly rod action? Most of my articles deal with salt-water fishing, but we are fortunate in having a variety of freshwater ponds and lakes throughout Florida that all seem to harbor a variety of panfish and bass. Even if never stocked, they all seem to eventually contain cooperative, scrappy panfish that are not especially selective when it comes to supplementing their diet. If you are new to fly fishing, there isn't a better way to get plenty of action in a short period of time. Children will love the experience and will look forward to their next outing. Let's go over some requirements for consistent success.

Equipment can be very simple. Any four to six weight fly rod with a floating weight forward line will be adequate. Shorter rods will be more trouble free if there are a lot of overhanging trees and vegetation along the shoreline. I like tapered leaders of between seven and nine feet with a six pound tippet. A variety of panfish are usually available, mostly members of the bluegill family, and also some crappie. Largemouth bass will be present and will hit your panfish offerings. Look around your chosen pond and see what food is available. Crickets, grasshoppers, ants, a variety of flies and spiders, beetles, small baitfish, frogs, and any other living things that live in or near the water will provide food for these smaller predators. There is nothing more satisfying than hearing the telltale smack as they engulf an offering on the surface. Most of my selection will include floating offerings. Poppers that are very tiny in sizes from ten to six are perfect. White, yellow, and black will be more than enough colors. Bodies of cork, deer hair, balsa wood and foam are available. Foam would get my preference for ease of casting and durability. The heads can be flat, cup shaped, for more surface disturbance, or pointed, so that they slide through grass and other obstacles. A few with weed guards would be a good idea. This is especially helpful when your presentation lands on shore, a dock, lily pad or stump. When gently teased it will fall into the water frequently eliciting an immediate strike. A few wooly buggers and streamers will fulfill your subsurface needs.

Now that we are equipped, where will we fish? A lot will depend on whether you will walk the shoreline, wade, or use some type of boat. For our purposes, let's think about small ponds that will be fished from shore. The equipment we



Capt. Pat and a very happy granddaughter with her trophy bream. Photo Pat Damico

discussed will be adequate in either case. Besides our state, county and city ponds and lakes, there are many small ponds in developments and golf courses that are private but open to residents. They are rarely fished and usually very productive. Farm ponds in the country can be real honey holes. Look for one that has a variety of depths and structure. Areas of shade, and deeper water will attract fish during the warmer parts of the day. The shallows will be the places to cast early in the morning and evening. Docks and other wood structure are magnets and should

be carefully plied with your offerings. If walking, you must be able to get close enough to cast without dressing trees with your flies. With a little legwork, you will discover some ponds will have larger fish than others and these will become your favorites. Gators and snakes should also be a concern.

Most fish will be close to the shoreline. I like to cast parallel to the shore. Panfish usually respond best to a very slow presentation. This is a good place to practice your weak hand casting skills. A good way to fish a top water offering is to let all the rings disappear after it hits the surface before imparting any movement. This represents a stunned, easy meal. Unlike saltwater fishing, a motionless fly is frequently engulfed. If nothing happens, a slight twitch should be the first movement. A few aggressive twitches can now be made before making the next cast. Keep your rod close to the water's surface using your line hand to create most action to the fly. Wet flies should be allowed to sink a little before starting a very slow retrieve. When fishing deeper water, use a countdown method to locate cooperative fish. Once their level is attained, repeat the same count to stay with the fish. They will frequently suspend or locate over some submerged structure.

This is the best way to get someone started into fly fishing. Children especially will scream with delight when a scrappy panfish tugs their line.

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

Bluegill Fishing In Wisconsin by Norm Sande

Over the years while visiting and living in Florida I have seen the bumper sticker saying “We Don’t Care How You Do It Up North”. Being the benevolent, willing to learn organization we are, our group may be an exception, so here goes.

During the Ice Age, many deep valleys were formed in Wisconsin, commonly called “kettles”. Many of these had rivers flowing through them or springs, so consequently they became lakes, of which we are blessed with 14, 000. Many of these lakes are deep; as an example, the maximum depth of our lake is 97 feet. What usually happens is that the bluegills and crappies will seek a comfort level in the thermocline and suspend in deeper water at depths of anywhere from 12 to 25 feet in 40 to 90 feet of water.



As a fisherman, my real love is fly fishing, but if you want to catch fish you adapt to the situation that prevails, so you drift fish using live bait. Such was the case a couple of weeks ago when I took a trip with two brothers to a favorite lake about a one-hour drive away.

The lake is about one mile long and has a maximum depth of 55 feet. Usually the wind comes down the length of the lake fairly strong and such was the case on the day of our trip.

Our method for catching bluegills and crappie is to drift using a ¾ oz bell sinker attached to a snap-swivel on the end of 4 or 6 lb test line. A five-foot



leader with a split shot about a foot or 18” is clipped to the snap-swivel.

If the locator shows fish, let’s say at depth of 18 to 25 feet, you take a measurement of how far the bell sinker moves downward when you back-reel one turn. This gives you a pretty accurate idea of where your bait is at in the water col-

umn with whatever number of back-turns you do to get down to where the fish are. Once you establish the proper depth, it is easy to simply crank back so many turns each time you bait up your hook and the split shot on the leader keeps the hook from tangling in the line.

So, if this method is so good, why didn’t it work on the day we were out? Our locator showed a lot of fish at various depths in the lake, but they wouldn’t hit our grubs or worms. Finally I remembered a spot that had been productive before. It was a hole off the end of a weed bank. We anchored in 28 feet of water and played out line to drift to the hole at 21 feet.

We would reel back about 10 or 11 turns and put our sinkers on the bottom and reel up three turns and “voila” that’s where the gills were. We ended up with 74 gills one under our limit for the three of us. My companions were good, the lunch was good and the fishing was good and that’s one of the ways it’s done “Up North’*Norm*

Fly Tying Bench — Eyes On Flies by Charlie Most

Some of the country's best known fly-tying anglers add prominent eyes to many of the flies they create, and who am I to differ from the likes of Lefty Kreh, Dave Whitlock and such. Lefty, in fact, feels that predator fish target the highly visible eyes of most baitfish.

But putting eyes on flies is hardly new. Back when so-called Maine streamers -- the Black Ghost, Gray Ghost, Silver Darter, and others -- tied primarily for land-locked salmon but good also for trout and bass in other areas, many of them had special feathers to suggest eyes.

These feathers, from the jungle cock birds native to India and other Asian countries, have an enamel-like spot suggesting eyes when tied in at a fly's head.

But demand for these feathers for streamers, salmon and steelhead flies led to near extinction of this bird, and importing them is now a Federal offense.

Many fly shops carry various stick-on eyes in both flat and three-dimensional shapes that generally do a good job. The flat eyes do sometimes present a problem.

The normally rounded head of a fly takes those stick-on eyes just fine but when you add protective coatings like Fleximent or Sally Hansen nail polish, solvents in these glues soften the stickum under the edges of the eyes and the edges then flatten out, no longer contoured to the fly's head. Un-sightly but there's a good way to prevent this.

I use acrylic paints for the eyes on most baitfish flies and bugs. Acrylics are water based -- no solvents -- and you can get a clear varnish of the same brand. This varnish won't unglue the eye edges and when dry, adds a protective finish.

But stick-on eyes are not always available in the sizes and colors I like. I've now use painted-on eyes almost entirely. Being water based, acrylics clean up easily and any mistakes are easily corrected. Just use a wet Q-tip or a wet bit of paper towel to wipe out any goofs.

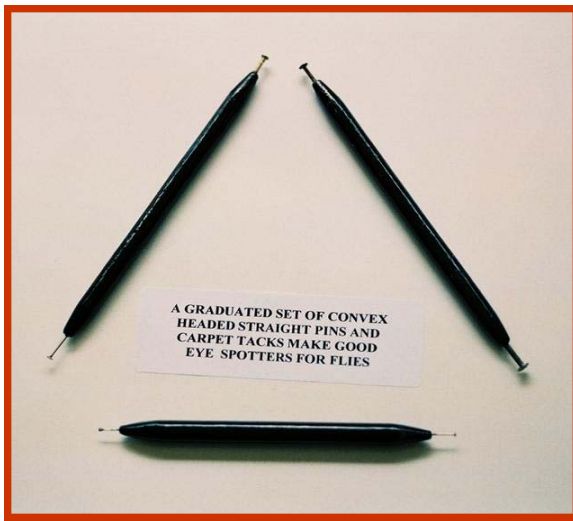
Michael's arts and crafts stores carry a line of acrylic paints and varnish called Ceramcoat that has worked well for me. A seven ounce bottle to paint a couple of thousand eyes cost less than \$2.00, and are sometimes on sale for \$.90.

Articles on using painted eyes often suggest a nail head, cut off rounded toothpick, various sizes of drill bits, or other tools to spot eyes. But most such "spotters" are flat and if pressed too hard while spotting leaves an amoeba-like shape rather than the round one you want.

Using pins and nails with rounded convex heads almost always produces a nice, round spot. And to have these handy, I mounted various pins and nails on wood dowels. I tapered the ends of six-inch pieces of ¼-quarter-inch dowel leaving a small flat spot on the end. Tiny drill bits for a Dremal Moto-tool centered holes in that flat spot and the spotter nails were then epoxied in. If the fit is too loose, wrap the nail with fly thread. If too small, move the drill around for a bigger hole.



Fly Tying Bench—Eyes On Fliescontinued



Straight pins have those convex heads and my smallest spotter uses the finest straight pin I could find which I honed even smaller. On the other end, I inserted a regular size straight pin. The second spotter “handle” has a large straight pin on one end and a small upholstery tack, convex-headed of course, in the other end. The third handle has two larger sizes of similar upholstery tacks. These graduated sizes will make any size eye I want, plus the contrasting iris.

Applying painted eyes requires a steady hand and a gentle touch. You barely touch the spotter to the paint and then barely touch it to the fly or bug head. You then wait about ten minutes and use a smaller spotter to again lightly touch it

against a contrasting paint and then barely touch it to the center of the previously painted eye.

And to steady your hand, just hold the lure in your left hand, put the right or spotter hand against the left hand and then touch the spotter into place.

The most productive way to do all this is to tie the flies and then set up a sort of assembly line. Just paint all the eyes first and by that time, depending on how many, that paint should be dry enough to add the contrasting iris.

Once the eyes are complete, let them dry a half hour or so and then use a fine artists paintbrush to coat the head with the acrylic varnish. This protects the eyes from any solvents in the Sally Hanson, which is then applied after the acrylic varnish dries.

I could be accused of making a fetish of this as I usually cover the thread of a fly head with two coats of Fleximent, which penetrates to lock the thread wraps together. I then apply a coat or two of the acrylic varnish, or a chosen color acrylic paint if wanted, to smooth up the thread wraps. After this dries, I spot in the eyes which then get another coat of acrylic varnish. When all these acrylic coats dry, about 30 minutes or so, cover the head with Sally Hansen “Hard as Nails” which lives up to its slogan.

Painting eyes on your streamers, bucktails and surface bugs adds considerable realism, provides a visible target for the predator fish we seek, and give a professional finish look to your flies. I think you’ll like the results.*Charlie*



Map of Ft DeSoto Park



The Suncoast Fly Fishers — Some Recent Pictures



Capt Pat and Enver must have worked them hard at the Aug. 11th casting clinic. The crew found Alan's truck a good spot to rest. Photo: Paul Sequira



Aug. 11th was a hot day but looking into the back of Pat's truck, we can see how he and Enver kept their cool. Photo: Paul Sequira



Terry Kirkpatrick looks rather pleased with this bream from Don's secret spot. Photo: Terry Kirkpatrick



Don Manning shows off a typical bass from his secret spot "north of Tampa". Photo: Terry Kirkpatrick

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

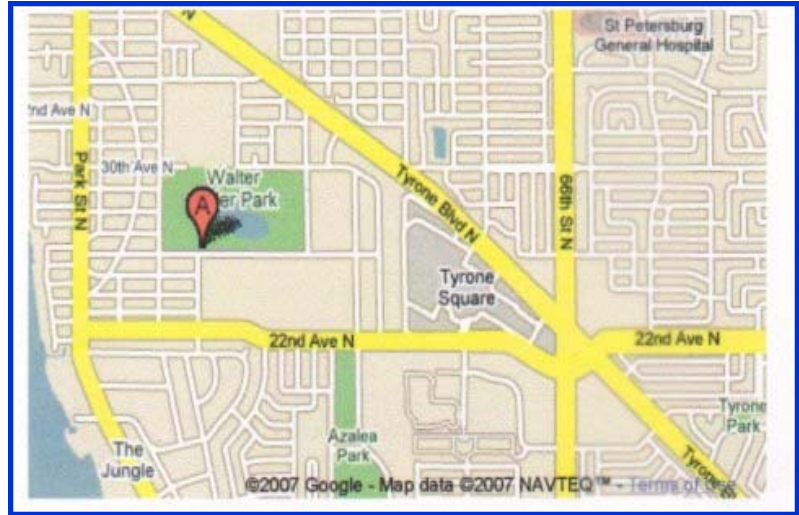
Roger Blanton - Pat Damico

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, September 20, 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: Fishing Tampa Bay with Capt. Wayne Simmons

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers

P.O. BOX 40821

St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821