



The Prez Sez by Ken Hofmeister



YOUR TRASH IS THEIR TREASURE IN THE JANUARY SFF AUCTION

Here's your chance to organize your life and get rid of clutter. Make a place for everything and put everything back in that place and you'll be an organized fly fisher (if there is such a thing). Another tip from the professionals is that you get rid of stuff you haven't used in the past year. Now, we're looking at heavy tackle boxes that never make the road trips. We have a few boxes of flies we tied when our initiative surpassed our skill. They will never be our "go to" flies since we now have some proven "killers" in our arsenal. Old spinning and fly rods that are gathering dust are candidates for the auction. Certainly there are some rod holders that can find a new home.

Most of us have collected some books and fishing clothes that are stored out of sight and out of mind. We have some relics from our spinning and bait fishing days that could be used by some members who play with such things. Who knows, we may have paddles, life jackets, motors, anchors, boat lights, or other accessories that are no longer being used. Knowing Alan, he'd be happy to auction off a boat or two!

Certainly, we don't want to hoard anything we don't want, need, or use. That means the SFF auction is an ideal place to give some member a chance to turn our trash into some treasure. Alan Sewell will host this "comedy hour" where you'll have lots of fun and a few great "finds."

Those who want to support the club will want to tie a box of flies for the auction. Attractive art related to fish, fishing, and water would be welcome. Think of what a new member of the club would want, need, and be proud to use, and you'll come up with some other items that Alan can do a magical change of ownership.

As you get some new gear for Christmas presents, you'll want to consider a recycle for the models that have served you well in the past. Remember to bring cash or a check to this annual event since you're sure to find things you can't live or fish without.

You can bring your items with you to the Don Coleman Classic at Ft. DeSoto, Saturday December 20 and we'll store them for the auction. Or, you can bring your items to the January 15 membership meeting.

May your holidays be filled with peace, love, and joy.**Ken**

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. - Annual bring what you have auction
- Jan. - Casting Clinic with Pat Damico
- March - Pig Roast
- May - Boy Scout Merit Badge College

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OUTINGS -REVIEWS & PREVIEWS by *Richard Oldenski*



December Outing—Don Coleman Invitational at Ft DeSoto Park December 20, 2008

November Outing - We never made it to the Clam-bar at the last outing. It was too windy, so we fished the west side of the Skyway. In spite of a stiff wind and cold weather, at least half of us caught fish, mostly trout. Alan Sewell got the prize for a 20 inch trout. He also treated us to homemade salami as an appetizer at lunch. The main course was smoked mackerel provided by Mark Hays. Of course, there was plenty of hot coffee. You should have been there!

December 20th Outing - This will be the second annual outing in memory of our departed friend and mentor, Don Coleman. Our friends from the Tampa Bay and Mangrove Coast clubs will join us at Fort DeSoto Park to fish, feast and remember Don, who taught us so much about fly fishing and whose legacy continues to teach and inspire us in his writings "Fly Fishing the Flats".

Meet at the park boat ramp between 07:30 and 08:00 to pick up a fishing buddy, or start fishing whenever you're awake and ready. Lunch will be at Noon at the Arrowhead Picnic Area. Alan Sewell will serve his incomparable chili. Feel free to bring appetizers, baked goods or desserts to put on the buffet table. There will be plenty of hot coffee and cold

drinks. If it rains, lunch will be at shelter #10 in the North Beach Picnic Area.

Recommended Flies for the November Outing and Newsletter Reference for Instructions:

Clouser Deep Minnow -	Jan. 2007 p.6
Ada Potato -	May 2008 p.9
Grass Shrimp -	Aug. 2008 p.8
Jiggy -	Dec. 2007 p.7

Future Outing Previews:

January 2009 - Pinellas Point

February 2009 - Fort Desoto

March 2009 - Snook haven

Fishing Tournament:

Snook - Tom Trukenbrod - 30 inches

Trout - Mark Hays - 20 inches

Sunfish - Don Manning - 10½ inches

Bass - Don Manning - 14½ inches

Open Catogory - Tiger Vertregt - 26½ inch gar



DECEMBER 2008 — NO MEETING



2009 EDITION OF SFF CLUB HATS AND SHIRTS

If you ordered the new SFF club shirt, it will be available at the December 20th Don Coleman Outing at Ft DeSoto Park. Since there is no December meeting, the shirts will be available at the February meeting (we have an auction going on at the January meeting and will not be able to handle shirt sales). Alternatively, you may call Alan at home (727-344-0503) and arrange to pick it up there. Payment at any pickup must be made by check, Alan will not have change. The new hats will also be available.

DUES — DUES — DUES — DUES — DUES — DUES

Our records indicate that some members have not met their financial obligation to the club for 2009. Membership in SFF at \$15 for regular or \$25 for family membership is a bargain for all we get in return. Print and complete the SFF Membership renewal form on page 5. Mail the completed form with your check made out to Suncoast Fly Fishers to the address on the renewal form. Please note the following excerpt from your club by-laws.

Article II Membership - 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.

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS INFORMATION

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.

BENEFITS OF SUNCOAST FLY FISHER MEMBERSHIP

- Monthly membership meetings with outstanding local speakers on fly fishing, fly tying, rod building, marine conservation and exotic fishing trips worldwide.
- Free fly casting, fly tying & knot tying instructions.
- Monthly club outings in local fresh and saltwater locales topped off with top notch lunches and story telling of the day's catch.
- Joint outings with other clubs in Florida.
- Monthly electronic newsletters with local fishing and club activity information plus fly tying instruction sheets and color photos.
- A professional website with fishing reports, links, club activity photos etc.
- Club hats and shirts.
- Annual award winning Pig Roast with first class auction.
- Charter club of the Federation of Fly Fishers.
- Make new friends and find a fishing buddy for your next fishing adventure.

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 of these committees, please speak to any director.

Committees are as follows:

- Casting Skills - Pat Damico
- FFF Liaison - Pat Damico
- Fly Tying - Alan Sewell
- Membership - Pat Damico & Joe Dail
- Newsletter - Paul Sequira
- Outings - Richard Oldenski & Mark Hays
- Publicity - Roger Blanton
- Programs - BOD
- Project Healing Waters - Terry Kirkpatrick
- Raffles - John Rodgers & Tom Hummel
- Webmaster - Tom Anderson



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

Platinum Real Estate

Roger Blanton—Broker

The opportunity of a lifetime. Investors—make 15% or more net ROI on your money. I'm doing it, you can too. Call to find out how.

Phone: 727-515-5247

Fax: 727-864-4950

E-mail: Roger.Blanton@hotmail.com

Website: PlatinumRealtyOfFlorida.com

Suncoast Fly Fishers Activities and Information

Casting Clinic: January 24, 2009

Our very popular casting clinic for all Suncoast Fly fishers will be from 9:00 am to 11:30 am at the turn around at the end of East Beach, Ft. DeSoto park. Everyone from first timers as well as experienced fly casters are welcome. The relaxed non threatening environment has had most of our members as repeat participants. Bring your favorite fly rod and enjoy one of our club's benefits. If your club and FFF dues are up to date, there is no charge. If you need equipment, contact me at 727-360-6466.

Pat Damico, FFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor



PIG ROAST 2009

SFF's premier event of the year once again is in the planning stages. PIG ROAST 2009 is tentatively scheduled for a Saturday evening in late March. Your contributions of flies and other gifts will be gratefully accepted to enhance the auction, our biggest fund raiser of the year. Start your plans to help your club with this event now.



Club Bring What You Have Auction

SFF's ever popular Bring What You Have (or want to get rid of) auction is scheduled for January 15, 2009. Alan Sewell is preparing another raucous evening of fun and games as he auctions off all those items no longer needed or wanted by you, but just the thing for some other member who has been looking for just the special item. This is your chance to help support the club's treasury and have a great time with lots of laughs and good fellowship. So, start collecting that no longer needed stuff (fishing or otherwise) and be ready to collect some new (to you at least) stuff and support your club.PS

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS 2009 DUES NOTICE

Membership in SFF runs from September through August of the following year. Payment of SFF dues for 2009 were due in September. Print and complete the SFF membership renewal form located on page 5. Personal checks made out to Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. are acceptable. Mail your checks and renewal form to: Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821 Attn: Tom Gadacz

FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

DUES NOTICES *by Joe Dail*

Club members are beginning to receive dues renewal notices from the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF). Such dues should be paid directly to FFF, and you should NOT wait until Club dues are renewed in September. Since FFF memberships expire 12 months after they started, and all Club memberships expire at the same time (in September), the dues periods for the two organizations do not coincide, and it was decided that it would be simpler for the Club's volunteer treasurer, and that there would be less room for error, if members deal directly with FFF with respect to FFF dues. Accordingly, the Club collects FFF dues only from new members, which gives the Club credits toward incentive fly rods awarded by FFF to charter clubs for obtaining new members.

LOCAL FISHING GUIDES

Capt. Frank Bourgeois Offshore Hernando Cty 352-666-6234
Capt. Pat Damico, Tampa Bay 727-360-6466
Capt. Rick Grasset, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Tampa Bay 941-923-7799
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
Capt. Steve Soult, Nature Coast Area 352-686-0853

Suncoast Fly Fishers Membership Renewal Form

If you have not renewed your membership for 2008-2009 please complete this form and bring it to the meeting or mail it.

Suncoast Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address* _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone* (____) _____ E Mail* _____

*This information is shown on the Membership List which is distributed to members only and is not used for commercial purposes. If you do not desire this information disclosed to members, please so indicate. The monthly newsletter, "On The Fly," is distributed electronically. If you do not provide an e-mail address, you will receive an abbreviated printed version via U.S. Mail.

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) membership categories (select one):

____ Regular Membership 1 year \$15 (*September 2008-09*)

____ Family Membership 1 year (includes Member, Spouse and children under 18) \$25

____ Business Membership 1 year (includes monthly business card newsletter ad) \$100

Total amount due \$ _____. Please make check payable to Suncoast Fly Fishers and bring it along with completed application to next meeting or mail to:

Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O.

Att: Tom Gadacz, Treasurer

Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821.

Amount received \$ _____. Date received __/__/____. SFF Treasurer _____

SFF November Meeting Program Review by Bill AuCoin

LOWER UNIT HELL IS FLY FISHING HEAVEN

Not to scare you or anything but Captain Steven Soultz says if you want to fish the very skinny waters of the Crystal River-Homosassa area you should know a good outboard mechanic.

This clear and shallow water expanse – land of giant tarpon and more -- is also known as "Rock City, USA," the land of barely submerged piles of rocks. Rocks with legs. Soultz told the Suncoast Fly Fishers some rock piles move during the night so they can be in position to whack and crack your lower unit.

So that you don't have to, Soultz will risk the prop and gearcase on the big Merc weaving his Pro Line bay boat through lower unit hell. Watch out, silver kings.

Spring-summer tarpon aside, fly fishers can have a damn good time in the cooler months sight casting to slot-sized reds and 20-plus-inch spotted sea trout. The trout are on one side of the mullet line; the reds are on the other. Sometimes you'll wear out your arm on mackerel, bonito, bluefish and giant jack crevalle. He knows where to find some big dumb cobia, too.

You will be responsible for your own 7- or 8-weight plus a few shrimp and crab patterns. (Okay, okay. Ken Hofmeister's Ada Potato fly is productive, he acknowledged.)

Tide stages are critical. The best spot on the flat may be so shallow you'll have to wait for a few inches of water to arrive. When you get there Soultz may show you that the fish favor this spot because, if you look carefully, you'll note that it is a natural funnel of slightly deeper water bordered by oyster bars. That funnel pulls fish in to that spot and gives them a way back out again. He knows why the fish are feeding on one side of an oyster island but not the other.

Drifting and casting to sandy potholes with warmer water is a productive winter strategy. Afternoons, when the sun has warmed the shallows, you can wade fish. Cold fronts sometimes blow so much water out that only kayak fishing is logical. He has 'yaks, too, for paddling and casting in those shallow waters north of Bayport.

Captain Steve Soultz, Angling Adventures Guide Service
352-686-0853 (office) 352-238-9339 (cell)
Email: fishing@angling-adventures.net www.inshoreslamcharters.com

OFFSHORE WITH CAPTAIN FRANK

Captain Frank Bourgeois knows a spot 11 miles out where it is so shallow you can actually get out of his boat and wade fish. This is how they define "offshore" in the Crystal River-Homosassa area. Out there it is possible to catch grouper on a fly. Out there redfish measure 60 inches long. That's five feet, in case you majored in English.

Most of the time, though, you'll be fly casting from the front deck of his 26-footer. You'll want to avoid snagging an antenna or rods up there on the tee top. The trick is to face forward with both feet and make your back cast go straight back and high. Shoot it forward, keep it low. A 50-foot cast is usually about the right distance.

Bourgeois chums up groupers, amberjacks, bonito. Very tiny pieces of chum pull in glass minnows, sardines and other baitfish. He teaches fly anglers a retrieve that mimics the feeding movements of the bait fish. They dart left, then right, rushing to tiny specs of chum drifting in the water. To imitate the motion of the bait, Bourgeois shows you how to "walk the dog." During the retrieve the rod tip moves from side to side so the streamer really looks like a small baitfish darting about eating pieces of chum.

It's a lot of work, casting that big fly rod (10-11 weight, typically) and energetically retrieving your fly. So, you have permission to bring a spinning rod. Another plus is this. About Captain Bourgeois' Sea Fox 26, the Always Fishing website beams this selling point: "Yes, ladies, it has a potty." So, bring your wife, too, if she's a lady. You still can jump out of the boat and "wade fish" if you prefer.

Captain Frank Bourgeois, Always Fishing Guide Service
352-666-6234 (Office) 352-650-4426 (cell) www.alwaysfishing.com

The Don Coleman Invitational

On Saturday, December 20th we celebrate Don Coleman's life and the impact he had on many of those of us who knew him. Don was as generous and good natured a person as I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. He loved fly fishing and everything associated with it. Fly tying was an especially pleasurable activity for Don; he loved learning new tying methods and patterns. He was an avid reader especially of the outdoor sports and particularly fly fishing. Don also loved sharing his knowledge with anyone who showed an interest.

Ft. DeSoto was one of Don's favorite places to fish and he always looked forward to the December unofficial (back in the old days) outing because it meant that Alan Sewell was going to make his award winning chili which Don dearly loved.

So, this Saturday when we're all out there catching trout, ladyfish and whatever, think of Don and all the pleasure he gave. He also loved people and greeted everyone with a genuine smile of joy to see you and share some time with you.

Here's to you Don.**PS**



Don Coleman East Beach, Ft. DeSoto Photo: Paul Sequeira

A Note From Your Editor by Paul Sequeira

Here we are looking at the last issue of *On The Fly* for 2008. It seems as though I've just gotten used to writing 2008 and now I'll have to start getting used to writing 2009! What an eventful year 2008 has been for me, the dreaded "C" word came into my life and kept me out of action for over a year. Thankfully I am back on the way to a normal life again and I want to thank all of you for your concern. I especially want to thank Tom Gadacz for stepping up and taking over the newsletter publishing duties for two months while I was hospitalized and recovering from surgery. Tom did an excellent job producing *On The Fly* and keeping the members informed of all SFF activities. I'm sure I speak for all SFF members when I say – Thanks Tom.

I also want to thank all the members (and a few non-members) who contributed articles, pictures and in some cases – both to the newsletter. In no particular order, my thanks go to: Ken Hofmeister, Richard Oldenski, Joe Dail, Charlie Most, Pat Damico, Terry Kirkpatrick, John Zientarski, Tom Gadacz, Rick Grasset. Pete Greenan, Bob Burns, Mark Hays, Ken Doty, Sandy Griffin, Bill AuCoin, Steve Gibson, Al Pitcher, Ann Hofmeister, Ron Whitely, Faith Belcher and Woody Miller. I certainly hope I didn't unintentional miss anyone, but if I did, please accept my apologies for the oversight.

You folks all made the newsletter, fresh, entertaining and interesting. I receive many compliments on our newsletter but without your contributions it wouldn't be half as good. Thank you, one and all.**Paul**

Does Cooler Weather Mean Fly Fishing is Over Until Spring?

By Capt. Pat Damico

As I look outside today, a brisk northeast wind is blowing and cold rain is pelting the ground. A good day to stay inside! Water temperature has been declining steadily. Should I clean my fly lines and rods and lube reels to put them away for the winter, or is there hope for a few outings with the long rod before spring?

I know some fly-rodders that think winter is the best time in the Tampa Bay area to catch fish. Does this really apply only to here, or are there other areas of Florida that offer some respite from the winter doldrums? Why should this time of year offer any opportunities to catch fish with our feathered offerings?

Fishing with Capt. Mel on a day when we saw only one other boat. Mel said to me, "you live in a great area for winter fishing." The day was overcast and windy with thick intermittent fog. A wise decision as we headed out from the Marina was to stay close to home and concentrate on flats that were nearby. We were going to fish in the afternoon, when the water temperature is usually warmer, but the forecast was for deteriorating weather conditions later in the day. The tide was just starting to come in.

Our first stop had us catching a few trout, and sneaking up on five or six spooky tailing redfish. One red took a swipe at Mel's surface offering and quickly sent the others scurrying for deeper water. As the tidal flow increased, the fishing improved. In the four hours we fished we caught and released over fifty trout, many ladyfish and a half dozen three to four pound bluefish. Using light spinning tackle, we were able to cover a large area during a controlled drift in three to five feet of water. Several times when the fish were more concentrated, I slipped a small mushroom anchor over the side making it easier to stay where the fish were foraging on small greenbacks. Baitfish, usually sparse this time of the year, was the key to our best fishing. My eight weight fly rod was used to ply the productive water, resulting in numerous hookups. A lot of the "short strikes" that we were missing on jigs with long tails were guaranteed hookups with flies that were the same size, color, and shape of the greenbacks at our feet.

Game fish are more concentrated in the winter because of shallower water conditions, localized warmer water, smaller bait pods, and wind. Leaving the boat is frequently necessary to improve sustained success. Wading shoes and lightweight waders are constant companions and allow a stealthier approach to keep shallow water fish from spooking.

As long as forage fish still remain in shallow water, flies like Clouser Minnows, Deceivers, and Bendbacks in baitfish colors will work. White, chartreuse/white, and



A nice cold weather caught trout. Photo Pat Damico

brown/white are staples. Crab and shrimp colors will be more effective as water cools. Earth colors are generally more productive than flies that stand out against the winter bottom background. A little orange mixed with brown is an excellent cold water color. Fish your presentation slower and deeper to increase hookups. Trout will often follow and strike as you lift the rod to cast, thinking their easy prey is going to escape. Reds hit with a hard thump.

Sinking tip fly lines, designed for saltwater conditions, have increased my cold water hookups dramatically. Cortland and Rio products, with clear tips, that I am more familiar with, are used almost exclusively when in water more than two feet deep. A short fluorocarbon leader five feet in length between the fly and clear sinking tip weight forward line is an asset in winter's clean water. Smaller flies can also be used.

Sand holes can hold some large fish and any grassy flat that has a marled appearance will be more productive after the sun has had a chance to increase water temperature. Cast your fly in these areas and, after sinking, slowly creep your offering along the bottom. Strikes will often occur as soon as movement is imparted. Especially with trout, you may think you are stuck on bottom. A strip strike will reward you with a thumping on the end of your line.

Shallow water fly fishing this time of year can very well turn out to be your favorite. Take your time and pay attention to your surroundings. "Hunt" for concentrations of your quarry. The lower water will give you an opportunity to observe things that are covered with higher tidal flows. Fly fisherman who seek a quality experience will not be disappointed.

Capt. Pat Damico
St. Pete Beach
Email: flyguy@captpat.com
Web Site: <http://captpat.com/>

Renzetti Fly Fishing and Rod Building Show *by Charlie Most*

As fly fishing shows go, this one was somewhat unique. When I heard that the Renzetti folks (makers of the very popular rotary vise) would host their 2nd Fly Fishing and Rod Building Fair on December 5-6 in Titusville, I knew I had to be there. For some reason I had missed the first one but heard good reports about it.

The schedule I received showed a one-day fly fishing clinic on Friday the 5th featuring such notables as Bob Clouser, Bob Popovics and Jon Cave. That would probably have been fun but it was limited to 15 people at a cost of \$300 each! Not that I couldn't have used the instruction, but \$300? That could buy a lot more fly tying materials; which I desperately need, as some of you know.

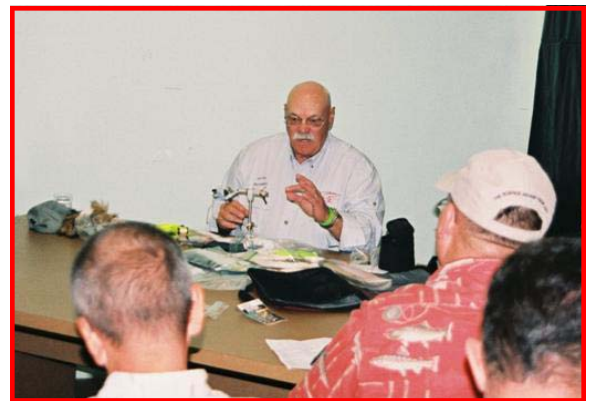
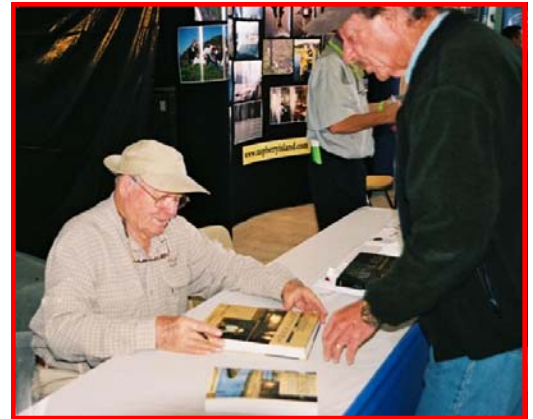
Friday evening was a \$75 fund-raising cocktail party to benefit the national program for breast cancer survivors known as Casting for Recovery, plus a Kid's Fishing Clinic at Port Canaveral that draws hundreds of youngsters. Both very worthy causes. The show was well attended but Pat Damico was the only other SFF & FFF member I saw there.

But my main interest was on Saturday the 6th. The Renzetti manufacturing facility was open to the public from 9 to 4, with a number of exhibitors and speakers on such subjects as fly tying, casting, rod building, fishing destinations, book signings and a tour of the factory. Lefty Kreh, an old friend of nearly 50 years now, almost got writer's cramp signing copies of his books. And I joked some with Bob Clouser, watched Bob Popovics tie his well known Surf Candy fly, heard Dennis Papike discuss the basics of rod building, and marveled at John Stumpe's rod wrapping magic – all very instructive and worthwhile.

But one of the highlights for me was meeting Pat Ehlers, a Wisconsin smallmouth bass guide and writer who showed excellent slides and discussed one of my favorite fish species. This was made all the better since it was a private showing! Somehow the schedule for the "destinations" presentations went awry, and I missed Ehlers first one. So I went into the destinations meeting room while another show was on to wait for Ehlers second show. But this prior presenter had started at 11:30 and was still talking at 12:45! Apparently no one was in charge of telling him to shut the hell up.

I found out later that Ehlers had been waiting outside but finally went back downstairs. I went down and complained to a woman working for Renzetti and she took me over to Ehlers and introduced me to him. He said, "Come with me," and took me back upstairs for the private showing.

And we really hit it off, so much so that he's invited me out to fish with him. So now I have invitations to fish for trout in Wisconsin's famous "driftless" spring creeks from a writer named Dan Small, and a smallmouth bass fishing trip with Pat Ehlers who is a friend of Small's. Now that kind of a trip would be worth a \$300 investment.



Top Lefty Kreh signing books for admiring fans.
Middle: Bob Clouser tying the Deep Minnow.
Bottom: Bob Popovics tying his famous Surf Candy
Photos: Charlie Most

Fly Fishing Forecast for January 2009 by Capt. Rick Grasset

Although January can be one of the tougher months to fish, there are still several good options to catch fish. If you have the flexibility to choose when you fish, try to fish ahead of approaching cold fronts. Fish will feed more when the barometer is falling as a front approaches and less after a front pushes through and high pressure settles in. There will be "windows" of good fishing between fronts as the barometer and water temperature stabilizes. Snook season remains closed this month and trout season reopens in the south region (south of the Pasco/Pinellas county line) on the west coast.

Snook are one of the more temperature sensitive species that we have in our area. I have experienced good fishing in the winter months with water temperatures down to 60°. However, if it gets lower than that I won't target them due to the stress that they are undergoing. Night snook fishing in the ICW from Sarasota to Venice can be very good this month. Since they feed on small baitfish (glass minnows) and shrimp during the winter, flies work very well. For the best success choose a night when you have good tidal flow and cast small flies like my Grasset's Snook Minnow on an intermediate or intermediate sink tip fly line up tide of shadow lines. A sink tip fly line is easier to handle than a full sinking line because you can tell where the end of the fly line is and pick it up off the surface of the water easier. I've also had good success with a Gurgler, tied to look like a shrimp, when snook are chasing shrimp on the surface.

You'll also find snook in rivers, creeks and canals this month, particularly areas with a dark, muddy bottom. Fish the outer bends of rivers and creeks which should have deep water. You might also find snook venturing out onto shallow grass flats close to these areas on warm, sunny afternoons. They will feed on larger baits, such as finger mullet, in these areas so use larger profile flies like Deceivers or Enrico Puglisi flies. Lower Tampa Bay, north Sarasota Bay and Gasparilla Sound in Charlotte Harbor are all good areas for winter snook fishing.

Reds and trout are both more tolerant of cool water than snook, so they will be less affected by changes in water temperature. You find them concentrated in potholes when the tide is low or on shallow grass flats on warm, sunny afternoons. I like to work weighted flies slowly along the bottom of potholes for reds and trout. Reds may tail on shallow grass flats of Gasparilla Sound when the tide is very low. When fishing shallow grass, I use flies that suspend or lightly weighted flies with weed guards. The key to catching tailing reds is to cast close to the fish when it is tailing. Don't move your fly until the tail disappears and the fish is horizontal in the water column, otherwise their head will be buried in the grass and they'll never see your fly.

You'll also find trout on deep grass flats, up to 7'



Tom Newman, from VA, sight fished this big trout with a Grasset's Flats Minnow fly in a Sarasota Bay pothole Photo: Rick Grasset

or 8' deep, when the water is cool. I like to cast weighted flies on an intermediate or intermediate sink tip fly line ahead of my drift to locate fish. You might also find blues, jacks, ladyfish, pompano, flounder and more in these same areas. A popper/dropper combination consisting of a large popper and a smaller fly about 30' behind it can be very effective and is a good way to locate fish. It is the sound that makes this work so well.

Another good area to fish during January is around docks. I like docks that are old and crusty with lots of barnacles and oysters growing on or around them. Tide is important, so docks that are on points or along seawalls that get a good tidal flow are good choices. I also like deep water under a dock, so look for large powerboats or sailboats anchored nearby to find deeper water. Sink tip fly lines and weighted flies will work well in this situation. Be respectful of owners' property when fishing around docks. Don't tie onto anyone's dock or walk on their dock. If I should snag a fly on a dock I try to remove it, if I can reach it from my boat, before leaving.

There are lots of things to do in January, particularly if you can be flexible with when you fish. I usually let conditions and the fish tell me what is the best thing to do. One of my favorite things to do this month is to wade along a sand bar or shallow flat and sight fish reds and trout in potholes with a fly. Whatever you choose to do, remember to always limit your kill, don't kill your limit!

Capt. Rick Grasset, Snook Fin-Addict Guide Service, Inc.
FFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor
(941) 923-7799

E-mail snookfin@aol.com

www.flyfishingflorida.net and www.snookfin-addict.com

Fly Tying Bench - Popovics Jiggy *by Don Coleman*

This is a rerun from the December '07 issue of "On The Fly" but I think we all might enjoy reading some of Don's words again and this is a good fly for a winter outing. On December 20th SFF will honor the memory of member Don Coleman with the outing named for him at Ft DeSoto Park. Don always enjoyed the December outing and it would be a nice tribute to him to use the flies Don would have used. Don didn't develop any saltwater flies of his own that I know of. He did however; enjoy modifying existing flies that he thought he could improve. Generally it was simplifying the tying procedure. This time of the year most of our baitfish are small and bend-back flies would be a good choice. A fly similar to the bendback that Don introduced us to is Bob Popovic's Jiggy. Don was very fond of the Jiggy so we'll let him tell us how to tie it.*PS*

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 34011 size 2
- Weight: Cone Head - ¼ inch copper or brass
- Wing: Bucktail – white and chartreuse
- Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash or Flashabou
- Eyes: stick-on (optional)

Here are Don's tying directions.

JIGGIES -- Being a firm believer in the logic of the "Occam's Razor" principle, I was convinced that Bob Popovics' new fly, the Jiggy, would be successful. Bob and Ed Jaworowski claim that they now tie and fish these simple flies more than any other fly in their fly boxes. Capt. Gene Quigley reports that more than 70 percent of the saltwater fish landed by his clients are now caught on Bob's simple Jiggy. But I was still unprepared for the success of fellow club members when fishing around the grass beds in Tampa Bay, where Clousers are prone to collect grass and debris. I tie the fly on a #2 Mustad 34011 hook with the barb mashed down and with a slight bend in the hook shank for a bendback fly. I use 1/4 inch (Large) Cone Heads. I find the tungsten cones too heavy. Usually I wrap a few turns of chenille around the shank and jam it into the cavity (of the cone head) to stabilize the cone. I then tie a simple bucktail wing--Chartreuse over White separated by pearl mylar flash material for example--directly behind the cone head and epoxy the wraps to form a taper up to the back edge of the cone. All material must be tied on the point side of the hook to make the fly swim point up. I make the overall length of the fly approximately 3 inches long. Depending on the color of the wing, I use either red or black Flat Waxed Nylon thread. I do not use stick-on eyes as recommended by Popovics. But where are the beautiful names of yesteryear--like Parmachene Belle, Royal Coachman, Wickman's Fancy and Greenwell's Glory?



Jiggy tied by Don Coleman - Photo by Paul Sequira

I know, the article describes a chartreuse over white Jiggy and the illustration is brown over yellow. (An excellent color combo in cold water.) Obviously this fly can be tied in any color combination you desire. As it turned out, this was the only unused Jiggy tied by Don that I had; the others are used and beat-up. I didn't have time to tie a new one and I wanted to use one of Don's flies anyway.

Fly Tying Bench—Poly Hi-Tie *by Paul Sequira*

The High Tie was developed many years ago and got its name from the method of tying small batches of bucktail (or calf tail for smaller flies) along the topside of the hook shank. It was an effective fly, generally used to imitate compressed bodied baitfish. This version uses only synthetic polypropylene materials and is trimmed to create the desired baitfish shape. I have found it to be a very effective fly in both fresh and saltwater.

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 9175D or any similar short shanked hook size 4 through 1/0
- Thread: white 3/0 flat waxed nylon or mono thread
- Wing: E.P. Fibers or Neer Hair white, topped with a contrasting color
- Flash: Angle Hair, Lite Brite or similar, tied in at sides
- Eyes: any large stick-on type (at least ¼" dia.)
- Protective coat: Soft-tex on front of finished fly



The Poly Hi-Tie— Flies tied and photo by: Paul Sequira
Top: Gray over white Bottom: Yellow over white

Tying Instructions:

1. Insert hook in vise in normal position and attach thread with a jam knot just ahead of the start of the bend.
2. Select a small batch of Neer Hair. The amount of hair used should be approximately the thickness of a round toothpick when you stretch the material between your two hands. Do not over dress this fly; it is very important not to use too much material.
3. Cut the batch of material in half, you will have two batches each 5" long. Reserve one batch for the wing and hold aside. Take the other 5" batch and using the center tie-in method, attach the batch to the top of the hook shank at the thread tie-in point. Take a couple of wraps and fold the forward portion of the Neer Hair back. This will form the tail. Secure the tail to the hook with several more tight wraps and secure with a couple of half hitches.
4. Take a small amount of Lite-Brite and tie it in with a couple of wraps at the waiting thread on the near side of the hook. Now fold the forward portion of the Lite-Brite over the hook to the far side and secure it to the hook with several wraps of thread and again secure it with a couple of half hitches. At this point, trim the Lite-Brite on the far side of the hook to be roughly the size of the tail.
5. Advance the tying thread with several wraps. Take the reserved batch of Neer Hair and cut it in half forming two, 2½" batches.
6. Square off the end of one of the cut hanks of Neer Hair and tie it in on top of the hook shank. Secure it with a couple of half hitches and advance the thread a coupler of wraps.

Fly Tying Bench—Poly Hi-Tiecontinued

7. Repeat step #6 with the remaining 2½” batch of Neer Hair. As you tie in these short batches of Neer Hair, adjust each batch to insure that they are placed directly on top of the hook shank.

8. Brush out the combined materials with a small fine toothcomb to marry the fibers and spread the flash of the Lite-Brite through the Neer Hair. A mustache comb, found in any drug store is an excellent tool for this step.

9. Select a similar sized batch of contrasting color Neer Hair and cut it in half as before. Take one batch and cut it in half forming two, 2½” batches of contrasting color material.

10. Tie in each batch as in step #6.

11. Form a neat bullet shaped head and cut off excess thread.

12. Once again comb out the fly to marry and neaten out all of the fibers.

13. Remove the fly from the vise and with your scissors, trim the fly to the length and shape desired.

14. Return the fly to the vise upside down and coat all of the thread wraps on the bottom of the hook shank and the head with head cement.

15. Turn the fly back right side up. Select a couple of self-stick eyes and place them on the wing at about where you tied in the tail. Even though the eyes are self-stick, I use a little dab of Household Goop to help secure them. The Goop penetrates the polypropylene fibers and does a better job of holding the eyes in place.

16. This is the final step and is very important. Coat the forward portion of the fly with Soft-tex. You may apply the Soft-tex with a dubbing needle, but be sure to spread it from the eye of the hook to just beyond the stick-on eyes only. Do not brush it forward, you’ll only drag the poly fibers and make a mess. Now grab the wing towards the rear of the fly and adjust the wing to your desired shape. The drying Soft-tex will hold that shape. Alternatively, you may hold the wing of the fly and dip the head directly into the jar of Soft-tex. Slowly remove the fly and touch it up with your dubbing needle. Clear the eye of the hook and set it off to dry.

You’re done. This is an easy fly to tie; it takes a lot more to describe it in print than it does to tie the fly.

A word about hooks and dressing. The recommended hook (Mustad 9175D) is a short shank (3 X- short) slightly heavier wire (1 X-strong) ringed eye hook. It is important to have a stout hook and lightly dressed fly to ride properly in the water.



Paul Sequira demonstrates the Poly Hi-Tie while (from bottom left) Ken Doty, unknown, Myron Hansen, Woody Miller and Norm Sande make sure it is being tied correctly. Photo: Bill AuCoin

SFF November Meeting

Right: Charlie Most, Tom Jones, Pat Damico and Paul Sequira discuss the Poly Hi-Tie

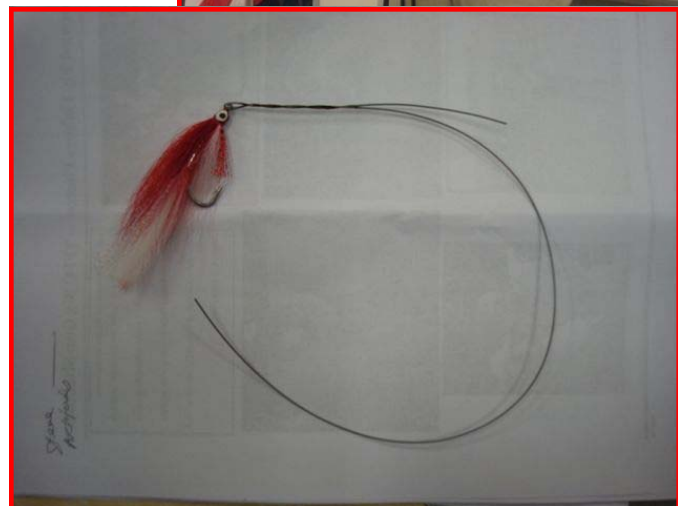
Middle right: Capt Steve Soult's tells the tale of inshore fishing in the Crystal River area

Middle left: Soult's golf tee flies

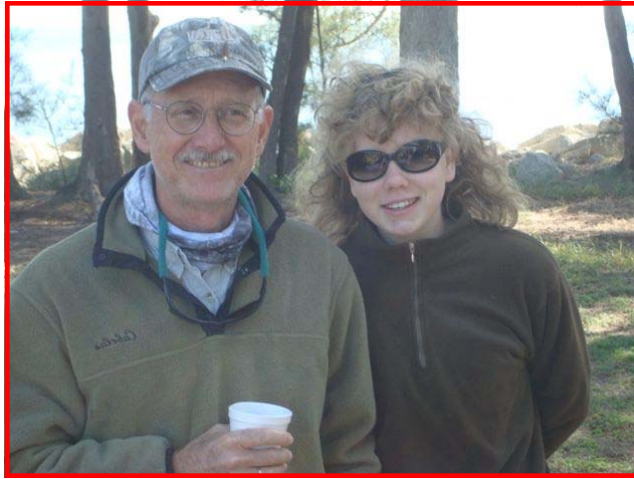
Bottom left: Capt Frank Bourgeois describes at breakneck speed the joys of offshore fishing in the Crystal River area.

Bottom right: A new kind of plastic coated cable bite tip-pet that can be tied by hand.

Photos: Bill AuCoin



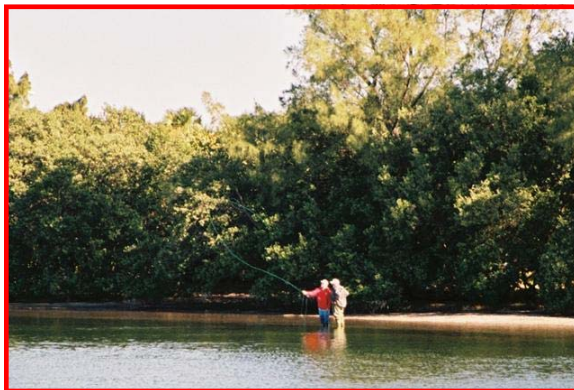
SFF Clambar Outing Nov. 21, 2008



Left: Mark and Annie Hays
Center left: Steve Putbresi, Ken D. & Ken H.
Center right: Olney Arnold looks over the vittles while Ken D., Judd Sheets, Rick O. & John Craig discuss the days fishing
Center: Mark Hays brought the delicious smoked mackerel
Below Left: Pat Damico gives Tom Kelly some casting instruction
Below right: Paul Sequira, Ken D., Ken H. Alan Sewell & Rick Kelly getting out of the wind & cold.



Photos: Bottom left and right by Charlie Most, all others by Bill AuCoin



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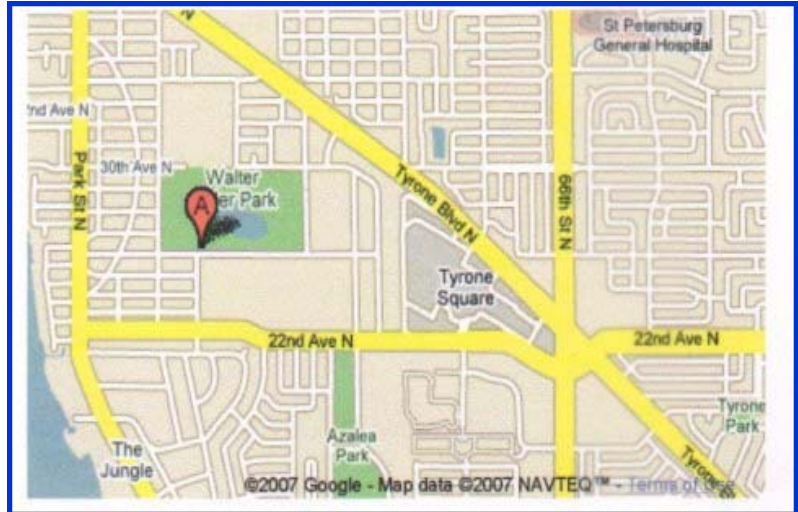
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“On the Fly” is the monthly newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF), a not-for-profit organization offering fly fishing and fly tying instruction to members and visitors. Club membership includes newsletter subscription. Send e-mail submissions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

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**THERE IS NO SFF CLUB
MEETING IN DECEMBER**

**SEE YOU ALL IN JANUARY
2009**

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