



On The Fly

The Prez Sez by Ken Hofmeister



NO EXCUSES

Fly fishers are a creative bunch when it comes to excuses. “I would have caught them . . . except:” _____ . Fill in the blank. Blame it on not knowing where the fish are, what they are hitting, not having the right flies, not being able to cast to them, not having a boat, not knowing how to tie the knots, or losing the ruler. Members of Suncoast Fly Fishers really have no excuses for not having fun catching fish on a fly rod. Here’s why:

CASTING SKILLS: Twenty-three members sharpened their casting skills with Pat Damico, Charlie Most, and Enver Hysni at the January 12 casting clinic. Eight women participated in a January 5 special women’s clinic. Missed the clinic? Show up at 6:30 on meeting night and someone will be available to help you get started or improve. These opportunities are enhanced by a variety of books, DVDs, and magazines found at auctions and raffle table.

FLIES: Charlie Most spent twelve nights helping us tie something the fish would hit. Fly tying 101 was a big hit and everybody has some new stuff to throw at those fish. If a participant didn’t leave with useable flies they shouldn’t admit it. Raffles are a great way to expand your collection. And, the fly box gives you a chance to win big time by bringing a couple of flies and taking a chance on winning a whole bunch. The designed tier may believe in charity and the silent auction table at the April Pig Roast will have some real beauties. Finally, check out the back issues of the SFF newsletter. Paul Sequira has ensured that we know how to tie winners--complete with pictures and instructions. No vise? We’ve got you covered. SFF has lots of vices and some loaner vises.

KNOW YOUR KNOTS: Ken Doty will help you figure out which knot to tie where and be sure you know how to tie it in the 6:30-7:00 time prior to meetings. He’ll be standing (or sitting after knee surgery) by the map of Tampa Bay. In addition to learning knots, he’ll point out the areas that are hot and those that are not--according to member reports.

BROKE YOUR ROD? Again, SFF is ready with club rods for practice or use on outings and clinics. These rods are rigged and ready to go. Only Richard keeps fishing with the tip after breaking a rod. At least he had a ruler (and saw that all members had one also).

NO BOAT? Next outing is at Ft. DeSoto. Jim Wilson, park superintendent, will be our February program presenter. He watched us at the casting clinic and observed that the fish were safe! He’ll show us some great pictures of where they are. Ft. DeSoto is accessible by wading, boat, kayak, canoe, or whatever else you’ve got. Sign up in the column where you want a partner with or without a boat.*Ken*

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

March 14-16 — Tampa Bay Boat Show
Tropicana Field

March 20 — SFF Elections

March 28-30 — FFF Expo Lakeland

April 12 — SFF’s Annual Hog Roast

April 25-26 — SFF’s Everglades Weekend

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Outings—Reviews and Previews *by Richard Oldenski*



February Outing : Ft. DeSoto

Saturday - February 23, 2008

The February outing will have us fishing at Ft. DeSoto, one of our club's favorite spots. After hearing park superintendent, Jim Wilson, speak at the February meeting, we'll be ready to test the fish holding holes and passes at the park. Buddy up at the February meeting and start fishing whenever you like on Saturday morning, or meet at the park boat ramp at 07:30 to find a fishing partner. Lunch will be served at High Noon at shelter #10 at the North Beach Picnic Area.

January Outing Review

We were expecting bad weather to ruin our outing. However, the Southwesterly front waited until we completed our fishing and our lunch before it slammed into Pinellas Point. We started fishing in a dense fog that gave new meaning to the expression: "blind casting". The sun eventually burned off the fog, and we could see each other and the ends of our lines. Most of us

caught fish, mostly trout in the 15 to 19 inch range, as well as a few flounder and ladyfish. Tom Trukenbrod pulled in the largest fish, a 21 inch ladyfish. After a hearty lunch of bratwurst, sauerkraut and German potato salad, we managed to clear out of Bay Vista Park just as the wind began to whip up the waves on the water, ending yet another enjoyable outing. You should have been there!

Future Outing Previews:

March — Lake Manatee

April — In The Works

May — Ditto

Fishing Tournament

Bass—Ken Hofmeister (13 inches)

Sun Fish—Ken Doty (9¼ inches)

Redfish - Ted Rich (17 inches)

Trout - TBA

Other Species - Don Manning - Ladyfish (25 inches)

FEBRUARY MEETING: Have you been wondering where the best spots to fish are at Ft DeSoto? Do you know the best times to fish for your targeted species? Do you wonder what changes and improvements are planned for one of our favorite local fishing and recreation destinations? Has the new bayou cut through on the Park's main entrance road created the improvements as expected? Is another cut through planned? Has the trout fishing returned to its previous level since the red tide disaster of 2005? Well don't miss Park Superintendent Jim Wilson's visit to SFF **Thursday, Feb. 21st** at Walter Fuller Park. Jim will tell us all about the Park, future plans and the great fishing opportunities at this wonderful local resource. **DON'T MISS IT!**

SFF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

SFF's Nominating Committee for 2008, Olney Arnold, Ken Doty, Myron Hanson, Charlie Most, Al Pitcher and Jerry Yancey will announce the Committee's recommended slate of officer and director candidates for 2008 as required by SFF's By-Laws, Section 4; at the February 21, 2008 General Meeting. Further nominations will be accepted from the floor at this meeting, following which, nominations will be closed. Voting will take place at the March general membership meeting.

TAMPA BAY BOAT SHOW

The Suncoast Fly Fishers will have a booth at the Tampa Bay Boat Show sponsored by the St. Petersburg Times at the Tropicana Field scheduled for the weekend of March 14-16. We will need fly tyers and talkers to cover the booth and present our club to the public. Please volunteer for a few hours on each of the three days, this is a fun event and a great opportunity to advertise our club. See Ken Hofmeister or Don Manning at the meeting to sign up.

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS INFORMATION

PIG ROAST 2008

Get ready for SFF's premier event of the year. The Pig Roast will be on April 12, 2008 from 4-8PM once again at the home of John and Stacey Zientarski, 11796 Starkey Road Largo, Fl. The cost will be \$20 per person. Family, friends and guest are all invited and welcome. This annual event is the Club's major fund raiser and provides us with the money to run our all of our monthly activities (including the ever popular free lunches at our monthly outings) so we need everyone's help. The auction is the Club's money maker and we are looking for flies tied by club members, other craft items or any new items anyone would like to donate to our auction. As in years past, we will have a separate raffle for a Kayak as well. We will be collecting the admission money to the Pig Roast at the February and March general meetings; see John Zientarski. Captain Bob will be providing the entertainment again this year.

SHAD FISHING ON THE ST. JOHNS RIVER

All fly fishing clubs in Florida are welcome to attend the annual shad fishing weekend with camping on a private ranch located on the Mud Lake portion of the St Johns River at Lemon Bluff in Osteen, Florida just east of Sanford. The date for this event is February 22-24. Interested individuals may attend for the weekend (after 3:00 pm on Friday) or just for one day. Interested members should see John Zientarski at the meeting for more information.

SFF'S ANNUAL EVERGLADES FISHING TRIP

You've heard all the talk and seen the pictures. Fishing the canals along I75 near Ft Lauderdale is just too good to miss. This year's trip is planned for the weekend of April 25-26. Don Manning is making arrangements for motel rooms and the best price available. Don will have more details at the February meeting. This is one great weekend and is a must attend event.

FFF National Fly Fishing Exposition

The Expo is the Federations of Fly Fishers way to promote fly fishing world wide. By bringing together most of the major manufacturers, dozens of dealers, dozens of fly tyers and bamboo rod artisans, the areas most sought after guides and the best programs of the FFF, we continue our mission to promote fly fishing for "All Fish, All Waters".

Join us in Lakeland, Florida March 28 - 30, 2008 for the most memorable Expo ever. Show hours; Friday 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Special evening hours)

- Saturday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Sunday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Cost : \$12.00 (special three day rate of \$25.00)Free parking.

Don't miss the workshops and clinics. Sign up today! Check the Casting Pond schedule to see your favorite celebrity and mark your calendar to see the free tying and fishing seminars on the Seminar Stage. More special events are taking place. Casitng clinics for men, women and youths. A Certified Casting Instructor Workshop, Casting Instructor testing, kayak clincs, knot tying and more.

Don't forget to visit the Fly Tying Theater where you can watch up to a dozen tyers each day. So... Join us in Lakeland for the Fly Fishing event of the year

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS ACTIVITIES

Fly Fish Argentina, March 14-22 and 23-31, 2009 by Capt Pat Damico

After showing pictures from my dream trip to Patagonia, Argentina, several members asked me if I was hosting a trip. I have been in contact with Esquel Outfitters, www.esqueloutfitters.com, our excellent guide service, and the above weeks were selected for two trips. 2008 is almost full. The first is an exact duplicate of mine. Float fish the Rivadavia the first day, float/camp Rio Chubut the next four days, three nights luxury camping, sixty miles of river will be covered. Day seven, fish Rio Gualjaina, twenty miles of private water on a 80,000 acre ranch. Day eight, fish the most famous spring creek in Argentina....Arroyo Pescado, filled with large rainbows and browns.

Second week, float fish Rivadavia, in Los Alerces National Park, day three, float fish the Rio Carrileufu, eleven miles; fourth day, float fish Rio Arrayanes and Lago Verde. Day five fish the private twenty mile long Rio Gualjaina, walk and wade; day six private spring creek Arroyo Pescado, and the last day Rio Gualjaina. Overnight flights to Buenos Aires and a short morning flight to Bariloche where guides will pick you up and return you at the end of your stay. If interested, contact me at pat4jaws@hotmail.com, or 727-504-8649.

I have some disks from Esquel Outfitters that you can review on my laptop at the meeting. ...*Pat*

FLY TYING 101

Charlie Most's Fly Tying 101 classes were a great success and SFF owes Charlie a big thank you his generosity in opening his house to eleven members to teach them the basics of tying flies. In the process, Charlie also taught them to tie a half dozen useful saltwater and fresh water flies. The student tyers were separated into two groups and over a period of five weeks, Charlie taught them the various techniques to tie most flies. With these basic skills, the tyers will be able to create all the flies they desire. Thanks Charlie.



Charlie has an extensive collection of fly tying materials and somehow he manages to keep them completely organized!

Hofmeister photo



John & Mark Craig, Charlie and Robert standing by Charlie's well organized fly tying bench. Hofmeister

December Fishing In Florida *by Terry Kirkpatrick*



A warm afternoon with little breeze, so at about 4:00 I decided to head for the creek. The plan was to walk Alligator Creek at the frisbee park next to Old Coachman /Coachman Rd, then go on to the section behind UPARC.



I started fishing around the frisbee park where the creek is fairly wide and caught this guy. He went to the 11" wrap on my rod.



I took several fish, a little smaller out of the same area. In fact I was having so much fun that I forgot about UPARC. When I realized how late it was headed back for the parking area. As I walked back I saw something swirl in the impound next to the golf course.

I'd looked at that water several times but it always seemed like it would be more trouble than it was worth. I didn't think it was very deep and I'd have to wade the creek to get over there.



But the creek had changed it's path and created one spot where an "old fart" could cross without getting his butt wet. So I walked along the edge and found a place I could actually get down to the water, without going through muck and mud. The third cast...

The wraps on the rod, directly below the bass' jaw are at the 15" mark.

That was enough. Time to go home.

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,

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 of 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 & Joe Dail
- Newsletter - Paul Sequira
- Publicity - Roger Blanton
- 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

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Website: PlatinumRealtyOfFlorida.com

Rivers Offer Cold Water Success *By CAPT. PAT DAMICO*

One of my first fly fishing experiences in the Tampa Bay area was fishing a fresh water river that empties into the Bay. It was mid winter and low saltwater temperatures had many of our warmer water targets now in more comfortable brackish environments. My companion, Bob Finck, suggested this trip and he was right on the money. We caught snook, reds and large jacks from my flats boat where occasionally a fly could be cast to either shore. This was twelve years ago, but the experience is repeated every year under cold weather conditions.



We have a number of rivers in my area and each has its own characteristics. Review some maps and charts of your destination. A computer search on Google Earth will give you some satellite views that you can print. USGS website will have current water levels as well as flow rates and water temperature. Your initial trip should be at a higher tide stage. Visit local bait shops. One owner directed me to the closest public ramp which was on a small rarely used back road. As I entered the main part of the river, I noticed a research vessel. Always interested in public relations, a short visit with them gave me a wealth of good information. The researchers pointed to several mangrove points where I could find snook on an incoming tide. I was also told how far I could go upriver before I would find fresh water. A few shallow areas that could be a navigation problem at low tide were also brought to my attention. I spent about five hours there and was rewarded with eight snook and two reds. All were taken with my eight weight fly rod while exploring my new playground. I made a lot of entries in my log that evening and had many good reference points for my next trip. My next visit would expand my search using these initial notes.

Arriving when the mangroves are beginning to flood not only positions the fish in close to the shoreline but makes getting into bays and back water areas easier. I have found an incoming tide to be just as productive as an outgoing tide on most river systems

The water in most rivers will be stained from tannin. The white and more brightly colored flies that I often use in open water stand out like a beacon in this tea colored water and I have modified my fly colors to suite this new environment. If you look at baitfish there, they will have a predominantly brown/gold appearance. Since I prefer synthetic materials, baitfish patterns will have bodies that give a gold sheen with some brown on top. Polarfiber minnows in sizes 1 to 4 are my favorite for probing the shoreline. Choose flies that push water. Muddler Minnow variations are a good choice. The closer you fish to the mangrove

roots, the more effective will be your presentation. A weedguard will help when you overcast and hit a mangrove branch. Just tease the fly over the branch by retrieving it slowly. A quick short strip as soon as the fly hits the water will often trigger a strike. Most fish will be found in the shade of the trees; accuracy in casting is imperative. Synthetic material is buoyant. Put some weighted wire around the hook before starting the fly pattern, a heavier hook will also help. My Bead Butt Baitfish with a gold bead is a river favorite.

This time of year smaller snook are the norm. A seven or eight weight fly rod with a twenty-five pound shock tippet will usually be adequate. A shorter leader is helpful when fishing mangrove shorelines allowing you to tuck flies into small targets that hold fish. Concentrate on where you want your fly to land, not on the surrounding mangroves. In confined space, I find TFO's, TiCrX, seven and a half foot eight weight rod an improvement over the standard nine foot rods. If a large fish wants to fight, this rod will tame him.

A pole is always the stealthiest way to fish shallow water. If you fish the shorelines and are alone, a bow-mounted electric is very effective. Stay as far as your casting ability will allow as you parallel the bank. Use the wind and tide in your favor. If your first drift was too quick, do another one to make sure you haven't missed anything.

It would be impossible to explore without a good depth finder. I found some water that was over twenty feet deep on the outside bends which are always deeper. Lines of crab traps usually will mark deeper water. Your temperature gage will also help you find fish seeking warmer water. As always, be familiar with tides so you don't get stuck in the shallows. The change from mangroves to cattails usually shows fresh water is present. A seven foot 'gator, patrolling the shoreline, let me know that I was invading his fresh water home.

Carefully check any bridges. The deep water around the abutments will harbor larger snook and jacks that feed voraciously when the tide is moving. Heavier tackle will be needed here to prevent lost fish.

If you want to extend your fly fishing into the colder weather, find warmer water and follow the normal movements of fish. I have spent many weekdays as the only boat in a lot of these areas enjoying some fabulous fishing.

Capt. Pat Damico, a FFF certified fly casting instructor, guides in lower Tampa Bay as well as surrounding water offering fly and light tackle trips. He can be reached at 727-504-8649, or through his website www.captpat.com where more information is available.

Fly Tying Bench — Inshore Keys Tarpon Fly *by Paul Sequira*

What's in a name? Call it an Apte Tarpon Fly, a smaller version tied in all white hackle is known as a D.T. Special and is a great snook fly when they're active on the beach in the summer. Nonetheless, the tarpon fly tied in smaller sizes and various colors works well for many inshore species such as redfish, trout, snook and others. Here is a favorite of mine with a slight variation, marabou instead of saddle hackle wound on for the collar.

Materials:

- **Hook:** Eagle Claw 254N sizes 1 or 2 (a short shank hook works well for this fly)
- **Tail:** 6 grizzly saddle hackles
- **Flash:** Pearl Flashabou
- **Collar:** Fiery brown marabou
- **Thread:** Black 3/0 flat waxed nylon



Inshore Keys Tarpon Fly, tied and photo - Paul Sequira

Tying Instructions:

1. Pinch the barb down and secure the hook in the vise in the normal fashion.
2. Attach the thread approximately 1/3 of the length of the hook shank behind the eye.
3. Select 6 grizzly saddle hackles for the tail and arrange them into two sets. Attach one set on the near side of the hook at the tie-in point with the feathers splayed out. Attach the other pair on the far side of the hook once again with the feathers splayed out away from the hook shank. Cut and discard the excess hackle butts. The tail feathers should extend approximately twice the length of the hook beyond the bend.
4. Select 3 or 4 strands of pearl Flashabou and tie in at the mid-point with several wraps then fold the Flashabou over itself and secure with thread. Cut the Flashabou tips slightly shorter than the tail.
5. Move the thread forward just ahead of the tie in point. Select a brown marabou feather and holding it by the tip, strip the fibers off the stem towards the butt, from the point where the stem becomes very narrow. Tie the marabou feather in just ahead of the tail tie-in point, at the spot where you started stripping the stem. Cut the excess stem butt off and discard.
6. Grasp the tip of the marabou with your hackle pliers with your right hand and with your left hand; stroke the marabou fibers backwards towards the tail as you wrap the marabou around the hook shank. Take several turns until you create a nice full collar.
7. Wrap a neat bullet shaped head with the tying thread securing it with a whip finish. Coat the head with several applications of head cement.

December Trout Fishing with Terry Kirkpatrick & Don Manning



Went out with Don Manning last Wed. (*Ed. 's note: I received this in late January, this obviously was a cold wintry day.*) Wind was out of the NE at about 100mph. but we launched off Gandy anyway. The causeway gave us a little relief and we caught over 20 fish. Three of them went back in. Two were out of season and one of mine was embarrassingly small.

Here's one of the smaller one's that Don caught.

And here's one I caught.

If I look cold, I was. The pictures don't give a clue as to how rough it was. But we had fun.*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

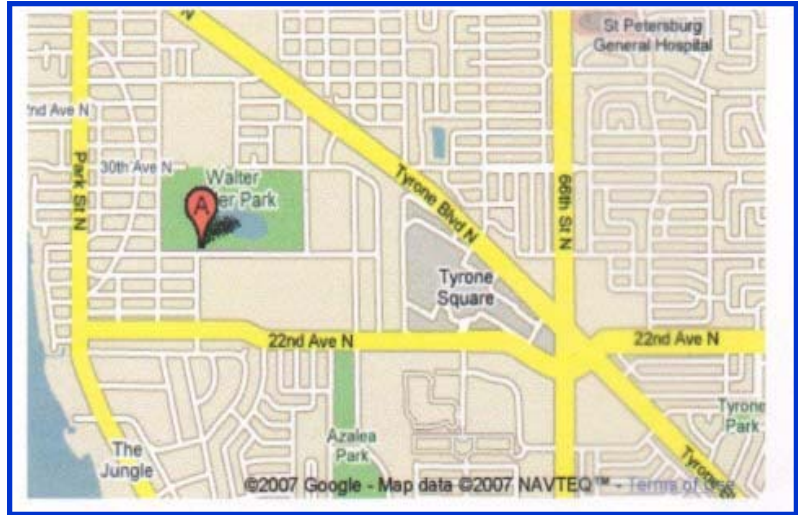
Roger Blanton - Pat Damico

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: February 21, 2008

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:

Ft DeSoto Park Superintendent Jim Wilson

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers

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