#### Volume 18, Issue 1

January 2008

# Suncoast Fly Fishers

# The Prez Sez by Ken Hofmeister



### **TRASH OR TREASURE?**

Organization gurus write about how to rid your life of clutter. Most of them stress having a place for everything and putting things back in their place when you are through with them. Usually, these experts will suggest getting rid of anything that you have not used in the last year. These experts are probably not fly fishers.

However, they do have a point. Enough is enough. We sort through clothes closets and remove items that we haven't worn in a year and take them to Goodwill, Salvation Army, Boley Center, or a garage sale.

And then there is our fishing stuff. We have a few boxes of "good ideas" -- flies that we tied when creativity surpassed skill. These gems are stored; but they are not "go to" flies. Reels gather dust and rods aren't used because we have newer and better stuff. We keep lines that work for some rods--just not any we own.

We have tackle boxes that have been by-passed for lighter more compact models. Back- up paddles are fine, but who needs more than one? And then there is the life jacket thing. Will we ever get twenty people on our boat? How about those bait buckets and fishing floats that some spin casters who haven't evolved would love to use? Maybe you got some fishing clothes for Christmas presents that someone would wear proudly. Then there are games and books associated with our sport. (No Billy Bass!) Remember that your trash may be someone else's treasure.

So, in 2008 you can bring your useable stuff and watch Alan Sewell transform it into valuable treasures at the Suncoast Fly Fishers annual auction. Alan will help you laugh your way into helping the club finance our worthy endeavors by purchasing unbelievable bargains. This is more fun than a swap shop or a flea market. You'll leave with stuff that works for you. At the SFF membership meeting, January 17, you'll bring or buy everything from anchors to outboards. Unlike the Pig Roast's "silent auction," the crowd at this event gets into a "buying frenzy" and laughs loudly and a lot! ......*Ken* 

#### SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

March — Tampa Bay Boat Show Tropicana Field

- March FFF Expo Lakeland
- March SFF Elections
- April 12 SFF's Annual Hog Roast
- April SFF's Assault on the Everglades

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On The Fly

# Outings—Reviews and Previews by Richard Oldenski

# **January Outing**

#### Pinellas Point — January 19, 2008

The January outing will be at Pinellas Point. The flats at the very Southernmost tip of St. Petersburg are protected from Wintery North winds, and usually hold trout, redfish, flounder and ladyfish at this time of the year. Waders can access these flats from several of the "Pink Streets" or from Bay Vista Park at the eastern end of Pinellas Point Drive. Boats and kayaks can launch from Bay Vista or Maximo Parks. Start fishing whenever you can get there, but don't miss lunch at Noon at Bay Vista Park. Maps and the signup sheet will be at the January meeting.

#### **December Outing Review**

Don Coleman would have enjoyed our December outing. He was there in spirit as we remembered him, fishing and feasting in his honor. Our friends from the Tampa Bay and Mangrove Coast Fly Fishing Clubs joined us. The weather was chilly but not too cold, and Alan Sewell's chili provided just the right amount of heat. Many of us were able to find holes stacked with trout. Joe, from the Mangrove Coast Club, caught a large snook on a 5 weight rod at the Arrowhead Picnic ground, with all of us watching and cheering. Michael, a guest who read about the outing in the St. Pete Times, caught a barracuda, also at Arrowhead



with all of us watching. It was the first fish he ever caught on a fly rod. The largest fish caught by our club members was a 25 inch ladyfish taken by Norm Sande. The highlight of the outing, of course, was Alan's chili which, to quote Ishmael from MOBY DICK, "we dispatched with expedition". Kudos to Jerry Yancey for baking cornbread muffins that complemented Alan's chili, and to all who brought treats to share at lunch. What a feast! You should have been there!

# **Future Outing Previews:**

February — Ft DeSoto March — Lake Manatee

### **Fishing Tournament**

Bass—Ken Hofmeister (13 inches) Sun Fish—Ken Doty (9¼ inches) Redfish - Ted Rich (17 inches) Trout - Don Manning (17 inches) Other Species - Don Manning - Ladyfish (25 inches)

# AUCTION—AUCTION — January 17th Meeting — AUCTION — AUCTION

Our Annual "bring what you've got" auction with SFF's own Alan Sewell auctioneering will be held at the January 17, 2008 General Meeting. This is one of the most fun meetings of the year and a great boost to the Club's treasury. Don't miss it and bring your stuff — don't forget your wallet!!!

#### **MEMBERSHIP LIST**

The Board of Directors has revised the Club's membership list, and copies will be available for members at the January membership meeting. The Board emphasizes that the purpose of the list is to let members contact each other about fishing matters and that it is not to be used for any commercial purpose.

#### SFF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

As required by SFF Bylaws, a Nominating Committee for the upcoming officer elections must be submitted to the membership at the January General Meeting. The following members have agreed to serve as that committee: Olney Arnold, Ken Doty, Myron Hanson, Charlie Most, Al Pitcher and Jerry Yancey.

#### THE FLY BOX by Joe Dail

At the November meeting the Club started a new event as part of the monthly raffle. Everyone who donates two flies (or multiples of two flies) receives a special raffle ticket (or tickets). One of the flies goes into a raffle box, and the other goes into a box for the Club. The Club will use its flies for new member welcome packets, placement into the regular raffle if needed, and other purposes. One of the special raffle tickets is drawn and the holder receives the entire Fly Box of flies.

He's not going to get away with this Joe, Ken's Ugly Pink Fly will be exposed in an upcoming On The Fly. ... PS

#### DON'T PUSH, PULL! By Charlie Most

Every fly caster wants to cast farther, and rightly so but not necessarily for the most obvious reason. If you can cast 80 feet or so on demand, any shorter cast becomes a piece of cake.

With the exceptions of saltwater or perhaps steelhead trout, distance casting is not all that much a factor in day to day fly fishing. Yet, being able to make longer casts is a reachable goal.

Now I'm certainly no underwear-tearing distance caster. I could seldom cast 70 feet or more even under ideal fishing conditions though I'd been trying for more than sixty years. But a few years ago, Lefty Kreh provided a key to getting more distance in my casting.

Line speed is vital to fly casting and the double haul is how you get more line speed. Like most of our experienced members, I've been doing this so long I hardly realize it. Paul Sequira and I were discussing this just a week or so ago. Both of us use some sort of haul with the line hand on just about every cast we make, whether near or far. Every beginning fly caster should develop this.

But it's very natural to try and achieve more distance by pushing harder with the rod hand on the delivery cast, so much so we can hardly help it. You get a good rhythm going in your false casts and then push hard for that final delivery but the usual result is seeing the end of the line fold back and collapse out there.

Well, I now know that extra push on the delivery stroke breaks the rhythm of the casting cycle and this usually causes the line to foul.

The key Lefty showed me is to not change the casting rhythm but give a much sharper pull with the line hand as you make the final stroke. If you've been doing this wrong for the years I have, that's not easy to do. But when I do manage to bring it off, the line shoots out like a stampede of snakes and straightens beautifully at the end.

.....Charlie

# SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS ACTIVITIES

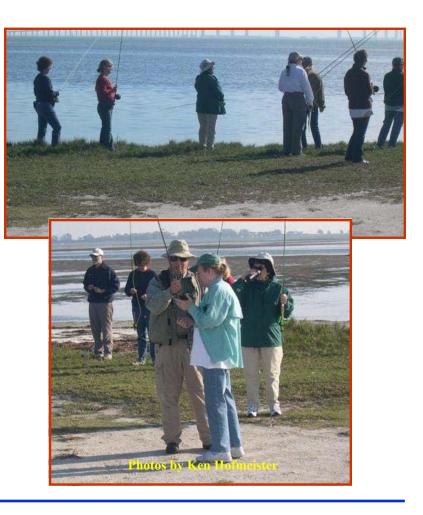
### WOMEN'S CASTING CLINIC

#### by Ken Hofmeister

Pat Damico conducted a women's casting clinic January 5 for seven SFF/ FFF members. Participants included: Miriam Craig, Jane Muhrlin, Diedra Whalen, Annie Hays, Marianne Hays, Ann Hofmeister, and Stacy Zientarski.

Richard Oldenski made sure the crowd was ready to go with fresh brewed coffee and donuts. Lunch, of course, was great. A good time was had by all. Participants were encouraged to continue to sharpen their skills at the next casting clinic, January 12.

The regular casting clinic held on Saturday Jan. 12th was a rousing success with 22 SSF/FFF members participating. Pictures from this event will be in February's *On The Fly*.



#### A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR by Paul Sequira

Another year has passed and here we are with the first issue of *On The Fly* for 2008. I'd like to start off with an apology to Ken Hofmeister, Ken Doty and Terry Kirkpatrick. In the November and December issues I ran some pictures supplied by those gentlemen and never gave them photo credits.

Also, this is the time to thank all of 2007 contributors for articles and photographs. So in no particular order let me give a big *THANK YOU* to Ken Hofmeister, Richard Oldenski, Mark Hays, Annie Hays, Charlie Most, Terry Kirkpatrick, Roger Blanton, Pat Damico, Norm Sande, Ken Doty, Keith Dudley, John Zientarski, Joe Dail, Ron Kelley, Michael Tassoni, Bill Aucain, Jim McPhail, and Ken McKennon. I hope I haven't missed anyone. Of course I must remember my old friend and fishing partner Don Coleman whose writings I went to a time or two for the fly tying column when I ran out of time or energy to write another tying article. Without your contributions this would be Paul Sequira's newsletter and that would be pretty boring. Keep those pictures and articles coming; I think we have a good newsletter and your contributions are what makes it fun and interesting.

Putting **On The Fly** together is time consuming and a lot of work; but it is also fun and very rewarding when I hear from the members how much you all enjoy it. So here is to another year, hope it is good to all of us with lots of good fishing and friendships. ......*Paul* 

# **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 clines, 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

# An Invitation From The American Casting Association

Jan. 4, 2008

Dear Florida club officers and webmasters,

The American Casting Association and the IGFA are inviting you and your club members to the ACA/IGFA Casting Tournament Feb. 2-4th 2008, in Dania Beach. Even if you're not a competitor, I bet everyone will enjoy seeing Steve Rajeff, World Casting Champion and G. Loomis senior rod designer, demonstrate his casting perfection in exhibition cast-offs with other great casters. We're offering seven accuracy and distance casting events with fly, baitcasting and spinning tackle to casters who enter.

- Saturday Feb. 2nd at IGFA pond- Dania Beach: Exhibition Casting
- Sunday Feb. 3rd at Markham Park Special Event Field- Sunrise, FL: Distance Competition
- Monday Feb. 4th at Tigertail Lake Center(a block from IGFA): Accuracy Competition

ACA has been the sanctioning body in North America for the National Casting Championships and National Casting Records for over 100 years. We'd appreciate if you'd post this event on your website and pass the word. We invite you to visit our homepage for links to schedules, registration and rules at <a href="http://www.americancastingassoc.org/">http://www.americancastingassoc.org/</a>. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

Hope to meet you there, John Field Vice President

#### 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 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 & 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 E-mail: Roger.Blanton@hotmail.com Website:PlatinumRealtyOfFlorida.com

#### Reds, Shallow Water, Fly Rod By CAPT. PAT DAMICO

Our first severe cold front has come and gone, and introduces a pattern that will be with us until spring. Will we put away our fly gear and tie some flies anticipating better weather, or will we be able to continue fishing? On Florida's west coast different times of the year usher in a variety of fishing opportunities. I like what winter has to offer. Redfish are not very temperature sensitive. Winter's low tides



and clear water offer some unusual fishing opportunities that almost combine fishing with hunting.

If you like a challenge, the best fishing of the year may be here. You can find and catch numbers of fish that are trapped in some deeper "hole" waiting for the incoming tide. The rising water will allow them to spread out across some adjacent flat where feeding opportunities are abundant. If you are up for a one on one challenge in skinny water your best opportunity is now.

A thorough knowledge of your quarry and their habits will help immensely. How do you recognize them, where do you look, what do you use, how not to spook them, are just a few of the challenges that you accept. A red's low slung mouth is perfect for bottom feeding. He can push and disrupt the bottom in his search for food. His interest in the bottom can be your opportunity to get up close and personal.

I love to find and pursue tailing redfish. A slow moving tail sticking out of the water will get your attention. Mullet tails are transparent, pointed, and only show quickly for a second. Reds will be found on flats that have their favorite food, like crabs and crustaceans. Wading birds often precede fish looking for the same staples. A concentration of birds actively feeding in the shallows will often have redfish mixed in with them. Watch these birds to see how you should reduce your visibility. Duplicating their movements will allow you to get close. It is rare to find schools of mullet that don't have reds as opportunistic companions, waiting for mullet movement to flush their next meal. I often pole my skiff to the edge of a flat I want to fish, anchor and wade. Wading will increase your chances of getting closer.

Don't be in a big hurry to cast. Watch to make sure you know the exact position of the fish. Is he facing you, or facing left or right? If facing away, there is a good chance you will line him spooking him and any friends he has nearby. When his head is down in the bottom, his tail is usually up and this will be your best opportunity to cast. Get the fly close, but not too close. If the fly makes it to the bottom without a take, move it only an inch when he gets his head out of the mud. A six inch strip will scare him. If the fish is moving, cast ahead of the fish, and let the fly sit on the bottom. As the fish gets within a foot, or two, begin to move the fly just enough to get his attention. Keeping the rod tip close to the waters surface and eliminating slack is most important. Reward his take with a strip strike.

Florida has many crabs. Blue, fiddler, hermit, speckled, spider, mole and

sand are just a few. How do we select and fish an effective crab pattern. Your casting skills better be adequate, because accuracy is more important than distance. Eight weight rods, or lighter in calm conditions, can deliver a crab pattern with a floating line. Nine foot leaders are a minimum, usually tapered to twelve pound test fluorocarbon.

Fly selection will include flies that will not spook shallow water fish. Small lead dumbbell, bead chain, and plastic eyes when properly mounted on a hook also stabilize the crab making it sit at rest with the hook point up. These eyes, mounted in the front allow the crab to seem to dive for the bottom when in danger. Shape your crab pattern so that it is a little narrower in the front where the weight is allowing it to dive and not wobble as it descends. The crab's color should match the bottom. If fishing sand, tan will predominate. When in turtle grass, a greenish color works best. My one exception to this rule is when fishing a mylar crab. They are gold and copper colored, and are especially useful when water is discolored. Weed guards are also necessary most of the time. The crab pattern should not make much noise when hitting the water. A pattern make of wool will be more silent than a mylar or epoxy crab. Your casting skills will help most here. Watch the fish's reaction to your casts, and adjust weight accordingly. Smaller is better when selecting crab flies. A size two or four will often work best.

Tailing redfish are not easy. A large red in skinny water presents a formidable challenge. Fooling him will give you a great sense of satisfaction and exhilaration. Try not to shout for joy when you finally connect.

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. To see how to tie a Mylar crab and Kwan crab, go to fishbuzz.tv and under flies you will find a video of him tying these and other favorites. His website www.captpat.com offers additional information.

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

# Fly Tying Bench – Pat's Bead Butt Baitfish by Paul Sequira

#### Pat's Bead Butt Baitfish (BBBF)

Capt. Pat Damico's BBBF is a fly he developed some time ago and has proven to be a very effective baitfish pattern that is easy to tie, cast and fish. It is constructed with a few modern synthetic materials, that are available wherever fly tying products are sold. This basically is a "high-tie" pattern using weight in the form of a bead located in an unusual position, the butt – hence the name Bead Butt. You're in for a treat with this installment of the "Tying Bench", you'll actually be able to see Pat tie this fly (and several others) by going to a very



Pat's Bead Butt Baitfish Fly tied and photo by Pat Damico

interesting website, <u>http://fishbuzz.tv.com</u> Once on the page, click on "Fly Fishing", then click on "Flies" then click on "Bead Butt Baitfish" and any others that you'd like to see demonstrated. Watch it as often as you need to get all of Pat's tying techniques and produce a fly that will work for you as it works for Pat.

#### <u>Materials</u>

- Hook: Mustad 34007 size #1 or equivalent
- Thread: Flat-waxed nylon 3/0 any color and clear ultra fine monofilament
- Wing: EP fibers or equivalent
- Flash: Fire Fly Tye or other fine flash material
- Eyes: stick-on prismatic eyes secured with Goop

#### **Tying Instructions**

1. Pinch the barb down and slide a brass bead onto the hook. Temporarily place the bead just behind the hook eye. Attach the flat-waxed nylon thread to the hook and wrap a bump of thread just ahead of the hook bend. Cut off the thread and coat the bump with a liberal amount of head cement

(Dave's Fleximent is recommended) to secure the bead in place. Slide the bead back onto the thread bump.

- 2. Secure the mono thread on the hook just ahead of the bead.
- 3. Select a small bunch of white EP fibers. With your fingers, pinch out the fibers from the cut end to make the end taper. Fold the fibers over the mono thread at the mid-point and secure them to the hook with several wraps of mono.
- 4. Move the thread forward slightly and secure a  $2^{nd}$  bunch of EP fibers as in the previous step.
- 5. Select the flash material of your choice (i.e. Fire Fly Tye) remove a few fibers and tie in front of the last batch of EP fibers. Do not use too much flash material, a few strands is enough.
- 6. Select another color of EP fibers and separate a small bunch. Yellow is a good color to chose as you will find yellow in many baitfish. Move the thread forward slightly and tie in as before.
- 7. Now select a contrasting color of EP fibers for the back of the baitfish. If you are imitating backcountry baitfish, a medium tan is a good choice, or chartreuse if you are creating a greenback imitation.
- 8. Throughout the wing building process, you should size your wing material to imitate the baitfish you are targeting. Also, you should use a small mustache comb to blend the fibers in. Finalize the shape of the wing by trimming the EP fibers with a scissors.
- 9. Wrap a nice tapered head and secure with a whip-finish, coat with head cement. Turn the fly over in your vise and run a bead of head cement on the mono thread wraps on the bottom of the hook to secure them.
- 10. With your dubbing needle, take a bead of Goop and place it on the backside of a stick-on prismatic eye. Press the eye onto the EP fibers just behind the head. Repeat on the other side of the fly.

Now go to fishbuzz.tv and watch Capt Pat's video. This is a simple and effective fly; Pat's demo will have you tying it in no time. Also check out his crab imitations as described in Pat's excellent "Reds, Shallow Water, Fly Rod." article on page 7. ......*PS* 

# **Don Coleman Invitational Dec. 2007**



What a day. Alan's chili was terrific as usual and you can tell that by all the folks hanging around the cooking table waiting for the dinner bell. There were lots of other goodies there two — the corn bread was special. The fishing was good but it took a guest to come up with a snook. One guest, now a member, caught a very surprised barracuda — first we've ever seen at one of our outings. Don would have been proud of this one. I think everyone had a great time, I know I did. Photos—Paul Sequira except as noted.

# **Don Coleman Invitational Dec. 2007**







Joe Bursel of the Mangrove Coast FFC hooked this snook on a Spoon Fly using his 5 weight outfit and had a cheering section rooting for him as he expertly played and landed this terrific fish. Photos: Paul Sequira except as noted.



Not to be outdone, new member Mike Mazzo shows off his first fly rod catch on his first cast and lands the first barracuda ever caught at a SFF outing. Good job Mike and welcome to the Suncoast Fly Fishers. Photo: Paul Sequira



Ken and Mark show us where the fish are. Photo: Mark Hays

#### 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



Suncoast Fly Fishers P.O. BOX 40821 St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821



Next Club Meeting: January 17, 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: Suncoast Fly Fisher's Annual Auction with Alan Sewell