

Suncoast Fly Fishers



On The Fly

# The Prez Sez by Ken Hofmeister



## BRING IT ON!

### EVERGLADES CHALLENGE

Mayan Cichlids are shouting, “Bring it on!” These broad shouldered bruisers are like “bluegill on steroids.” And they are starved. More than one Mayan Cichlid said not only could we not catch them, but also we couldn’t even spell their name. They’ve been waiting for the SFF April 25-26 Everglades outing. Rooms are being held at the La Quinta in Ft. Lauderdale at the special “Don Manning rate” of \$90.00. Call Gladys at 954-486-1200 before these great rooms at the end of the Alligator Alley are gone. The La Quinta has been a splendid host with great breakfasts for our club. While they are most accommodating, Gladys refused to let us turn the swimming pool into our aquarium. Nor would they arrange for a police motorcade as we roared off to fish each morning.

Last year at least seventeen Suncoast Fly Fishers bragged about catching over 100 fish a day. Over dinner these fish grew larger and more numerous. Robert Fisher threw everything he had trying to find something they would not hit. Rumor has it that they even ate his lunch!

Not only are those Mayan Cichlids ready to smash those poor spiders, but also they are having a contest with the Oscars. These black bombers are reported to be bragging that they can break any four-wt rod we bring down there. They don’t see many Pinellas anglers in those waters.

Then there are the gators. You remember last year when they lined up and faced off the Cocoa club’s kayak crowd. Last time we checked those fly fishers were fishing from the bank and the gators were saying that they thought they tasted something like chicken! Special request from gator country--fly fishers who practice this sport from an inner tube with legs dangling. If Cichlids get the spider legs, the gators want the fishers legs.

### SFF AWARD CEREMONY APRIL 12

Naturally, we’ll want to recognize verifiable winners for the different categories. This year, we’ll also add a president’s award to the SFF member who best embodies the club’s vision and lives the values. Where better to do this than at our greatest social event of the year? This year’s PIG ROAST is good news for everybody but the pig. Best news is the \$20.00 per person price. And that includes the entertainment of “Captain Bob.” Reserve your place by paying Enver Hysni at the March meeting or by calling John and Stacy Zientarski at 727-391-1480.

Need a new kayak? How about a TFO TiCr X series rod? Short on flies? Maybe jewelry? Check out the silent auction and you’ll have some great new toys. Even better, bring some classy items and donate them for this SFF annual fundraiser. ....**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 -REVEIWS and PREVEIWS by Richard Oldenski**



### **March 22, 2008 Outing - Lake Manatee**

#### **February Outing**

Armed with aerial view maps, we hit Ft. DeSoto Park early on Saturday morning, confident that we knew where the fish were. Unfortunately, the fish didn't read the map. Some of the "honey holes" were empty. Unlike real estate, in fishing, location is only part of the equation. About half of us caught fish. Ron Kelly caught a 22½ inch redfish and his partner, Robert Fisher, went on to catch an identical 22½ inch redfish. They claim it wasn't the same fish. Since he pulled in the first fish, Ron gets the prize. No snook were caught, but the usual collection of trout and ladyfish were taken. Mark Hays treated us to venison burgers for lunch. We had a good time and managed to finish lunch before a heavy rain storm hit the park.

#### **March 22, 2008 Outing :**

The March outing will be at Lake Manatee, east of Bradenton. This 1,800 acre lake was formed by a dam across the Manatee River and it claims to hold large mouth bass, sunshine bass and the usual collection of panfish. There is an excellent boat ramp in the Lake Manatee State Park, with good access to the lake. A smaller, more rustic ramp is lo-

cated 3 miles up river from the State Park, and it provides access to the upper end of the lake as well as to the Manatee River. There is \$4.00 per vehicle entrance fee at the State Park, and boat motors are restricted to 20 horsepower or less. A map, showing prime fishing spots on the lake and river, will be available at the meeting. To get there, drive South on I 75 to Bradenton. At Exit 220, drive East on State Road 64. The park entrance is on the left side of State Road 64 about 9 miles east of I 75. Lunch will be served at the picnic area in the State Park at Noon.

#### **Future Outing Previews:**

April — To Be Announced

May — Night Snook Fishing

#### **Fishing Tournament**

Bass—Ken Hofmeister (13 inches)

Sun Fish—Ken Doty (9¼ inches)

Redfish - Ron Kelley (22½ inches)

Trout - Mike Mazzo (18 inches)

Other Species - Norm Sande - Ladyfish (25 inches)

### **MARCH 20th MEETING: TIE-A-THON**

This has been a very popular event. If you have never tied a fly, are very advanced, or anywhere in between, this is for you. The more experienced tiers can help those that are just getting a start. We will have four tiers, each tying two patterns. Bring your vise, scissors and thread. If you don't have any of these, some will be provided. You can select a pattern and it will be tied one step at a time so everyone can advance to the next step together. Then change tables and tie another pattern. Tiers will provide necessary materials. Fly tiers and their patterns are as follows:

Norm Sande: Schminnow, Wooly Bugger

Enver Hysni: Keys Tarpon Fly, Shrimp Fly

Charlie Most: Seducer, Bendback

Pat Damico: Clouser, Minnow, Gurgler

If you would be interested in being a tier at our next Tie-A-Thon, please contact a board member. ....*Capt. Pat*

### **TAMPA BAY BOAT SHOW**

The Suncoast Fly Fishers 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 need fly tyers and talkers to cover the booth and present our club to the public. We need a good showing for the club. If you haven't signed up already, please call Ken Hofmeister now. Don't let your club down.

# Suncoast Fly Fishers



## 5th Annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction

Saturday, April 12th 2008 from 4:00 - 8:00 pm

Join us for a good ole fashion pig pickin with all the fixins  
under the oaks at

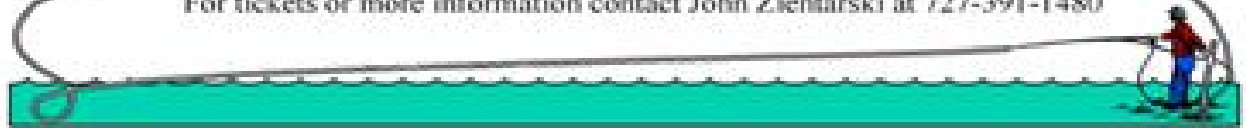
11796 Starkey Road, Largo, Florida

\$20.00 per person



LIVE GUITAR  
BY  
CAPTAIN BOB

For tickets or more information contact John Zientarski at 727-391-1480



# SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS ACTIVITIES

## SFF's Annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction

Have you bought your ticket yet? April 12th will be here before you know it and you surely don't want to miss out on SFF's premier event of the year. John and Stacy Zientarski put together the best banquet with a fabulous barbequed hog and all the trimmings, coleslaw, potato salad, baked beans, corn bread, some terrific deserts and drinks. Plus live entertainment by Capt. Bob! All this for \$20 per person.

Art Tassoni and John Zientarski have been busy acquiring some excellent auction items, not only fishing related treasures but items that also appeal to the folks of the non fishing persuasion. Member contributions to the store of auction items are not only desired, but also necessary for our auction to be successful. Please help our club by donating something for the auction. Member tied flies have always been very popular auction items so all of you tiers out there, please be generous. Many other craft items created by wives and family members have always done well for the club.

Call it Hog Roast, Pig Pickin' or Swine Dine, but don't miss it. Saturday, April 12th from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm at 11796 Starky Rd in Largo is the date, time and location and a bargain at \$20 per. This is the last meeting before the big event; see John Zientarski at the meeting to make your reservation. ....PS

## JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE ON SFF's EVERGLADES 2008 BLAST

SFF's annual Everglades trip is coming soon April 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> are the dates (and Sunday morning the 27<sup>th</sup> if you're up to it before you head home) and you don't want to miss out on this great fishing weekend. Fishing is easy in the canals along side of I-75 and there are several boat ramps conveniently located on both sides of the highway. If you don't catch 100 fish a day, you don't have a fly on your leader. Bass, Bream, Warmouths, Oscars, Mayan Cichlids you never know what will be next. On top of that, you get to enjoy fishing with your SFF pals for a couple of days. The local restaurants serve up some great food and the motel accommodations are excellent.

Don Manning has reserved 10 rooms for us at the La Quinta Inn 13651 Northwest 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Sunrise, FL 33325. Call Gladys at 1-954-846-1200 between 7:00 am and 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday and tell her that you are with Don Manning's Suncoast Fly Fishers group and ask for our special \$90. room rate. If you need directions, just go to MapQuest <http://www.mapquest.com/main.adp> plug in your home address and the motel's address for excellent directions and map. ....PS

## 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

# 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

E-mail: Roger.Blanton@hotmail.com

Website: PlatinumRealtyOfFlorida.com

## Fishing The Chassahowitzka River by Capt. Pat Damico

I really enjoy getting away from the crowds and exploring new territory. My fellow Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club fishing buddy Nick Angelo and I were going to meet the next day to fish a local river that empties into Tampa Bay. Nick's phone call to finalize plans began with, "Pat, have you ever fished the Chassahowitzka?" Nick, "I can't even pronounce it," was my response. His enthusiastic assurance that I would like it was all I needed to say yes.

We arranged to meet on the north end of Tampa where we would ride together in his vehicle towing his skinny running Hell's Bay flats skiff.

The predawn traffic thinned out, as we made our way north into the country leaving suburbia in the rear view mirror. As the sun began to rise, we arrived at the Chassahowitzka River campground boat launch, paid a fee, and slid the boat into the clearest, most pristine looking water I have seen in Florida. I felt like I was transplanted into bygone era as we idled down river toward the bay. Freshwater bass and bluegills scooted around the boat as we enjoyed the sounds of an awaking wilderness. Beautiful cypress trees, cabbage palms, saw grass, sweet gum trees and colorful red maples provided a canopy that widened as we continued our journey. A mature osprey flew ahead of the boat as a guide seeming to take us to his favorite fishing hole. Great blue herons, cormorants and anhingas loudly voiced their objections to our presence as we disturbed their awakening and stretching routine. The widening river revealed some fish camps and houses that must have been there forever. Nick grinned as he asked, "What do you think?" I was too busy digging



for my camera to get some pictures of this pristine wilderness to give a very long answer other than, Beautiful!"

The tide was just beginning to slowly come in and the clear, very shallow water made me glad that we were not using my larger Maverick boat. Nick's previous trips there were enough to keep us safe for the rest of the day. This is not a place for anything but the shallowest running watercraft. Approaching the salt clusters of oysters, underwater obstacles, hard bottom, grass, thinly exposed flats, and patches of muddy water

made navigation a nightmare. Many grass covered islands were visible as the bay unfolded before us. An overcast day with occasional short interruptions of sunshine did not improve visibility. When running the outboard, we mostly idled with the motor tilted. A bow mounted electric was also put into service several times. Poling is always the most effective means of making a stealthy shallow approach, so we took turns working some familiar areas where he had successfully fished on other trips.

We always check the weather before leaving, paying particular attention to the wind. Very little protection is afforded here, so a calm day would be ideal. I fished with a seven weight and Nick a nine weight, using weight forward floating lines and nine foot leaders with a twenty pound tippet. Our target species was redfish. On Nick's last trip, a number of large jacks interrupted their redfish search. I kept a nine weight with a popper handy in case we had the same thing happen. We both love large jacks on the surface.

Fishing was slow until the tide began to go out at a very fast flow rate. A large school of mullet was spread over one side of a nearby island, so we headed there. I was on the pole and Nick, an excellent caster, began to ply the mullet with one of Leigh West's green

## Fishing The Chassahowitzka River ...continued by Capt. Pat Damico

and gold Clouser style patterns. A redfish was hooked on the second cast. After releasing it, a few additional casts were rewarded with another hookup. An anchor was quietly slid over the side to hold our position. Keeping a small plastic covered mushroom anchor in the boat with about ten feet of line on it to immediately deploy off the stern when school type fish are discovered is a great idea. Now I could also fish! My tippet sported a small gold and copper colored Mylar Kwan style crab pattern. Since we had located the fish, this choice proved to be a good one. A very slow retrieve on the bottom was needed for success. We worked the mullet school, occasionally lifting the anchor and poling another twenty feet or so to work a different section of water. When we left this location, we had ten reds that we released, as well as a few that managed to get off or avoid our strip sets. These fish were all very silver in color attesting to the excellent water quality. We caught several other fish later as we worked our way back toward the channel markers leading to the launch. A stop at one of the many fresh water springs had bluegills and large mouth bass chasing and hitting our smaller offerings. Where else could you combine such a variety of shallow water fishing with a breathtaking view?

We had spent almost an entire day there and had only touched a small part of what the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge has to offer. Federal, state and local agencies jointly manage over 35,000 acres which include many islands, estuaries, salt marshes, and coastal swamps. A Google search will give you a wealth of information for you to review in preparation for a very enjoyable day on the water. When the monotonous routine of urban fishing starts to gnaw at your interest level, head to the Chassahowitzka to cleanse your soul!

*A certified casting instructor, Capt. Pat Damico fishes lower Tampa Bay and surrounding waters with light tackle and fly rod. His website [www.captpat.com](http://www.captpat.com), will give you additional information.*

*This article originally appeared on Capt. Mel Berman's website [www.capmel.com](http://www.capmel.com) and is reproduced here with the author's permission.*

### 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](http://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 Gualjainia. 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](mailto:pat4jaws@hotmail.com), or 727-504-8649.

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

## Fly Tying Bench — McVay's Gotcha *by Paul Sequira*

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Several years ago I was preparing for a week in the Keys and looking forward to fishing for bonefish and permit on the flats in the Grassy Key area. Lefty Kreh was visiting John Homer's Salt Water Fly Fisherman shop in Clearwater and I had the opportunity to talk with Lefty about my upcoming trip. When asked what his favorite flies would be for the fishing I was planning, he recommended four flies: McVay's Gotcha, Brown Snapping Shrimp, Tan Clouser and Chartreuse Clouser. Those flies worked well in the Keys and I discovered that along with the others, the McVay Gotcha also worked very well for redfish right here in Tampa Bay.



### Materials:

- **Hook:** Mustad 34007 size 2, 4
- **Thread:** Flourescent or Gotcha Pink Danville Flat Waxed Nylon
- **Eyes:** silver bead chain 1/8" on size 4 or 5/32" on size 2 or 1/50<sup>th</sup> oz. lead barbells for fast sink
- **Tail:** Pearl mylar tubing combed out
- **Body:** Pearl diamond braid
- **Wing:** Yellow Krystal Flash over blond craft fur Note: The proper color is Mystic Bay Flies' "Light Gold" or Heritage Textiles "Blonde". When fishing dark bottoms, a red tinted orange wing can be used and when fishing mangrove shore lines an red tinted brown wing is useful.

### Tying Instructions

1. Pinch the barb down and secure the hook in the vise in the normal fashion.
2. Attach the thread to the hook shank near the eye but leaving enough room to create an oversized pink nose. Make a small bump of thread and attach the eyes with a figure eight wrap. Bind all the wraps tight and apply a drop of head cement or super glue to lock in.
3. Attach a flattened piece of pearlescent mylar tubing onto the top of the hook shank behind the eyes, wrapping the thread all the way to the hook bend. Cut the excess off leaving a tail the same length as the hook shank. Brush out the frayed ends of the mylar. Wrap the thread back up to the bead chain.
4. Tie in the pearlescent diamond braid on top of the mylar tubing, binding it down to the shank with close wraps all the way to the hook bend, then wrap the thread back to the bead chain eyes again with close wraps to create a pink underbody so that it will show through after the body is wrapped. Wind the diamond braid forward to the bead chain eyes to complete the body.
5. Turn the hook over so that the point is now up. Select a medium sized bunch of craft fur and tie in the wing directly in front of the bead chain eyes. The wing should extend to the end of the tail. Select six strands of yellow Krystal Flash and tie in at the mid point folding the flash over to double them and secure with several wraps of thread. Cut off excess to match the length of the wing.
6. Form a longer than normal nose with the pink thread. Coat with several applications of head cement.



## SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS PHOTOS

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For the last 20 months I have been bragging about how generous the SFF members have been with pictures and articles for the newsletter. And for the most part, you've come through month after month with fresh entries to make our newsletter more interesting and entertaining. Well, I take it back. This month I received only one picture, of this handsome little fellow holding a beautiful spotted seatrout he just caught! Come on folks, I know you're out there fishing and catching; let's share your good fortune and send in some pictures so that the rest of the club can enjoy your success and good times too! Want more pictures folks? Send more in!.....PS



Pat Damico's grandson Jonathon is looking mighty proud of this king-sized spotted seatrout he caught on a recent trip with Grand Dad.

I never tire of pictures of the grand kids so here is part of the Hofmeister crew on Grand Dad Ken's boat taken last year. That is Ada in her pink hat for whom the famous (or infamous) fly known as the Ada Potata fly is named after. That's a nice trout kids.



## 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

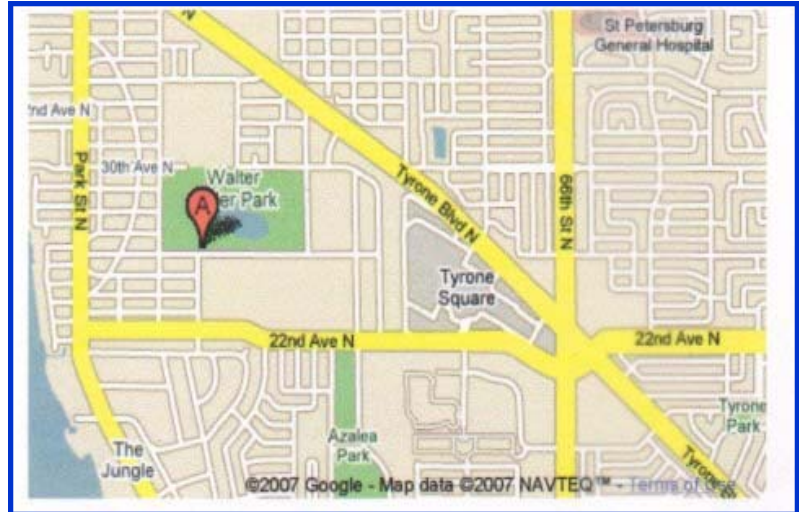
Roger Blanton - Pat Damico

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](mailto:psequira@tampabay.rr.com)



**Next Club Meeting: March 20, 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:**

**Tie-A-Thon 4 tables—4 tyers – Come tie with us & learn some new patterns**

***VISIT OUR WEBSITE***

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

***Suncoast Fly Fishers***

**P.O. BOX 40821**

**St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821**