

# On The Fly

Newsletter of The Suncoast Fly Fishers Our Website [www.suncoastflyfishers.com](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com) Volume 18, Issue 4 May 2008

## *The Prez Sez by Ken Hofmeister*

### LIVING THE SFF VALUES

#### VISION

To be Florida's leading fly-fishing club—helping members have more fun fly-casting, fly-fishing, and fly-tying—gaining new knowledge and/or skill at every meeting and event.

#### CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

- Attract, develop, and retain a diverse group of members who enjoy fly-fishing.
- Increase membership satisfaction with club offerings.
- Continue to improve club communications to members and the public.
- Continually improve people, processes, and what we provide.

#### VALUES

**MEETING MEMBER NEEDS:** Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. will continuously seek to understand and meet the personal and practical needs of members. A key to attracting and retaining members is to meet or exceed their needs.

**FRIENDLINESS:** SFF strives to be a friendly, inclusive, and unpretentious group of fly-fishers who have fun learning and fishing together. New members will find themselves welcomed, respected, invited, and needed.

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

<b>SFF UPCOMING EVENTS</b>	Join a Committee	3
May 15 – General Meeting – Speaker -Russ Hampton	New Members	4
May 17-18 -Night snook fishing	Annual Hog Roast	4-5
	Capt. Grasset	5 -7
	How Fast Should I Strip My Fly? Pat Damico	7-9
<b>INSIDE THIS ISSUE</b>	Tying Bench – Ada Potato – Ken Hofmeister	9-10
The Prez Sez 1 & 2	Everglades outing & future outings	10
Tribute to Paul Sequira 2	Aims & Purpose; Guides; Committees; Ads	11
Outings – reviews; tournament results; previews 2-3	SFF Officers & Board; May meeting	12
Designated Fly Tyers for May 3		

Paul Sequira was awarded the president's "Living the SFF Values" trophy in recognition for his contribution to club communications (outstanding newsletter) and meeting member needs through information and education (fly tying column). In spite of serious medical issues, Paul taught us the meaning of "responsibility" by relentless attention to detail and useful feedback (improving processes). Thanks Paul!

Significant contributions in translating the values were made by Mark Hays and Richard Oldenski (outings, lunches, trophies, kayak, programs). Pat Damico (casting clinics, fly tying, FFF link, new member committee, Project Healing Waters). Enver Hysni (casting clinic, fly tying, financial processes, SFF booth). Roger Blanton (SFF brochure, SFF cards, web site chairman). Charlie Most (fly-tying 101 workshops, casting clinic, SFF booth). John and Stacy Zientarski (pig roast, auctions, financial processes). Joe Dail (insurance, financial processes, tax exemption, incorporation, membership lists, by-law revision, club charter). Don Manning (Everglades event, SFF booth). Ken and Sue Doty (SFF booth, lunches, education). John Rogers and Tom Hummel (raffle and library). Alan Sewell (chili). Art Tassoni (auction and pig roasting). Jerry Yancey (pig roast). Many others helped. These members made various values come alive for all.

.....Ken

### **A Special Tribute to Paul Sequira**

As noted in Presidents Ken Hofmeister's The Prez Sez Paul Sequira was honored by being presented the Living the SFF Values Award. It was very fitting that Paul be the first recipient of this award. Paul's comments are as follows.

#### **THANK YOU SFF**

Once again SFF's Hog Roast was a fabulous event. It was even more memorable for me when Ken Hofmeister announced that I would be the recipient of the first ever "Living The SFF Values" award. It is truly an honor to be recognized for that award especially when we have so many other members working hard to make our club the best in Florida. To all who had a part in selecting me for this award, let me express my heartfelt thanks.

.....Paul Sequira

### **THE OUTING REPORT – REVIEWS AND PREVIEWS by Richard Oldenski**

#### **April Outing**

At the April outing, club members spread out all over Terra Ceia Bay, Rattlesnake Key and both sides of the Southern end of the Sunshine Sky Way. The water was still cold, and the fish were not in the mood to eat. We did catch some fish, mostly small trout and snook. The prize winner was a 22 inch snook caught by Roger Blanton. Unlike the fish, we were in the mood to eat and enjoyed sandwiches, watermelon and good conversation for lunch. You should have been there!

FISHING TOURNAMENT -  
Snook - Roger Blanton (22 inches)

May Outing: -

May 17-18, 2008 - Night Snook Fishing

For the May outing, we will repeat our annual "Night Snook Fishing Extravaganza". Be prepared to sign up for fishing buddies at the meeting. We need boats for this outing, so members who have a boat are especially encouraged to attend this extraordinary outing, and be prepared to take a club member buddy or two with them.

Fishing will begin at nightfall on Saturday May 17 and end at 06:00 Sunday morning, May 18 with breakfast at the Macdonald's on the Madeira Beach Causeway. Fishing buddies can start fishing whenever they want, and they can fish anywhere there are docks in Pinellas County. Sight casting to snook under dock lights at night is unique to Florida fishing, and catching a snook on a fly under the lights is a real thrill.

The designated fly tyers at the May meeting will be Ken Doty and Alan Sewell who will tie flies that are guaranteed to catch snook at night. Don't miss the meeting and this exciting outing.

Outing Previews:

June - Floating the Hillsborough River

July - Anclote River

August - Alligator Lake

September - 4th Street North

October - Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament

## **DESIGNATED FLY TYERS FOR APRIL**

Alan Sewell and Ken Doty will be featured tying "under the dock light specials" at the May 15 membership meeting from 6:30-7:00. Also tying during that time will be Russ Hampton, our program presenter. Russ will be showing you how to make those big spiders weedless. Alan and Ken will be demonstrating how to tie proven producers with a track record on numerous snook outings.....President Ken Hofmeister

## **JOIN A COMMITTEE**

### **WHY DON'T THEY? I WISH THAT THEY WOULD ...**

SFF has over a hundred members who are full of good ideas and suggestions. We have lots of experience in fly-fishing organizations and on the water. Now is the time to put the energies and ideas to work as we continue to improve how we meet member needs by improving our processes, our people, and what we provide.

Join an SFF committee and help translate our vision into reality. Committees are: Casting Skills, FFF, Fly Tying, Membership, Newsletter, Outings, Publicity, Programs, Project Healing Waters, Raffles/Library, Web Site (and maybe we need additional ones).

Contact a chairman, board member, or officer to make your contribution.

..... President Ken Hofmeister

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

The following individuals have joined FSS in 2008. We welcome them and invite them to join a committee.

Sue Anderson	Tom Gadacz	Bob McIntyre
Bob Bargamin	Robert W. Hinzpeter	Gregory Rogers
Jerry Brown	Pete Hysni	Judd Sheets
Mal Brown	Diane Lopes	Ed Smith
Robert Burns	Patrick M. McGriff	William A. Smith
Jim DeGrado	Anne McIntyre	

## **Suncoast Fly Fishers 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction**

As a new member and my first Annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction, I thought a few words would be fun. John and Stacy Zientarski hosted the event at their historic house and grounds, the former Starkey residence. John organized and supervised the roasting and Stacy provided all the fixings and trimmings. Pig roasters were Jerry Yancey and Art Tassoni. The roasted pig and sides were delicious and many went back for seconds including Judy, my wife and me. In addition Stacy conducted a tour of their historic house. Her commentary was excellent and she provided a great background about the Starkeys' and their relatives.

Captain Bob was almost none stop strumming and singing. He has an incredible repertoire of ballads and songs. He must have iron in his legs being able to stand so long.

President Ken Hofmeister conducted the program giving credit to all those who made the annual event possible and recognizing the officers, new members and guests. The membership total is now 100.

Pete Greenan, President of the Florida Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers complimented President Hofmeister on his leadership and regarded the Suncoast Fly Fishers as the premier fly fishers club in the state.

Paul Sequira was recognized for all his contributions to Suncoast Fly Fishers and received the "Living the SFF Values" trophy from President Hofmeister. We are extremely fortunate to have Paul in our organization and I especially appreciate his friendship.

Richard Oldenski and Mark Hays presented trophies to club members who caught the largest fish in various categories.

Art Tassoni held the silent auction and the contributions filled three tables. There were contributions from members which included equipment, rods and reel, flies, art work, and jewelry.

The door prize was a TFO rod and reel which was won by Art Tassoni.

The kayak was won by Deirdre Whelan.

Judy and I had a great time and enjoyed the camaraderie of all the members and appreciated John and Stacy's hospitality.



The Prez at the Welcoming Table



Capt. Bob strumming and singing



Checking the roasting hog



John giving advice on the BBQ



"Fellers" going back for seconds

Tom Gadacz

Photos by Paul Sequira

## **Capt. Rick Grassett of Sarasota Shares Secrets with Suncoast Fly Fishers at April 17 Meeting by Bill AuCoin**

Fly fisher, when you see a fish chasing your minnow, what should you do?

By all means keep the pretence going, says Capt. Rick Grassett,

Speed the streamer's retrieve like it was a minnow trying to get away from the predator. Got a follow on your crab imitation? Then stop stripping so it looks like a crab ducking for cover in the grass. This is what comes naturally to the crab.

Grassett shared these tips and maybe a hundred more in a solid presentation to Suncoast Fly Fishers April 17. The Sarasota fly guide covered tackle and tips for skinny water, deep flats, night snookin', the nearshore and Gulf, and how to bow to the king tarpon.

And even before he turned on the slide projector the guest speaker was out on the grass helping early arrivals work out kinks in their casting stroke. Grassett is an Orvis-Endorsed Outfitter Guide based at CB's Saltwater Outfitters in Sarasota. Here are just a few of the insights shared by Grassett who, since 1990, has been helping fly fishers catch trout, snook, redfish, tarpon, bluefish, pompano, triplefish, Spanish mackerel, king mackerel, bonita, sharks and more. "We are blessed with our variety of fish," he said.

Use a large arbor reel so you can get line back on the reel more quickly. Floating line is fine for skinny water but in deeper water use intermediate sinking line or line with a sink tip to get the fly down to the fish more quickly. Depending on depth of water if you want a tarpon to see your streamer, you've got to let it sink, sometimes six feet down, then swim it within two or three

feet of its eyes. A tarpon will feed up a little bit, but not much. Your fly should intersect a tarpon's line of travel, but usually can't land in the strike zone. A quartering shot may allow you to slide your fly into position before the tarpon arrives. For smaller tarpon in the residential canals, use an 8 or 9 weight and strip a dark fly (black and purple or black with just about any other color) slowly on the bottom.



Captain Rick Grassetto in the fly casting field  
Photos by Bill AuCoin



Captain Grassetto giving talk

In open water look for diving terns or gulls (not pelicans), to show you schools of feeding macs, jacks, blues, and bonito. Use a 6' leader with a sinking or sink tip fly line.

For macs, especially, throw a fly tied tarpon-style; that is, with a long hook shank with all of feathers and fur back toward the hook. That gives you a little added protection from sharp teeth. Use 4-6 inch wire or 60-pound fluorocarbon bite tippet for Spanish and king mackerel.

If you get a follow from a tripletail, don't let it follow your fly all the way back to the boat or you'll spook it for good. Instead, lift your fly up before it gets halfway back and cast it back to the marker. The redfish is the king of the backcountry. Often you'll have to get out of the boat and wade to get a strike. For reds, fish the deeper trough surrounding oyster bars, sand bars, and spoil islands. Large speckled trout swim alone and you'll often find them where you catch redfish. Snook are on the flats in the spring. Look for feeders ambushing bait from a point or a cut, along mangrove shorelines, and swimming edges where grass meets sand.

### Grassetto's Go-To Flies



The numbers correspond to the five flies above numbering left to right. Photo by Bill AuCoin

1. Grasset's Flats Minnow--This is a fly I designed for reds, snook and trout in skinny water. It is an attractor pattern that is sort of 1/2 baitfish and 1/2 shrimp. It is tied in various colors, but usually in olive/white. I also sometimes use lead eyes instead of bead chain when water is deeper. It is in the Orvis catalog this year.

2. Clouser Minnow--This is a baitfish pattern designed by Bob Clouser that will catch most species in shallow or deep water depending on the size of the fly and the weight of the eyes. I like to add peacock herl to the wing. This fly is tied "Lefty style-as in Lefty Kreh" with eyes on one side of the hook and bucktail on the other side. It fishes very much like a small jig with an up and down motion when it is stripped.

3. Ultra Hair Clouser Minnow--This fly is used for mackerel, bluefish, ladyfish or any other toothy or rough mouth fish. I tie it with Ultra hair, a synthetic bucktail, and epoxy the head for durability. It is also tied tarpon style, with the material back towards the bend of the hook, leaving the hook shank exposed to keep sharp teeth off the leader. I load it up with flash, since they may chew all the flash out of the fly before they destroy it.

4. Skitterbug--This fly is a variation of a Gartside Gurgler that is tied to look like a shrimp. I use it around lighted docks and bridge fenders at night when snook are feeding on shrimp on the surface. It imitates a shrimp that has been chased to the surface and is fleeing. It works best when snook are actively feeding on shrimp and you can even cast to a particular snook that is chasing a shrimp for an immediate strike.

5. Grasset's Grass Minnow (aka Grasset's Snook Minnow in the 2008 Orvis catalog) – This is my "go to" night snook fly. It imitates a glass minnow or small shrimp and works very well for snook at night around lighted docks and bridges. Usually tied on a #4 hook, it can be tied larger in spring as snook begin to feed on larger baits. This fly has also caught trout, ladyfish, little tunny, Spanish mackerel and bluefish on the flats.....Bill AuCoin

Check Captain Grasset's web site for information about fishing on Florida suncoast or about making trips to Andros South Lodge in the Bahamas and other remote fishing hot spots.

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Phone: 941-923-7799

## **How Fast Should I Strip My Fly? By Capt. Pat Damico**

I am asked this question more frequently than any other by both new as well as more experienced fly fishers. They are asking for a key to make their fly more appealing to the fish. The question sounds simple enough, but the answer is rather complex. If I said use a six inch slow strip with a little pause, does that mean that the fly will move six inches and hesitate slightly? Maybe, but unless several rules are followed, the fly may not move at all or at a much more accelerated rate.

Good principles of line control will transmit movements of your stripping hand to the fly. Stripping is the term used to cause desired fly movement when the non-casting hand moves the line in a direction from the tip to the handle of the fly rod. In saltwater fly fishing, the rod tip is rarely used to give the fly action. What are some of these principles, and how do they work?

First, it is important to remember what pattern we are fishing and duplicate those movements. If using a crab pattern for redfish, a very slow movement of an inch or two may be all that is needed. Baitfish patterns may require long strips to mimic a small fish trying to escape from the jaws of a predator. These movements are very different. The crab imitation will always be close to the bottom, so immediately moving the fly in the upper water column is counter productive.

Let's begin by making sure that proper casting rules are followed. The better you cast, the more easily action to the fly can be transmitted. On the forward cast, with the rod properly loaded, a crisp stop is used to unload the rod and complete the cast. After the stop, the rod is lowered as the line settles to the water surface. If you let go of the line with your non-casting hand, you are already in trouble. The line should slide thru your fingers and closing your fingers on the line at the proper time will give you control of accuracy, similar to when your thumb touches the spool on a baitcasting reel, or your index finger feathers the line on a spinning reel before touching the spool to stop the lure and direct where it will land. As the fly hits the water, is everything in a straight line? Is the rod pointed at the fly and is all slack eliminated? Is your rod tip close to the water, or several feet from the water surface? To properly transmit intended movements to the fly, the rod tip must almost touch the water. The slack caused by having the rod too far from the water will prohibit any line hand movements from affecting the fly. If you are holding the rod tip a few feet above the water, a long strip will not move the fly at all. If there is slack in the cast and the line looks like a snake on the water, moving the line to give the fly movement will be ineffective. Of course, if your leader collapsed on the cast, you will get the same poor result. Keep everything in a straight line with slack eliminated.

Tidal movement and wind direction are other factors. If the tide is coming in straight toward you, and you have eliminated slack in the cast, a long strip may just remove line slack created by the advancing current with the result that the current only drifted the fly in your direction. The length of the strip may have to be two, or three times what is needed to get the desired result. Just stripping enough line to keep in contact with the fly may be adequate with a crab or shrimp pattern as it drifts into the strike zone of your intended quarry. Any slack present will prevent you from feeling the take. Having the wind at your back as the tide comes toward you will move the boat and further prevent the control you desire. When fishing from a boat with the wind in your face and the tide coming toward you, the drifting boat alone may give the fly enough, or too much movement. When the tide is moving away from you, casting at an angle, much the same as you would when fishing a river, may give even a baitfish pattern enough movement to trigger a strike. You can mend line, move the line close to the rod tip up current, or make a reach cast in the same direction to give you better control.

When you can't actually see the fly, which is frequent, concentrate on the end of your fly line to gage how your stripping movements transmit to the end of your line and ultimately the fly.

Certain species of fish seem to prefer different actions. Colder water will make some fish more lethargic, preventing them from using much energy to chase a fly. Jacks, barracuda, and Spanish mackerel will loose interest if a baitfish pattern is not really moving. Trout, reds and snook will be more selective and often prefer a certain action that you must duplicate.



Give careful consideration to these recommendations the next time you go out with the long rod. Concentrate your efforts on trying to understand what your intended target is seeing at the end of your leader. I'm sure that observing these rules will increase the number of strikes and hookups to a level that will pleasantly surprise you.

A FFF certified fly casting instructor, Capt. Pat Damico, 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](http://www.captpat.com) where more information is available.

## **Fly Tying Bench - Ada Potato Fly by Ken Hofmeister**

Ken Hofmeister was inspired to craft this fly while watching granddaughter Ada playing with her toy duster that featured fine green and blue 3-inch polyester fibers. Ken is always on the prowl for cheap fly tying material so he talked a three year old out of a toy and went to the vise. The finished fly works great on trout and ladyfish day or night.

### **Materials**

- **Hook:** Mustad 3407 DT Size 4 sharpened
- **Tail:** Blue and green duster polyester fiber material 3 inches long, one strand each of fiberglass cloth and peacock herl. Either white, yellow, or pink 2-inch buck tail or hackle. Metallic braid.
- **Flash:** Orvis blue Flashabou.
- **Thread:** Danville flat-waxed nylon in yellow, white, or pink.
- **Eyes:** Bead chain or 5/32 brass eyes.



### **Tying Instructions**

1. Be sure granddaughter doesn't see the desecration and mutilation of her cherished toy.
2. Pinch down barb and sharpen hook before securing it in vise and attaching thread from eye to bend of hook. Half hitch helps here.
3. Select a *sparse* amount of green and blue polyester fibers and place on top of hook with one end extending up to the eye. Attach to hook at bend. Attach a single strand of fiberglass cloth and peacock herl to top of hook at the bend. Select three strands of flashabou and fold over thread at mid-point and secure to hook with several wraps of thread.
4. Fold excess material from eye of hook over bend of hook and tie securely.
5. Rotate hook and tie *very sparse* 2-inch yellow, white, or pink buck tail or hackle flat against the hook shank on underside of hook.

6. Position bead chain or 5/32-brass eye against material near bend of hook against the folded excess material and tie on.
7. Wrap metallic braid from eye of hook over bead chain eyes and tie securely wrapping thread and tying off ahead of bead chain.
8. Whip finish and apply head cement to thread and a coating of clear nail polish to metallic braid to ensure that the fly will withstand at least 21 trout and a few ladyfish attacks.
9. Field test with intermediate or sink-tip line along edge of flats or under lighted docks.

## Everglades Outing by Mark Hays and Tom Gadacz

The weekend of April 25-26 was marked by a fishing and even some catching adventure to Florida's Everglades. We almost caught 100 fish but not individually. The catch included bass, blue gills, oscar, mayan cichlids, and peacock bass. Mark Hays caught the peacock bass in addition to some large bluegills. Annie Hays also pulled in a few. The water was high, the wind strong and catching fish was a challenge. Due to the high water small clousers were the most effective flies. The dining was fine at 84 Cafe and Grumpy Dicks. 84 was better.



Tom Truckenbrod with oscar



Don Manning with mayan cichlid



Joe Dail with oscar cichlid



Dinner at Grumpy Dicks



Ted Rich & Bob Castellano in a Gheenoe



Don Manning with bass

Photos by Joe Dail and Ken Hofmeister

## FUTURE OUTINGS BY Richard Oldenski

- June: Floating the Hillsborough River
- July: Anclote River
- August: Alligator Lake
- September: 4th Street North
- October: Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament

## SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

### *Our Aims and Purpose*

*The Suncoast Fly Fishers are dedicated to sharing their total fly fishing experiences and to developing interest in fly fishing in both fresh and saltwater. We shall promote and teach both fly fishing and related subjects of fly tying, rod building, fly casting and knot tying.. Through collaboration, fellowship, conservation and sportsmanship, we will help members become more skilled, have more fun and be more productive in the sport. Suncoast Fly Fishers support the conservation of natural resources, boating safety and fishing regulations.*

## LOCAL FLY FISHING GUIDES

Capt. Pat Damico, Tampa Bay;  
727 - 360-6466

Capt Rick Grassett, 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

Cap. Ray Markham-----Sarasota & Tampa Bay 941 - 723-2655

Capt. Wayne Simmons, Tampa Bay  
727 – 204-4188

## SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS: YOUR COMMITTEE CHAIRS 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
- 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 - Mark Hornak



"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

## YOUR BUSINESS AD HERE

A good way to help your club and advertise your business economically to fellow club members and other interested readers is to place an ad in our newsletter. Take a Business Membership and get a business card sized advertisement in every issue of "On The Fly". You provide a copy ready advertisement. See Treasurer Enver Hysni or Secretary Joe Dail.

# SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

## Club Officers

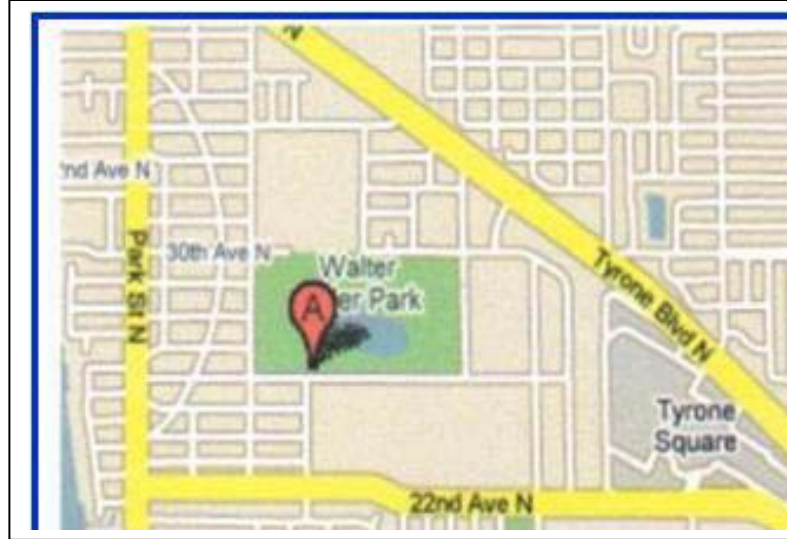
President: Ken Hofmeister  
727/521-1637  
Vice President: John Zientarski  
727/391-1480  
Secretary: Joe Dail  
Treasurer: Enver Hysni

## Board of Directors

Roger Blanton - Pat Damico - Mark Hays - Richard Oldenski - John Rodgers - Paul Sequira - Alan Sewell

“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:

psequira@tampabay.rr.com



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On The Fly

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

## Visit Our Website:

<http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com>

## Next Club Meeting: May 15

### Time:

6:30–7:00 PM Fly tying  
7:00–8:30 PM Meeting and Program

### Location: Walter Fuller Park

7891 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

## Program: Russ Hampton -

Fly Fishing the Everglades