

The Prez Sez by Ken Hofmeister



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.

Suncoast Fly Fishers Vision and Values

Just when I thought I knew some stuff about fly fishing and could do some things with a vise and a fly rod, I was reminded that “constant improvement” is one of our Suncoast Fly Fishers values. A visit to the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers Big Gun Shootout last Sunday provided some useful feedback on areas for development.

Accuracy Competition: Featured two-minute time limit to hit as many targets as possible. After hitting a few and missing a few, I was pleased to finally hit the most distant target. Room for improvement was in hitting the “inner rings.” OK, “hand grenades and horseshoes” accuracy is sometimes good enough.

Distance Competition: Forget it! Who needs to cast that far? Robert Fischer and Pat Damico do well on this event. We can always use the wind as an excuse.

Specialty Casting: OK, you try putting repeated casts in a coffee cup at twenty feet. “Cast a lot-hit a little was the observation.”

Hoop: Great, you get a fly through the hoop only to find out the point was to see how far you could cast through the hoop.

“V” Fish: Useful skill. Put a fly through a “V” with only the leader (not the line) in the notch. Mastery of this technique could save you a bunch of flies when fishing docks.

Mangrove: Putting a fly under the mangrove at 20 feet was one thing. Moving back at 10 foot intervals highlighted room for improvement. Nice trick to have in your bag for snook at Weedon Island.

Now I have a baseline to chart progress for improvement. 6:30 before November meeting is a good chance to try out new club rods and improve one of these skills. Pat Damico leads a casting clinic Saturday, January 24; at Ft. DeSoto Park from 9-11:30 a.m. to help us develop in the above areas.

Then, there are a couple of other skills to sharpen. The Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge Requirements outline a few useful skills for us to acquire. For example, “*Explain how to remove a hook that has lodged in your arm.*” “*Name and explain five safety practices you should always follow while fly-fishing.*”

Boy Scouts are required to tie the following knots in acquiring this merit badge: backing knot, nail knot, needle knot, loop-to-loop connection, double surgeon’s loop, blood knot, and improved clinch knot. Ken Doty can help you check off a few during the 6:30-7:00 time slot at monthly meetings.

Scouts are also expected to tie at least two types of flies. Our monthly designated tiers can help you put more “killer patterns” in your fly box during the 6:30-7:00 sessions. Also, our “round table fly-athons” enable members to learn to tie an array of fine flies.

.....Ken

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 09 Don Coleman Invitational - Ft De-Soto

Jan. ‘09 Annual bring what you have auction

Jan. ‘09 Casting Clinic with Pat Damico

Inside this issue:

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OUTINGS -REVIEWS & PREVIEWS *by Richard Oldenski*



November Outing - November 22, 2008 —

The Clambar

October Outing - The Annual Carl Hanson Tournament saw our club fishing with and against the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club in friendly competition. They won! Jeff Janecek captured the trophy for his club by catching 43 fish. His method: rapidly and aggressively retrieving a popping bug. Congratulations to Jeff and to the TBFFC.

The largest fish, however, was caught by Don Manning, who reported a 14 ½ inch bass. We shared memories of our old friend Carl Hanson, who had taught most of us something about fly fishing. Mark Hays provide his famous smoked fish spread as an appetizer for our lunch of BBQ chicken, baked beans, coleslaw and cornbread. You should have been there!

November Outing - The "clambar" is a hot fishing spot at the mouth of Tampa Bay, just East of the Sunshine Skyway. Fish love to congregate here, attracting birds and fishermen.

This will be the site of our November outing. The clambar is not far from shore and can be fished by boat or by kayak. Waders can fish the potholes and mangrove shoreline along the approach to the Skyway bridge. Waders and kayaks can access the water form the Scenic Viewing Plaza on the East side of the Skyway causeway. Boaters can launch from ramps Maximo or Bay Vista parks. A tailgate picnic lunch will be served at the Scenic Viewing Plaza at Noon, and

will feature a special culinary treat. Be sure to pick up a map and sign up for the outing at the November meeting.

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

Carl Hanson's Glass Minnow -	Nov. 2006 p.5
Clouser Deep Minnow -	Jan. 2007 p.6
Poly Whitebait Fly -	May 2007 p.6
Paul's Bay Anchovy -	Oct. 2007 p.7
Ada Potato -	May 2008 p.9
Grass Shrimp -	Aug. 2008 p.8

Future Outing Previews:

December - Don Coleman Invitational

January 2009 - Pinellas Point

Fishing Tournament:

Snook - Tom Trukenbrod - 30 inches

Trout - Mark Hays - 20 inches

Sunfish - Don Manning – 10½ inches

Bass - Don Manning – 14½ inches

Open Category - Tiger Vertregt – 26½ inch Gar

November 20, 2008 Program

Fishing the Chassahowitzka, Homosassa, & Crystal River areas

Captain Steven Soultz will show us where to fish the backcountry and flats in the Chassahowitzka, Homosassa, and Crystal River areas. Steve is a full time USCG licensed guide who is a member of the Florida Guides Association. Check out his web site at www.angling-adventures.net. Several SFF members got acquainted with Steve and Frank at the Tampa Boat Show where we had adjoining booths. Steve admitted he'd never been around people who could tell such outrageous fishing stories. Frank said he could top those stories! Steve was given a few favorite SFF flies and encouraged to try them out. He'll report back when he shares his experience with us in November. Captain Frank Bourgeois, a seasoned Hernando County guide since 1991, will be with Steve to verify his stories and to add some of his extensive experience fishing and guiding in the same area. See Captain Frank's web site at www.alwaysfishing.com.

DUES — DUES — DUES — DUES — DUES — DUES

Dues renewals for 2009 have been slow. Our records indicate that some members have not met their financial obligation to the club for the coming year. Membership in SFF at \$15 for regular or \$25 for family membership is a bargain for all we get in return. Tom Gacz or John Zientarski will be available to accept your dues payment at the November 20th meeting. Print and complete the SFF Membership renewal form on page 6. Please note the following excerpt from your club by-laws.

Article II Membership - Section 4. Dues. All members, except honorary members, must pay annual Club dues at the September meeting. The amounts of dues for each class of membership shall be established annually by the Board of Directors. If dues are not paid within 30 days, the member may be removed from the membership rolls.

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS INFORMATION

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

Our Aims and Purpose

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

BENEFITS OF SUNCOAST FLY FISHER MEMBERSHIP

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers, Your Board Of Directors Working For You

Activities are at the heart of any successful organization. SFF's BOD has instituted the following Standing Committees to help us maintain a high level of activities that have proven to be popular with the membership and some new ones to fill a need as expressed through membership surveys. These committees are generally chaired by board members but you do not have to be a board member to fill that position. If you would like to volunteer to participate on any of these committees, please speak to any director.

Committees are as follows:

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



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

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Phone: 727-515-5247

Fax: 727-864-4950

E-mail: Roger.Blanton@hotmail.com

Website: PlatinumRealtyOfFlorida.com

Suncoast Fly Fishers Activities and Information

Casting Clinic: January 24, 2009

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

Pat Damico, FFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor



SFF Club Hats and Shirts

The latest edition of SFF club hats and shirts have arrived. Be sure to see Alan Sewell at the November meeting to pick up your order.PS



Club Bring What You Have Auction

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

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS 2009 DUES NOTICE

Payment of SFF dues for 2009 were due in September. Please see Tom Gadacz at the November meeting. Print and complete the SFF membership renewal form located on page 6. Cash or personal checks made out to Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. are acceptable. You may also mail your checks to: Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821 Attn: Tom Gadacz

FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

DUES NOTICES *by Joe Dail*

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

LOCAL FISHING GUIDES

Capt. Frank Bourgeois Offshore Hernando Cty 352-666-6234
Capt. Pat Damico, Tampa Bay 727-360-6466
Capt. Rick Grasset, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Tampa Bay 941-923-7799
Capt. Pete Greenan, Boca Grande and
The Everglades 941-923-6095
Capt. Mike Homer, Tampa Bay 727-418-5005
Capt. Ray Markham Sarasota and
Tampa Bay 941-723-2655
Capt. Wayne Simmons Tampa Bay Area 727-204-4188
Capt. Steve Soult, Nature Coast Area 352-686-0853

FFF Florida Council Ballot

Florida Council Federation of Fly Fishers Official Ballot

You are voting for the officers of the Florida Council of the FFF for 2009/2010 term. You must return the ballot by email or post no later than 5:00 pm December 15, 2008.

Who is eligible to vote?

All current paid members of the Federation of Fly Fishers residing in Florida or associated with a Florida member club are eligible. Your member number is required.

The Nominating Committee recommends the candidates whose names are listed. You may write in anyone you wish to vote for in the space provided. Vote for one only.

*Your Name _____ *Your member number _____

President – Bill Gunn/Melbourne

1st. VP – Jim Harter/ Stuart

2ndVP – Cas Summers/Orlando

Treasurer – George O. Haennicki/Plantation

Secretary – Gerald Bell/ Tallahassee

Director-at-Large – Ken Hofmeister/St. Petersburg

Director-at-Large – Roger Maler/Hernando Beach

President _____

1st. VP _____

2ndVP _____

Treasurer _____

Secretary _____

Director-At-Large _____

Director-At-Large _____

Your Signature (electronic okay) _____

Mailto: is pgreenan@FFFflorida.org

or

Pete Greenan

2416 Parson Ln.

Sarasota, Fl. 34239

Suncoast Fly Fishers Membership Renewal Form

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address* _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone* (____) _____ E Mail* _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O.

Att: Tom Gadacz, Treasurer

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

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

FALL BITE IS HERE *By Capt. Pat Damico*

The summer doldrums are definitely over. Although we haven't had any long periods of cold weather lately, the cool evenings have managed to gradually drop local water temperatures to below the seventy degree mark. Larger baitfish are becoming scarcer, and inshore species are keying in on small hatchlings, gorging themselves in preparation for the winter.

Recent trips to the flats have become increasingly more productive, not only in numbers of fish caught, but also in size of local shallow water favorites. Several key signs of this phenomenon are presently happening.

Snook are staging at the mouth of most rivers. Large numbers of linesiders are present wherever small baitfish dimple the surface. Higher tides, accompanied by moving water, have placed these fish close to mangrove shorelines, residential docks, oyster bars, and other structures that are closest to deeper water. Night Snook fishing around lighted docks close to passes has been very productive. Fish will be close to shore when water is high, but as the water becomes shallow, longer docks that extend into deeper water will still continue to produce. Baitfish patterns, such as Deceivers, Clousers, and Bendbacks in white and chartreuse and white, in smaller sizes, will work. When fishing tannin stained water, around the mouth of some rivers, some brown and gold used as a toping match the natural baits more effectively.

Trout have been increasing in size every year. Several guides in St. Joseph sound area have told me that three pounders are common and most trips have been rewarded with some five pound fish. Flats adjacent to the many spoil islands have been the place to be. Further south, along the Intercoastal Waterway, grass flats, especially those with irregularities and potholes hold schools of nice Trout. Most of these fish will be close to the bottom. A clear sinking tip fly line with a weighted fly will be more produc-



tive when the water is deep. Some of the largest trout will be found very shallow as the afternoon sun warms the water. A floating line with a baitfish imitation will not get the numbers, but will get the lunkers that are loners.

Reds are schooling and I have seen some increasing numbers tailing in the shallows. Several times these Redfish turned out to be nice Sheepshead that act exactly like Reds, except you will find them even more challenging in shallow water. Crab imitations are preferred in very shallow water where accuracy and short strips will be rewarded. If you catch a Sheepshead on a small crab or shrimp pattern, give yourself a big pat on the back, you have accomplished a very difficult task.

Fishing yesterday with fellow guides from Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club, Frank Rhodes, and Bryon Chamberlin we saw several schools of Jack's in the ten pound range. Throwing Poppers and Clouser minnow's we had one point when all three of us had on large Jacks. We broke one hook and straightened another during the melee.

You can't use hot summer conditions as an excuse for not getting out on the water. The best fishing of the year has already begun. Get out and enjoy it!

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

Fly Tying Bench — Bob's Bangers *by Al Pitcher*

An original design by Bob Popovic

This fly is a versatile popper designed originally for fishing the waters of Barnegat Bay which is Bob's home waters in Ocean County, New Jersey. Although, this fly will work equally as well around our mangroves for big snook, the grass flats in our cooler months and in Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico for the schooling fish such as Spanish mackerel. Bob designed this fly so the foam popper head could be removed and replaced with different colors or when one head gets damaged. However, I tie this popper with a permanent head.

I also make what I call a "Baby Banger" by simply downsizing the hook to a 3407 size #4 and using a 3/8" foam cylinder. The rest of the procedure is the same. You can tie this in any color such as orange, green, or gold. See additional pictures that are included with these instructions.

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 34011 size #1 or other long shank saltwater hook
- Thread: Red Danville Flat Waxed Nylon or equivalent
- Body: Medium or large red Ice Chenille, or Estaz and 5/8" white foam cylinders
- Body Wrap: Red Holographic Tape
- Eyes: Mirage, Hologram, or Stick-on eyes; your preference
- Tail: Large Yellow Northern Bucktail
- Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash
- Glue: Head cement, Hard as Hull, and Zap-a-Gap CA+

Tying Instructions

Step 1: Starting at the hook eye lay down a base of thread back to the hook bend and tie in, just forward of the hook bend, a small bunch of yellow bucktail a little longer than the hook shank. Tie in two strands, doubled over, of pearl Krystal Flash. Secure firmly with several wraps of thread and a few drops of Zap-a-



Bob's Bangers—Tied and photographed by Al Pitcher
Top: side view, Bottom: top view

Fly Tying Bench — Bob Popovic's Bangerscontinued

Gap CA+.

Step 2: Tie in the Ice Chenille and wrap up the hook shank until you have about 1" remaining to the hook eye.

Step 3: Continue wrapping the thread to the hook eye insuring that you have built up a fairly thick base of thread, so when the head is placed on the hook shank, it does not rotate. Whip finish, cut the thread, and apply several drop of Head Cement to the thread wrappings.

Step 4: Cut the foam cylinder in half; about 1" long.

Step 5: Heat the point of a bodkin with a lighter and sear a hole dead center through the foam head with the bodkin. Don't enlarge the hole because you want the popper head to fit snugly on the hook shank.

Step 6: Wrap the piece of Red Holographic Tape around the popper head.

Step 7: Coat the thread wrapping with Zap-a-Gap CA+, and slide the popper head onto the hook shank insuring that it is firmly up against the Ice Chenille. You should have enough room between the front of the popper head and the hook eye to make several wraps with thread; whip finish and cut the thread.

Step 8: Apply the eyes insuring they are in line with the hook shank. Coat the entire popper with several coats of Hard as Hull.

Step 9: Tell you wife or significant other you have some serious field testing to complete and go fishing. Make sure you update your catches on the club's web page. Keep Focused, Pray Daily, and Stay Safe.



Baby Banger—tied and photographed by Al Pitcher
Top: side view, Bottom: top view

SFF/TFFC Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament

The Jim Swann Song

Jim Swann showed a crowd of interested tiers how to tie some of his special bugs as our October designated tier. As our program presenter, Jim led us in a few stanzas of the “Swann Song.” (to the tune of “Way Down Upon the Hillsborough River.”) The following words of wisdom are found in the verses of this great song.

Cast top water bugs that float on surface. Eliminate slack in line. Wet flies get hung up in the river.

Cast bug and then let it sit there a long time. Then, move it slightly. (Disclaimer: Jeff Janeczek, Tampa Bay Fly Fishers tournament winner this year, used an “aggressive retrieve” to catch the most fish—mostly bass.)

Colors are chartreuse, chartreuse, chartreuse—and maybe a little white, yellow and black.

Watch your back cast. Most of your casting problems start there. It is also where you catch trees.

Read the bank and look for water that flows back or boils. #8 mustad 3366 hooks work well. Don’t go bigger for bluegill in the Hillsborough.

Use forceps to remove hooks. Leaders should be straight mono 8-10 pound test. 6 pound test is minimum in river.

Clean your floating line often. Dress flies line with silicone pad (or use bacon grease)! OK, after hearing a lot of suggestions, maybe Jim didn’t recommend bacon grease or transmission fluid. Shop at Jim Swann’s store for a good deal on fly fishing stuff.**Ken Hofmeister**



Jim shows them how to tie killer spiders for the Carl Hanson Memorial Hillsborough River Outing. Photo: Ken Hofmeister



Left: Richard Oldenski presenting the winner’s trophy to Jeff Janesek

Center: Woody Miller contemplating a likely spot for another bream.

Lower left: Another scrumptious meal put together by Richard Oldenski

Lower right: Richard leads the group with Carl Hanson stories and memories

Photos: Woody Miller & Ken Hofmeister.



SFF/TFFC Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament

Right: Lining up for lunch

Middle right: Richard Oldenski and the Carl Hanson Memorial Trophy before the presentation.

Middle left: More Carl Hanson stories and memories are shared.

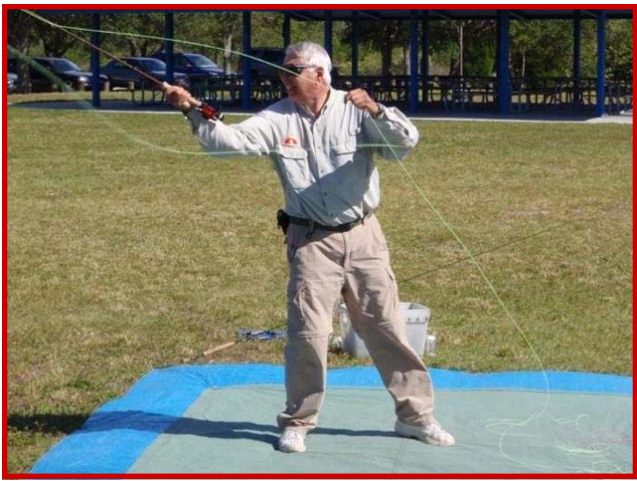
Bottom left: Going over the scores, the Winner was Jeff Janesek with 43 bass and bream.

Bottom right: Ken Doty and Ted Rich listen intently to the winning score.

Photos: Woody Miller



Suncoast Fly Fishers Photos – TFFC Big Gun Shootout



Left: Pat Damico at the distance casting station
Center left: Robert Fischer was part of the 3-man winning team
Center right: Judge Dick Meika working the accuracy station.
Below Left: Richard Oldenski casting at the accuracy event.
Below right: Ken Doty & Richard Oldenski at the lunch break.
Photos: Ken Hofmeister



SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

Club Officers

President: Ken Hofmeister 727-521-1637

Vice President: John Zientarski 727-391-1480

Secretary: Joe Dail

Treasurer: Tom Gadez

Board of Directors

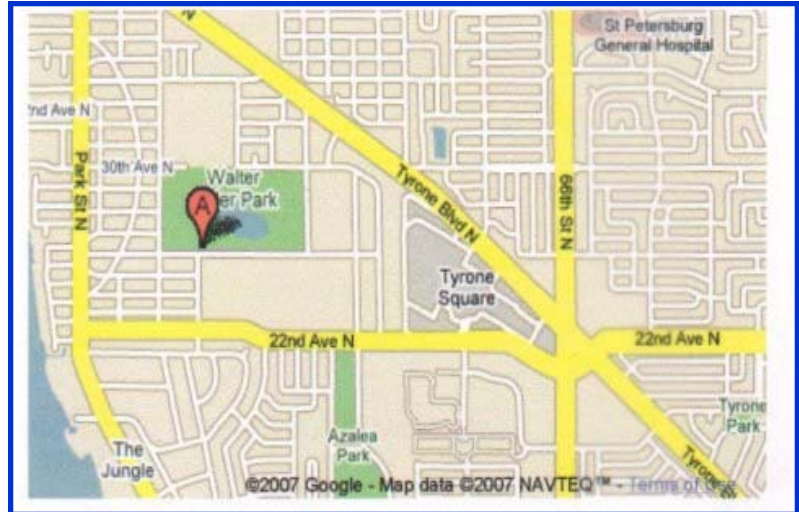
Roger Blanton - Pat Damico

Mark Hays - Richard Oldenski

John Rodgers—Alan Sewell - 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: November 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:

Guides Steve Soult & Frank Bourgeois discuss the fishing opportunities of the Nature Coast and vicinity

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers

P.O. BOX 40821

St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821