

The Prez Sez by Ken Hofmeister



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.

Friendliness is one of Suncoast Fly Fishers three values—along with meeting member needs and constant improvement. It is a definitive characteristic of this club that is imbedded in our culture and reflected in our practices.

Look at the members during a meeting, outing, or pig roast. Notice the laughter and the good natured joking with each other. Then note that these people probably would not gather together and form these friendships if it were not for a common passion (compulsion or addiction) called fly fishing.

Newcomers find a warm welcome and plenty of support in gaining more skill in casting, fly-tying, fishing, and getting around new Florida fresh and saltwater spots. We frequently overhear new fly fishers getting some tips and coaching that will make their next venture more productive and more fun. It's not unusual to see new members getting a few favorite flies from more seasoned salt water fly fishers.

One of our board members once remarked that he valued SFF because "that's where he made some of his best friends." At the time I wondered about that observation. Now I understand it. We keep getting to know more about each other as we spend some time fishing together. When members experience difficulty, bereavement, medical challenges, SFF stands by as a caring community. That's more than we bargained for when we showed up for our first meeting and decided to take a chance on joining this crowd of characters!

In a sense, we become a family of fishers and enter into a wider network across the state, country, and world. This fraternity of fly fishers seems to identify with someone new to their home waters and offer flies, advice, and directions that make fishing more productive. The simple act of using a long rod and a funny fly reel with something artificial on the end of the line brings about some identification and conversation.

This month we fish Emerson Point with our friends at Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers of Sarasota. This club has shared some great program presenters like Steve Gibson, Pete Greenan, Ron Whiteley, and Rick Grasset. They have also enjoyed past outings at Emerson Point and Ft. DeSoto with us.

In October, we fish the Hillsborough River for the Carl Hansen Tournament with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Again, we have a chance to make some new friends and learn some new tricks (remember they won the trophy last year!).

October 23-24 we go to Celebration near Orlando to participate in the Federation of Fly Fishers Conclave. There, we'll meet with old and new friends from 16 Florida FFF clubs.

Finally, in December we fish the Don Coleman Classic at Ft. DeSoto with Tampa Bay Fly Fishers and Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers. Great opportunities to make some new fishing friends and find out about some new fishing waters.

.....Ken Hofmeister

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

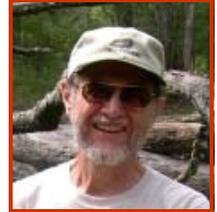
August 22 - Outing with Mangrove Club at Emerson Point

October 23/24 - FFF FL Council Conclave in Celebration, FL

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OUTINGS -REVIEWS & PREVIEWS by *Richard Oldenski*



August Outing — August 22, 2009 - Emerson Point

July Outing - As usual, the Hillsborough River was beautiful for our July outing. The only thing different was that the fish were not in their usual holes. Only two members, Ken Doty and Paul Sequira, caught fish. Thinking like fish, they used fish psychology to locate and catch them. They stopped counting at 40 fish, but kept on catching them. Ken caught the largest, an 8 and 7/8 inch sunfish. The rest of us consoled each other over lunch and cold watermelon. You should have been there!

August Outing - The August outing at Emerson Point will be a joint outing with our friends from the Mangrove Coast Club. Manatee County has made some renovations at the Emerson Point Preserve so it may look a little different than it did at our last outing there, but the fishing should be good. Take your pick: fish the river, the mangroves or the flats that surround the point. Wade or fish from a kayak or boat. Trout, snook and redfish will be all around us. The Preserve gates open at 07:30. Lunch will be served at the Classroom Pavillion near the Rangers' Office at Noon.

To get there, drive south on I-275 over the Skyway. Exit at Rte. 19/41 to Palmetto. At Palmetto, turn right on 10th Street and follow the

signs to Emerson Point. Sign up and get a map at the August meeting.

Recommended Flies for the August outing and Newsletter Reference for Instructions:

- Carl Hanson's Glass Minnow Dec. 2006 p.5
- Saltwater Popper July 2007 p.6
- Paul's Bay Anchovy Oct. 2007 p.7
- Ada Potato Fly May 2008 p.9

Future Outing Previews:

September - Alligator Lake

October - Carl Hanson Tournament Hillsborough River

November - Weedon Island

December - Don Coleman Invitational

Fishing Tournament:

Snook - Ken Hofmeister - 22 inches

Bass - Woody Miller -16 inches

Sunfish - Joe Dial - 10 inches

Open Category - Mark Craig - Ladyfish - 17 inches

Program for the August 20, 2009 Meeting

Although fly fishing is not considered to be a dangerous sport, there are some serious hazards. One of them is frequent exposure to the carcinogenic radiation of the Sun. At the August meeting, Dr. James Connors, MD, a dermatologist who is an expert on skin cancer, will present a program on diagnosing and preventing skin cancer. Don't miss this program. Your life could depend on it.

August's Featured Fly Tyer:

SFF member Bill Smith will demonstrate his Whatever Bendback Minnow.

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS Activities & Information

Wading The Saltwater Flats With A Fly Rod and Random Thoughts From The Tying Bench By Don Coleman

Several months ago, we ran out of copies of this very popular and useful book by deceased member Don Coleman. With the original printing, SFF gave a copy of Don's book to all current and then new members when they joined the club. We have a new supply of these books; if you are a recent new member who did not receive a copy, please see John Rodgers at the meeting or call him at 727-278-4266.

Other members who would like an additional copy or non-members who would like a copy may purchase one for \$5.00. This book is loaded with excellent information and is a wonderful keepsake of a much missed member and friend of the club.

FLY TYERS

The 6:30 fly tying demonstration session prior to the meeting is a very popular feature. Members are always interested in new flies, different methods of tying old flies or just some well known fly that might not have been demonstrated in a while. Old tried and true patterns are new to new fly fishers and are very interesting to them. We need members who are willing to share their fly tying skills with your fellow members. If you would like to volunteer as a designated tyer, please see Myron Hansen at the meeting or call him at 727-393-5075.

Suncoast Fly Fishers Hats and Shirts

Now is the time to purchase your 2009 edition of the SFF Columbia fishing shirt or hat complete with embroidered club logo. The cost is \$40 for the shirt. Can't get to a meeting this summer, well then just send your order in and we will ship it to you. The colors and sizes are sage in medium and extra-large and banana in extra-large. If you have plenty of shirts, then get a monogrammed Suncoast Flyfishers cap for only \$7. Send your request to: Suncoast Flyfishers, P.O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821

Be sure to enclose your name and address along with the requested shirt or cap and a check or money order. **Please do not send cash.**

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SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS - Last month's meeting

Capt. Dave Chouinard: Fresh Tips for Salty Fly Fishers by Bill AuCoin

In a short but intense life of fly fishing around the world Capt. Dave Chouinard (see his ad on page 7) has made it his business to learn, test and share the very best fly fishing tips. Some spring from his own reservoir of experience. Many come from the well-publicized guides of our favorite sport like South Florida's Capt. Nat Ragland.

He shared some of the very best at the July meeting of Suncoast Fly Fishers. If you missed it, sorry.

Actually, it's okay. If you're willing to cross the bay and visit his full service fly shop, he'll share a few with you. That's The Tampa Angler on West Hillsborough Ave. Email him first to make sure he'll be there.

www.TheTampaAngler.com It only took him 25 minutes to drive from his shop to Walter Fuller Park

Keep it simple. That's your MO. A place for everything; everything in its place. Get bite tippets ready ahead of time, tying a loop at the end for a quick loop to loop connection to the leader. Wind your bite tippets on a small spool and keep the spool handy because you don't want to tie knots when you're on the water, especially at night

He might ask you if you fish with a tapered leader. It's okay if you don't, just know that you're losing distance. Want to know how much backing you've given up to that tarpon? Then use two colors of backing, changing colors every 50 yards. A splicing needle is the tool for this.

Does your fly line slide off the deck of your boat? Get Dave to show you how you can make an inexpensive stripping mat.

He's just getting started. He'll show you the good, the bad and the ugly of separating fly rod sections, the best way to stretch fly line, and where you can wash your reel at a fly fishing camp in Costa Rica. It's not the bathroom sink, but you're close.

Something reminded him to mention that you can use a big roll of toilet paper for coiled-up fly line when you're changing line on a reel.

Dave waxes eloquently about casting to snook at the beach (the big snook in his Powerpoint show emphasizes the point) on those rare days when waves are crashing and sand blows in your face. He comes right out and says we Suncoast-blessed fly fishers are spoiled with too good weather.



Capt David Chouinard demonstrates the proper way to disassemble a multi-section fly rod.

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS Activities and Information

What do successful fly fishers have in common with Captain Bob's guitar?

Submitted by Tom Gadacz

WD-40 attracts fish. Spray a little on live bait or lures and you will be catching the big one in no time. Also, it's a lot cheaper than the chemical attractants that are made for just that purpose. Keep in mind though, using some chemical laced baits or lures for fishing are not allowed in some states.*

WD-40 also cleans and lubricates guitar strings.

Other uses for WD-40:

1. Florida's favorite use is: 'cleans and removes love bugs from grills and bumpers.'
2. Removes road tar and grime from cars.
3. Loosens stubborn zippers.
4. Keeps scissors working smoothly.
5. Removes dirt and grime from the barbecue grill.
6. Restores and cleans roof racks on vehicles.
7. Removes all traces of duct tape.
8. Keeps flies off cows.
9. Protects silver from tarnishing.
10. Removes lipstick stains.
11. Removes stains from stainless steel sinks.
12. Keeps ceramic/terra cotta garden pots from oxidizing.
13. Removes tomato stains from clothing.
14. Keeps glass shower doors free of water spots.
15. Lubricates noisy door hinges on vehicles and doors in homes.
16. Restores and cleans padded leather dashboards in vehicles, as well as vinyl bumpers.
17. Keeps pigeons off the balcony (they hate the smell).
18. Folks even spray it on their arms, hands, and knees to relieve arthritis pain
19. Use it for fire ant bites. It takes the sting away immediately and stops the itch.

WD-40 who knew? 'Water Displacement #40' The product began from a search for a rust preventative solvent and degreaser to protect missile parts. WD-40 was created in 1953 by three technicians at the San Diego Rocket Chemical Company. Its name comes from the project that was to find a 'water displacement' compound. They were successful with the fortieth formulation, thus WD-40. The Convair Company bought it in bulk to protect their atlas missile parts. Ken East (one of the original founders) says there is nothing in WD-40 that would hurt you.

P. S. *The basic ingredient is FISH OIL.

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SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS INFORMATION

FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

DUES NOTICES *by Joe Dail*

Club members receive dues renewal notices directly 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.



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

FFF Florida Council Fly Fishing Conclave

Pete Greenan has been appointed by Council President Bill Gunn to set up and manage the first full-fledged Florida Council Conclave. Pete is now putting together the team of volunteers that will operate the various jobs of the Conclave and several positions remain to be filled. The Conclave will take place on October 23 –24, 2009 in Celebration, Florida (near Orando). Members interested in participating should respond directly to Pete at 941-232-2960 or captpete@floridaflyfishing.com

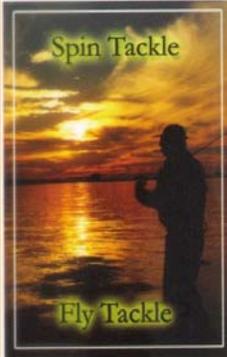
LOCAL FISHING GUIDES

Capt. Frank Bourgeois Offshore Hernando Cty 352-666-6234
Capt. Dave Chouinard, Tampa Bay 732-610-9700
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
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

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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 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 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
- Shows & Special Events - Woody Miller
- Web Manager—Judd Sheets

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Bigger Isn't Always Better by Capt. Pat Damico

Summer's oppressive heat makes fishing an early morning or evening event, provided late day thunder storms are not on the horizon. Why not do some fly fishing in a cooler, more comfortable setting? Can you leave giant tarpon and lunker snook to pursue trout in a size that some Floridians refer to as bait? Will a 12 inch trout that slaps a tiny dry fly give you the same thrill as larger saltwater prey? Many of our members are transplants from northern states where trout streams were in their back yard.

Traveling to fly fish is also very common, either with a group, or individually, as when we visit family members that live in good fishing locations. Southern anglers are always looking for different venues and seem willing to expand their fly fishing experiences. There are some great freshwater retreats within a days drive for most Florida residents.

The lush mountains, especially further north, are a refreshing change from the constant heat and sun. Many streams enjoy a canopy of green foliage that not only keep water temperature cold, but will maintain a very comfortable air temperature for visiting fly fisherman.

It may be necessary to do a little research if traveling to an area for the first time. The internet makes this a snap. Begin a search with the state website, then click on their department of fisheries. License and regional information is easily accessed. If not at all familiar with an area, search the nearest community for a sporting goods/fly shop. Your favorite rod or reel manufacturer will have locations, phone numbers, and websites for stores that sell their products. Contact them and ask questions about places to fish. What are current stream conditions, where to stay, what to bring, supplies they have available, and if they have a guide service. Use them as your local contact while in the area. One friend of mine and his wife, who had very little fly fishing experience, found a full service fly shop that gave them a package that included equipment, instruction and fishing in their private, well stocked stream. They felt it was very cost effective and really enjoyed the day. They were then able to take what they learned and fish a few days on their own with much better results than if they went unprepared. Rigging your rod, type of leaders to use, current fly patterns that are working, where to look for the fish, and how to approach and cast to be most effective are all things that will be new to someone who is not familiar with freshwater trout. Many streams are on private land and access areas may be limited. Public streams that hold fish and are in good condition may be difficult to reach. USGS websites will have monitors on many streams that give stream and river conditions in real time. This information has saved me from driving a distance to discover that my destination stream would have been high and muddy or low with very high water temperatures.

If you are experienced in fishing for freshwater trout, you probably have most of what is required to have a successful outing. In summer mayfly hatches are waning and the trout will be less selective. Terrestrials, hoppers, ants, and beetles are just the ticket for finesse fishing. Streamers and woolly buggers, weighted or unweighted will take larger fish especially when fishing large streams. Some dams have cold water releases that keep streams and rivers below them in the perfect temperature range for trout feeding activity. Knowing which species of trout are in a stream is also helpful. Brook trout prefer colder water, browns can tolerate warmer temperatures while rainbow trout fall in between.

.....Continued on page 9



Pat Damico photo

Pat's grandson Jonathon with a nice rainbow trout caught on one of their favorite Pennsylvania trout streams.

Bigger Isn't Always Bettercontinued

Continued from page 8

I've given a number of seminars about the transition from freshwater to saltwater, but it just occurred to me that I never did the reverse. Freshwater rivers and streams have definite areas that hold fish on a seasonal basis. Dissolved oxygen, available food, safety from predators, water clarity and temperature, and time of day are just a few of the parameters that must be considered.

I have to admit, I love to explore small streams. A topographical map and a compass will allow you to take a hike with your fly rod and spend a very relaxing day in a mystical wilderness. Boots, or waders, are usually not needed as you boulder hop from one clear pool to the next seeking native trout that have rarely seen an artificial. Stealth is the order of the day because these trout are very accustomed to their environment and are always looking for intruders. I like to use a three, or four weight, seven foot rod with a leader as long as the rod tapered to 5X. Study each riffle and holding area before making your cast to eliminate drag and make a careful natural presentation. Almost all this fishing is accomplished by casting upstream. Practice your roll cast for accuracy, because in close quarters this will be a necessity for success.

One of the advantages of this sport is that it allows you to continually expand and delve into aspects that make this a constant learning experience. Those of you that have never tried this will be pleasantly surprised at how enjoyable it will be. If it has been some time since you fished sweetwater for trout, you will get in touch with your youth. Streams that I fished with my father and friends many years ago offer a trip down memory lane that is unbeatable.

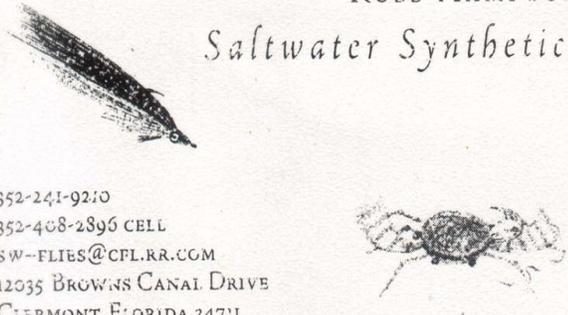
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Pat Damico photo

Pennsylvania rainbow trout caught by Pat using his 6½ ' Terry Kirkpatrick Fish Tested bamboo rod.

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Fly Tying Bench - Bass & Bream Poppers by Siobhan Archard

After a much too long absence, long time member Siobhan Archard attended the July meeting and sat in as SFF's designated fly tyer. We were treated to an excellent demonstration of Siobhan's skills in creating some very attractive poppers. Poppers are not only a very effective top water lure for both bass and bream, they are a lot of fun to build. Siobhan demonstrated poppers with hard and soft foam bodies as well as those with cork bodies. Her red-hot needle method of piercing the popper body for rubber leg insertion on hard foam bodies (or any other material) solved a problem which has plagued me for a long time. Here are Siobhan's building/tying instructions for poppers.**Paul**

Materials:

- **Hook:** Long shank hook such as Mustad 9674 or similar (*for popper bodies with a slit cut into the body's bottom, you may also use a hump shank hook such as Mustad 33903ed*)
- **Thread:** Pre-waxed nylon 3/0 or 6/0
- **Body:** Pre-shaped cork, hard or soft foam bodies
- **Legs:** Thin rubber legs, color to compliment popper
- **Dressing:** Various feather materials from rooster neck hackles, marabou, rayon or nylon floss as desired.

Instructions:

(As describer by Siobhan)

- Put a number 10 hook in vise. (*This demonstration used a straight shank hook.ed*)
- One wrap of thread from hook eye $\frac{3}{4}$ down to bend.
- 1 drop of super glue on wrap.
- Place popper body and center it up close to the eye.
- 2 more wraps at popper butt.
- Prepare tail material and tie in at butt.
- Prepare Marabou and also tie in at butt.
- Prepare hackle and tie in at butt.
- Wrap hackle forward then tie in and trim.
- Roll fly over and bring thread through groove in bottom and tie off at eye.
- Heat sewing needle until red hot and pierce popper body
- Thread thin looped wire through body and put leg into wire loop.
- Pull wire loop through body pulling rubber legs until centered, then cut leg loop and remove wire loop.
- Add super glue underneath. (*groove on bottom of popper bodyed*)



Bill AuCoin photo

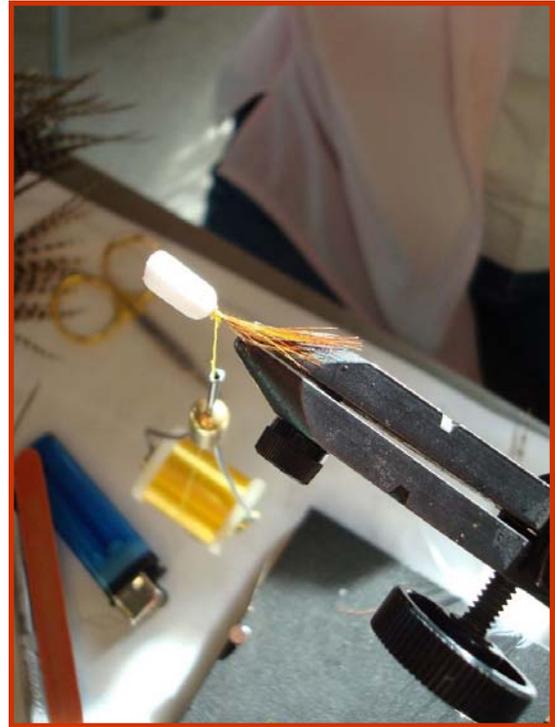


Bill AuCoin photo

Top: Charlie Most getting an explanation from Siobhan.

Bottom: Group of finished poppers tied by Siobhan

SFF Photo Gallery— Bass & Bream Poppers ...continued

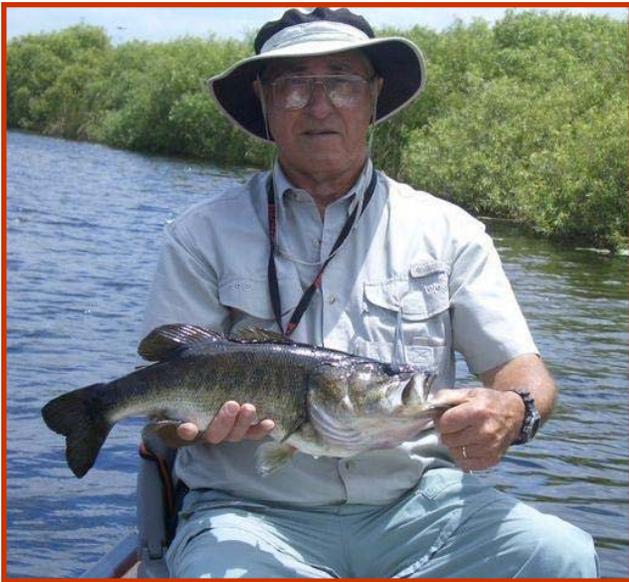


Top left: Popper materials
Top right: Tail material tied in at butt
Middle left: Wrapping hackle
Middle right: Wire loop inserted for pulling rubber legs after hot needle created hole
Bottom left: Painting popper face
All photos— by Bill AuCoin

SFF Photo Gallery

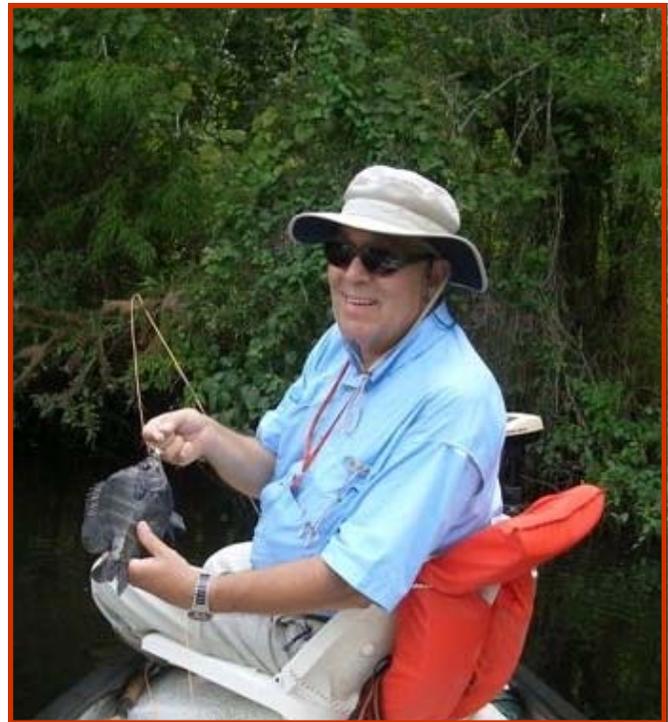


A couple of weeks ago Ken Doty & Ken Hofmeister decided to fish the dock lights for a couple of hours and were rewarded with this nice 23" snook (above) and then a double (above right). I understand that Doty had to dance around a bit to assist Hofmeister land his catch since he was handicapped with his recent arm surgery. Hofmeister photos



This should start us thinking about our annual Glades expeditions. Back in April just 2 weeks before SFF's 2009 Glades Extravaganza, Ted Rich pre-fished it for us and came up with this healthy large mouth bass from the western most canal ramp on Alligator Alley. Ted and a friend did very well on bass, bream, oscars and cichlids.

Ted Rich photo



Also last month, your editor fished Charlotte County's Shell Creek with Ted Rich. A wonderful day of catching bluegills and stump knockers was capped off when Paul caught this 10½ inch bluegill on what else — a #8 foam spider.

Ted Rich photo

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

Club Officers

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Vice President: John Zientarski 727-391-1480

Secretary: Joe Dail

Treasurer: Tom Gadacz

Board of Directors

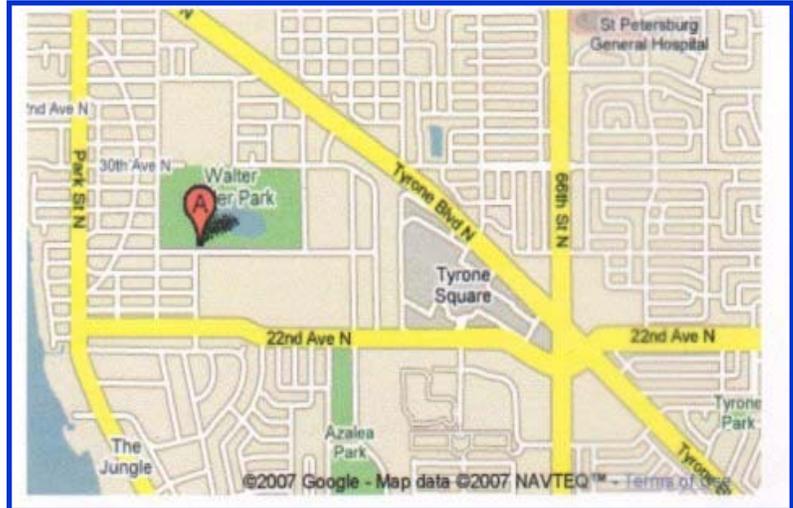
Roger Blanton - Pat Damico

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: August 20, 2009

Time: 6:30-7:00 PM Outdoor Activities & Fly Tying

7:00-8:30 Meeting & Program

Location: Walter Fuller Park

7891 26 Avenue, North, St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Program: Dr. James Conners, Dermatologist will tell us how to protect ourselves from the ravages of our Florida sunshine

Featured Fly Tier: Bill Smith

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