



On The Fly

The Prez Sez *by Ken Hofmeister*



REMEMBER THE FISHING TRIP WHEN . . .

George (“Redfish”) McCall, now 86 years old, forgets a few things. But when asked what he remembered about a fishing trip in 1967, he had no difficulty dredging up all the details.

We were in his Gheenoe, motoring along a Terra Ceia mangrove shoreline, when George McCall said: “There’s a snook right about there.” Rigging my rod, I asked: “how do you know that?” “Because I’ve got him on my line” said George. That snook went eight pounds. Generally, we waded the flats—but George’s intuitive fish-finder had sounded.

George not only recalled that episode, he kept me amazed at his recollections of other marine ventures as he talked about every pothole and oyster bar at Ft. DeSoto. Those were good times and we relived them while fishing together once more. He got rid of the Gheenoe and the fishing tackle; however, he didn’t forget how to cast or catch fish. Holding up a “bluefish” he lamented that it wasn’t a redfish.

Isn’t it interesting how we can forget items on the grocery or “to do” list while remembering the sights and sounds of a long ago fishing expedition? Don’t you wonder about how we can recall the feel of fly fishing fellowship and time spent with friends on the water? I can forget events in a second, while remembering which fly worked where on every Everglades trip. Who forgets their first snook caught on a fly under a dock light? And yet I have trouble remembering my social security number.

Recently, I’ve fished with a few fellows from other clubs and have been impressed by how much I’ve learned from them—and remembered. The pursuit of this fly fishing thing is best shared with a fellow fishers. We swap stories and flies, trade theories and tips. Strategies are shared and friendships are strengthened as we pursue elusive fish. We employ all our senses and engage both sides of the brain as we try to outwit a spooky prey.

December’s Don Coleman Classic affords us an excellent opportunity to make some new friends as we fish with members of several nearby clubs. Our SFF “collective wisdom” is enriched by experiences from different fly fishers. This “Chili Celebration” (who would dare referee a Chili Cook-off with this crowd?) inspires us to remember Don Coleman’s legacy and to tell a few “Don Coleman” stories while we fish with some of Don’s flies.

How well I remember Don coming up to me—a new SFF president—and humbling asking “if it would be OK if he tied some flies before the meeting?” Or, who would forget Paul and Don sitting on camp stools changing into waders while sipping coffee? See you at Ft. DeSoto.*Ken*

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 2009—NO MEETING
- Dec 19, 2009— Don Coleman Invitational
- Jan 2010— SFF’s Bring What You Have Auction
- Mar 2010— Pig Roast 2010

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OUTINGS -REVIEWS & PREVIEWS by *Richard Oldenski*



December Outing - December 19, 2009 - Don Coleman Invitational / Ft. DeSoto Park

November Outing - Weedon Island Preserve provided us with a good morning of fishing on the outgoing tide. Catching, however, was difficult. Not many fish were caught, but those that were hooked were big. Mark Hays took the prize with a 29 and 1/2 inch snook. Don Manning scored with a 19 inch trout. New members, Kyle Langan and Mike December, each caught a 19 inch jack. We had plenty of stories to share at lunch, which included Alan Sewell's Texas style smoked sausage and Mark Hays' smoked mullet. You should have been there!

December Outing - Don't miss the December outing. Take some time out from Christmas cleaning and shopping to fish and feast with your friends, and honor the memory of Don Coleman. Our friends from the Tampa Bay Club and from the Mangrove Coast Club will join us. Each club is providing a pot of chili to warm us up at lunch. Alan Sewell will be cooking his now infamous chili. Feel free to bring a side dish or dessert to set on the buffet table.

We'll meet at the boat ramp at Ft. DeSoto Park at 07:30 to buddy-up with fishing partners. Lunch

will be served at Noon at the Arrowhead Picnic Area. If it rains, we will meet at shelter #10 at the North Beach. At lunch there will be a tribute to Don Coleman and the annual reading of the Texas Chili Cook-Off.

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

Clouser Minnow	Jan. 2007	p.6
	April 2009	p.11
Whatever Bend Back	Sept. 2009	p.11
Ada Potato	May 2008	p.9

Future Outing Previews:

January 2010 - Pinellas point
February 2010 - Fort DeSoto

Fishing Tournament:

Snook - Mark Hays - 29½ inches
Bass - Woody Miller -16 inches
Sunfish - Joe Dail - 10 inches
Open Category - Woody Miller - Mudfish - 18 inches
Trout - Don Manning - 19 inches



NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL

SEE YOU ON JANUARY 21, 2010

FOR SFF'S BRING WHAT YOU HAVE

AUCTION

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS — Information

Dear FFF Fly Tier:

The Federation of Fly Fishers, Southeastern Council would like to extend to you an invitation to be a demonstration tier at the 2010 Conclave. The 2010 Conclave is being held at **Unicoi State Park in Helen, Georgia**. The Conclave fly tying demonstration dates are **Friday June 4th and Saturday, June 5th**. More details about location, session times, etc. will be emailed to you at a later date.

The Conclave is broken into four tying sessions. Please select the sessions you prefer to tie. Please fill out the form and e-mail (jlslap@yahoo.com) it back to me by **January 15th 2010**. **I will confirm all tier schedules by e-mail.**

We also need biographical information for inclusion into the Conclave Program. Let me know if you prefer we use last years biography. If you want to update it, limit it to no more than 100 words and email it back to me.

The only requirement to tie at the Southeastern Council Conclave, other than being a proficient fly tier, is membership in good standing in the Federation of Fly Fishers. If for some reason your membership has lapsed and you would like to tie in 2010, please contact the FFF National Office (www.fedflyfishers.org) to reinstate your membership.

More details about the 2010 conclave are forthcoming. Check the FFF SEC website at www.fffsec.org for updates.

PLEASE pass this invitation on to those you know who may be interested in being a demonstration fly tier at the conclave.

I look forward to seeing you next June in Helen, Georgia!

Jodi Slapcinsky, Fly Tying Chair

jlslap@yahoo.com

386-454-2037

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Name:

FFF Member No.:

Address:

City & State:

Zip Code:

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

E-MAIL:

Tying Times Requested (Mark with X)

Friday AM () Friday PM () Saturday AM () Saturday PM ()

I cannot make it this time, please keep me on the Tier list. ()

Please remove me from the tier list. ()

PLEASE ENCLOSE Biography 100 words or less:

Fly Pattern Or Presentation by Pat Damico



A book that should be in every saltwater fly fisherman's library is, "Fisherman's Coast," by Aaron J. Adams, Ph.D. Described as, "An angler's guide to marine warm-water gamefish and their habits," this book has been a revelation on how to fish different fly patterns. The author spends a lot of time discussing different types of prey found in every type of shallow saltwater environment. Color and size, as well as movements are presented in detail. Aaron's most recent book, "Fly Fisherman's Guide to Saltwater Prey," continues his quest and not only describes and contains photos of prey, but has detailed tying instructions and patterns that closely duplicate each life form.

Freshwater trout fishermen frequently wear a wool patch on their vests to dry fly patterns used that day. Did you ever notice that the most successful fisherman usually only have a couple flies present, while others may have a dozen or more? What does this tell us? Can we apply this information to improve our saltwater success? Could it be that the way a fly is presented is more important than the pattern itself? If you "match the hatch," exactly, why aren't you having as much success as you should? Think about how many times your beautiful fly improved as fish after fish destroyed the fly until only half of it was left.

With crabs, for instance, most fishermen fish a good pattern ineffectively. When discussing snook, the author reveals that stomach contents in colder weather show a very high number of crab parts. This finding was reinforced when our Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club had an outing close to Cockroach bay. Dressed for a cold windy morning with water temperatures below sixty degrees, we were all wading and fly fishing except for one person nearby who was using live shrimp with spinning tackle. During the first fifteen minutes, he caught two redfish and a snook casting into a deeper hole and just letting his bait sit on the bottom. None of us fly fishing had a strike. I switched to a weighted crab pattern and with a sinking tip line cast into the deepest part of the water in front of me. After waiting until I was sure the fly was on the bottom, I made short, one inch slow strips. My third cast stopped abruptly, almost like being snagged, and when I strip set the hook, I felt some head shaking. I thought I had a redfish on because the fish just, "Bulldogged," along the bottom. When he tired and came to the surface, much to my surprise, it was a decent snook. I told my companions what I was using, and continues to fish. Soon, another snook took my bottom-hugging crab pattern. After releasing the fish, I again shouted, "Put on a crab pattern!" Two larger snook were later released. Every fish caught that morning fell to the same technique. Others fishing the same pattern were not fishing slowly or deep enough to duplicate natural bait. Instead of changing to multiple patterns, presentation was the key.

Our spin fishing friends who use a DOA shrimp successfully follow my friend Capt. Mel's advice; "If you think you are fishing it too slow, slow it down even more." This will tell you how to fish shrimp patterns.

Size and color of these patterns should not be underestimated. Use a shrimp or crab pattern that closely matches the bottom you are fishing.

When having a bad day, did you ever hand the rod to a more experienced angler who immediately started to catch fish? When showing a client how to improve his casting or hook setting, I frequently will catch a fish immediately. Recently, while having two clients drifting a flat, one was tired and offered me his

Fly Pattern Or Presentation *continued*.....

rod. His last hour was very unproductive. I immediately began to catch fish with his rod and fly pattern. His companion who was fishing more successfully couldn't resist teasing him a little. When fishing warmer water, a crab that is in trouble will head for the bottom to hide. How many times have you moved a crab pattern aggressively when a fish approached instead of letting it sink to the bottom, only to have it refused? The shape of the crab pattern, if circular, will flutter to the bottom sometime spooking fish. A crab pattern that is narrow in the front with weighted eyes there will dive in a natural manner and insure success.

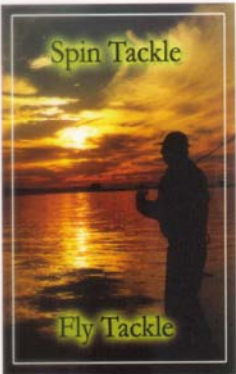

Baitfish patterns require a different approach. How many times when fishing for speckled trout have you had a strike while beginning your backcast. It happens to me a lot. If I'm on the poling platform, and the water is clear, I will frequently see a large trout follow the baitfish pattern then slam it when the client begins to lift the line off the water. In this case, the natural defense mechanism of a smaller fish is to run. This gives the trout a split second to grab the prey, or miss dinner.

Those of us that tie our own patterns have an advantage and are always looking for something different. This frequently involves creativity more than productivity. Reduce the number of flies you carry. Concentrate on what prey is available when and where you are fishing. The results will change the way you fish and dramatically increase your success.

A FFF Master Certified fly casting instructor, Capt. Pat Damico guides lower Tampa Bay and is available for charters or instruction at www.captpat.com or 727-504-8649

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 their fellow members. If you would like to volunteer as a featured fly tyer, please see Myron Hansen at the meeting or call him at 727-393-5075.



Capt. Pat Damico
2981 E. Vina del Mar Blvd.
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
Tel: 727-360-6466
Web: <http://captpat.com>
Email: flyguy@captpat.com



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Editor's Corner by Paul Sequira



Every year at this time, I look back at the previous eleven issues of the year of *On The Fly* and I can't help but feel proud of how the Suncoast Fly Fishers members have come together to help me produce a quality newsletter that is enjoyed not only by our own members, but many other fly fishers, both individuals and in other clubs. The compliments are gratifying but *On The Fly* wouldn't be what it is without all of it's contributors — your articles and stories, fly tying articles and photographs. So once again, let me say *Thank You*, one and all.

Hear we are, in no particular order: Ken Hofmeister, Richard Oldenski, Pat Damico, Joe Dail, Al Pitcher, Charlie Most, Tom Jones, Bill AuCoin, Don Coleman (yes, I pick out things from Don out of my files), Tom Gadacz, Myron Hansen, Bill Smith, Siobhan Archard, Layne (Smitty) Smith, Mark Hays, Terry Kirkpatrick, Tiger Vertregt, Frank Moss, Ken Doty, Ted Rich, Bob McIntyre, Woody Miller and me. Yep, that's my stuff that you frequently see unsigned, or with just the initials *PS*, or*ed* or perhaps *editor* and actually on occasion, my name. So give yourselves a pat on the back and an "atta boy" from me. If I missed someone, please forgive me, the slight was unintentional and if I did miss you, make sure you let me know about it so I can make up for it in the next newsletter.

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas, a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year and as many wonderful fishing days as you can manage to squeeze in this month and in 2010.*Paul*

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SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS 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.

Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) and Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) Dues

At initial membership dues are collected for both SFF and FFF. Since we (SFF) are a Charter member of FFF, all SFF members have to be members of FFF. After the initial dues you are responsible to directly pay yearly dues to FFF. The dues period of SFF and FFF may not coincide. We do not collect the yearly dues for the Federation (FFF). You will receive dues notification directly from FFF.

SFF dues are due in September. This is for the remaining months of 2009 and then through August of 2010. You are now notified that your SFF dues were due four months ago (September). Members whose dues are delinquent for 2 or more months may loose their SFF membership. See Tom Gadacz for renewal forms.

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. 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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Tying Bench—Kwan Fly by Tom Jones

This fly may look a bit complicated but is easy to tie. As with most flies, the Kwan Fly has many variations but this one is the one resident expert, Pat Damico, uses and that's good enough for me. I gave away the sample flies that I tied at the November meeting and Walt Ruda caught a keeper-size trout on one of them at the outing that Saturday. Even though I caught none, I got a vicarious thrill out of the catch since it was my fly.

Pat advises that you work this fly slowly, inch by inch across the bottom as if mimicking the speed of a small crab. Also, although the one pictured here is made of tan and olive yarn, you should roughly match the bottom of the area you'll be fishing (i.e., brown & olive over a grassy bottom or tan and brown over a sandy bottom.) In very shallow water, you can use bead chain eyes but in deeper water you might want to use lead dumbbells. In either case, I paint the eyes black to represent crab or shrimp eyes. With the addition of a monofilament weed guard, this fly is virtually weedless. I used it for most of the outing at Weedon Island and had almost no problems with it snagging grass.

Materials:

- **Hook:** Any standard size 1 or 2 hook
- **Thread:** Clear monofilament or nylon
- **Eyes:** Black bead chain, dumbbell, or other depending on the depth of the water and how fast you want it to sink or how little you want to splash.
- **Body:** Strands of wool yarn (not synthetic — they tend to float). Wool yarn can be purchased at many department stores. Look for a multi-colored yarn with all the colors that you need so that you only have to buy one ball or skein. Cut the yarn into 1" segments and sort them according to colors to speed up your tying.
- **Tail:** Tan craft fur. Tough to find without going to a fly fishing shop. Sometimes available at Michael's or the fabric stores. There are different lengths, so make sure you don't settle for the short one.
- **Egg sac:** Bright orange egg yarn. This you'll probably have to get at a fly fishing outfitter like Bill Jackson's.
- **Brown, medium tip felt marker.** This can be hard to find without buying a set of markers. Try Michael's for single markers of various colors.

Tying Instructions:

1. Pinch down the barb on the hook with a pair of pliers and secure it in the vise point down.
2. Attach thread to hook at tangent point between shank and curve.
3. Tie on a small bunch of craft fur about twice the length of the hook (See photo). (Tie a couple of half hitches here and at each of the following steps, just in case you break your thread, so that your fly cannot unravel.)
4. Option: You can tie on a tail guard, a "U" shaped piece of 10 or 12 test monofilament with the loop protruding a 1/4" or so passed the straight part of the hook, to keep the tail from wrapping itself around the hook when casting. Personally, I like it.



Above: Kwan Fly Top view Below: Kwan Fly Bottom view

Tom Jones photos

Tying Bench—Kwan Flycontinued

5. Tie on the orange egg sac at the tangent point between the hook shank and the curve. Cut about a half inch long piece of the material, no larger than the diameter of a pencil lead when compressed. Fold it around the thread and lash it down on top of the hook, trimming off all but about 1/8" of the orange material.
6. Wrap thread forward to about 3/16" from the eye of the hook and continue wrapping at that point to create a small ball of thread on which to anchor the eyes.
7. Tie on a pair of eyes, just in front of the thread ball, using a figure 8 pattern and add your favorite glue.
8. Now, turn the hook point up in your vise for the remainder of the steps.
9. Tie on a piece of yarn on top of the hook, just the way you would tie the eyes, using a figure 8 pattern, except that there's no need to repeat the figure 8 many times. One will do, or two if your motto is like mine — "More is better." Start as close as you can to the egg sac and repeat with alternating colors until you get to the eyes. Run a line of glue the hook on both top and bottom to solidify the body.

10. Pass the thread in front of the eyes and tie on a weed guard of 80 lb mono or 30 lb plastic coated braided wire. Pinch the tip of a 1" piece of mono with needle nose pliers to create a flat place which will make it easy to make the weed guard stand up and in line with the hook point. Make sure to leave a tiny knob of round mono at the tip to keep the thread from slipping off the end when tying it down. Also, as you squeeze the pliers to make the flat spot, stretch the mono at an angle to make it stand up on its own. When tying the weed guard in place, wrap thread in a figure 8 pattern to build support under the angle of the mono to keep it from collapsing. It won't take much as you've already put a permanent bend in it. Add a big drop of glue. Trim off the tip of the weed guard just above the hook point and make the cut parallel to the hook shank. Often, this will create a bur which will snag fine bits of grass. You can file that off with a couple of strokes with your hook sharpener or some other abrasive tool or slice it off with a razor blade.

11. Pull the tail taught between your thumb and forefinger and lightly stripe the craft fur with the brown marker on both sides.

11. By now, the glue in the body wool along the hook shank should be dry and you can comb out the wool to cause the fibers to intermingle forming the body. Trim the body into something like a shovel shape, narrower at the head than at the tail.

11. Now, go fish!!

If you have internet access, you can watch Pat Damico explain how to tie this fly while he demonstrates tying it. Just click on this link — <http://fishbuzz.tv/index.html?channel=flytie&videofile=fishbuzz/flyfishing/kwan>

You can explore many other flies which are demonstrated on this web site. Enjoy!

Tom Jones

3500 12th Ave N

St Pete, FL 33713



Tom Jones demonstrating the Kwan Fly at the November 19th meeting.

Bob McIntyre photo

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 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
- Shows & Special Events - Woody Miller
- Web Editor - Woody Miller

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SFF Photo Gallery— Weedon Island Outing Nov. 2009



As Richard Oldenski told us, the Weedon Island Outing was a success, everyone enjoyed the food (top left), Hofmeister and Trucknbrod show how it's done from a boat (top right), Mark Hays shows us his prize winning 29½ inch snook (lower left) and Tom Jones is right at home fishing from his kayak (lower right). Bill AuCoin and Woody Miller photos.

SFF Photo Gallery– November 19, 2009 Meeting



Top Left: Pat Damico present Terry Kirkpatrick with FFFPHW award Photo: Woody Miller

Top right: Tom Schmuecker of Wapsi discusses tying material with Smitty and Charlie Most. Photo: Pat Damico

Middle: Tom Schmuecker with Jim Swann and guest. Photo: Woody Miller

Bottom left: Tom Schmuecker displaying rare albino gray fox skin Photo: Woody Miller

Bottom right: part of the crowd listening to Tom Schmuecker of Wapsi, giving us the lowdown on how it is to own and run one of the worlds largest fly tying and materials business. Photo Woody Miller



SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

Club Officers

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Vice President: John Zientarski 727-391-1480

Secretary: Joe Dail

Treasurer: Tom Gadacz

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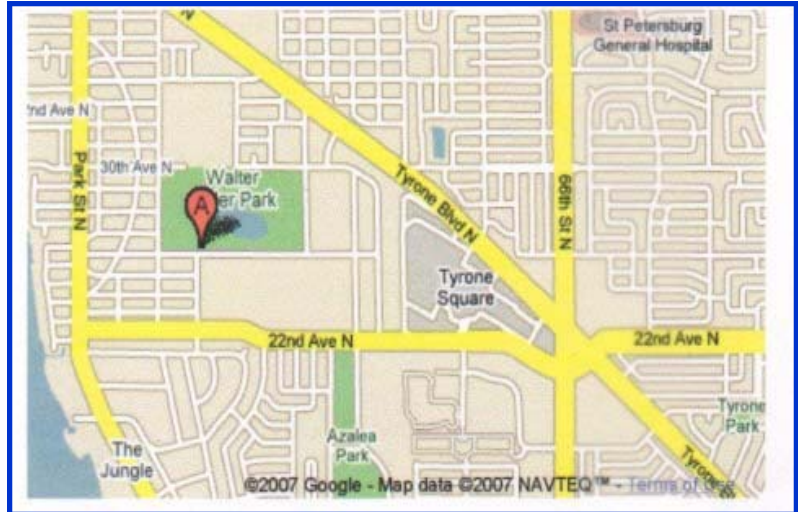
Roger Blanton - Pat Damico

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



NO MEETING IN DECEMBER 2009

Next Club Meeting: January 21, 2010

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

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER 2009

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers

P.O. BOX 40821

St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821