



On The Fly

The Prez Sez *by Ken Hofmeister*



ANOTHER GREAT DAY IN PARADISE

Listening to Ken Doty complain about how long it was taking to land a twelve pound jack, I thought about how bad we have it as Suncoast Fly Fishers. Some anglers can't fish all winter in their home waters, others only fish for catfish year round. Here, we have abundant opportunity and awesome variety of species. Consider a few of our choices.

Keith Dudley told of amberjack on the fly, while a program presenter told us where and how to catch big black drum on crab patterns. Mike Mazzo landed a barracuda on a Ft. DeSoto outing. Bluefish have delighted several members while cobia took others into the backing. Most of us have taken catfish on some type clouser or seducer.

Heavy clousers enabled us to catch flounder while others caught grouper drifting the flats on outings. Jacks will give us a run for our money and see if we know how to tie knots. Ladyfish—scorned by some—have saved the day for most of us. We even served ladyfish soup at our annual auction! Both king and Spanish mackerel maul flies with their sharp teeth and require some tough leaders. Some members have caught a mullet on the fly—though few have repeated the event on the same fly. Permit and pompano are special prey for other Suncoast anglers.

Redfish are a prime target for crab patterns. Sharks have been taken on the fly, while mango snapper have been taken under docks with small minnow patterns. Snook are taken on a range of flies, including gurglers and various streamer patterns. Sheepshead have challenged us to learn more about our craft. Trout have been a frequent entry in our outings. Tarpon have broken a few rods; however, some of us stalk them with patience and persistence seldom seen during work hours.

And then there is fresh water. Bass, bream, and gar all take spiders, poppers, streamers and wooly buggers. Nearby lakes and rivers give us ample opportunity to rinse off the salt water.

What's my point here? Well, most of us haven't caught all of the above species with consistent efficiency and effectiveness. Yet, there are members who can give us a few tips about where and how to locate and catch each of the above mentioned fish.

Those members who tie flies are pretty good at tying a few patterns; however, few can tie the spectrum of SFF "go to" favorites. We can all learn a few things from each other as we watch designated tiers do their thing from 6:30-7:00 at monthly meetings.

We can fish early or late at any season of the year. Dock lights make night sight fishing even easier than daytime. At our June Ft. DeSoto outing, Suncoast Fly Fishers can wade, canoe, kayak, or boat in either the gulf or the bay. Fish are waiting at the pass or on the flats. Someone might even try fly fishing the pier (good luck). Snook roam the beach and are waiting to see what you can toss their way. Again, our options are open. What an excellent time to get with a partner you don't usually fish with and learn something new about their approach to this popular Suncoast hot spot.

Personally, I'm grateful for the privilege of fishing some of Florida's finest water and pursuing an impressive variety of fish all year and around the clock. I'm also thankful that so many SFF anglers have shared their wisdom and experience with me so that I can take full advantage of our blessings.Ken

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

August date TBD - Casting Clinic with Capt. Pat Damico

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

Inside this issue:

Outing Reviews, Previews, Tournament & Program	2
Fishing Dock Lights—Bill AuCoin	3
Catch & Release? How? When? - Myron Hansen	4
Bucktail Streamers - Don Coleman	7
What Length Fly Rod—Pat Damico	8
Tying Bench—Schminnow and Doty's Spider	10/11
SFF Photo Gallery	12/13

OUTINGS -REVIEWS & PREVIEWS by *Richard Oldenski*



June Outing - June 20, 2009 - Snook on the Beach

May Outing - Blame it on the weather. Very few snook were in attendance at our night snook fishing outing. Maybe they were afraid of us. Many snook we sighted under the lights, but they weren't interested in biting. The largest of the three snook reported was a 22 incher that was coaxed out of the shadows by Ken Hofmeister. Trout, however, were feeding and we caught lots of them. Most of us were back in our beds before sunrise to dream of better snook fishing outings in the future.

June Outing - Where are snook when they're not under the dock lights? In the Summer they're cruising along the beaches. Our June outing will take us to the beaches at Ft. DeSoto Park to catch snook feeding in the surf. Ft. DeSoto provides miles of beaches where snook are feeding on minnows, crabs and sandfleas in the "trough" right at the edge of the surf. You don't even need to get your feet wet, standing up on the beach where the snook can't see you, and casting 30 to 50 feet parallel to the beach. Boaters and kayakers can ap-

proach from the water, but need to get their casts right up to the sand on the beach.

The beaches at Shell Key and the smaller keys at Ft. Desoto also provide good feeding grounds for snook. Start early, just before or at sunrise, to catch the most active snook and stay cooler. Lunch will be served earlier at 11:00 a.m. at shelter #10 at the North Beach Picnic Area. Please sign up at the June meeting.

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

- Ken Doty's Snook Fly Sept. 2006 p. 6
- Ada Potato Fly May 2008 p. 9
- Alan's Snook Special June 2008 p. 6
- Paul's Bay Anchovy Oct. 2007 p. 7
- Stripped Anchovy Sept 2008 p. 6
- Clouser Deep Minnow (white, yellow or chartreuse) Jan. 2007 p. 6

Future Outing Previews:

July - Hillsborough River

August - Emerson Point

Fishing Tournament -

Snook - Ken Hofmeister - 22 inches

Bass - Woody Miller - 16 inches

Sunfish - Joe Dail - 10 inches

June 18, 2009 Meeting Program

Deputy Ken Kubler, Pinellas County Sheriff's Department Marine Enforcement Division, will present our June program. He'll address boating safety, explain what he does, and identify ways SFF can be of assistance.

June's Featured Fly Tyer: Paul Sequira will demonstrate one more fly to add to your snook fishing arsenal. The Schminnow was designed by Norm Ziegler for catching snook on the beaches of Sanibel Island and is featured in this month's Fly Tying Bench column.

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS Activities & Information

Fly Fishing Lighted Docks *by Bill AuCoin*

The Suncoast is blessed with hundreds of miles of residential canals and many hundreds of lighted docks, just right for the fly-rodder out for snook, trout and redfish. Three members of the Suncoast Fly Fishers who have paid their dues to the midnight hour shared some of their dock light experience at the May meeting. Thanks, Mark Hays, Alan Sewell and Ken (Don't-Call-Me-Before-10 AM) Doty.

- Be quiet, sneaky quiet. Go barefoot. Walk softly. Take your time. Get your rod ready to cast before you get to the dock.
- Use the trolling motor sparingly and only in forward gear. An electric motor in reverse will shut down the bite.
- Don't give the homeowner anything to worry about. Don't step on their dock. Wear white. Keep your boat lights on. It's best to bypass docks with a Go Fast boat because owners are on high alert for thieves. Some might be trigger-happy. Don't risk it.
- Before you start casting, check to see if the homeowner has strung lines underwater to snag your fly line.
- Lights closest to the water are generally best. Underwater lights are terrific for redfish.
- Fish the light/dark line. Predators hide in the dark water and ambush bait in the light.
- Throw sardine, glass minnow and shrimp imitations. Mark Hays' white gurgler is a proven winner.
- Bring extra rods (Alan brings 8, 9 and 10 weights) because you don't want to re-rig at night.
- This is floating-line fishing. A 9-foot leader with a 30-pound bite tippet is right for snook. Use a 10 weight when casting to a big snook so you can turn the fish.
- Fluorocarbon leader is expensive and not necessary.
- Wear a PFD.

THE PERFECT FATHER'S DAY PRESENT *by Tom Gadacz*

The perfect Father's Day present is a snazzy Suncoast Flyfishers shirt!! These Columbia cotton shirts are monogrammed with our Suncoast Flyfishers emblem. We have a limited number. They are ideal fishing and sporting short sleeve shirts in sage or banana (a delicious yellow). 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. 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.**

Have a great Father's Day and catch fish!

Catch and Release? How? When? *By Myron Hansen*

From May to November there is nothing better than fishing the dock lights. You can avoid the sun and terrible heat, heavy boat traffic, and best of all, the bait fish are attracted to the lights. The big three (snook, redfish, and trout) are there for the ambush, and you can usually sight cast. I love it!

It was our annual snook tournament and I was ready. Determined to get that trophy, I was fishing with a former guide, Tiger Vertregt, on his flats boat with plenty of casting deck. Is his boat fast! Have you ever gone 40 MPH on the water at night without using a spotlight? I have now. I was glad I hadn't eaten just before leaving the ramp.

The night started off uneventfully. It was a little windy; the water was sort of murky, and my stomach still had a few butterflies from the ride. Tiger caught a trout then I caught one. There were catfish "balled" up everywhere, but few other fish were visible. We moved around Treasure Island and Blind Pass trying to find some good lights (many are turned off) and avoid the wind. Finally, Tiger said, "Let's try one more canal over by John's Pass and then call it a night."

Using the wind we quietly drifted toward a dock with several snook stacked up underneath and a "ball" of catfish under the light. Tiger moved me to the bow. He grabbed hold of a piling and held on from the stern. After a few casts, I hooked up. It was a legendary fight, man against beast. As I fought the snook and got him turned, Tiger yelled out, "You got him!" Then the fish began pulling the bow of the boat toward the dock. We needed to move away from that dock.

From the stern, Tiger yelled, "I can't help you!" The trolling motor was near where I was standing in the bow, but my hands were full, so I couldn't help myself. I did get a good look at the snook; he was at least half the width of the dock. Fighting hard, the fish pulled us close enough to the dock to get under a dock ladder and cut me off (release himself).

I went back and measured that dock. It was six feet wide. By my calculations, I had caught a 36" snook and it was released.

There is some debate about catch and release. I've fished with one club member who counts a fish as caught if it is within sight when it comes off. Alan said at our last meeting, that having the fish in hand isn't important, because "you are going to release it anyway."

Our club tournament rules now require that another member verify your catch. Tiger would agree that the snook was caught and that it was released (although by its own doing). He won't confirm the size, as he was too busy trying to keep his boat from being dragged into the dock by my giant fish to take a good look at its length.

It was a glorious snook, but I didn't call Ken to report my catch. I didn't think I could convince him at 10 a.m. on Sunday morning after he had been up fishing all night (or probably at any other time) that my fish qualified. I'm sure I had the winning fish. Well, there is always next year.

Final Thought: Has anyone else noticed that the sizes of our tournament winning fish seem to be smaller and smaller now that they have to be confirmed by another member?



No, this isn't Myron's mystery snook but if he had managed to duplicate this scene, the one he tells us about may have been the winner. Photographer unknown.

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.



Platinum Real Estate

Roger Blanton—Broker

The opportunity of a lifetime. Investors—make 15% or more net ROI on your money. I'm doing it, you can too. Call to find out how.

Phone: 727-515-5247

Fax: 727-864-4950

E-mail: Roger.Blanton@hotmail.com

Website: PlatinumRealtyOfFlorida.com

"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 Orlando). 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 813-374-2407

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

GOODYEAR • TOYO • COOPER • MICHELIN



TODD MURRIAN

1631 - 4th STREET NORTH • ST. PETERSBURG, FL. 33704

727-822-3981

www.bobleetire.com

Angling Adventures Guide Service with Capt. Steven Soult

Light Tackle Sport Fishing At Its Best
Backcountry • Inshore • Flats

- Trout
- Tarpon
- Snook
- Redfish



Full Time
USCG Licensed Guide
Home: 352-686-0853
Cell: 352-238-9339

Member of:
Coastal Conservation Association
Florida Guides Association
<http://www.angling-adventures.net>

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 - open
- Web Manager—Judd Sheets

Capt. Dave Chouinard
8490 W. Hillsborough Ave
Tampa, FL 33615

Full Service Fly Shop
Fresh & Saltwater
Fly Tying & Casting Lessons
Internet Catalog & Rewards Program

Tel / Fax: 813-374-2497
Email: Dave@TampaAngler.com

TheTampaAngler.com



Bucktail Streamers *by Don Coleman*

Before the days of mylar and monofilament, “bucktails” were simple, single wing flies tied on extra long hooks. The shank of the hook was usually wrapped with silver tinsel and often counter-wrapped with an oval tinsel rib. The wing was tied in behind the hook eye so that the total length of the fly was half again as long as the hook shank. “Improvements” consisted of multi-colored layers of bucktail in the wing. Adding a short red wool tail and black bear hair between the brown and white bucktail gave us the “Black Nosed Dace”. A yellow/red/yellow wing produced the “Mickey Finn”. Don’t dismiss the effectiveness of simple singled winged bucktails in saltwater. Look at the success of “Clousers” bendbacks, glass minnows and “Ray’s Fly”. Simple can almost always be tied as bendbacks.

The “Hi-Tie” bucktail, which descended from the old “Ozark Weedless Bucktail”, which was tied inverted, is another variation of the multi-layered, single winged bucktail. One Florida guide insists that this is the only fly he uses for snook.

The next step in the development of bucktail streamers was a two-winged fly developed by Homer Rhodes, Jr. and popularized by Joe Brooks, who called his flies “Brooks Blondes”. A rear ‘wing’ was tied along the hook shank for an underbody and allowed to extend beyond the bend for a tail. The body was then covered with silver tinsel and a top wing was tied in behind the hook eye. This fly, the simple bucktail, depends on the tinsel wrapped body for flash. Mylar flash materials, which allow incorporating flash in the wing itself, were not available when they were designed. The blondes were developed for saltwater fishing and are still very productive flies.

Today, many bucktail streamers incorporate three wings. Jack Gartside’s “Bucktail Beauty” is basically a “Brooks Blonde” with a long throat, grizzly saddle hackle flanks, and a topping of peacock herl is one style. Another style simply replaces the saddle hackle tail of a “Lefty’s Deceiver” with bucktail. Both styles can be tied sparse or heavy, and in any size and color combination to imitate natural baitfish.

Incorporation of mylar flash materials in tails and wings – where flash belongs – instead of along the hook shank, allows the use of standard length hooks for most bucktail streamers. The hook point is now closer to the front of the fly, which is where most predator fish strike, than near the tail where they had to be placed on older streamers.

Bucktail streamers are very effective flies. They are easy to tie and can be used to imitate any baitfish. A handful of bucktails are all you need. Clousers, Bendbacks and Bucktail Beauties will see you through. Bend your down bars, sharpen your hook points, and join the bucktail brigade.



Bucktail Deceivers tied and photographed
by Paul Sequira

Bill Jackson Inc.
Shop For Adventure

SPECIALISTS IN:
BACKPACKING
CAMPING
CANOEING
FISHING
HUNTING
IN-LINE SKATING
KAYAKING
METAL DETECTING
SCUBA DIVING
SNOW SKIING

9501 U.S. 19 North, Pinellas Park, FL 33782
St. Petersburg - (727) 576-4169
Fax: (727) 576-7579
www.billjacksons.com

Russ Hampton
Saltwater Synthetics

352-241-9210
352-408-2895 CELL
SW-FLIES@CFL.RR.COM
12035 BROWNS CANAL DRIVE
CLERMONT, FLORIDA 34711

What Length Fly Rod? *by Capt Pat Damico*



This question always had a standard answer when it came to selecting a saltwater fly rod. Nine feet, everyone would agree. For most of our Florida coastal inshore fishing, an eight weight was the recommended line size. Has this concept changed? What are some of the factors that have influenced this decision? Rod and line designs have improved considerably making our selection making process daunting. When I first started fly fishing many years ago, the selection of a fly line was simple. Level, double taper and weight forward lines were made by a few line manufactures with several variations of each.

Saltwater fly fishing was being approached by only a determined cadre who were trying to take their trout and bass knowledge from freshwater into the salty un-

known.

Materials for lines were unreliable and not clearly understood, tapers of both lines and rods were being developed with mostly a hit and miss result. The quest for better materials continued to evolve and today we are overwhelmed by the vast variety of choices available. Scientific Anglers alone manufacturers more than 1500 different fly lines! Rod selection has become a difficult task. A dealer will usually point you to their favorites, but is this really best for your needs? Relationship with a good fly shop has never been more critical because you need guidance and frequently some hand holding to get the desired result. Making sure your outfit is balanced is necessary to get peak performance. Casting help is often needed to diagnose subtle needs in your style and make corrections to maximize performance. I encourage clients to bring their own gear because they frequently have good rods and reels, but lack a proper line for their task.

Fly rods for the salt come in lengths from seven and a half feet to ten feet. If we include two handed spey type rods the length continues. We will concentrate here on single handed rods.

Why would we want a ten foot rod? They do cast further with less effort. However some of the reasons I hear are a little different. Paddle fisherman, float tube enthusiasts and wade fisherman often buy longer rods because their back cast hits the water behind them and their solution is that a longer rod will keep the line higher off the water. Anyone who has watched great casters like Lefty Kreh and Ed Jaworoski give casting demonstrations is often treated to casts with the tip section of a nine foot rod casting the whole fly line from a seated position on the floor. Could it be that some casting lessons will correct the problem?

I do use a canoe and kayak, especially in the winter, and find them the hot ticket for getting back into some otherwise inaccessible water. Besides fishing from the craft, I either leave it to fish or pull it along with a line tied to my waist. Much of my casting is at relatively short ranges, but sufficient backbone is needed to cast saltwater flies into deep pockets and undercut areas where reds, snook and small tarpon like to hangout. Once the hook is set, the rod must work to get the predator away from its structure laden home. This fishing is very much like the type fishing I have done in small streams and rivers in the northeast pursuing small-mouth bass and trout. Overhanging trees and undercut banks are the frequent safe havens for many freshwater species. Rods as short as six feet are often used and really work to give superior accuracy at relatively short distances. Think of some of the places you fish here where the situation is similar. Transporting a long rod in a canoe or kayak is very difficult when trying to go in

.....continued on next page

What Length Fly Rodcontinued

and around mangroves and other obstacles that keep our hidden honey holes pristine.

What choices do we have for shorter rods suited to the saltwater task? Within the last couple of years several companies have responded to anglers needs. A discussion with Rick Pope of Temple Fork Outfitters about shorter rods with backbone and saltwater friendly hardware was later fulfilled with one of my favorites. A TiCr X, 4 piece, 7'6" eight weight has been my constant companion when paddle fishing. I have caught some baby tarpon up to twenty pounds with this rod in very narrow canal systems that would have been extremely difficult to fish with a longer rod. The same rod is available in a six weight, for lighter work. Their Mini-mag 8, 8-10 weight is hot off the design board. I have one ordered and am anxious to compare it with the TiCr X.

Sage has a recent entry, their Bass 7'11" series. Rated for a 230 grain sinking line, this will work well with a nine weight floater. I have cast this rod and it is a small cannon. Redington's Predator series has a 7'10" 6-8 weight or a 8'3" 9-10 weight that are very impressive as well as cost effective.

Match these with a line designed to load the rod quickly and you will have an edge on some of the best technology designed to fill your needs. Successful fly fishermen must think out of the box. The next time you visit your local fly shop, ask about these wonderful additions to our armamentarium. You will see that the industry has found some great answers to our needs.

An FFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor, Capt. Pat Damico, charts fly and light tackle trips in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached through his website www.captpat.com, or 727-504-8649.

Please Support Our Sponsors

Mike Saputo
8490 W. Hillsborough Ave
Tampa, FL 33615

Full Service Fly Shop
Fresh & Saltwater
Fly Tying & Casting Lessons
Internet Catalog & Rewards Program

Tel / Fax: 813-374-2497
Email: Mike@TampaAngler.com



TheTampaAngler.com



 **MASTHEAD ENTERPRISES**
Sailing Gear Specialists

Paul Silvernail
(727) 327-5361 or fax (727) 327-4275
1-800-783-6953
2201 1st Ave. S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
masthead@mastheadsailinggear.com
www.mastheadsailinggear.com

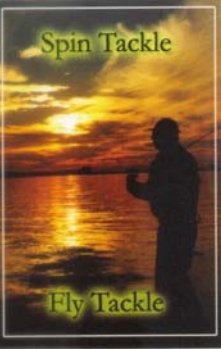
- ◆ Catalina Sailboats
- ◆ Com-Pac Yachts
- ◆ Malibu, Emotion, RTM Kayaks
- ◆ Used Sails
- ◆ Sailing Store
- ◆ Sail & Canvas Loft
- ◆ Ullman Sails

 **JIM SWANN'S** 

Complete Fly Fishing Shop
Rods - Reels - Hand Tied Flies - Guide Service
Fly Tying Materials
Classes in Fly Tying and Casting

13650 S. 98 By Pass
Dade City, FL 33525

352-567-6029

 **The Fly Guy**
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

Fly Tying Bench— The Schminnow *by Paul Sequira*

Outdoor writer Norm Ziegler developed his Schminnow pattern for Snook fishing on Sanibel Island. It is very effective for Snook tied in all white but also works well in chartreuse or yellow. Spotted sea trout and Redfish also like this versatile attractor pattern. When tied in all black with a slightly longer tail, it makes a very good hellgrammite imitation. The Schminnow gets its unusual name because it looks like a cross between a shrimp and a minnow.

This very simple to tie pattern uses white marabou for a tail and white or pearl crystal chenille for the body and black plastic bead chain for the eyes in its original form. Other colors and combinations can also be effective. Because it is unweighted, it lands very softly, floats just below the surface and is a good pattern for spooky fish.

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 3407 or 34011 or equivalent sizes 2 or 4
- Thread: 3/0 flat-waxed nylon
- Eyes: Small black (or other color) plastic bead chain or burned mono
- Body: White or pearl crystal chenille
- Tail: White marabou sized to the length of the hook shank. Synthetic materials such as Neer Hair may also be used for the tail.

Tying Instructions:

1. Pinch the barb down and secure the hook in the vise. Attach the thread with a jam knot about ¼ inch behind the hook eye.
2. Wrap a small bump of thread at this point and attach the plastic bead chain eyes on the top of the hook shank in front of the bump with figure eight wraps. You may apply some head cement on the wraps to help secure the eyes.
3. Select a bunch of white marabou for the tail and tie it in on top of the hook shank right behind the eyes. Hold the marabou at a 45° angle above the hook shank and take close tight wraps of thread all the way down to the start of the hook bend. This process will keep the marabou on top of the hook shank. The tail should be equal in length to the hook shank.
4. Tie in the white crystal chenille where you finished wrapping the tail and spiral the thread up to the hook eye. Now wrap the chenille in close wraps up to the bead eyes and take one more wrap in front of the eyes.
5. Tie off the chenille, clip and discard the excess. Take several more wraps of thread to secure it.
6. Wrap a nice neat bullet shaped head, whip finish and coat with head cement.



This trio of Schminnows shows three popular colors. From top to bottom: yellow (with a red plastic bead head added), white (with Neer Hair tail substituted) and chartreuse in the traditional tie.

Flies by Don Coleman, photo by Paul Sequira

Fly Tying Bench - Ken Doty's White Spider *by Bill AuCoin*

There's something about rubber band spiders that fascinates bluegills.

Sometimes the bluegill is all over that spider fly the minute it lands. But many times the bluegill is bit more tentative. It will nose up to the surface and watch this thing from one inch away. It's like it's hypnotized by it.

The fly angler doesn't have to move the fly. Some other unseen force will make it move or shake a rubber leg. The bluegill can't help itself. Whop! Yep, he's on.

Ken Doty is one of the best at tying the bluegill spider fly and he demonstrated the procedure at the August 2008 meeting. He makes it look and sound easy:



Ken Doty's White Spider Fly tied by Ken himself at the August 2008 club meeting. Photo by Bill AuCoin

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 3366 sizes 10
- Thread: 3/0 flat waxed nylon color your choice
- Body: white foam disc about 1/2" diameter
- Tail: pinch of yellow marabou
- Legs: thin rubber legs

Tying Instructions:

1. Start with a 3366 Mustad, size 10 panfish hook with pinched down barb.
2. Lay a base of thread down the hook to the tail.
3. Add a small piece of marabou about the length of the hook shank, usually yellow, for the tail.
4. Run thread halfway back to the eye of the hook
5. Pinch on a white foam disk about a half-inch in diameter.
6. Tie the foam disk to the hook at the midpoint of the hook.
7. Add legs on both sides. Start with a piece of rubber about 2" long and using a middle tie, each leg will be about 1" long.
8. Trim it up.

Editors note: The foam spider has been covered in "On The Fly" a couple of times, but Bill AuCoin did such a nice job of writing up Ken's tying method and photographing the fly I felt it deserved to be presented to the club once more. The Foam Spider in all it's forms is one of the best flies ever developed for bream and bass. We should all keep a couple of dozen of them handy whenever we go fresh water fishing. I think it was Mae West who once said, "Too much of a good thing is not enough." I agree.Paul

SFF Photo Gallery—Seen at the May '09 Meeting

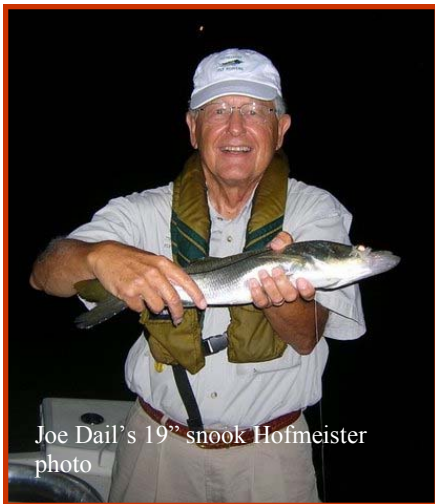


Top left: Matt Orndorf on the casting field Top right: dock light experts Doty, Sewell & Hays tell us how it's done Middle left: Mark Hays' dock light fly box - Whose hand is sneaking up on it? Middle right: Charlie Most reveals his tying method of the parachute dry fly to Tom Gadacz Photos : Bill AuCoin

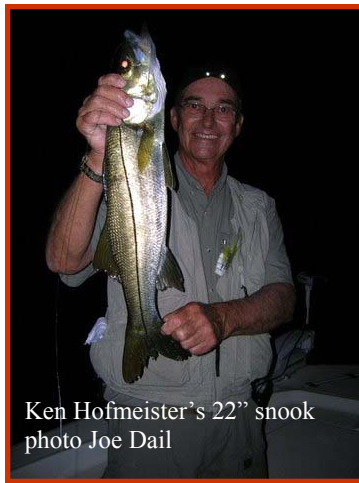


Above left & right: Our recent visitor, Ken McClean (who I incorrectly identified as McKnight last month) shows us a nice bluefish and spotted sea trout he caught while fishing with Capt Russ Shirley before his return to Canada. Now we all know just where Russ took him. Photos Ken McClean

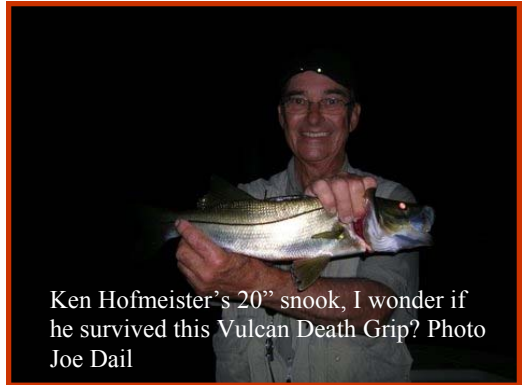
SFF May '09 Dock Light Snook and Recent Trips



Joe Dail's 19" snook Hofmeister photo



Ken Hofmeister's 22" snook photo Joe Dail



Ken Hofmeister's 20" snook, I wonder if he survived this Vulcan Death Grip? Photo Joe Dail



Ken Doty fishing with Ken Hofmeister caught this big Jack on his 8 weight rod on May 4th Photo Ken Hofmeister



Not satisfied with the previous whopper, the two Kens went out the next day and Ken nailed this 31" 12 pounder. Photo Ken Hofmeister



Hofmeister sure knows where to find the snook! Tom Jones (photo left) had never caught a snook on a fly so Ken fixed that for him with this 23" specimen. Then not to be outdone, Ken nailed this 22" beauty (photo right) for himself. 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 Gadacz

Board of Directors

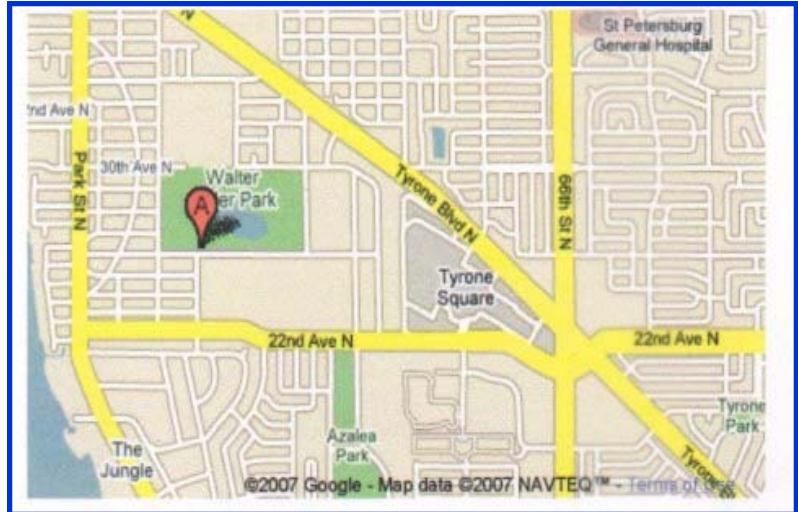
Roger Blanton - Pat Damico

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: June 18, 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:

Featured Fly Tier: Paul Sequira demonstrating the Schminnow featured in this month's Fly Tying Bench

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers

P.O. BOX 40821

St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821