



The Prez Sez *by Ken Hofmeister*



SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS SHOW UP EVERGLADES SPECIAL OUTING

- Fires burning in 10,000 Everglades acres
- Alligator Alley closed to traffic
- East wind at 30 mph. with small craft advisory
- Gator mating season

Assuming we were dealing with responsible adults, we gave those registered at the LaQuinta Inn, Sunrise, Florida a choice. What do you want to do about this special outing? Consensus was to go fish the Everglades! And fish we did! Eighteen SFF members caught outrageous numbers of fish (100 fish per person per day catches were reported by many SFF anglers.) Again, we tried in vain to find flies the frenzied fish would not take.

MARINE QUEST

Marine Quest was a smashing success on the same weekend as the Everglades outing. Bill AuCoin coordinated the event with John Rodgers, Norm Sande, Ron Kelly, Bob Hinzpeter, and Charlie Most providing the fly tying and casting demonstrations (see pictures to capture the experience). Youngsters were fascinated as flies were tied before their very eyes. We performed some great education and enhanced our partnership with Florida Wildlife Conservation's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute.

BOY SCOUT MERIT BADGE UNIVERSITY

8:15 TO 10:15 SFF members helped twenty eager Boy Scouts learn to fly-cast. 10:15-11:40 SFF members helped these scouts apply what they had learned to fish in the seven ponds on the Eckerd College Campus.

Richard Oldenski coordinated this event, assisted by Paul Sequira, Myron Hansen, John Craig, Ken Hofmeister, Mark Hays, Alan Sewell, Ken Doty, Frank Moss and Tiger Vertregt.

Three one hour afternoon sessions featured three stations: Station A – Fly Tying; Station B – Lines, Leaders, Knots; Station C – First Aid. Twenty Scouts learned to tie two flies, along with a variety of required knots in pursuit of the fly fishing merit badge. They learned basic fishing first aid and how to remove hooks from human hide (a needed skill.) This was our first venture in the Boy Scout education arena and we were thrilled with the response.

PROJECT HEALING WATERS

Terry Kirkpatrick is point person for the Wednesday morning group at Bay Pines while John Craig coordinates the Tuesday afternoon sessions with these vets. Les Scott leads the way with bass catches from the campus pond. Don Manning, Tom Jones, Ed Smith, Al Pitcher, Ron Kelly, Tom Gadacz and Ken Hofmeister were among other SFF members staffing these rewarding experiences. Pat Damico is regional coordinator. Volunteers are always welcome.

I remain totally impressed by how SFF members show up to share the fun and fellowship of fly-fishing with all sorts of people who are interested in the sport.Ken

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

May 22/23 - Night Snook Outing
 August date TBD - Casting Clinic
 October 23/24 - FFF FL Council Conclave in Celebration, FL

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OUTINGS -REVIEWS & PREVIEWS by *Richard Oldenski*



May Outing - May 23/24, 2009 - Night Snook Fishing

April Outing - The April Outing at Lake Manatee started out with a light breeze on the lake. By noon, the wind had started blowing, making the water choppy and the fishing slow. The early birds, however, caught fish. Fishing up the river, Woody Miller caught the largest fish, a 16 inch bass. Joe Dail caught several sunfish on the lake including one measuring 10 inches. The rest of us caught a few fish or had no bites. We were a happy group when we gathered at Noon for a lunch of pulled pork sandwiches, beans, cheese grits and cold watermelon. You should have been there!

May Outing - May is the month for our annual night snook fishing extravaganza. Our adrenalin flows hot and heavy as we cast to hot and heavy snook hiding on the edges of the dock lights. We don't mind being up all night, fighting mano-a-mano with the silver line-siders as well as catching an occasional gator trout or hefty redfish. This is a style of fishing unique to Florida and featured in all the fly fishing magazines. At our May club meeting, a panel of local experts, members of our club, will present a program on how to successfully catch snook under the dock lights. This type of fishing cannot be done without a boat, so all members who have boats are encouraged to attend and to invite one or two land bound members to join them.

The fishing will begin after dark on Saturday, May 23; and end at Sunrise on Sunday May 24, or sooner if you get worn out by non-stop snook catching action. We will not meet for breakfast. Ken Doty has agreed to be the official scorekeeper, and you can report you catch to him at 727-526-4753 after 10:00 AM on Sunday, May 24. Remember, in order to qualify for the tournament, your catch has to be witnessed by another Suncoast Fly Fishers Club member and it must be caught in the waters of Pinellas County. Let the snook beware!

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

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|------|
| • DT Special | Aug 2006 | p. 6 |
| • Ken Doty's Snook Fly | Sept. 2006 | p. 6 |
| • Carl Hanson's Glass Minnow | Dec. 2006 | p. 5 |
| • Ada Potato Fly | May 2008 | p. 9 |
| • Alan Sewell's Snook Special | June 2008 | p. 6 |

Future Outing Previews:

June - Snook Along the Beach

July - Freshwater - TBA

Fishing Tournament -

Bass - Woody Miller -16 inches

Sunfish - Joe Dail - 10 inches

May 2009 Meeting Program

Ken Doty, Mark Hays and Alan Sewell are going to help you get prepared for the May Night Snook Outing by letting you in on their techniques for nailing those big snook and monster trout that like to hang out under the docks. Our "Snook Gang of Three" will describe their favorite tackle, flies and techniques for sneaking up, hooking and subduing our favorite night time quarry. You'll have a chance to ask the panel all the questions about the methods these successful fishermen have used for years. Don't miss this meeting if you want to learn how SFF's own experts do it.

May's Featured Fly Tyer: Charlie Most — Our saltwater fishing is so good, we sometimes forget that many members travel north and west this time of year to enjoy fishing for freshwater trout, the very root of fly fishing. So, for all of our members who do pursue trout, I have included an article this month that I culled out of my correspondence with our departed and sorely missed friend, Don Coleman about the virtues of parachute style dry flies. For those of you who would like to learn how to tie these very productive flies, master tyer Charlie Most will demonstrate the Hare's Ear Parachute featured in Don's article and is the featured fly in the Tying Bench section. I hope you enjoy it.*Paul*

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS ACTIVITIES

MARINE QUEST *by Bill AuCoin*

All indications are that SFF's participation in last month's Marine Quest was a success thanks to John Rodgers, Norm Sande, Ron Kelly, Bob Hinzpeter, and Charlie Most. Show participation, generally speaking, helps introduce the club to prospective members. When we participate, the fly tying is terrific. Kids, especially boys who have yet to discover girls, are just fascinated with it. Showing them how a fly is tied is a wonderful thing. I saw their eyes light up at Marine Quest. Fly Casting, when available, is another terrific show-and-tell. Charlie Most was a star at Marine Quest in spite of the fact that he didn't have a very good casting area. That is the activity that "shakes the trees" while fly tying "rakes the leaves." Again, boys and girls wanted to try it. (See pictures in the Photo Gallery page 14.....Ed.)

FLY FISHING MERIT BADGE

On May 2, 2009, 300 boy scouts converged on the campus of Eckerd College to earn one of 15 merit badges as they progress to the top rank of Eagle Scout. The Suncoast Fly Fishers were there to see that 19 of them qualified for the Fly Fishing Merit Badge. The scouts had to learn and demonstrate their skills at casting, knot and leader tying, fly tying, first aid and safety, and conservation. Congratulations to John Craig, Ken Doty, Myron Hansen, Mark Hays, Ken Hofmeister, Frank Moss, Richard Oldenski, Paul Sequira, Alan Sewell, and Tiger Vertregt for generously giving their time and expertise to the scouts. Once again, our club demonstrated our dedication to teaching others to fly fish, community service and having fun. (See pictures in the Photo Gallery page 17 and on the website www.suncoastflyfishers.com.....Ed)

Anyone interested in being a boy scout merit badge counselor for fly fishing on a continuing basis can contact Richard Oldenski at 727-345-8938 for details.

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 me at 941-232-2960 or captpete@floridaflyfishing.com

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SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS 2009 Progress Evaluation

YOUR RATING 1- TO 5+	CATEGORY	YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT
4.7	PROGRAMS	Use microphone. Use more members. Get more member suggestions.
4.9	NEWSLETTER	Run extra copy for members without computers.
4.7	WEB SITE	More frequent updates.
4.8	OUTINGS	Try afternoon winter outing.
4.9	SPECIAL EVENTS (EVERGLADES/COLEMAN CLASSIC)	
4.97	PIG ROAST/AUCTIONS	Increase quantity, quality, diversity of items.
4.8	COOPERATION WITH OTHER GROUPS (CCA, FFF, FWC, OTHER CLUBS)	
4.6	CONSERVATION/EDUCATION	
4.9	CASTING SKILLS	
4.9	FLY TYING/FLY FISHING SKILLS	
4.6	MEETING FACILITIES	Need another casting area. Need beer.

Suncoast Fly Fishers rated these categories 1-5 (with 5 being fantastic). Many members consistently worked hard to bring about these ratings. Let's celebrate and continue to improve and involve more members in these areas. We'll address casting area options and discuss afternoon outing next winter. A mike will be considered. And, we'll continue to explore ways to deliver newsletter to members who don't use computers. As always, member program suggestions are welcome and needed. Share ideas with any board member. --- Ken Hofmeister, President

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS INFORMATION

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.

THE FLY BOXES

Ever wonder what those two cigar boxes with flies in them were doing on the raffle table at our regular membership meetings? No secret. Here's the deal. Bring two flies and put one in each box. Get a ticket for every fly you bring. Winner of that fly raffle takes every fly in one box. The other box of flies goes into new member packets. Every new member has a few flies to get started with and our fly tiers get a greater variety of flies for their tackle box. Tyers, pitch in.Ken

SFF SHIRTS AND HATS

We still have a few of the 2009 edition of the SFF short sleeve shirts and hats. See Tom Gadacz at the meeting, there are a limited number of S, M, L and XXL left and a few more in the XL size. Shirt price is \$40.00 check or cash, just what you need to wear at the Marine Quest booth or your trip to the Everglades.Paul



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Capt. Pete Greenan, Boca Grande and
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Capt. Mike Homer, Tampa Bay 727-418-5005

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Capt. Wayne Simmons Tampa Bay Area 727-
204-4188

Capt. Steve Soult, Nature Coast Area 352-686-
0853

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
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FOUR DAY MONTANA FLY FISHING FOR TWO FOR \$20

MONTANA FLY FISHING FOR \$20 *by Joe Dail*

A 4 day-5 night guided fly fishing trip for 2 people at the Five Rivers Lodge in Dillon, MT, is being raffled by the Federation of Fly Fishers. It is valued at \$5,300, and \$1,000 cash for travel and spending money will be thrown in. There will be 15 winners, one from each of FFF's councils. Each winner will also be entered in a drawing for a fishing trip to Cinco Rios Lodge in Chile. Trips may be taken during the 2009 and 2010 seasons. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the Club, the Council, and FFF national office.

Joe Dail will be selling tickets for \$20 (or 6 for \$100) at the membership meeting on May 21, 2009. This will be your last chance to get in on this opportunity, as the drawing will be on June 20, 2009. If you can't attend the meeting, contact Joe at macdail@aol.com or at 727-725-7638 to get your tickets.

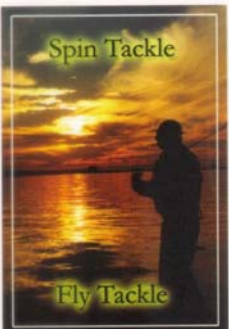


Support the Federation of Fly Fishers and You'll be entered to win a 4 day, 5 night trip for 2 people at Five Rivers Lodge in Dillon, MT
www.fiveriverslodge.com


- Each FFF council will draw a winning trip (15 trips) retail value \$5300.00
- Winners will also be entered into a drawing for a trip to Cinco Rios Lodge in Chile
- All winners will receive a \$1000.00 travel stipend.
- Other prizes will be drawn – Rods, Reels, and other Gear!
- All new FFF members will be entered in the drawing. Recruit a new member and you'll receive a ticket too!
- Proceeds will benefit FFF clubs, councils, and the national office.

\$20 = 1 ticket or \$100 = 6 tickets.
Winners will be notified by email.

Based on double occupancy, two anglers per guide, and availability. Tips, licenses and tackle not included. Trips may be taken during the 2009 & 2010 season. A minimum of 4000 tickets must be sold before winners are drawn. Federation of Fly Fishers is a 501c3 Non-profit organization
No purchase necessary, void where prohibited by law



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Dock Lights Are Getting Hot! *by Capt Pat Damico*



A fine nighttime snook from the dock lights. Damico photo

Warmer water has snook moving out of deep canals and rivers and starting to forage on baitfish in the shallows. Since they are primarily nocturnal feeders, lighted docks are getting a lot of their attention.

I will gladly admit my favorite fly rod quarry is a mean Old Snook. Daytime Snook fishing with a long rod is hard work. Yes, there are many areas where numbers of small Snook can be tempted during the day, especially during the first and last hours and under low light conditions. If you want to get really rattled and have your tackle tested, fish in the dark. One of my fishing buddies, Bob Finck, told me years ago, after a Snookin' good trip, "Pat, they're like largemouth bass on steroids."

If you've never pursued Snook at night, where do you begin? I use a flats boat that is equipped with a bow mounted Minn Kota electric motor. Preferring not to anchor, I can maneuver the boat, even when fishing alone, to get me in the best position. The electric will also be used as soon as you hookup, to get you and your lunger away from barnacle encrusted structure. Use your electric in forward mode only and turn it one hundred and eighty degrees to go in the opposite direction. Reverse prop wash seems to disturb fish because of the excess vibration. A slow steady speed will not scare fish like sudden stopping and starting. Dock lights will be the areas where I will do most of my fishing. These lights attract plankton, which in turn attract hordes of baitfish that are easy pickings for large, lazy Snook. Some bridges have lights on the fenders and lighted Marinas will also attract fish, but I prefer to concentrate on lighted docks. Check out the areas you want to fish during the day so you are familiar with water depth and any navigational hazards. Pick an area where there are a lot of lights mounted close to the water. This way, you can just use your electric to go from one to the next. After a hookup, a light will frequently not produce for a while. Move to the next one and return later. Running and gunning at night is not a good idea. This time of year, docks near passes and points adjacent to deeper water will harbor more fish. As the water temperature drops, docks back in canals where water is warmer will be more productive.

Are tides important? Is incoming preferred over outgoing? The most important consideration is to have moving water. If the tide is slack, the fish will be there milling around and not feeding. Pick times when there is maximum tidal flow. The current will orient the fish. As they face into the current waiting for their food, they may be positioned away from the dock with one tide and under the dock when it reverses.

Tackle will depend on the size of fish available. Two fly rods one with a floating and the second with a clear sink tip would be ideal. Nine-foot, fast action rods in eight or nine weight should be equipped with thirty pound fluorocarbon shock tippets. A nine-foot tapered leader on the floating line is perfect. The sink tip can have a three or four-foot shock tippet only since the clear line is almost invisible. Observing feeding fish will tell you what flies to select. Snook will be very selective. If they are feeding on glass minnows, larger offerings will be refused. When a small grass shrimp skips under the light in a panic followed by a series of explosive boils, use a small shrimp pattern. Duplicate the movement of the forage with your retrieve. Keep the rod tip close to the water and strip strike when you feel the take, then get the fish away from the structure. Crimp the barbs on flies, it will make release easier and help penetration. Besides shrimp and baitfish patterns that sink, I always have a few floating patterns; nothing beats the excitement of a large Snook exploding the surface. The newer synthetic materials are very effective. Polarfiber Minnows, Dan's Neerly Live Bait, Lefty's Deceiver and Clouser Minnows are all good choices for sub surface. Jack Garside's Gurgle Bug and small Poppers will work on top.

Continued on page 9

DOCK LIGHTScontinued

Dock Lights Are Getting HotContinued

Your boat should be well organized and everything unnecessary should be stowed. Daytime problems will quadruple at night. Tripping, catching line, not finding things, can be frustrating. Stealth is the key. Noise should be eliminated. I wear a small "LEDHEDZ" light on my hat brim that uses small button type batteries and weighs almost nothing. It can be turned on to change and locate flies or assist in bringing a fish alongside for release.

Fly line management, especially in the dark, can be a major problem. I've caught more than one sixty dollar fly line in my electric motor. A couple weeks ago, Capt. Mel Berman and I were guests of Capt. Rick Grassett, fishing Sarasota Bay. Rick introduced me to a homemade stripping basket that can be placed on the deck and is a clever, inexpensive way to eliminate all the problems associated with fly line control. When not used, it is very compact and easily stored. Contact me if interested in a description of how to make this inexpensive tool. Besides catching fish, this tip alone was worth the trip with Rick.

Remember, you are fishing in someone's back yard. I make it a policy to thank dock owners when they are around during the day, for the privilege of fishing their dock at night. Not only will this surprise them, I have been given some great other fishing locations nearby.

If your fly fishing luck with daytime Snook has been frustrating, give night fishing a try. Your catching rate should accelerate. When you see the size and numbers of fish after dark, and how much fun you've missed, you'll see why this has become my favorite.

Capt. Pat Damico, a FFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor, charters fly and light tackle trips in Tampa Bay area and can be reached at 727-504-8649, or his website www.captpat.com.

Editor's note: We are reprinting Pat's article about fishing for snook at night under the dock lights because it is loaded with such excellent information and tells you everything you need to know about this exciting and productive way to chase these wonderful fish. Armed with Pat's article and Ken, Mark and Alan's program at this month's meeting, you should knock them dead at the May 23rd Outing.Paul

OUR SPONSORS



From all indications, Pig Roast 2009 was very successful and soon we'll know how much of a financial success it was for SFF. Much of any financial success we gain can be attributed to our business supporters and sponsors. You'll see their ads in "On The Fly". Please show them your appreciation by patronizing their businesses.Paul



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IN PRAISE OF PARACHUTES *by Don Coleman*

A.K. Best in the May 1995 issue of *Mid Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide* notes that parachute patterns seem to be especially effective during the beginning of a hatch. He theorizes that the body, floating in the surface film, represents a floating emerger. He also observes that not all spinners have spent wings, many fall with their wings upright. All of which indicates that a parachute dry fly could be effective over a longer period of a hatch than a dry fly with wound hackle.

It is difficult to argue with the view that flies floating with their bodies in the surface film more accurately represent natural mayfly duns than do flies floating on their hackle tips. Parachute flies present a clear view of the wing to both the fish and the fisherman, and the single post wing better represents the wing of a natural mayfly, which does not usually float with its wings divided. Furthermore, the light pattern on the water made by the horizontal hackle is closer to the pattern made by the legs of a natural mayfly than that made by the traditional styles of dry flies. Also, a fly floating with its body in the surface film is more likely to be seen by a trout, especially in riffled water, than is a fly floating on its hackle tips.



A bevy of Rosenbauer's Hare's Ear parachute dry flies tied by Charlie Most Paul Sequeira photo

There are differing opinions on the proportions involved when tying parachutes. Datus Proper, who cites the advantages of the parachute style of dry fly in *What The Trout Said*, claims that the parachute balances best with the wing in the thorax position, just ahead of the center of the shank. He prefers to use hackle that is smaller than normal for the hook size. Randall Kaufman, in *Tying Dry Flies*, recommends hackle one size smaller than normal, but places the wing near the eye of the hook. A.K. Best likes the tail to be one eye length longer than the overall length of the hook, places the wing as close as two hook eye lengths behind the hook eye, and uses hackle one size larger normal. I prefer the wing in the thorax position...it just looks better to me. Apparently proportions are not nearly as important when tying a parachute as when tying a traditional style dry fly. Hackle color is not nearly as important in a parachute fly as it is in other dry flies, according to Proper.

A.K. Best claims that he carries more Red Quill Parachutes, of various shades and sizes, than any other. Datus Proper has written about the effectiveness of a Coachman Parachute with a bulky peacock herl body to imitate beetles on woodland streams, and designed his own "Perfect Dun" around the parachute concept. Jim Black, production manager of Umpqua Feather Merchants, reports that the Adams Parachute is one their most popular patterns.

Tom Rosenbauer, in *Prospecting For Trout*, notes that he relies on a Parachute Hare's Ear dry fly more than any other pattern when blind fishing for trout. Although it is mottled gray and brown, he claims. "It catches trout in the early season in the afternoon when light gray and olive flies are hatching, in late spring when most of the flies are light cream or brown, and throughout the late season when tiny flies of all colors are around. It has an upright wing yet pounds fish up when most natural insects are caddis flies or terrestrials." Rosenbauer further notes that he has "switched back and forth from the Parachute Hare's Ear to another fly many days and has always drummed up more fish on the Parachute Hare's Ear. It works for me in the Catskills, in Montana and Idaho, in California, and in Pennsylvania." And, "The Parachute Hare's Ear is just a good lure. It is as near a perfect dry for blind-fishing as any fly I've seen." The speckled hackle and the hare's ear fur all suggest motion without really moving. They make the fly look alive.

Parachute flies are best suited for "educated" trout on heavily fished, slower sections of a stream, but do not survive well in turbulent water. A highly visible, high floating, hackled fly (a Royal Wulff comes to mind) is still best for rough water where a trout has less time to inspect the fly before making a commitment.

Continued on page 11

DRY FLY GENESIS *by Charlie Most*

About 1500 years ago in northern Greece, an angler tried to catch trout on a hook wrapped with a feather to imitate a floating insect. And trout anglers have been trying to make this work ever since.

This was actually the start of fly fishing as the only way to cast a small and nearly weightless imitation of something a fish might eat. And with the sort of primitive hooks probably available then, trying to get the thing to float must have generated some creative Greek expletives.

As the centuries passed, the British made major advances in fly fishing and even developed the first truly dry flies. Englishman Frederick Halford came close to perfecting the dry fly tradition and sent some of his flies to Theodore Gordon, who was the American correspondent for England's Fishing Gazette. But those flies didn't work so well so Gordon designed his own, based on our mayflies. That started the so-called "Catskill School" of dry fly tying.

These beautifully thin and delicate flies were traditional when I started fly fishing 65 years ago and I still love them but even greater advances have come since then. For one thing, those lightly dressed flies wouldn't float so well in heavy currents.

So, more fully dressed flies came along, a la the hair-winged Wulff series originated by Lee Wulff and expanded by Dan Bailey. Other approaches followed, such as the no hackle patterns described in Selective Trout by Swisher and Richards with duck quill wings but no hackle, and the Comparadun with an arc of erect deer hair over the top of the body and still no hackle as touted by Caucci and Nastasi in Hatches.

But the latest development seems to have saved the genetic chicken hackle industry by reintroducing hackles, but now wrapped in a horizontal plane around the fly wings and called "parachute" hackle flies.

Ted Giddings was one of my regular fishing companions in Virginia and Ted took to parachute flies as the last word. I had taught him to tie flies but this was another case of the student outdoing the teacher. Ted out fished me on most of our Shenandoah Park trips, attributing his success to the parachute-hackled Adams flies he was tying.

But tying those parachute hackles seemed too tricky for me until I tried tying some Klinkhamer Specials. This is a transplanted European pattern meant to imitate a caddis fly that can't get off the water. A curved caddis hook is used and a traditional pupa body but with wings and a, you guessed it, parachute hackle wrapped around the wings. I struggled with the things and finally began to tie decent looking ones but they weren't easy.

Then I saw some magazine articles that gave me an idea. Why wrap horizontal hackle as an integral part of the whole operation which then made it hard to finish that part of the fly's body ahead of the hackle? So I tried doing this in two steps and that made tying parachute flies fairly easy.. Just tie in the tail fibers, move forward to a wing of calf body hair, poly yarn or turkey T-base feather fibers, wrap thread firmly up the wing and back down, super glue those thread wraps, tie in the hackle stems, dub a full body, tie off and cut the thread.

Now loosen the hook in the vise, tilt it so the shank is pointing straight down and the wing out to the right. Reattach the thread over the hackle stems and wrap the hackle around the wing in the traditional manner. Piece of cake!

So if you too have shied away from tying parachute flies, gather around at the May meeting and I'll run through this with you.*Charlie*

In Praise of Parachutes by Don Colemancontinued

Tom Rosenbauger's Hare's Ear Parachute—deer hair tail (coastal deer hair is good), white calf body hair wing, post, set just forward of mid shank, a bulky dubbed natural hare's ear body, natural grizzly wound around the post.

OTHER EFFECTIVE PARACHUTES

Datus Proper's Parachute Coachman – brown hackle fiber tail, white calf tail wing post, bulky peacock herl body, and brown hackle.

A.K. Best's Red Quill Parachute – with brown hackle fiber tail, white turkey feather wing post, brown-stripped hackle quill body, and brown hackle.

Bob Borden's (producer of Hareline Dubbing) March Brown Parachute – with brown hackle fiber tails (split), brown deer hair wing post, Hareline march brown dubbed body, and brown hackle.

Randall Kaufman's Parachute Adams with mixed brown and grizzly hackle fiber tail, white calf tail wing post, dubbed muskrat body, mixed brown and grizzly hackle.

Fly Tying Bench— Hare's Ear Parachute by Charlie Most

(Original design by Tom Rosenbauer as described by Don Coleman in his article *In Praise of Parachutes* on page 10 of this issue of *On The Fly*.

The instructions listed here reflect Charlie Most's unique method for tying parachutes, see page 11 and is an effective and easy way to wrap the hackle around the wing post.)

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 94840 or similar, size 12 to 20
- Thread: 6/0 waxed nylon, color to compliment
- Tail: deer body hair fine coastal deer hair is a good choice
- Wing: white calf body hair
- Body: dubbed natural hare's ear, fairly bulky
- Hackle: Natural grizzly wound around the wing post.



Rosenbauer Hare's Ear fly tied by Charlie Most

Paul Sequira photo

Instructions:

1. Pinch the barb down, secure the hook in the vise and start the thread at mid-point of the shank.
2. Select a small bunch of white calf body hair for the wing post. Size the wing to about 3/4 the length of the hook shank. Tie the wing in so that the thread wraps end just ahead of the shank midpoint. Stand the wing straight up and wrap the thread around the base of the post 4 or 5 turns and then bring the thread back behind the post and take several tight turns around the hook shank to force the wing to stand upright. Move the thread forward again and wrap the thread around the base of the wing post going up approximately 1/16" to 1/8" and back down again.
3. Select a dry fly hackle with barbs approximately 1 1/2 times the hook gape and tie the stem in to the base of the wing post with several tight wraps of thread. The hackle feather should be standing straight up just like the wing. Cut away the excess stem and coat the base of the post and hackle stem with a **very small amount** of super glue. Too much glue will wick up the wing post and ruin it.
4. Select a small bunch of deer hair for the tail which should extend approximately one shank length beyond the hook bend. Tie the tail in with tight wraps starting at the end of the wing butts and extending towards the hook bend but stopping slightly ahead of the bend. These tight turns will cause the hair to flair, so finish the wrap off with some loose turns of thread to capture the tail fibers and eliminate the flair.
5. Dub a full body of natural hare's ear material and wrap the dubbing forward to and ahead of the wing post. Tie off the thread at the hook eye and cut it off
6. Now, loosen the hook in the vise, tilt the hook so that the hook eye points straight down with the wing post out to the right.. Reattach the thread to the base of the wing post and the hackle stem and wrap the hackle in the traditional manner being sure to wrap each successive turn to the left (below) the previous turn. Tie the hackle off with a whip finish on the wing post (use of a Renzitti style whip finisher simplifies this step), cut away and discard the excess hackle.
7. Apply a little head cement to secure the thread wraps.

Fly Tying Bench— Sid Neff Caddis by Paul Sequira

Pennsylvania fly fisherman and fly tyer Sid Neff designed this easy to tie and very effective caddis imitation. It has proven to be very productive for me on streams from New York's Catskill and Adirondack Mountains to the many streams and rivers in the West Yellowstone area. Simple to tie, it uses only two materials, it floats well and the trout take it readily. This pattern and many others can be found in the book *The Caddis and The Angler* written by Eric Leiser and Larry Solomon and is an excellent guide to the important caddis families found in the United States and effective methods to fish them.Paul



Sid Neff Caddis tied and photo by Paul Sequira

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 94840 or similar, sizes 12 to 20
- Thread: 6/0 brown waxed nylon
- Wing: brown/grey deer hair or any color to match local insects
- Body: dubbing to match the naturals. I like a natural fur such as muskrat for a dark body or Australian opossum in various shades for tan to light brown bodies or dyed to match the naturals.

Instructions:

1. Pinch the barb down and secure the hook in the vise. Attach the thread slightly more than a hook eye length behind the hook eye and wrap to the rear stopping at the bend.
2. Affix your dubbing to the thread laying a slightly tapered body on with a thicker profile at the head. Stop where you tied the thread on. Leave the front of the hook bare.
3. Select a small bunch of fine deer hair, about 20 to 25 hairs is sufficient.
4. Remove the fluff from the butts of the deer hair and even up the tips in a hair stacker.
5. Measure the hair to extend slightly beyond the hook bend and trim off the butts.
6. Attach the deer hair in front of the dubbed body with several tight wraps leaving a short stub of deer hair butts extending towards the hook eye. Keep the deer hair wing on top of the hook and slightly down each side of the fly. Since we are using only the tips of the deer hair, excessive flaring is generally not a problem. Take several more turns to secure the deer hair and whip finish.
7. Apply several coats of head cement to the thread wraps and the deer hair butts.

Note: This fly closely resembles the Troth Elk Hair Caddis, another excellent caddis imitation, lacking only a fine gold wire rib, a dark ginger hackle palmered through the body and replacing the deer hair with light tan elk hair for the wing.

SFF Photo Gallery—Marine Quest April 24, 2009



Student fly tyers pay rapt attention to Ron Kelley and Norm Sande demonstrating the art of fly tying. Photos Bill AuCoin



That's a free fly smile. Photo Bill AuCoin



Charlie Most shows a future casting champ how it's done. Photo Bill AuCoin

SFF Photo The Glades April 23/24, 2009



Part of the SFF gang waiting for a table at 84 Photo: Ken Hofmeister



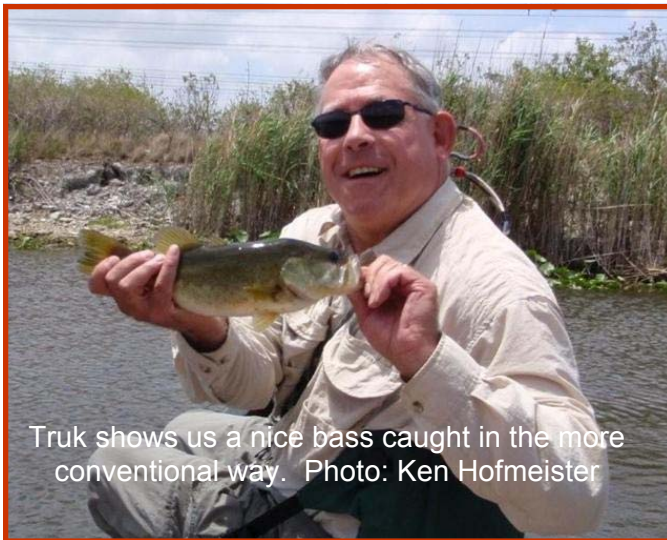
More hungry SFF fishermen Photo Ken Hofmeister



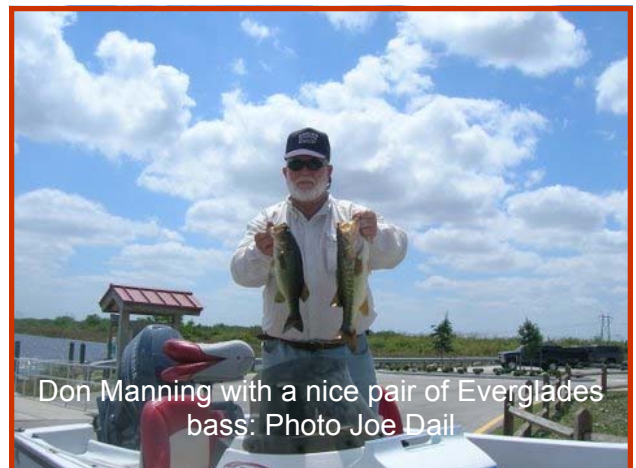
Joe Dail shows us a fine Mayan Cichlid Photo Joe Dail



The story is that this bass jumped into the boat on its own, from fear of the Ada Potato! Hmmm Photo Ken Hofmeister



Truk shows us a nice bass caught in the more conventional way. Photo: Ken Hofmeister

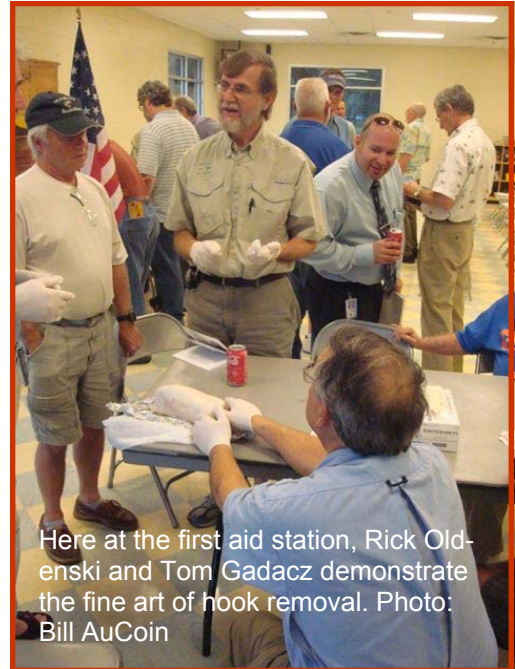


Don Manning with a nice pair of Everglades bass: Photo Joe Dail

SFF Photo Gallery Club Meeting April 16, 2009



Dress rehearsal for the Boy Scout Merit Badge University. Here Ken Doty & Alan Sewell demonstrate knot tying while John Craig and other members look on. Photo: Bill AuCoin



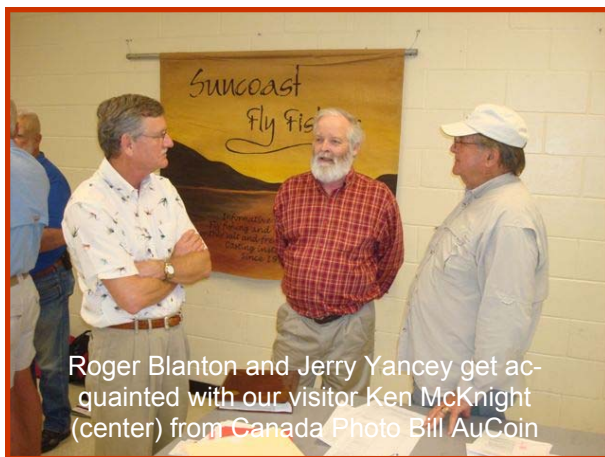
Here at the first aid station, Rick Oldenski and Tom Gadacz demonstrate the fine art of hook removal. Photo: Bill AuCoin



Ken Hofmeister and Paul Sequira demonstrate fly tying while Judd Sheets, Rick Tripolino and others make sure they're doing it right. Photo: Bill AuCoin

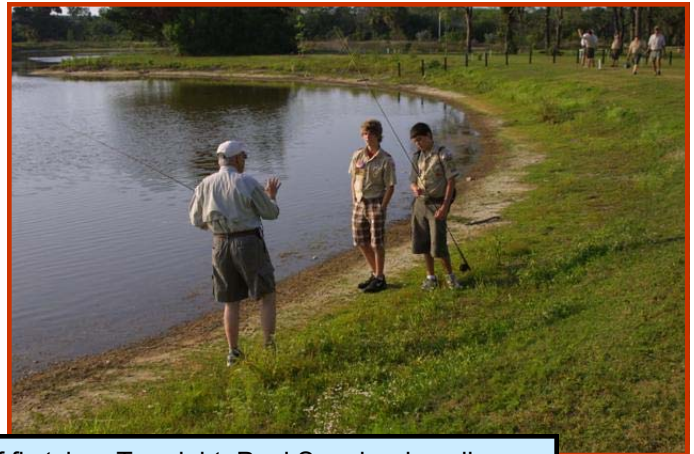


Who said fly tyers are eccentric? If Charlie Most can't get acceptable materials, he grows his own! Photo Bill AuCoin



Roger Blanton and Jerry Yancey get acquainted with our visitor Ken McKnight (center) from Canada Photo Bill AuCoin

SFF Photo Gallery Boy Scout Merit Badge University



Top Left: Ken Hofmeister explaining the art of fly tying. Top right: Paul Sequira describes the dynamics of fly casting to two Scouts. Middle left: Alan Sewell going through the fly casting paces with two Scouts. Middle right: Myron Hansen and Richard Oldenski reviewing the merit badge requirements with a group of Scouts. Photos Frank Moss



Below left: John Craig & Mark Hays working at the fly tying portion of the program. Below right: Tiger Vertregt, Alan Sewell & Ken Doty teaching the Scouts all the necessary knots for fly fishing. Photos Ken Hofmeister



SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

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President: Ken Hofmeister 727-521-1637

Vice President: John Zientarski 727-391-1480

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Treasurer: Tom Gadacz

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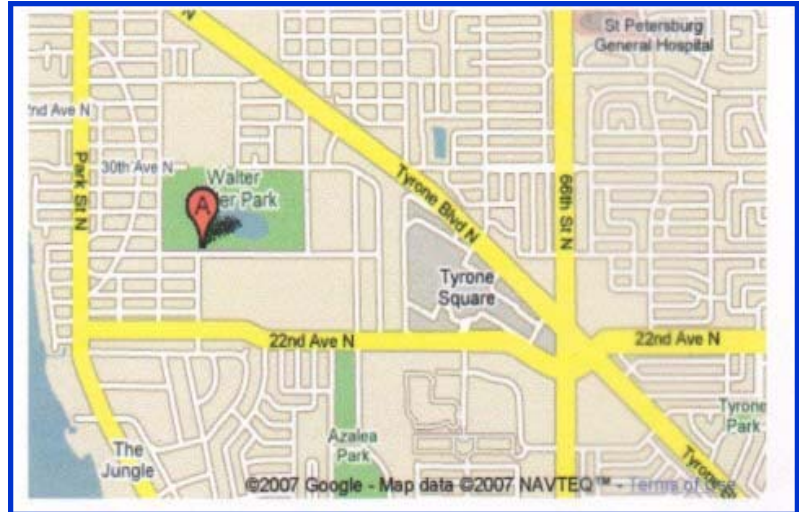
Roger Blanton - Pat Damico

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



Next Club Meeting: May 21, 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: Night Snook Fishing Clinic with Ken Doty, Mark Hays and Alan Sewell

Featured Fly Tyer: Charlie Most demonstrating the Hare's Ear Parachute dry fly

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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