



The Prez Sez *by Tom Gadacz*



An Afternoon With Ken

A few days ago Ken Hofmeister and I had lunch together. Succeeding Ken Hofmeister as SFF president is a challenge and I wanted to know more about Ken. Here are a few insights.

Ken is a dedicated fly fisher who began fly fishing when his son Karl gave him a fly rod for a retirement present. Previously, Ken fished with a spinning rod. He fished the lakes in Orlando while in high school, the rivers of Tennessee while a student at Carson-Newman College, and the creeks of Kentucky while doing graduate work.

Ann and Ken met in Kentucky and got married. He gave her a fishing rod for a wedding present. They have three children and six grandchildren.

As a pastor, Ken wore out a pair of baptismal waders on the Ft. DeSoto oyster bars fishing with George "Redfish" McCall. In addition to learning how to catch redfish, he also gained skills in working with volunteers. Ken introduced new educational materials and approaches as Manager, Youth Section, Church Training Department of a major denomination headquartered in Nashville. He later served as Human Resource Director of that organization's publishing house.

In 1980, Ken joined Development Dimensions International, a Pittsburgh based human resources consulting firm as a consultant and later, product manager for a leadership development program. Small mouth bass in Pennsylvania streams were his favorite targets. In the mid-eighties, while landing redfish in Tampa Bay on vacation, he decided to manage consulting services for DDI in Tampa. When he wasn't traveling, Ken was known to catch and cook a fish from nearby Weedon Island during his lunch hour. As a national accounts manager, Ken helped organizations determine strategies and reach them by improving systems and developing people.

Upon retirement, Ken tried to use his fly rod at nearby Weedon Island. Ken Doty, fishing with wife Sue, noticed the flawed effort and invited Ken to visit Suncoast Fly Fishers and learn how to use that rod. Ken says that Suncoast Fly Fishers like Pat Damico taught him to cast, while Ken Doty taught him where to cast. Alan Sewell inspired him to fish the docks for snook. Paul Sequira and Charlie Most (among others) taught him to tie flies. Every member he fished with taught him something.

Ken was elected president at a time when the club was facing issues about where to meet and what sort of club they wanted to be. Ken accepted the challenge of bringing members together and clarifying vision and values. Progress came as improvements were made in communication, teamwork, newsletter, web site, by-laws, and a move to Walter Fuller Park. Board members led the way.

The Withlacoochee River outing (picture "Deliverance" kind of trip) raised issues of liability insurance. The Federation of Fly Fishers offered a reasonable and obtainable so-

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

April 17th — Marinequest call Bill AuCoin
April 30th — May 2nd —SFF's Annual Everglades trip,

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The Prez Sezcontinued

lution. After deliberation, the board recommended we join the Federation of Fly Fishers. FFF provided advantages other than insurance to our members—including educational and outreach programs such as Project Healing Waters. Ken chaired the FFF Florida Council auction/raffle committee last year and is currently vice-president of the FFF Florida Council.

Ken has tried to identify and address member needs through surveys and conversations. He recognizes the contributions of members and encourages teamwork and fun.

What's next for Ken? Ken will continue to be active on the board as secretary for which I am grateful. Ken plans to fly fish many other fishing spots and send reports to our web site. His favorite fishing spot? "Where the fish are." His favorite time to fish? "When they are biting." The Everglades outing is his favorite fishing experience.

Ken's advice for the new club members: Never miss an outing or a meeting. Fish with other members of the club and learn from them. Attend the fly casting clinics and fly tying sessions. Get on a committee—be an active participant.

And the advice for the older club members. Mentor the new members. Partner with members of other clubs. Share your experience and expertise. Attend SFF shows and help recruit members.Tom

April Program and Designated Tyer

Captain Russ Shirley, a full time Tampa Bay area fishing guide, fishing fly and light tackle on Florida's West Coast will be our guest speaker this month. As owner of Salty Fly Charters (now celebrating its 17th year), he is a native Floridian and has fished Tampa Bay area waters since the age of four. Capt. Russ' discussion will feature a Power Point presentation about the excellent tarpon fishing opportunities in the Tampa Bay and other local areas. Russ is not only an old friend of SFF, but also a former member.

April's designated tyer is our own Enver Hysni. Appropriate to Capt Russ Shirley's tarpon fishing presentation, Enver will demonstrate a very popular and successful tarpon fly called the Tarpon Toad. This fly can be tied in a smaller version for other species and utilizes marabou, rabbit strip (optional) and yarn or synthetic material. Color varies depending upon water clarity.

Don't miss this this program and tying demonstration by two very talented fishermen and tyers.

marinequest

Saturday, April 17 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

FREE admission and parking

100 8th Ave. SE,

St. Petersburg

<http://research.MyFWC.com> | (727) 896-8626

If you are interested in helping out at the SFF booth, please call or e-mail Bill AuCoin at 727-528-0287

SFF's 7th Annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction by Tom Gadacz

This year's 7th Annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction was one of the biggest events anyone can remember. We had 88 paid members and many guests. The event started while most of us were asleep. Jerry Yancey and John Zientarski stoked up the fire pit at 3:00 AM and began the 12 plus hours of roasting a 130 pound pig. Their careful attention to temperature resulted in a delicious moist pork. Stacy provided an incredible spread of potato salad, slaw and her favorite corn-bread salad. The specially made teas were a real treat and the banana pudding disappeared very quickly. Her efforts are greatly appreciated since she had to scramble to accommodate a record crowd. We didn't get a good idea of the actual number of guests until the March 18th meeting and then the Roast on March 20. Great job for two days notice for over 100 people! Martha Dail's dessert was an added treat.

Captain Bob provided guitar music and ballads for the event. His repertoire of songs is incredible.

The times of the awards, raffles and silent auction were posted and the closing of the silent auction was followed by Ken Hofmeister giving the Suncoast Fly Fishers 2010 Vision/Values awards. Mark Hays and Richard Oldenski received the Meeting Member Needs Award and Joe Dail and Pat Damico received the Constant Improvement Award.

Special awards were given for the biggest fish caught and verified by another club member for several categories. Richard Oldenski presented a special thank you award to Ken Hofmeister for his contributions to the club as President for the past four years. Ken received a standing ovation.

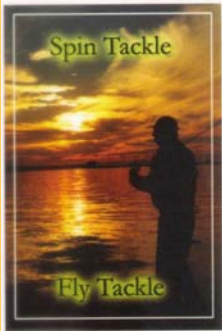
In coming president Tom Gadacz made a few remarks thanking Ken for his leadership and the members for their support. Announcement of the winners of the silent auction was interspersed with drawings for the bucket raffles. Ed Judge had the wining door prize ticket for the Vapor kayak.

Special thanks to all the guides (Captains Bumgarner, Damico, Grasset, Greenan, and Whiteley) who contributed trips. These and many others made significant contributions to the raffle and silent auction and we will include their business cards in our monthly newsletter, "On the Fly".

The committee members who gave a great deal of time and effort to make this event successful include Hugh Copeland, Myron Hansen, Marianne and Mark Hays, Ken Hofmeister, Woody Miller, Al Pitcher, Jim Swann, Tom Trukenbrod, and yours truly. Other contributors included Ken and Sue Doty, Joe Dail, and many others we enlisted at the last minute. We had a net gain of \$2,967.53 this year (nearly double last year). Thanks to everyone for a successful event!Tom



Just part of the 100+ crowd at the 2010 edition of SFF's Hog Roast. John & Stacey Zientarski outdid themselves this year with great food and hospitality. See more pictures in the photo gallery on pages xx & xx. Paul Sequeira photo



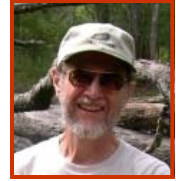
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OUTINGS -REVIEWS & PREVIEWS by *Richard Oldenski*



April Outing - April 17, 2010 - Lake Manatee

March Outing - The March outing was dedicated to a casting clinic at Ft. Desoto. Capt. Pat Damico and his team of casting instructors hosted the clinic for 35 members of all skill levels. In clear, easy to follow language and brief demonstrations, Pat simplified each step of casting. We then had a chance to practice each step under the watchful eye and gentle tutelage of the instructors, in one-on-one sessions. Beginning casters were not embarrassed, and advanced caster were challenged. By the time we gathered for lunch, we were better, but hungry casters. After lunch, a few of us were seen heading for the flats, fly rods rigged and ready. However, there is no report of fish being caught.

April Outing: - Although the special Everglades Outing is planned for April 30, we will have our regular monthly outing on April 17. This will give those going to the Everglades a chance to warm up, and those not going to get some good freshwater fly fishing. We'll be fishing the Lake Manatee reservoir and the Manatee River. The lake can be accessed from the ramp in Lake Manatee State Park or from a more rustic ramp off of CR 675. The more adventuresome among us can launch kayaks and canoes further up river at the bridge on Vema Bethany Road. The lake is limited to 20 hp motors and there is an entrance fee for the State Park, which opens at 8:00 AM. Lunch will be served at the picnic area in the park at Noon.

To get there, drive south on I-75 to Bradenton and exit East on SR 64. The entrance to the park is about 9 miles East of I-75. Continue East of SR 64 to get to CR 675 and further East to Vema Bethany Road. Maps and sign up sheet will be at the April meeting.

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

Spiders and Beetles	Feb. 2007	p.8
	June 2009	p. 11
Wooly Bugger	Apr. 2008	p. 8
Mighty Myakka Minnow	July 2008	p. 8
Most's Generic Bluegill Fly	Sept 2008	p. 6

Future Outing Previews:

May - Hillsborough River

June - Emerson Point

Fishing Tournament:- Final Listing

A handsome trophy was awarded to each of the following at the Hog Roast on March 20:

Snook - Mark Hays – 29½ inches

Bass - Woody Miller -16 inches

Sunfish - Joe Dail - 10 inches

Open Category - Woody Miller - Ladyfish - 22 inches

Trout - Don Manning - 19 inch

A presidential plaque was awarded to Ken Hofmeister with the following inscription:

" To Ken Hofmeister for his Outstanding Leadership,

Suncoast Fly Fishers, March 20, 2010"

Casting Tips by Pat Damico, MCI

Casting Tip No.4: An efficient loop can only be formed when the fly rod tip travels in a Straight Line Path, our next essential. The fly line always follows the direction the rod tip is traveling when the rod stops. Besides a straight line path, the rod tip can travel in a convex direction, one higher in the middle, causing a large loop, or in a concave direction, where the tip is lower in the middle, forming a tailing loop when the line crosses itself. If you want to make a curve cast, directing the rod tip to the right or left at the stop will cause the end of the fly line to curve in the same direction, very useful for casting around obstructions. Tracking the rod tip in a straight line will direct the energy of the cast properly allowing the line to unroll efficiently. When practicing outside, use the house roof line as a guide for vertical rod tip positions or the straight edge of a lawn or driveway as a guide when casting more horizontally. As you carry more line, the rod loads or bends more but still tracks in a straight line path. One of Lefty's tips is to make your casts so that your fly is directed at the rod tip.

SFF Vision/Values Awards 2009—2010 by Ken Hofmeister

VISION

“To be Florida’s leading fly-fishing club—helping members have more fun fly-casting, fly-fishing, and fly-tying—gaining new knowledge and/or skill at every meeting and event.”

VALUES

Each year, as president of SFF, I’ve recognized significant contributions made by board members and members. Specifically, I’ve sought to identify those who translated our SFF vision/values into actions and behaviors that benefited the club.

Paul Sequira was the first recipient in 2007. Thomas Gadacz received the award in 2008. In 2009 I did my best to narrow the field of candidates and nominees. Many members and board members contributed significantly to our progress as a club. Service and education in Project Healing Waters at Bay Pines had 13 members contributing 875 hours to 411 veterans. 10 SFF volunteers contributed 60 hours to helping 19 Boy Scouts become qualified for their fly-fishing merit badges at Eckerd College Merit Badge University. Numerous members tied flies and educated the public at Marine Quest, Florida Sportsman’s Show, Andy Thornal’s Art of Fly Fishing Show, and Florida Council of FFF auction/raffle. Many helped in casting and fly tying instruction to improve member skills. This year, the four winners were:

Meeting Member Needs

“Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. will continuously seek to understand and meet the personal and practical needs of members. A key to attracting and retaining members is to meet or exceed their needs.”

Mark Hays and **Richard Oldenski** were awarded the 2009 SFF President’s Vision/Values Award for “Meeting Member Needs.” Since I became your president in 2004, I could always count on Richard and Mark to see that we had a place to fish, a great lunch, and a prize for the largest fish. Details were covered, sign-up sheets were managed, fishing partners arranged, and tips were shared along with directions. This role meant that Richard and Mark were unable to fish the entire outing since they had to set up and cook. Everybody knows what happens at noon. They also worked to coordinate our outings and lunches with other clubs. Members needed to know where and how to fish the outings. Even more, they needed hot coffee and cool soft drinks as they enjoyed the fellowship and friendship over food and fishing stories. Our value of friendliness was enhanced over outing lunches. Mark would even travel west to hunt game for our lunches. Richard would bring out ancient and secret recipes. While we questioned veracity of members’ fish stories, nobody ever questioned Richard’s final decision regarding the winner of the month! Congratulations Richard and Mark.

Constant Improvement

“We believe we can always improve the way we tie, cast, fish, and educate. We are committed to continually improving how we function as we benchmark with other groups. We solicit improvement ideas for our processes, services, and ourselves. We are committed to preserving our waters and marine resources. We keep searching for safer and more productive ways to enjoy our sport.”

Joe Dail and **Pat Damico** were awarded the 2009 SFF President’s Vision/Values Award for “Constant Improvement.” Joe Dail was always there to see that our processes worked and that our details were managed. Thanks to Joe we have revised by-laws that serve as channel markers for our club. Joe did the administrative work that enabled us to claim non-profit status and to become a charter FFF club. Because of Joe’s efforts, our business was done “decently and in order.” Our records were kept, money collected, and our finances audited. We now have critical club liability insurance because of Joe’s administrative efforts. Our processes have definitely been improved.

Pat Damico introduced our 2004 casting clinic for FFF members (which inspired many to join FFF and earned our club a few incentive TFO rods). Since then, he has helped members improve casting skills through numerous clinics and tips. His articles in our newsletter have helped us cast, fish, and grow. FFF frequently publishes his columns nationally. Recently, Pat did a fly fishing seminar at a boat show and then led a crowd to our booth to be “hooked.” We’ve all learned from his knowledge and skill, and benefited from his spirit.

Again, there is no way to name all of those who served so well. As your past president, this was an effort to recognize those we are trying to emulate as we move toward being “Florida’s leading fly-fishing club.”

Ken Hofmeister, Secretary, Suncoast Fly Fishers

What's The Story on Fishing The Everglades? *By Paul Sequeira*

If you've heard about SFF's annual special club trip to fish the Everglades and never joined in on this event, you probably have a few questions. After all, "The Everglades" covers a lot of acreage in south Florida so just what are we talking about? At the March meeting, many questions were asked and much excellent information was offered. For those of you who missed or have forgotten parts of the discussion, I'll review as much of it as I can remember.

Where do we fish in the Everglades? The canals right along Alligator Alley (I-75) in the general vicinity (about 5 miles west of the tollbooth) of the intersection with Route 27. This is known as the Miami Canal system. As you are traveling east on Alligator Alley you will see pull-offs from the highway with parking lots and boat ramps on both the north and south sides of the roadway. They are located near mile markers 31, 32, 38 and 41. Also, there are three boat ramps along Rt 27 (north of I-75) giving you access to these north/south-running canals. This is known as the New River Canal system. Somewhat further north on Rt 27 is another excellent fairly new canal access called Holey Land with plenty of parking and a first class boat ramp.



Typical Everglades canal system. File photo

Go to Google Earth to view these locations. A listing of boat ramp locations along with GPS coordinates can be found at the website "Inshore Boat Ramps in SE Florida, Broward County" <http://www.inshore.com/br-brwd.html> The ramps we are interested in are the last three entries in the list.

Everglades Holiday Park has excellent access to a large canal system (the New River Canal - South system) and is located off Rt 27 (about 5 miles south of I-75) on Griffin Road (the first traffic light you come to on Rt 27). There are boats with outboard motors available for rent here. Go to <http://www.evergladesholidaypark.com/> for more information and excellent directions and map.

Where do you stay? A convenient and comfortable place to stay is the LaQuinta Inn Sunrise Sawgrass Mills, 13651 N.W. Second St, Sunrise, FL 33325 tel. 954-846-1200. Directions and map at <http://go.reservediscounthotels.com/hotel/propertydetails/134566/MAPS?isHRN=true&cid=265820> Also, campsites are available at Everglades Holiday Park tel. 954-434-8111, see link in preceding paragraph for directions and map. Both of these locations are a reasonable drive from all of the fishing spots listed above.

Can you wade fish in the Glades? The short answer is no. Although the water depth in the canals varies depending upon rainfall and how much water is being released into them, the average depth is said to be approximately 18' to 20'. Also, there are many very large alligators that claim residence in the canals and everything swimming there can be of great interest to them.

What kind of boat is needed? Canoes, Ghenoies and boats under 18' are excellent choices. Because of the large alligators resident in the canals, kayaks are not a good choice. Due to the condition and size of some of the boat ramps, boats in excess of 18' may not be the best choice for the canals. An electric trolling motor in addition to your outboard motor is very helpful. Jon boats with outboard motors can be rented at Everglades Holiday Park; however, these boats cannot be removed from this canal system. This is not a handicap, I have hooked my largest bass to date in this canal, and there are also peacock bass in this canal system.

What size fly rod is recommended? Any 4 or 5 weight fly rod in whatever length you are comfortable with will work. Long casts are not necessary when fishing the canals. In most of them, if you run your boat down the middle, you can easily cast to either side of the canal. If you enjoy throwing larger poppers, a 6 weight rod is helpful.

What flies are recommended? Everyone has their favorite flies for bream and bass fishing; but if I could have only one fly to fish the Glades, it would be a white foam spider or beetle tied on #8 or #10 hooks. Many flies work, in fact I don't know of any fly that doesn't work in the Glades. I like to fish top water and in addition to the foam

What's The Story On Fishing The Everglades? ..continued

spiders and beetles, I really enjoy fishing poppers in white or yellow colors, on #6, #8 or #10 hooks. However, the fish don't seem to have a color preference; I know that chartreuse and fluorescent pink poppers also work very well. The determining factor seems to be whatever color you can see best. I have also found small Clousers to be very productive when you find schools of bass chasing small minnows. You'll often find this situation around little creek-like runoffs into the canals. I like the Little Brown River Clouser but I'm sure other colors such as gray/white etc would work just as well. I have had success with weighted nymphs such as Jim's Bead Head Nymph and Bully's Bluegill Spider. Most of the flies mentioned here are described in the fly tying section of SFF's website www.suncoastflyfishers.com

What kind of fish can I expect to catch in the Everglades? Bluegills, redear sunfish, spotted sunfish, war-mouths etc, large mouth bass, peacock bass, bowfin, Florida gar, oscar, and Mayan cichlids are the fish most commonly caught. We have just gone through a record breaking cold winter for Florida and this has had a bad affect on some of the exotics, but the fishing there is normally so good, you will still catch a lot of fish and have a terrific time. For an incredible list of fish commonly found in Everglades waters go to <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/SouthFlorida/everglades.html>

There you have it, all the information you need to fish the Everglades canals, even if it is your first trip there. Barring anymore bad weather, I feel safe in saying that fishing in the Everglades will be an opportunity for you to catch more fish in any one days fishing than you have ever experienced before. Also, you will have a terrific time with your SFF friends with lots of good stories to tell when you return.Paul

Casting Clinic Saturday March 20, Ft. DeSoto Park



Forty SFF club members attended a casting clinic on the nicest day we have seen in months. The large number of participants enjoyed Richard Oldenski's coffee and donuts while they rigged their rods and prepared for two and a half hours of relaxed fun. Advanced as well as beginners learned fundamentals as well as some more sophisticated techniques that better prepared them to ply their new skills in the adjacent waters after a lunch filled with fellowship and fish stories. Assisting Pat Damico were Enver Hysni, Robert Fischer, Ken Doty, Peter Cole, Mac Richardson, Bob Finck, Alan Sewell and certified instructor Chris Kincaid from Orlando. In the future, we may have three separate classes, one for beginners or entry level, another for intermediate or advanced, and one for women. We worked very hard to make this beneficial to all participants and were very pleased with the written critiques handed in by those present. As you can see, we are already planning our next one.

Capt. Pat Damico, MCCI

SFF Information and Activities

EVERGLADES — SPECIAL SFF OUTING

DATE — 4/30/2010--5/2/2010
LA QUINTA INN SUNRISE SAWGRASS MILLS
13651 N.W. SECOND ST.
SUNRISE, FL 33325
PHONE: 954-846-1200

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS SPECIAL RATE: \$71.10 per room per night. (Gladys said rate varies with demand so reserve right away). Truk said: "don't miss it."

KAYAKS FOR SALE *** KAYAKS FOR SALE *** KAYAKS FOR SALE

Heritage Featherweight Kayak 10' sit-in, custom seat cover	Wilderness Systems Pungo Kayak 10' sit-in, custom seat cover	Old Town Guide Voyager Kayak 12' sit-in, custom seat cover
Aqua-Bound paddle -angler ready \$400.00 Yellow	Aqua-Bound paddle -angler ready \$400.00 Blue	Aqua-Bound paddle -angler ready \$400.00 Yellow

Call Alan Sewell 727-470-4570

We wish to welcome the following new members to SFF.

John B. Adams, Charles Blume,
Drew Cornstubble, John Davis, Jane Hummel,
Bryan Jankovic, Harlow R. Kehoe,
Mark C. Miller, Tony Piazza, Bill Scarola,
Jim and Marie Shipley, Joe Tyrell and
Maher Wissa

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.

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A Chokoloskee Snooking Adventure by Peter Cole

I had planned to go to Everglades City the 25th February but snow held up my fishing companion, Cathy Mainardi, in Philadelphia. We eventually got down there on Saturday evening for our 9:00 am start Sunday with guide Kevin Mihailoff. Kevin had been recommended to me by a friend of Pat Damico and I soon learned why.

We set off from Chokoloskee on a beautifully sunny day with temperatures in the 50s, a two-coat day on the boat. Kevin is a young Gator grad. I explained I was sorry but my son is attending graduate school at FSU.

He quickly took us into the 10,000 islands and poled up to a fishy looking spot. He now politely showed us this was serious business by giving clear precise commands as to the direction and distance he wanted us to cast, and how quickly he wanted the line on the water. Using an intermediate line on a 9 weight and a chartreuse clouser we caught several small snook and a couple of mangrove snappers. We pressed on but went through a dry patch before being unlucky with a very large red. Bare in mind this season, not a whole load of fish were being caught.

The tide had turned now and was coming in when we set off to sight fish for big snook. Switching to a floating line and a small glass minnow (size 4) I was up and Kevin cautiously poled us into an area where our target was spotted and the rest becomes history. The picture may provide the end result but doesn't give any information regarding the fight. Kevin spotted the fish which I could also see and I sent a short cast very close. It saw the fly and took it voraciously. Slow to start, it moved towards the boat but suddenly seeing it and simultaneously feeling the hook, all hell broke loose. Throwing up a huge wake it raced straight towards the mangroves and made a large semi-circular run finishing up maybe 70-80 yards away, well into the backing. Well, now the fun starts. I had asked Kevin which way he sets up his rods as I like to cast right handed but change to fight with the left and reel with my right. Not the set up Kevin had. Trying to reel in a very feisty fish from 80 yards, not to mention the next run for a guy winding cack-handed was a real test. At one point I turned his Sage XI 2 upside down and used my right hand only to release line instead of taking it in! The snook then charged under the boat with Kevin's rod nearly bent in double. Skill (luck) will have it I maneuvered the rod tip out from under the boat and with a sigh of relief from Kevin, the snook was now played out, so was I.

He called it a fish of a lifetime. I agree.

It measured 34 inches in length and weighed about 14 lbs.

Looking back I will never fish with the wrong rod set up again and I suggest you don't either.

Peter Cole

Capt. Kevin Mihailoff www.snookin.com



Peter's 34 inch Chokoloskee snook caught fishing with Capt. Kevin Mihailoff on a #4 Glass Minnow pattern.

Peter Cole photo

Tying Bench—Blue Damselfly *By Layne (Smitty) Smith*

Damselflies and dragonflies are very common in Central Florida ponds and lakes. These beautiful insects are a common food source for our bass and bream.

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 94833 or equivalent (size 10 or smaller)

Eyes: Monofilament Dumbbell or Plastic Bead-chain (blue)

Tail: Lureflash (blue) (or other similar soft, thin, stranded synthetic material)

Abdomen: Kingfisher Blue Dubbing

Wings: Bleached Elk Hair

Legs: Grizzly Saddle (optional)

Thorax: Kingfisher Blue Dubbing

Tying Instructions:

1. Attach thread an eye's width in back of hook eye and attach eyes on top of hook with figure 8 wraps and cement.
2. Wrap thread to end of hook shank just before the bend. Tie in Lureflash (approx 20 strands).
3. Twist Lureflash counter clockwise until it starts to buckle on itself. Take bodkin in left hand (if you are a right-handed tyer) and lay it on top of twisted flash at a point of how long you want the tail.
4. Fold remainder of material over to meet hook shank, hold material at that point and slide out bodkin allowing flash to furl. Tie down at the bend and cut off any excess material. Fig. 1
5. Cut small amount of elk hair and stack.
6. Measure elk hair 1½ time hook shank and cut off butt ends.
Tie in behind eyes. Fig. 2
7. Divide elk hair and post wings to either side of body. (90° angle or 45° backswept angle for less spin when casting)
8. Dub thread and make thorax. Remember to dub small amounts at a time (just color your thread).
9. Re-dub thread and bring thorax forward to cover where wings are attached creating body. Fig. 3
10. Continue to dub up to eyes and figure 8 wrap dubbing over eyes. Finish off in front of eyes for head. Whip finish and cut thread. Fig. 4

P.S. If you want legs, attach saddle hackle between wings and eyes. Palmer about 3 or 4 turns. Tie off then finish your dubbing around eyes. Figs. 5 & 6 below

P.P.S. If you want your damselfly to assume tail up position as it often does, then lift tail to 45° up position and apply drop of super glue at base of tail where it meets hook.

All flies tied by Smitty —. Sequira photos



Tying Bench—Mihailoff Glass Minnow by Paul Sequira

How many flies have been designed to imitate the glass minnow? I'm sure I don't know but there are a bunch of them out there. This one, developed by guide Kevin Mihailoff is unusual in that it has a spun deer hair head. Examining the fly, I noticed that the head is not tightly packed as you might do on a spun deer hair bass popper. I would suspect that this deer hair head is designed to push water for a little noise and provide a neutrally buoyant fly. We know it is an effective pattern as attested by the success Peter Cole had with it recently on his trip to Chokolosee (see Peter's article on page 9).

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 3407 (or equivalent) size 4

Thread: 3/0 white flat waxed nylon

Wing: Pearl Angle Hair (or similar)

Head: Spun white deer hair



Mihailoff Glass Minnow tied by Kevin Mihailoff.
Sequira photo

Tying Instructions:

1. Attach the thread approximately 1/4" behind the hook eye with a jam knot.
2. Select a medium sized hank of Angle Hair and size it approximately 1½ times the length of the hook shank. Trim the cut off end that you will tie onto the hook square, but leave the other end sort of ragged as in the picture above.
3. Tie in the wing at the point where you attached the thread. Be sure to leave the forward part of the hook shank bare to facilitate spinning the deer hair.
4. Cut off a batch of white deer hair about the thickness of a wooden pencil and remove the under hair with a comb or your fingers. Trim off the natural hair ends. Lay the hair at an angle against the side of the hook shank facing you with your left hand, and take two loose wraps of thread around the hair and the hook shank. Slowly tighten the thread with a downward pull and release the hair from your left hand. The hair will spin around the hook and spread out.
5. This should be enough hair for the head, but if it seems a little too sparse, add a second batch of hair and repeat step 4.
6. Take a few half hitches or whip finish behind the hook eye and then trim the head to a ball shape as in the picture above. Add a little head cement and you're done.

Mike Saputo
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SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS INFORMATION

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

Our Aims and Purpose

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

BENEFITS OF SUNCOAST FLY FISHER MEMBERSHIP

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers, Your Board Of Directors Working For You

Activities are at the heart of any successful organization. SFF's BOD has instituted the following Standing Committees to help us maintain a high level of activities that have proven to be popular with the membership and some new ones to fill a need as expressed through membership surveys. These committees are generally chaired by board members but you do not have to be a board member to fill that position. If you would like to volunteer to participate on any 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 - Alan Sewell
- 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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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. Members whose dues are delinquent for 2 or more months may lose 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 Grasset, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Tampa Bay 941-923-7799

Capt. Pete Greenan, Boca Grande, Everglades 941-923-6095

Capt. Ray Markham Sarasota and Tampa Bay 941-723-2655



Capt. Russ Shirley, Tampa Bay 727-343-1957

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

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

Jim Swann - fresh water 352-567-6029

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SFF Photo Gallery - Members on the water

Photo right: Thanks to Ken Doty who pre-fished the Manatee Reservoir for us on Tuesday, Apr. 6th we now know that there are plenty of hungry bluegills and bass waiting for us the 17th.

Doty photo



Photo left: One more shot of Peter Cole's big snook caught last month off Chokoloskee. See Peter's article on page 9.

Cole photo

Photo right: Joe Dail riding with Ken Hofmeister waves his cap at Ken Doty and Siobhan Archard on a recent Tampa Bay outing. No report on the fishing from that trip.

Doty photo



SFF Photo Gallery – Casting Clinic March 20th Ft DeSoto



Photo top: A great crowd , great time (see Pat's article on page 7).

Middle photo: Suncoast Fly Fishers casting clinic March 20, 2010 at Ft DeSoto Park. Forty participants had enough beach to practice. Pat Damico, FFF Master Instructor, helped everyone improve. New member Tom Cornstubble USMC stationed at McDill in foreground.

Photo right: Tom Gadacz clearly demonstrates multi-tasking while practicing at the March 20th casting clinic. Talk about presidential material!

Hofmeister photos.



SFF Photo Gallery - Hog Roast March 20, 2010



Clockwise from top: Tom Gadacz handling the door, next 3 pics—the crowd checks out the raffle items, Jerry Yancey and John Zientarski cooking the hog, Capt Bob keeps us entertained. Sequira photos.

SFF Photo Gallery - Hog Roast March 20, 2010



Clockwise from top: top 2 pics—some of the crowd enjoying the wonderful food put together by our hosts John and Stacey Zientarski, Richard Oldenski and Mark Hays presenting the annual big fish awards, Ken Hofmeister presenting Richard Oldenski with one of the Vision & Value awards, and photo right; Richard presents Ken Hofmeister with plaque commemorating Ken's tenure as SFF president. See Tom Gadcz's Hog Roast article on page 3 for details of the event.

Sequira photos



SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

Club Officers

President: Tom Gadacz 727-521-1637

Vice President: Woody Miller 727-391-1480

Secretary: Ken Hofmeister

Treasurer: Joe Dail

Board of Directors

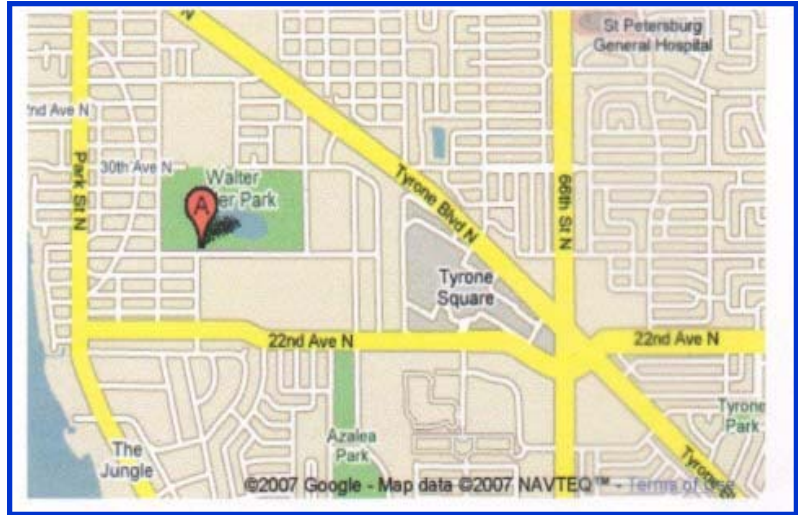
Roger Blanton - Hugh Copeland

Mark Craig - Pat Damico - Ken Doty

Alan Sewell - Tiger Vertregt

“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: April 15, 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

Program - Capt. Russ Shirley Tarpon Fishing in the Tampa Bay Area

Fly Tyer Enver Hysni Demonstrates the Tarpon Toad

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