

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg



Gibby: October meeting speaker. Page 3



Walt Durkin. Permit in Belize. And more. Page 7



September outing. P 9



October outing. P 10



Smitty's Fly Box P 11



Pond fisher P 14



Tierra Verde Report P12



Who's your mama? P16



See you later, Wyoming. P17



SFF President Letter – October 2019

Hello everyone,

Here it is October already and soon we'll be into the holidays. Where did this year go? BUT WAIT! The fun isn't over yet! We still have:

2 more general meetings in 2019 with Steve Gibson and Derek Burgos, two awesome fly-fishing speakers,

The Florida Sportsman Show November 16th & 17th (See David Redd about tying)

A Christmas Party December 20th instead of a general meeting in December,

A Casting Clinic December 14th, led by Dayle Mazzaella and Pat Damico YES!

Three more outings including our Carl Hanson Hillsborough River "co-opetition" with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers (They supply the lunch this year. Thanks TBFF!)

AND our annual Don Coleman outing at Fort Desoto with our world-famous chili cook off. BE THERE!

Soon our nominating committee will be seeking members to fill the vacancies opening up as some of us rotate off because our time is up. If you are approached to serve, I encourage you to say YES and I promise that your life will be enriched by the discussions, planning, scheduling, and fulfillment of programs for our Club.

We always had a good time doing it.

I, for one, will be eternally grateful for the opportunity to serve as an officer on the Board of Directors. I have learned so much. I am fortunate enough to have worked, laughed, lied (just little white ones about fish) and broke bread with some of the finest people I have ever known: YOU; the members of Suncoast Fly Fishers, dedicated to the art of Fly Fishing, Food and Family Friendly Fellowship.

===

Never lose your sense of adventure.

George

George Haseltine
SFF President 2016-20
727-423-8110 Cell & Text

Meetings and Outings

OCTOBER MEETING

Thursday, Oct. 17, Walter Fuller Park

- **Speaker:** Steve Gibson, of Sarasota, kayak fishing guide. Salt or fresh. The Voice of experience. Here's his website, [Southern Drawl Kayak Fishing](#).
- Steve is well known for his Myakka minnow fly and [Gibby's DT Variation](#) fly for catching snook in the surf.
- **Drawing:** Win a subscription to [Tail Fly Fishing](#) Magazine.
- **Practice:** Big Gun Shootout distance and target practice starts at 5 pm.
- **Dues are due.** One and done through 2020. Pay club and FFI dues at See note at the bottom of this page.
- **Coffee, pastries.** 'Nuff said.
- **Committee volunteers needed.** Now the club needs somebody to take charge of the Hog Roast Committee to plan and put on our club's big March fund-raiser.



NOVEMBER MEETING

Thursday, Nov. 21, Walter Fuller Park

- **Speaker:** Derick Burgos, kayak guide and proprietor of [Pure Florida Watersports](#) of Wesley Chapel,
- **Raffle:** Win a trip with a fly guide
- **Raffle:** Win a subscription to *Tail Fly Fishing* Magazine.
- **Dues are due.** Now we can pay SFF and FFI dues at the same time. See note below
- **Coffee, pastries**

NOVEMBER OUTING

Saturday, Nov. 23

- Picnic Lunch: Noon at War Veterans Memorial Park. This park is on the east side of and adjacent to Bay Pines VA Medical Center. Facilities include a boat ramp, kayak launch areas, and some friendly and fishable wade-in spots. More info [here](#).
- Fish anywhere in Tampa Bay, Boca Ciega Bay, or the Gulf.
- Target fish is snook. Take a picture and email it to Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin2@gmail.com
- Also a prize will go to anybody who catches the "Junk Slam" – puffer, ladyfish and a catfish
- Somebody has suggested we call this the *End of Hurricane Season* outing.

Now members can pay FFI and Club dues at the same time

SFF and FFI dues are payable at the same time. This will greatly simplify record keeping and assist in ensuring all SFF members are active FFI members. Since we are a Charter Club of FFI, we are entitled to certain benefits such as low premium liability insurance, umbrella filing with the IRS and club discounts on merchandise. In return the Charter status requires that all club members also be FFI members in good standing. FFI dues have been prorated and may also include a past due balance. After the transition all members will have the same due date for both their SFF and FFI memberships. The total is \$42. That's \$15 for club dues and \$27 for FFI dues. The total due will keep both memberships current through December 31, 2020. You can pay at the meeting. See Tom Gadacz. Or you can mail a check made out to Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821.

News and Notes

Fly Tiers Needed for Florida Sportsman Expo

Suncoast Fly Fisher will again this year be participating at the Florida Sportsman Expo at the Tampa Fairgrounds on Nov. 16-17. SSF members will demonstrate fly tying and interact with expo visitors on the topics of fly tying and fly fishing. The expo is planning on having their fly tying throw down again this year. The event is open to anyone so bring your vice and try your hand at tying with some secret ingredients. It is a lot of fun. Volunteer tiers are needed to man our booth at the event. If you are interested in participating in this great expo please see David Redd at the meeting. Phone him at [727-458-8334](tel:727-458-8334). Email reddfish68@yahoo.com

Update: Big Gun Shootout update

Here's a note from Walt Durkin of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. *Hi Everyone, I hope to see you at our annual Big Gun Shootout on 17 November. We need score keepers as well as participants. This year you may use your own 8 weight rod for the final shootout. We are trying to see if anyone can break the record cast of 138 ft, 6 inches. Please try to sign up on the [Eventbrite](#) site so we can get a good count for lunch. See our [Facebook](#) page for more details on the event. A reminder for all members especially the new ones..*

Save these Dates

November 16-17, Florida Sportsman Expo

November 17, Big Gun Shootout, Picnic Island Park, Pavilion #611

December 14. Fly Casting Clinic. Woodlawn Sports Complex, Field #2, 1450 16th Street N., St. Petersburg

December 20. Holiday Party, 6:30-8:00 at Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure, Pinellas Park

Tie Flies Every Monday, 6-8 pm, Bruce Evensen's Studio, 531 80th Ave. N., St. Petersburg.

[Check the club calendar for updates](#)



Habitat? Well, yeah!

Bonefish & Tarpon Trust (BTT) is working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to make fishing better for sport fishers. The proposed fisheries management plan adds habitat to the tools FWC can use to keep fish populations healthy. Believe it or not, to manage fish populations FWC is limited to using only seasonal shutdowns, slot sizes, and bag limits. But if we want FWC to be able to use habitat, B&TT needs us to step up and help the cause and there are a few ways that we can help: Go [here](#) to learn more.

Did somebody say "habitat?"

Tampa Bay Watch is recruiting volunteers to install oyster shell bars and create oyster domes with a goal to restore lost habitat systems to the bay, prevent further erosion of shorelines, and improve water quality through natural biological filtration. Oyster shell projects involve shoveling fossilized shell into mesh bags, transporting the bags to the project site and placing oyster shell bags on the shoreline to create a series of oyster bars. We have two sites this fall: McKay Bay and MacDill Air Force Base. McKay Bay: Oct. 25, Nov. 7, Nov. 8. MacDill AFB: Nov. 14-16, Dec. 5-6. Go to the [TBW website](#) for all the info.



News and Notes

Florida Council Annual Meeting, Nov. 9, Plantation on Crystal River

As an active member of FFI, you are invited to attend the Florida Council 2019 Annual Meeting. This meeting will cover the 2020 budget, planning for the 2020 Annual Meeting and the Florida Council Expo 2021 in Central Florida. We'll share FFI updates regarding the new President & CEO, Learning Center, Marketing, and other news. Voting on president, vice president, executive committee, and board members.



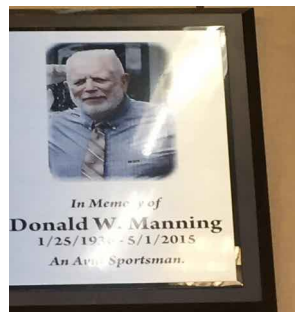
Crystal River Fly Fishing Tournament

"Sodium Fishing Gear <https://www.sodiumusa.com/>, 7763 West Gulf to Lake Highway Crystal River, FL3349, is organizing their first annual fly fishing tournament, which will be held October 25-27. Entry in the tournament is \$150 for up to two anglers. In addition to the tournament there are many free events at the Sodium store including a huge sale, product demos, a casting tournament and a seminar presented by C. A. Richardson of Flats Class TV. For any SFF members that are interested in fishing in this tournament please contact Rick Warfel RH_Warfel@yahoo.com, 813-523-0692 for possible sponsorship opportunities.

Don Manning, RIP, "deer departed."

Note from Rick Warfel

"Anyone who visits T.A. Mahoney Co. marine hardware, 4990 East Adamo Drive, Tampa, FL 33605, check out the back wall of the store. You will find an impressive display of 20 or more mounted deer heads. If you look closely you may see a small memorial plaque honoring the gentleman who donated one of these mounts. That's our own Don Manning dwelling among the deer departed." <https://www.tamahoney.com/>



Ritz Carlton Outfitters Day

The Ritz-Carlton Outfitters' Day in Orlando is Saturday, January 11th from Noon to 5pm. It's free. This year also features the *Ritz-Carlton Top Gun Long Distance Fly Casting Competition* to determine the best long distance fly caster in Florida. The Ritz Carlton address is 4048 Central Florida Parkway. Lots of familiar brands have already signed up: Airflo USA, Carbon Marine, Casting for Recovery, Chittum Skiffs, Chouinard Outdoor Associates, Cortland Line Company, DOA Lure Company, ECHO Fly Fishing, Fast Duck Motors, Fly Fishers International, FWC, G. Loomis, Orlando Outfitters, Rapala, Rio Fly Lines, Sage Rods, Shimano, Slow Duck Motors (j/k), Waterworks-Lamson, and White's Tackle Shop.

Suncoast Fly Fishers

P. O. Box 40821
St Petersburg, FL 33743
www.suncoastflyfishers.org

Club Officers

Pres: George Haseltine
Vice Pres: Rick Warfel
Secretary: David Redd
Treasurer: Tom Gadacz

Board of Directors

Quin Berry, Bill Scarola, Bob Burkard, Bruce Evensen, Ryan Sollars, Cliff Nigh, Karen Warfel

Committees

Volunteers needed. Speak to any officer or director at the meeting

Casting Skills: Pat Damico, Dayle Mazzarella

FFI Liaison: Pat Damico

Conservation: Cliff Nigh

Fly Tying: Myron Hansen

Membership: Tom Gadacz

New Members: Rick Warfel

Webmaster: Dennis Marquis, Bob Burkard

Facebook: Woody Miller

Hog Roast: Open

Outings: Bob Burkard, Hilton Bruch, David Redd, Bill AuCoin

Project Healing Waters: Alan Sewell, Ted Rich, Dave Barson, Dave Redd, Terry Kirkpatrick

Outreach, shows: David Redd, Bob Burkard, Bill Scarola, Tom Gadacz

Raffles: Dave Barson
Succession Plan: Rick Warfel

Programs: Board of Directors

Publicity: Bill AuCoin

On The Fly

Bill AuCoin, editor
Duane Mertzt, Anne Hays, Bob Hood, Tim Elms

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

**Aims and Purposes**

The Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. (SFF) is an organization of fishing enthusiasts who love fishing with the fly rod. We welcome all people of all ages with similar interests, regardless of their fly fishing skill level. We enthusiastically teach those that wish to learn or improve their fly casting, fly tying and related fly fishing skills. SFF meets monthly where we talk fly fishing, tie flies and most months feature a speaker with a program highlighting local fly fishing opportunities.

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization. SFF is a charter member of the Fly Fishers International (FFI). SFF is a member of the Florida Council of FFI. SFF supports the conservation of natural resources, boating safety and fishing regulations.

Monthly Meetings. Guests welcome.

Third Thursday of every month (except December) at St. Pete's Walter Fuller Park Rec Center, 7891 26th Ave. N. 6 to 8:30 pm.

Directions to our meeting at Walter Fuller Park. From 22nd Avenue N turn North on 72nd St. N. Turn left (West) on 26th Avenue N. Then turn right into the rec center parking lot.

Monthly Outings

Club members meet up every month for a fly fishing outing and lunch. Usually it is scheduled on the Saturday after monthly meeting on the third Thursday of every month.

Contact us by mail: Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40821, St Petersburg, FL 33743-0821

Visit our website and Facebook pages, too

SuncoastFlyFishers.com

[Facebook/Suncoast Fly Fishers](#)

Club and FFI Membership combined

Suncoast Fly Fishers currently has 133 members including 16 family members and 6 honorary members. Annual dues are payable in September. This also includes benefits and annual membership in [Fly Fishers International](#) and the [Florida Council](#) of Fly Fishers International

[Join. Renew. Apply.](#)

Durkin and friends fly-fish Columbia, Cayman, Belize, Alaska

By Duane Mertz



Duane Mertz

Wade-fisher extraordinaire Walt Durkin entertained SFF members with exploits from his latest fly-fishing trips at the September 19 SFF Club Meeting. Walt, President of Tampa Bay Fly Fishers, travels regularly with friends in search of great fly fishing. Most trips turn out well.

Destination trip 1: Tucanare Lodge – Columbia. Target species: Peacock Bass

Located on the Vichada River in Cumaribo, Cichada, Columbia, the Tucanare Fishing Camp is well-known for trophy Peacock Bass fishing. After an auspicious start . . . things went south. The first night Walt's party was attacked by bed bugs. The second night everyone had diarrhea. And the fifth night no beer!

Not every trip is a success, but some were . . .

Destination trip 2: Grand Cayman Island, British West Indies. Target species: Bonefish

Located in the Caribbean south of Cuba, Grand Cayman is popular with tourists looking for a nice beach vacation. It also offers some nice bone fishing opportunities. The best spots for bonefish on Grand Cayman include the West Bay Mosquito Ditches and Frank's Sound. Walt and his party hired a guide for a ½-day @ \$400 who took them to 4-5 good spots for bonefish in Frank's Sound. This area is protected from the wind.



Walt and comrades scout for bonefish on Grand Cayman Island.

plate. The next day Walt's wife Patty spotted a bonefish lurking in the local pond and worked for 45-minutes to catch it. It turned out to be the one-eyed fish again. The following day Walt's buddy Ted also caught "One-Eyed Jack."

Following some nice sight-seeing the group all agreed that Grand Cayman is a great place for a fun vacation and to do some fishing on the side. Walt's party of six stayed at hotel at Rum Point @ \$3,000 for one week for three couples. However, serious anglers will want to consider a boat trip to nearby Little Cayman Island where the local waters are loaded with bonefish and baby tarpon that receive little fishing pressure.

Continued on following page



That's Walt with a snook he caught in the United States.

Besides wade-fishing, the group fished from kayaks and had a number of shots at spooky bonefish. While few bone fish were taken during their week, the group did have an interesting encounter with one bonefish which kept coming back for more. This particular fish wasn't spooky like the others. And Walt caught him only to discover the fish had one eye and a hole completely through its gill



Taking a break on a Cayman seawall:

Walt Durkin told some fishing tales. (Fact check: True)

Destination trip 3: Ambergris Caye, Belize. Target species: Bonefish, Permit, Tarpon

The largest island in Belize, Ambergris Cay borders Mexico. San Pedro is the only town on the island.

Local waters feature some of the largest flats in the world for bonefish, permit and tarpon.

The area experiences a lot of fishing pressure. Bonefish run on the smaller size and can be spooky. Even so, Walt was able to catch three bonefish. He also caught a nice Permit. Crab and shrimp flies are most productive.

A trip to San Pedro requires air travel to Belize City and a commuter flight to Ambergris Caye. Walt's party stayed at the Blue Bonefish Lodge. Cost is \$2,500 for a week per person and includes a guide. While traveling through Belize City consider taking a side trip to visit the local Mayan ruins.



Walt and his guide with a braggable permit Walt caught in Belize.

Destination trip 4: Brooks Falls, Katmai National Park in Southwest Alaska.

Target species: Rainbow Trout and Sockeye Salmon

Offering world-class fishing for rainbow trout and sockeye salmon, Katmai National Park should be on the bucket-list of any angler according to Walt. Visitors to Katmai will encounter fishing with a twist - they share



Team TBFFC back in the USA -- Katmai National Park.

the water with Alaskan Grizzly Bears in search of Sockeye Salmon. For this reason all visitors are required to take a bear-encounter course to ensure their safety.

Walt and his party stayed at the Nack River Camp. Cost is \$3,500 per person/week which includes fully guided trips. Anglers fish egg patterns for rainbow trout.

###

Bob Burkard: September Outing Report



*Bob Burkard
Outing Committee Chairman*

It was a gorgeous day on Tampa Bay. Perfect for wading with enough wind to keep the bugs away.

A group of us waded near Weedon Island Preserve to avoid the direct wind. We saw large schools of mullet and I caught six ladyfish.

I love this area and I am always reminded that it is a Florida paradise where weekends get crowded with people living the good life.

Seventeen of us met at *The Crab Shack* for lunch. We enjoyed the food and the company.



While not typically a targeted fish, ladyfish are fun to catch on a fly rod.



New member Tim Elms is catching lots of snook. But, Tim, remember, hold the fish closer to the camera lens so it looks bigger.



David Redd enticed a nice snook from its mangrove ambush point.



The food arrived. Suddenly the room got quiet.



Rick Warfel ordered oysters. Yeah, that's a pearl.

Bob Burkard:October Outing on the Hillsborough



Outings Chairman Bob Burkard

This was our annual Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament, a competition between the St Pete and Tampa fly fishing clubs. Carl, who died in 1998, belonged to both clubs. He loved fishing fresh water and to honor his memory we met up with and competed with TBFFC members at Rotary Park on Fowler Avenue in Temple Terrace.

Everybody's a winner

Twenty-two Suncoast Fly Fishers fished this outing and enjoyed the delicious picnic lunch served by the TBFFC. This year the fly angler who caught the most sunfish was Robert Fischer. He caught 21. Now we have a metaphysical question. Fischer belongs to both clubs. So which club wins the tournament trophy? Of course: *everybody's a winner!* And who caught the longest sunfish to win SFF's outing contest? Nobody. The most likely answer is that all the sunfish were so tiny nobody wanted to measure, enter, and take the "credit."



Improved canoe launch at Rotary Park in Temple Terrace.

Suncoast Fly Fishers awards a trophy to the member who catches the longest fish at this outing. Mark Hays' bass measured 13 inches so he gets to keep the portrait of Carl Hanson for the year.



Mark Hays (l) surrenders the Carl Hanson trophy to Robert Fischer for catching the most (21) bluegills.



Turtle Spa. Anne Hays and Robert Mitchell watched this mother turtle keep an eye on her young 'un.



Mark Hays' 13-inch bass

2019 CLUB OUTING TOURNAMENT LEADERS THROUGH OCTOBER

Species	Length	Leader to date	Outing (Month)
Longest sunfish			
Longest black bass	13.5"	David Redd	Walsingham Lake (Feb)
Longest snook	23.5"	Truk Trukenbrod	Dock-light/Beaches Outing (July)
Longest redfish			
Longest ladyfish	22 1/2"	Dennis Marquis	Weedon Island Preserve (Jan)
Longest seatrout	20"	Mark Hays	Dock-light/Beaches Outing (July)

Smitty's Fly Box : Squirrel Tail Minnow



Layne (Smitty) Smith

The Squirrel Tail Minnow has proven to be an effective fly to catch freshwater and saltwater gamefish in the Tampa Bay area. Suncoast Fly Fisher Mark Hays won the Carl Hanson trophy a few years back fishing a fly like this. Mark says ... "Fish it like a minnow. ... That easy." This fly can be tied straight (with tail, body and throat) or in a bend-back style with only wing and throat. Hook styles and sizes vary, of course. See photos at right.



Squirrel Tail Bendback Minnow

Materials:

Hook: Any long-shanked freshwater hook size 8-10 (bluegill) 2-6 (bass)

Thread: Danville Flat waxed Nylon; color to match

Weight: .15 lead wire or gold bead

Tail: (optional) Red or yellow floss combed out

Body: (optional) Holographic tinsel

Wing: Prepared squirrel tail. Because squirrel tail is such a slick hair, you need to size it to hook length size as well as how large you want your wing. Once you have sized it, trim butt ends and add a bit of SHHAN to hold it together. Set aside and allow to dry before tying fly. As a matter of fact, you can tie up to half a dozen or more to this step and set aside.

Throat: (optional) light-colored underfur (your choice)

Finish: Solarez UV Resin or SHHAN



Another Bendback Style

Tying Sequence:

1. Place hook in vise just and add wraps of lead behind eye. Tie down lead with thread.
2. Coat thread-wrapped lead to keep in place.
Want to add a tail? See the note below.
3. Attach prepared squirrel tail over-top of lead wraps in smooth wraps allowing it to wrap slightly around the hook shank on both sides.
4. Coat thread wraps liberally with UV Resin and cure.



Add a tail and tinsel body

You can add a tail, too.

If you choose you can add a tail (that should be done after step two by just running the thread to the bend of the hook in open wraps then tie in the tail followed by wrapping tinsel body by running the thread forward in open wraps to eye of hook; tie in tinsel and wrap it in overlapping wraps to tail then back to the eye. Tie off and remove excess tinsel. Coat body with UV Resin and cure) Then proceed to step 3. If you want to add optional throat, this would be done after step 3.



Red tail, tinsel body



Yellow tail, tinsel body

Dennis Marquis: Tierra Verde Fishing Report

I continue to fish the same spot I wrote about last month (N 27°41.102', W 82°38.736'). It continues to produce and I enjoy the bend it supplies to my fly rod. I take nice size mackerel and trout consistently from this spot. I learned that I need at least a 25-30 lb. tippet and even still I lose some flies to the mackerel.

From my home in Tierra Verde, I travel east under the Tierra Verde bridge toward the Dick Meisner bridge. Passing under the Dick Meisner bridge, I take the channel to the fourth set of channel markers and turn hard right toward the communication tower. As I approach the communication tower, I turn hard right again now facing due west. I slow the boat to a crawl, and when the water depth changes to about 4-5 feet I stop the boat and start fishing. When I find fish, I set my Power Pole anchor. This puts you just east of the flats by about 10-20 yards.



*Great fishing just east of the Dick Meisner Bridge
(Apple Maps)*



Bruce Evensen's Holiday Fly works great.

I'll admit to chucking a 17MR18 MirrOdine on a spinning rod to see if anyone is home. This typically results in a strike. Once confirmed, I stow the spin rod and cast my favorite 8-wt. The fly of choice for me continues to be any "well" weighted one, such as a Clouser, half n half, or a heavy bead chain pattern. I've had my best days using brighter orange/white, chartreuse/white and pink/chartreuse. Bruce Evensen's holiday fly has also worked! I like the profile of the "holiday fly" so I have tied it in a variety of colors.

Sunday, 9/29 was a one of the more memorable days. I met a neighbor (Joe) who flies fishes, but not often. He was a member of the Tampa club, but for whatever reason is no longer. He had not cast a fly in over a year. We hit the spot by 7 am to fish the last of the outgoing tide. Did the routine, cast the Mirrodine, got a strike, stowed the spin rod and started to cast our Clousers. I initially used an olive/white and Joe chartreuse/white. He hooked up immediately with a mackerel and landed several more fish (mackerel and trout), when he got close to his first dozen, I figured it was time for me to tie on a chartreus/white Clouser and get into the game. I set the power pole and we stayed in this spot for 2 hours, only backing up into slightly deeper water every 30 minutes or so as the water level dropped with the outgoing tide. The sweet spot seemed to be an edge in about 4ft of water casting toward the distant Skyway Bridge. Trout were 12-15" in the early part of the morning, then there was a change and we started to land nice healthy looking slot size trout. We took home a half dozen mackerel and one keeper size mangrove snapper for Sunday dinner. Joe left the boat a satisfied fisher!

Continues on next page

Dennis Marquis: Tierra Verde Fishing Report

I also took Bill AuCoin and Rick Warfel to this same spot on separate days. Both landed mackerel and trout as expected. Rick seemed to have a knack for letting his go before we could get a pic of his trophies. Bill on the other hand, after landing a few and feeling good about the day, decided to tie on a “pink” gurgler (which I did not think would work in these conditions) and he proved me wrong. A nice trout came up; whacked the gurgler twice before hooking on. I did get a pic of Bill smiling over this one.



One of many Spanish mackerel caught by Dennis and friends.

I also hit the spot with Woody, however it was very windy out of the NE. We tried to cast the fly but it was not happening, so we opted to use the spin rod. We landed a lot of fish with hard baits in all three water depths. We were pleased to see many healthy slot size trout. We also lost a lot of lures to large toothy fish – expensive day! Woody took a couple of mackerel home to try out my recipe.



This seatrout pounced on Bill AuCoin's pink gurgler.

Dennis' Mackerel Recipe

Try this easy recipe for nice grilled fish.

First, land your mackerel (ha ha), then bleed it and put it on ice.

Back at the dock remove head and tail, then slit it down the ventral side (bottom) and carefully filet out the middle bone leaving you with a whole fish skin on. Remove the belly meat.

Using a large mixing bowl add an ample amount of olive oil and Italian seasoning.

Coat each fish inside and out.

Slice a whole lemon thinly and stuff as many pieces in as the fish will hold.

Heat your grill and cook on each side 8-10 minutes. That's it, delicious and easy.



Mackerel on the grill

Tim Elms: New Member - New Water



Ponds make snook go to the darkside

Howdy! This month I thought I would share my newbie thoughts on PONDS! Tiny, little ponds full of great fishing, gators, and what???? Brackish water???

I had heard about poons, snooks, and reds in small ponds fed by estuaries and canals. So, after lots of scouting and trial and error I have found a few that produce. (Alas; no tarpon yet.).

Why fish a pond? Isn't it all bass and bluegill? The short answer is No. Most ponds around Pinellas County drain or are fed by some form of saltwater which means fun fun fun. I found times when fishing the flats or the beach is not going to

happen. Either I just have an hour to fish on the way home from work, the wind is not cooperating, or I just don't want to get wet. The answer... ponds and small lakes. Do you live on a pond? Does your best friend and their spouse? Ask to fish it! Even my in-laws who live in Venice are on a small pond that holds cichlids, bass, and bluegill.

Start looking on your favorite map app for a body of water around you. Yes, it may not be fishable, either the dreaded no fishing between Memorial Day and Labor day, (what the heck is that rule in this county? This is Florida. We fish year round!) or its completely covered in mangroves, but check it out. Try not to walk the water empty handed saying to yourself, "Man I wonder if there are fish in here." There are, and you are gonna spook them the minute you run back to get your rod.



Ladyfish like ponds, too.

The first picture is my largest snook on a fly at a pond. He ate so close to shore and it was the best snook fight yet for me. Three jumps and it took me into the backing. At the last minute he wore through my 20-lb leader and I had to grab him by the tail...still had my Cliff Nigh minnow in his mouth. In fact, ALL of the pictures of fish I have caught on this page are from the same pond. It's a half-mile south of the Alligator Lake spillway (which is always good to fish). I even go there when I know I should hit the flats on the right tide, but the key about a pond that you have caught a snook at is this: they are there today and tomorrow and many more days after that. As far as bass go, they really eat anything with lots of action, just throw out your line and set the hook.....just saying.



*Largemouth bass.
Boooooo?*

There are lots of other great fish to catch in ponds. Ladyfish, Mayan Cichlids, Gar, Bowfin and my least favorite --largemouth bass booooooooooooo. Come to the next meeting, say HI, and tell me about your favorite pond stories. Until next month don't molest those gators...bring your bug spray (fire ants are real) and...*Strip strip strip!* --

Tim

Tim Elms: Pond Snook at Daybreak



I caught this snook Sunday (10/6) at a pond 6:30 in the morning. First cast. Not sure if you fish it but the **Gibby DT Variation** fly (photo on right) is almost all I use to fish for snook. He (Gibby (aka Steve Gibson) is our speaker this month.

Tim



Bill Skukowski: Snook, Reds, Jacks on Sarasota's Lido Beach



I spent several days working the surf at Sarasota's Lido Beach this past September while Hurricane Dorian thrashed the East Coast. Despite some rough conditions I managed to land a number of ladyfish, snook, redfish and this hard pulling jack crevalle."

Bill

James Davis: Beach Docklight Snook. Beach Snook



I caught a nice snook fishing North Beach at Fort DeSoto Park, casting a craft fur shrimp. And I caught a 26-inch snook docklight-fishing. Both were caught on my 6-weight Scott Radian rod.

James



Kevin Kelly: Striper Season.



I'll be back in October. Fall run is just starting. This is a healthy "schoolie". Still waiting for the big ones to arrive. See you soon. *Kevin*

Anne Hays: Mango and Manatee



Robert Mitchell's mangrove snapper.

Robert Mitchell caught a mangrove snapper around the dock remains of Snug Harbor Road on a Clouser Minnow.

Anne



This young manatee thought it found its mother. It followed Annie and Robert's canoe for 10 minutes

Tom Gadacz: Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

The Suncoast Fly Fishers-Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Program had an outing Sept. 18 at the War Veterans Memorial Park. Alan Sewell, Ted Rich, Dennis Marquis, Dave Barson, and I had a great time mainly teaching the veterans how to fly cast. (We also meet every Wednesday afternoon in the Craft's Center where the veterans tie flies and build fly rods.) The weather was good with a slight breeze. Wade fishing along the mangroves, we spotted a few snook but had no hookups. It was great to be out with the veterans and sharing lunch. We were joined by the PHWFF from Tampa for a short while. We greatly appreciated Peter Jonsson, VA Recreational Specialist, organizing the outing and providing transportation for the veterans and an excellent lunch. We enjoyed having Heather Ruiz, Chief of Recreational Therapy, who attended our outing and also practiced casting. See photo on right.

On the following Wednesday Alan Sewell, Dennis Marquis, Ted Rich and I attended the Annual Bay Pines Employee Wellness Fair in the J.C. Cobb Auditorium. We introduced several employees to fly fishing and invited them to not only send their patients to our activities but also for them, a family member, or friend to attend one of our Suncoast Fly Fishing meetings.

Tom



Heather Ruiz practices.

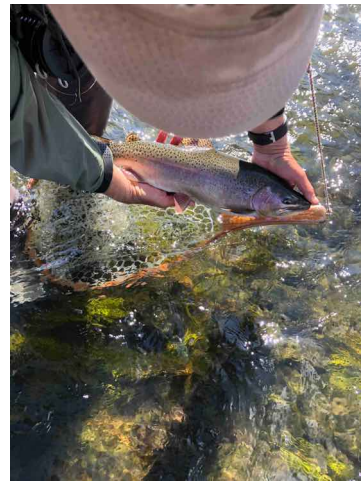
Team Mazzarella: From Wyoming to Florida

Attached are some photos from this year's season. We are at the end of our 2019 Fly Fishing Western Wyoming season. It's been a great year with lots of great clients including some from our SFF Club! We're looking forward to December's Casting clinic - see you then. Our Best!



Dayle and Barbara

Bill Scarola: Wyoming Rainbows with Dayle Mazzarella



Although I'm not in the pictures I did catch these native rainbow trout in Kemmerer, Wyoming fishing with Dayle Mazzarella on Sept 17. I landed four out of 10, all 18 to 22 inches long.

Bill

Fly Gear for Sale or Swap or Purchase

Dennis Marquis is selling his Hobie Quest

It's a never used Hobie Quest 13 with wheels and rudder. \$800. Email marquisd59@gmail.com

Alan Sewell is selling his Old Town Kayak/Canoe hybrid. And more. Email Sewellalan@yahoo.com

Four (4) sets new car top kayak carriers, \$50 for all. Old Town NEXT kayak/canoe hybrid. Great seat, foot pedals, unsinkable. Handles great with kayak paddle, too. Includes fishing crate, paddle and life jacket, and cover. Used three times. \$750.00.

Michael Larkin wants to trade. Email him at elopomorph@hotmail.com

Scientific Anglers Mastery Series bonefish taper 8 weight sinking light green fly line. I'm looking to trade for other fly lines in 5, 6, 7, or 9 weight. Or will trade for other fly fishing stuff.

Lynn Skipper has a couple of nice fly rods he'd like to sell. He can bring them to the October meeting.

Email vintagevette@msn.com or call 813-541-3195)

1. ROSS WORLDWIDE FlyStik Heavy - 10 wt, 4 piece, 7'11" rod with sock and tube. Value \$200 +, sell \$150 OBO
 2. ORVIS TLS Power Matrix Mid-Flex 4 piece 3 wt rod with sock and tube + ORVIS Battenkill DISC 3-4 reel with backing and 3 wt WFF line. Value - \$260+. \$160 OBO.
-

Bruce Evensen made these beautiful items himself. Call him at 727-403-9010. Also, see much more of his fine art on "Poppa Bruces Flies" pages on Etsy ...<https://www.etsy.com/shop/poppabrucesflies>

- Hook or eyes holder hand made by Bruce Evensen, \$28.00
 - Thread holder with one fly holder by Bruce Evensen, \$9.00
 - Fly tying desk and tool holder, \$50.00
 - Fly tying desk and tool holder made by Bruce 2ftx2ft., \$85.00
 - Epoxy glue holder hand-made by Bruce Evensen, \$24.00
-

Jack Cason is selling his sit-on-top Perception Pescador kayak. Call him at 727-864-7444

Just a few months ago Jack bought a 10-foot Perception Pescador (red tiger camo color) kayak with all the trimmings. He used it once. It comes with the Angler's Package including a paddle leash, anchor and anchor trolley, rod holder and more. Also, a high-end inflatable life jacket. It cost more than \$850. Yours for \$650.

Want to run an ad? Email Bill AuCoin at wmaucoin@verizon.net

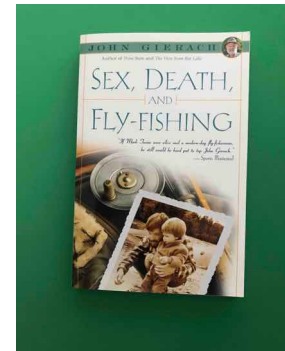
Mark Hays: I recommend these fly fishing books



Mark Hays

My daughter Annie requested I list several of my favorite fly-fishing related books. This is her way of getting out of a requested article for the newsletter. She did promise me 75% of the royalties, but I doubt if the compensation policy has changed much since I wrote regular articles 20 years ago. Here are a few of my favorites in no particular order:

- 1) *Black Bass and the Fly Rod* by Charles Waterman 1993. Although this book is dated with older rods, reels, and fly line, the fishing techniques have not changed at all. The same bugs and locations still apply, and Charlie's stories are great. He was fortunate to have a wife who shared his love of fly fishing, and he lived in a less hectic time period than we do now.
- 2) *Book of the Tarpon* by A.J. Dimock 1926. Talk about an old book! A.J. wintered in SW Florida in a time when every day on the water was an adventure. Much of this book is about chasing Tarpon with harpoons and hand lines ala a Hemingway novel. He also fly-fished with bamboo fly rods. He mostly fished out of small row boats and canoes. The highlights of this book are the fantastic photos taken by his brother. Makes you realize how spoiled we are with iPhone cameras and flats skiffs.
- 3) *Ultimate Guide to South Florida on Foot* by Steve Kanter 2014. All I can say is, do not go to South Florida and the Everglades without this book.
- 4) *Dark Waters* by Russell Chatham 1991. Not only is Russell a world-class fly-fisherman and caster, he is also a painter. He grew up in California fly-fishing for steelhead and striped bass. This is quite an eclectic group of stories from Montana to the Keys.
- 5) *The Longest Silence- A Life in Fly Fishing* by Thomas McGuane 1999. Thomas is an author of numerous books and screenplays. He currently lives in Montana. His book is a set of reflections on fishing from home to the Bahamas and Keys. Surly, sarcastic, and witty, this book is a great read for a life-long fisherman.
- 6) *Sex, Death, and Fly Fishing* by John Gierach 1990. John has penned a dozen books all pertaining to fly fishing. If you are looking for fishing techniques, this is not the book for you. Most of his writings are observations of why we fish. His wit is obvious by his titles alone, and I must say I have enjoyed all of his books. You have to love a title that encapsulates all of life in five words. "When the fly hatch you were expecting doesn't come off, knowing the Latin names of the insects lets you piss and moan in a dead language."
- 7) *Redfish Bluefish Shefish Snook* by E Donall Thomas, Ph.D 2007. What can I say about a man who has accomplished so much in his life? Don Has written a dozen or more books. He currently just retired from medical practice, writes for *Just Labs* magazine, *Fly Rod and Reel*, *Gray's Sporting Journal*, and is co-editor of *Traditional Bowhunter Magazine*. Annie and I met him at a Traditional Bowhunters of Florida shoot where he spoke, and he published one of Annie's archery articles. He has traveled the world from Siberia to New Zealand with flyrod and longbow in hand. He has shared all of these adventures with his readers. It seems impossible that one man can be so accomplished, but we have dined with him and he is the real deal.



I hope some of these books keep you up at night as they have me. *Mark*

Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner



Just for starters: Get out of your boat and wade fish

Beautiful sunny windless days may be great for a lot of things but fly fishing isn't one of them unless you make some adjustments. Very clear water, especially in the gulf, has presented many issues when sight casting. Snook are still around and share their water close to shore with baby tarpon. If we can easily see fish at a distance, how do we appear to them? Not using a flats boat is a good start. Use your boat to get to fish that are undisturbed, then wade if the bottom is suitable. It is even better to stay on land away from the water when fish are close to shore. Avoid a shadow or flash from the sun on your equipment. Leave brightly colored clothes at home. Blend in with the water or sky. Minimize what you carry. Metal fly boxes, hemostats, clippers, reflective sunglasses, even light-colored skin can be covered to allow a closer approach as well as sun protection. Wear a neutral-colored wide brim hat with a dark underside to improve vision with good polarized sunglasses. A good pair of fly fishing gloves should also have a thicker area to prevent cut fingers from frequent stripping of the fly line while working a fly. The new distance fly lines that have a rough texture cut skin easily. Long thinner tapered leaders, often 12-15 feet, will keep the thicker fly line away from the fish. Cast accurately and allow the smaller fly to land on the water softly, well ahead of a moving fish. Very long casts are necessary; practice them with an absolute minimum of false casting.

Fly fisherman Pat Damico charts Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at captpatdamico.com and (727) 504-8649

Bill Scarola and Friends: Drum rolls, please

From Woody Miller...

What did the pirate fish say to his captor? Give me your treasure, or I'll make you walk the *plankton*.
Don't put off till tomorrow what you have to do today or *salmon* else will get the credit!
Advice from the pun doctor: Keep your friends close but keep your *anemonies* closer.
I hope you like my *sofishtcated* puns.

Woody

From Bill Scarola...

Did you hear about the Italian chef that died? He *pasta* way.
We *cannoli* do so much, 'cause he ran outta *thyme*.
Sending *olive* my prayers to la famiglia. His wife is really upset. *Cheese* still not over it.
You never *sausage* tragedy. So let *minnow* if you wanna sends some flowers.
What game do fish play at parties? *Salmon* says.
What do they call fish doctors? Fish *Sturgeons*.
What do fish need to stay healthy? *Vitamin SEA*.
Don't forget. If you have more fish jokes. let *minnow*.

Bill

Padump Bump Ching

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Florida Sportsman Expo at the Florida Fairgrounds in Tampa is the weekend of November 16 and 17. Your fly club and the Tampa fly club will be teaching fly tying and fly casting to show goers. In addition to all the product displays there will be 35 seminars each day on six stages. Right Academy seats anglers for hands-on instruction in knot-tying, hook sharpening, and much more. The popular Fly Tying Throwdown will be back. And, if you click on the nearby link, you can print out a coupon to lower the ticket price. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

My favorite fishing knots are the easy-to-tie knots. Check out these four knots connecting leader to tippet. And also learn how each knot ranks in strength. Blood knot. Improved blood knot. Unijam Knot. Surgeon's Knot. And the winner is? H/T Pat Damico. ([RIO/You Tube](#))

I propose a new motto for the Suncoast Fly Fishers. "Catch a big fish. Take a great picture." While we're on this subject, check out these 12 tips for taking awesome fishing pictures. ([Gink and Gasoline](#))

Speaking of fishing photography: *Val is carrying a fly rod — the one rod between us for the day — and a camera with a small, fixed lens is slung across his shoulder. He's wearing lightweight fishing pants and a long-sleeve fishing shirt. The noted fishing photographer is now 73.* ([Angler's Journal](#))

Goodbye Dorian. We'll remember the damage you did. *Anglers for the Bahamas* has raised close to \$4 million to help the victims of Hurricane Dorian. Bass Pro Shops founder Johnnie Morris donated 25-percent of that. ([Convoy of Hope](#))

Me neither. Have you ever caught a mullet on the fly? I'm putting this on my to-do list. All those mullet. So little time. I mean, really, someday we could be talking about our big *Mullet on the Fly* outing. Right? ([Flylife Magazine](#))

Give the gift that lasts a lifetime. Teach a young one how to fish. Here's a good starting point: a fishing story book for boys and girls of a certain age. It has terrific artwork, too. ([Down by the River](#))

How to live long and happy. Captain Denny Blue is in his mid-80s and he keeps on fishing, which is one of his keys to a happy, long life. He had a rewarding international career in the auto industry. He became a sought-after Charlotte Harbor flats fishing guide. (A very good one, imho). Now he captains a salmon charter vessel on Lake Michigan. And in recent years he has written books that point the way for all fishers to live a long, happy life. ([TrueBlueAuthor](#))

What's new in boating? I spent a few hours earlier this month browsing IBEX at the Tampa Convention Center. It's a business-to-business boat builders show with 70-exhibitors from 25 counties. My main takeaway was we can look forward to amazing new products in sonar imaging and wireless connectivity. Big boats get it first, then it finds its way to our skiffs and kayaks. Outboards keep getting more powerful. Check out the picture of four Mercury's 450-hp outboards. They cost \$55,000 to \$65,000 each. You can look it up. ([Trade Only Today](#))



*Special Friends of
Suncoast Fly Fishers*



Affordable Flyrods
texfaulkner@gmail.com 727-919-2903
9841 Lema Court New Port Richey



plantationoncrystalriver.com
800-632-6262



WWW.BILLJACKSONS.COM
727-576-4169
To place an ad in *On The Fly* please email
Tom Gadacz at
thomasgadacz@yahoo.com



ORVIS
ORVIS
5%
FOR NATURE
orvis.com/fly-fishing



Star brite
www.starbrite.com



~ our toil doth sweeten others ~
www.beehavenhoneyfarm.com

*Special Friends of
Suncoast Fly Fishers*



**CARBON
MARINE**

WWW.SHOP.CARBONMARINE.COM



**3625 S. Manhattan Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33629
727-504-4062**

GOODYEAR • TOYO • COOPER • MICHELIN



727-822-3981
TODD MURRIAN www.bobleetire.com
1831 • 4th STREET NORTH • ST. PETERSBURG, FL. 33704



Hand Tied Flies
By Bruce Evensen
Phone 727-403-9010
Thousands to Choose From
etsy.com/shop/poppabrucesflies



Capt. Jerry Allen
6647 Central Ave. St. Petersburg, FL 33710
727.954.8814 • www.West-Coast-Kayaks.com
✂ Jerry @ West-Coast-Kayaks.com ✂

WWW.WEST-COAST-KAYAKS.COM

ANDY THORNAL COMPANY Since 1945

GATEWAY TO ADVENTURE SINCE 1945

(800) 499-9890

WWW.ANDYTHORNAL.COM



**FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL**

Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers

**Fly Fishing
Western Wyoming**
Dayle Mazzarella
emailmazz@yahoo.com
(760) 703-0118

WYOMING
Guided Fishing Trips
Casting Lessons
Group Rates
June - October
SAN DIEGO
Casting Lessons
November - December
TAMPA
Casting Lessons
January - May

Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Master Casting Instructor

Fly Fishing Western Wyoming .com

Guided Trips • Casting Lessons

flyfishingwesternwyoming.com



Metalfab Inc
ARCHITECTURAL METAL SPECIALISTS

WALTER RUDA, PRESIDENT

METALFAB-INC.COM/CONTACT.PHP



Custom Bamboo Fly Rods

www.nighflyrods.com

CAPTAIN SHAWN McCOLE



Captain Shawn McCole
Inshore Fly Fishing and Light Tackle
Tarpon • Snook • Redfish
Phone: 863•608•3758
Email: captshawnmccole@gmail.com
U.S.C.G. Licensed & Insured
www.captainshawnmccole.com

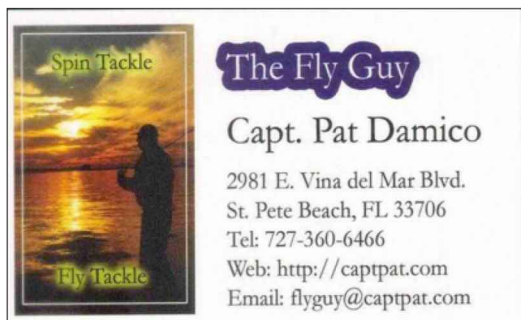


www.tforods.com



**FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL**

Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers



WWW.CAPTPATDAMICO.COM

