



The Prez Sez *by Ken Hofmeister*



SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS FACE AN EXCITING NEW YEAR

In November we published a SFF membership survey that showed we were very happy with our annual Pig Roast and Auction. (4.8 out of 5.0) That's good news because we have the Auction at our January 18 meeting with everything from outboard motors to Yakima racks. The Pig Roast is scheduled for March and John and Stacy Zientarski are already preparing the sauce. Great raffle prizes include a kayak among other things.

Also in the November SFF membership survey we noted that we could improve our cooperation with other groups. (3.3 out of 5.0) The December Don Coleman Classic was a splendid event in which the Tampa Club was well represented on the water and at the table for Alan's Chili, Ken's venison, and lots of goodies.

We have yet another opportunity to expand our contact with the wider world of fly fishers this month. Your SFF board recommends that we join the Federation of Fly Fishers as a charter club. We'll present details for membership approval at the January 18 meeting. This is the follow-up to Pete Greenan's FFF presentation at our November program. Benefits include incorporation as a not-for-profit organization, liability insurance for SFF events, and representation at fishing shows.

We can expect support in sharpening fly-fishing, fly tying, and fly-casting skills. Florida Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers sponsors a free Fly Fishing Conclave January 27 from 10:00 to 5:00 at the IGFA Hall of Records in Dania, Florida. Look for details elsewhere in this newsletter. This is a great opportunity to improve fly-casting, fly fishing, and fly tying skills with state and national legends.

Pat Damico is offering a casting clinic Feb. 10th (note date change) free to FFF members. FFF FLYFISHER is a great quarterly magazine full of useful information. We can cooperate with conservation and education programs that are well coordinated and supported. A place on the FFF web site is a recruiting resource and the FFF web site is a continuous source of information for members. Personally, I see this affiliation as a catalyst for continuous improvement of our group. Pete Greenan, President of the Florida Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers has been a helpful resource as we've explored this relationship with FFF. We can be sure that things will happen in Florida with his leadership--the Dania Conclave is but an example.

When we review 2006 and reflect on our SFF club experiences, we can ask ourselves: "Did we have fun?" "Did we learn anything?" "Did we make any new fishing friends?" A "yes" response to these questions would signify a good year.

As we look forward to 2007, we ask whether we are going to have fun, learn stuff, and make new fishing friends. My answer is "Absolutely!"

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 13, 2007 - Mirror Lake Cleanup
- Jan. 18 - Meeting & Auction
- Jan. 20 - Outing, Pinellas Point
- Jan. 27 - FFF Conclave Dania, FL
- Feb. 10 - Casting Clinic at Ft DeSoto
- Feb. 15 - Club Meeting
- Feb. 17 - Outing Bay Pines/Cross Bayou

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Outings—Reviews and Previews by Richard Oldenski



December Outing

We honored the memory of Don Coleman with the First Annual Don Coleman Classic Invitational outing. Our friends from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club joined us for a morning of fishing, feasting and fun.

The tide was at its lowest bottom for most of the morning. The fish were deep in their holes and needed to be searched out. Some of us managed to catch a few trout. A 19 inch trout was caught by Tampa Bay Club member Bob Gaulin. Alan Sewell's chili was excellent, as usual, and club members contributed a variety of side dishes and desserts to complete the feast. Ken Hofmeister entertained us with the annual reading of the GREAT TEXAS CHILI COOK-OFF, once again making us laugh until our bellies ached and our eye ran with tears. You should have been there.

Future Outing Previews:

February - Bay Pines/ Cross Bayou

March - Snook Haven

April - Braden River

May - Night Snook Extravaganza

January Outing — Saturday, Jan. 20, 2007 Pinellas Point

For our January 2007 outing we will fish the flats south of Pinellas Point. One of our favorite fishing spots, these flats are sheltered from the Winter North winds and have many holes and oyster bars that attract fish. These flats can be accessed from the "Pink Streets" south of Pinellas Point Drive. 14th St South, Manor Way and Bay Vista Park are three of the best places to park and wade. Boaters can use the ramps at Bay Vista Park or Maximo Park. Lunch will be served at Noon at Bay Vista Park, located at the East end of Pinellas Point Drive. Sign up and get a map at the January meeting.

Fishing Tournament

Bass - Don Manning - 17 inches

Sunfish - Ken Hofmeister - 10 inches

Snook - Ken Doty - 22 ½ inches

Trout - Ken Hofmeister—15½ inches

Open Category - Ken Doty - 22 inch Ladyfish

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.

SFF MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your 2007 membership renewals were due in October; and a few members have not renewed yet. Joe Bolesina, our treasurer, is waiting to sign you up for another year of fishing fun and good fellowship. Please see Joe at the meeting with your check (or cash) made out to Suncoast Fly Fishers (or SFF); regular membership is \$25. and family is \$35. If you can't attend the meeting, you may make your check out to Suncoast Fly Fishers (or SFF) and mail to: Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40, Safety Harbor, FL 34695-0040 Attn: Joe Bolesina

Nominating Committee

Once again Art Tassoni has will chair a nominating committee for SFF's 2007 election. Volunteers are needed to help Art put together a list of candidates for open officer and director positions for 2007. Volunteers should see Art at the next meetinged

More Suncoast Fly Fishers Activities

**** SFF Auction - SFF Auction ****

— January 18, 2007 —

The program for the January meeting is the long awaited and much enjoyed SFF Annual Auction. Once again our chief auctioneer Alan Sewell will host the activities. To make it as successful as previous events, Alan needs your help in the form of items to auction off. Old items, new items, something you bought last year and can't imagine why, fishing items, non-fishing items. You bring it, Alan will sell it. This is a great fund raiser for SFF and loads of fun for all the members. Dig out your no longer used or wanted stuff and bring it along. Let's make this one the best club auction ever..... ed.

SFF Shirts and Hats

The new SFF club hats are in and they are a terrific bargain at \$5.75 each. Some of us picked up our hats at the Don Coleman Classic Invitational last month. Those of you who did, don't forget to pay up at the meeting. If you really want your 25¢ change from your six bucks, Treasurer Joe may accommodate you. The hats are a nice light tan with the club logo embroidered in dark green. Get yours at the meeting. *ed*

Swine Dine aka Pig Roast

It's getting closer folks. SFF's major fund raiser and feast, hosted by John and Stacy Zientarski promises to be the best yet. They are planning the 2007 version of the Annual SFF Pig Roast and Silent Auction. Please be ready to help with getting items for the auction and if you can help with the food prep, be sure to speak with John.....*ed*

SFF's Winter Casting Clinic *by Capt. Pat Damico*

ATTENTION — PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE

Due to a schedule conflict, the casting clinic with Capt. Pat Damico has been rescheduled to:

Saturday, February 10, 2007

9 a.m. to noon, Ft. Desoto Park, East Beach

Be sure to update your calendars with the new date.

Capt. Pat Damico, FFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor, will again conduct the program. Last year, seventeen members of our club attended. If you did not attend, ask someone who did about their experience. In addition to a morning of learning and practice, each attendee was given a coupon for a free six-month membership in the Federation of Fly Fishers. A very non-threatening environment will help all of us improve our casting skills while acquiring some

new ones.

Everyone is invited, neophyte, intermediate as well as advanced casters. This program will be free to all FFF members. Anyone else attending will pay a nominal fee commensurate with his or her FFF membership requirements. Regular members, thirty-five dollars; senior members, twenty five dollars; junior members, under eighteen, fifteen dollars, etc.

Check the FFF website www.fedflyfishers.org for additional membership information. In addition to the program, FFF membership, and good fellowship, an outstanding lunch will be served.

If you do not have equipment, notify Pat at 727-504-8649, or pat4jaws@hotmail.com.

Capt. Pat has generously announced that he will provide a free six month refresher for those members that sign up for this casting clinic .ed

Mirror Lake Clean Up

MIRROR LAKE CLEAN UP
SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 9:00 AM TO NOON
PLEASE JOIN US IN HELPING OUR CITY
CLEAN UP OUR LAKE
A BOAT AND CITY WORKERS WILL BE HERE !
HOT DOGS AND DRINKS WILL BE
PROVIDED BY THE LYCEUM, POTATO SALAD
WILL BE PROVIDED BY HARVEY'S 4TH STREET GRILL
PLEASE WEAR GLOVES, AND PLEASE BE THERE !!!!!

Last year SFF helped the City of St. Petersburg clean up this lovely Downtown lake and we all enjoyed the experience and the food. We have the opportunity to help our City once again. Let's have a good turn out for this worthy effort.

FFF Mini Conclave

January 27, 2007 Mini-Conclave

On Jan 27, 2007 the **Florida Council FFF** will hold a one-day event at the International Game Fish Association Hall of Fame in Dania, Florida. It is open (free) to the public and members alike at 10:00am

Program (so far - watch for updates) <http://www.floridaflyfishing.com/>

Casting Clinics every hour starting at 11:00 am from Joan Wulff, John Cave, Dusty Sprague, Gordie Hill, Dan Lagace and more....

Fly fishing programs by Steve Huff, Bruce Chard, Dr. Aaron Adams and more....

Fly Tyers:

Les Fulcher, John Sweeny, Jack Neeley, Jim Stewart, Oscar Milieu, Steve Gibson and more....

Great raffle, super fishing trips, and more prizes...

Join us and find out how the Federation of Fly Fishers serves the angling community

For more information, contact Capt. Pete Greenan, 941-232-2960 or 941-923-6095

captpete@floridaflyfishing.com Capt. Pete may be at our January 18th meeting and will answer any questions.

Sink Tip Weather *by Capt. Pat Damico*

The recent cold weather has moved our fall fishing into a winter mode. Is it time to hang up our fly rods? Winter is one of my favorite seasons. Many fish that are spread out the rest of the year are now concentrated. Tactics must be modified to accommodate the lower tides, frequent cold, high winds, and much colder water temperatures. Want to increase the odds so that your fly rod will still produce as in warmer weather?

I'm surprised when I talk to other fly fishers about ways to rig their equipment. The subject of fly lines is usually a standard, "I use a weight forward floating line." When asked if they ever used a sinking tip line I usually get a blank expression, often from one who has a garage full of high-end equipment. Cold lethargic fish need a fly that is in their face and an easy meal. Slow deep presentations are most effective. This is not that difficult to achieve.

My first venture with weighted fly lines began many years ago when early season freshwater trout fishing in Pennsylvania, was often accompanied by snow covered stream banks. A slow, deep retrieve was needed to drag our weighted flies on the bottom of deep holes encouraging frigid trout to take an offering. A double tapered full sinking line was my first purchase. Why I ever continued to fly fish after that experience is still a mystery. The line formed a belly when under water and necessitated a complete retrieve almost up to the leader before the next cast could be attempted. The technique was more of a lob than a cast. The weighted fly was able to get into the strike zone and a new dimension was introduced to cold water trout fishing. Soon afterward, a sinking tip fly line was introduced. While an improvement in casting resulted, the connection between the floating section and the weighted tip had the feeling of a hinge when cast. We were on our way to eventually develop the many systems available today designed to get our flies deeper without adding a ton of weight to the fly and leader.

My experience with saltwater sinking tip lines is limited to Cortland and Rio products. Cortland's 444Tropic Plus Ghost tip, has a clear nine foot sinking tip, while Rio's lines offer a twelve or fifteen foot clear sinking tip. These lines are an exceptional improvement over what has been available in the past. They cast with ease, requiring a slightly wider loop, and often add distance to most casters performance. Since they are clear, a short leader of four or five feet is used to connect

your sinking fly. I would recommend another fly reel spooled with one of these lines on a second rod, or if you have another spool for your one reel, put the line on the second spool and carry it with you.

On several recent outings, we used only sinking tip lines. Fishing with Captain Frank Rhodes, we left my flats boat and waded to a cut between two mangrove islands that was beginning to flood with a strong incoming tide. Using size one Chartreuse over White Clouser minnows, we caught, and released over one hundred trout, touching bottom with a slow retrieve. An occasional Redfish or Sheepshead provided some variety. On another trip, Snook in the backcountry that were in deep holes responded only to slow moving, bottom bouncing presentations of various baitfish imitations. My fishing companion had only a floating line, and using the same fly pattern couldn't catch a single fish. On the way home, he stopped in his local fly shop and purchased a clear sink tip line

Fishing a freshwater lake recently with Captain Bryon Chamberlin, the lines versatility was again demonstrated. Our success was assured by using a clear sink tip to catch a variety of panfish and bass all holding in deeper water close to structure. The weighted tip also helped us cast in the windy conditions.

Don't let me give you the impression that these lines are for cold weather only. I never leave on a trip without one rod rigged with one of these lines. Larger fish frequently hold closer to the bottom, lighted docks are almost always fished with a sink tip, sand holes and flats edges are all places for deeper presentations.

A new dimension in fly fishing will result when you give this technique a try. This may even be your first choice in the future for more productive fly fishing during the rest of the year.

A certified casting instructor, Capt. Pat Damico fishes lower Tampa Bay and surrounding waters with light tackle and fly rod. His website www.captpat.com, will give you additional information.

This article originally appeared on Capt. Mel's website www.capmel.com and is reprinted here with permission of the author, Capt. Pat Damico.....ed.

Fly Tying Bench *by Paul Sequira*

Orange & Brown Clouser Deep Minnow

The “Clouser Deep Minnow”, aka “The Clouser Minnow” or just “Clouser”, was developed by Bob Clouser for fishing the Susquehanna River for small mouth bass. Designed to imitate baitfish, the Clouser Deep Minnow has become one of the premiere flies for saltwater. This orange and brown version has become one of my favorite winter flies.

Dressing:

Hook: Mustad 3407 or similar (standard or long shank)

Size: 4 – 1/0

Thread: Orange 3/0 or Flat Waxed Nylon

Eyes: Lead bar bell or bead chain

Flash: Copper Krystal Flash

Under Wing: Brown buck tail

Over Wing: Orange buck tail

Tying Instructions:

Place hook in vise. Tie in thread with a jam knot approximately 1/3 shank length behind the hook eye. Make a small bump of thread at the rear of the tie-in point.

With the hook right side up (point down), tie on bar bell eyes directly in front of thread bump using a figure eight wrap (see the “Clacker Clouser” instructions in the November 2006 issue of “On The Fly ” for details). It is a good idea to place a drop of superglue or head cement on the thread after tying on the eyes.

With the hook still right side up (point down), tie in the under wing of the fly with a sparse bunch of brown bucktail. The wing should extend approximately half the length of the hook shank beyond the hook bend. Lash the bucktail down to the hook shank in front of and behind the barbell eyes.

Turn the fly over so that it is upside down (point up). Tie in 6 to 8 strands of copper Krystal Flash using the fold-back method directly behind the hook eye. Trim the ends of this even with or slightly shorter than the bucktail. Do not trim the ends of the Krystal Flash even; you will get more sparkle if the ends are slightly uneven.

Take a small bunch of orange bucktail and measure it along the hook shank so that it is equal in length to the under wing. Line up the tips up slightly and trim the butt ends even. Tie in the over wing of orange bucktail over the copper Krystal Flash directly behind the hook eye.

Wrap a neat tapered head, whip finish, cut the thread and the fly is finished. Give the head several coats of head cement. If you desire, paint eyes on the barbell and coat them with head cement. This fly differs from most Clousers in that the light colored bucktail (orange) will be on top and the darker color (brown) will be on the bottom when the fly is swimming; that’s how it was designed.

Note: When fishing with sink tip or intermediate lines as described in Capt. Pat’s excellent article on the previous page, and depending upon water depth, you can very often get down deep enough using an unweighted fly. A good choice would be an orange & brown bendback (with or without a body wrap) as depicted opposite. Tying procedure was described in the On The Fly, Fly Tying Bench, Dec. 2006, Carl’s Glass Minnow.



Orange & Brown Clouser Deep Minnow

Tied by Paul Sequira



Don Coleman Classic – Ft. DeSoto– December 23, 2006



A hungry bunch of fly fishers enjoying Allen's chili and Ken Doty's smoked venison.



Everyone went back for seconds on the chili, smoked venison, corn bread and several great deserts.



A beautiful 19" trout caught by TBFFC member Bob Goulin fishing with Capt. Pat Damico.



Visitors Bill & Cole Sequira sampling the chow while Rick Oldenski watches over the proceedings.



The young Hofmeister to the right shows off his fishing prowess, release technique and granddad's guiding skills on a recent outing.

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

Club Officers

President: Ken Hofmeister 727/521-1637

Vice President: John Zientarski 727/391-1480

Secretary: Alan Sewell

Treasurer: Joe Bolesina

Board of Directors

Larry Cohen Ken Doty

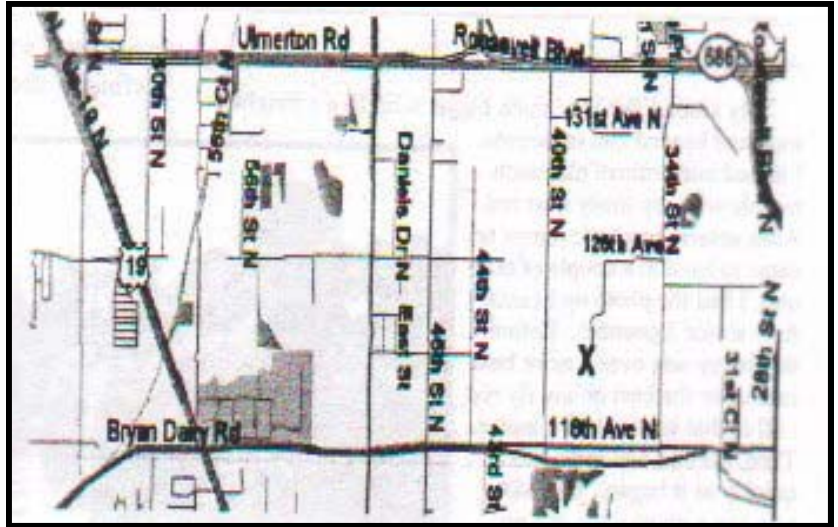
Mark Hays Ken McKinnon

Richard Oldenski Paul Sequira

Art Tassoni

“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:

psequira@tampabay.rr.com



Next Club Meeting: Thursday, January 18, 2007

Time: 6:30-7:00 PM Activities

7:00-8:30 Meeting & Program

Location: Wyoming Antelope Club

3700 126th Avenue, North, St. Petersburg

Program: Annual Auction

WE'RE ON THE WEB

www.suncoastflyfishers.com

Suncoast Fly Fishers

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