



The Prez Sez *by Ken Hofmeister*



“HE ENJOYED FLY-FISHING”

That’s the sort of thing they often print in the obituaries. They might even add that the deceased was an “active member of Suncoast Fly Fishers.” Would that accurately describe your personal passion for this sport? Is that the way friends and family would remember us?

Here are a few questions to help us check our level of enthusiasm and activity.

- Are we fishing any new waters?
- Are we catching any new fish species?
- Are we tying any better flies?
- Are we casting any better?
- Have we “hooked” any new anglers?
- Have we written an article or shared a picture with “On The Fly” readers?
- Have we helped clean up any waters?
- Have we reported any violations?
- Have we written any legislators?
- Have we read a new book or magazine?
- Have we tried a new trick that worked recently?
- Have we shared a boat with a new angler lately?
- Have we picked a classy donation for the pig roast silent auction?
- Have we bought enough SFF hats to protect us from skin cancer?
- Have we tried to teach a youngster to fly-fish?
- Have we paid our 2006-2007 SFF dues yet? (Due September of last year)?
- Have we agreed to be a candidate for SFF board member or officer in 2007?
- Have we invited our significant others to the pig roast as our guest?

Just wondering how much we really enjoy fly-fishing and how active we actually are in SFF.

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 10 - Casting Clinic at Ft DeSoto
- Feb. 15 - Club Meeting — kayak fishing with local expert Jason Stock
- Feb. 17 - Outing Bay Pines/Cross Bayou
- March 31- Pig Roast and Silent Auction
- April - 27 & 28 Everglades trip

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Outings—Reviews and Previews *by Mark Hays*



:FEBRUARY OUTING—Bay Pines

Saturday, February 17, 2007

The next outing on February 17 will be at Bay Pines Memorial Park. There is a boat launch and a separate canoe/kayak launch at the end of the park. Bring your own hose as there is also a canoe washing station adjacent to the launch.

There is fishing in the park but also some very interesting backcountry possibilities by launching next to or paddling under the Bay Pines Bridge and heading north. This is the Cross Bayou area and it is a maze of mangrove islands, oyster bars and potholes. Good snook and red fishing is available for anglers interested in exploring as well as fishing.

As usual lunch will be served at 12:00 noon in the park at Shelter #4. This is the first shelter as you drive into the park. Be sure to sign up at the next meeting.

Future Outing Previews:

March - Snook Haven

April - Lake Pasadena

May - Night Snook Extravaganza

JANUARY OUTING

A cool, blustery morning got fishing off to a slow start. When the tide finally began flowing in, the fishing picked up – at least for some club members.

I understand that Alan Sewell had his hands on, and dropped, the trout of the year. Robert Campbell and I chose to fish from kayaks. We had a great morning sharing a small bayou with ladyfish, trout and reds, and an old guy in a little red kayak.

Many fish were caught by our trio, the largest one being a 17” trout caught by Robert.

I cannot say enough about the great lunch provided by Ken & Susan Doty. There was plenty of food to go around even though 17 more eaters showed up than signed up. Glad you both planned for all the extras.

Fishing Tournament

Bass - Don Manning - 17 inches

Sunfish - Ken Hofmeister - 10 inches

Snook - Ken Doty - 22 ½ inches

Trout - Ken Hofmeister—15½ inches

THE EVERGLADES

SFF’s annual unofficial outing to the Everglades has been set for April 27—29. A block of 10 rooms have been reserved at the La Quinta Inn. Don Manning is negotiating room rates and a favorable price is anticipated as it has been over the last several years. Plan to make this excellent trip, see Don Manning at the February meeting for details..... *ed*

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 September; 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. **If you are a current member, this is your last chance to renew at the existing dues rate.** 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

More Suncoast Fly Fishers Activities

CASTING CLINIC

**Saturday, February 10, 2007 with Capt. Pat Damico
Ft. Desoto Park, East Beach 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon**

Federation of Fly Fishermen (FFF) Certified Casting Instructor, Capt. Pat Damico will conduct this 3-hour program for all casting skill levels, novice to expert, to help you become a more proficient fly caster. At our January meeting, 17 SFF members signed up for this year's excellent course. If you missed the sign-up sheet last month but would also like to improve your casting skills or develop new ones, join us Saturday, Feb. 10th. This program is free to current FFF members; all others will pay a fee of: \$35 for regular membership, \$25 for senior citizens (age 65 or older) or \$15 for junior members (under 18). This nominal fee will give you a 1-year FFF membership and a hearty lunch by SFF's masters of the grill, Rick Oldenski and Mark Hays. As an added bonus, Capt. Pat will provide a free 6-month refresher course for those attending this casting clinic. If you do not have equipment, call Pat at 727-504-8649, or pat4jaws@hotmail.com. Check the FFF website www.fedflyfishers.org for more membership information.

FFF Florida Mini Conclave Jan 28, 2007 by Capt. Pat Damico

Robert Fisher and Pat Damico spent the day enjoying casting clinics by Dusty Sprague, Gordie Hill, John Cave, Joan Wulff, and TBFFC member Dan Lagace. Lectures by John Cave, Steve Huff, Alan Zaremba/Marty Arostegui, Aaron Adams, Rick Grasset and Jim McCully were also available. The event was the first of the newly formed Florida Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers. Pete Greenan, council president, was pleased with the great turnout. Pete put a lot of time into organizing the meeting. Tampa Bay members Bryon Chamberlin, Nick Angelo and Frank Rhodes also made the trip.

LOCAL FISHING GUIDES

Capt. Pat Damico, Tampa Bay 727-360-6466

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

Capt. Mike Homer, Tampa Bay 727-418-5005

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

MIRROR LAKE CLEANUP

The cleanup of St Petersburg's Mirror Lake on Saturday, January 13th was well attended by members of SFF. We collected quite a haul of trash, everything imaginable from paper plates automobile tires. Sue and Ken Doty were the winners with a complete bicycle. Mark Hays and Paul Sequira were the fish winners with two bream in the 2 inch range. Other club members participating were: Stacy & John Zientarski, Joe Bolisena, Art Tassoni, Ken Hofmeister and John Rogers. After the cleanup we had a terrific lunch of Cuban sandwiches, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad and cold drinks. It was a fun morning.....ed.



Suncoast Fly Fishers



4th Annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction

Saturday, March 31st 2007 from 4:00 - 8:00 pm

Join us for a good ole fashion pig pickin with all the fixins
under the oaks at

11796 Starkey Road, Largo, Florida

\$20.00 per person



LIVE GUITAR
BY
CAPTAIN BOB

For tickets or more information contact John Zientarski at 727-391-1480



A BIG CHANGE FOR THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

SFF Transition To FFF Charter Club and New Membership Dues Structure

The SFF Board of Directors and the Membership have determined that it would be in the best interest of the Club to apply for membership in the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) as a Charter Club. To attain FFF Charter Club status, all SFF members must also be members of FFF. At the January 18, 2007 SFF General Meeting, the members present voted to become a FFF Charter Club.

The current SFF dues structure will apply for 2007. However, this new FFF Charter Club status will require a restructure of club dues to include FFF membership dues. Starting in 2008, the financial obligation of all SFF members will be as follows:

- Regular Membership = **\$50** (\$35. FFF + \$15. SFF)
- Family SFF membership (includes only one FFF membership) = **\$60** (\$35. FFF + \$25. SFF)
- Family membership SFF and FFF = **\$70.** (\$45. FFF + \$25. SFF)
- FFF Youth membership (less than 18) = **\$30.** (\$15. FFF + \$15. SFF)

- Senior Regular Membership (age 65 or over) = **\$40.** (\$25. FFF + \$15. SFF)
- Senior Family SFF Membership (age 65 or over) = **\$50.** (\$25. FFF + \$25. SFF) (This category includes only one FFF membership; there is no FFF Senior Family category.)

The transition to FFF Charter Club status will occur as follows:

- Current SFF members, who are also FFF members, will constitute the club membership for the purpose of acquiring FFF Charter Club status as of February 10, 2007.
- SFF members who participate in the Feb. 10, 2007 casting clinic will pay a fee of \$35. or \$25. for senior citizens. This fee will pay for that individual's FFF dues for 2007.
- SFF members who do not participate in the casting clinic will be encouraged to join FFF.
- Anyone joining SFF after FFF Charter Club status is attained (as of 2/10/07) will be required to join FFF.
- SFF members who do not wish to join FFF may continue their SFF membership for 2007 under the current (2007) dues structure. Starting in January 2008, membership in SFF will also require membership in FFF.
- All dues (FFF and SFF) will be paid to the club treasurer. The treasurer will submit FFF dues to the National Office annually.

Questions regarding this change should be directed to Ken Hofmeister, President SFF.

Large Trout Love Shallow Water by Capt. Pat Damico

If large trout are your target, this is the time of the year to get your fill. Recent outings have rewarded us with several trout over four pounds. A lot of boats have been put away to await the spring warming trend. Those in the know are now enjoying some of the best fishing of the year. How can you increase your chances of finding a concentration of heavy trout?



Big aggressive “yellow mouths” seem to have different characteristics than their smaller brothers and sisters. In order to pile on the fat, they must find a good source of protein, requiring little effort to harvest. Finding schools of baitfish will lead you to these opportunistic predators. Besides baitfish, shrimp and crabs become an important source of nutrition. Red Tide effects have reduced trout in some areas. Many affected areas are beginning to produce good healthy trout populations. Clearer water is always attractive to large trout.

Large numbers of smaller trout have been our reward when we start the day early fishing some deeper “holes” left at low tide. A few reds also seek this deeper water haven. As the tide starts to come in, the exposed flat, heated by the sun, will be a few degrees warmer. Depending on its location, a dark sun exposed flat away from direct wind can be at least eight degrees warmer than adjacent deeper water. A careful observer will see activity on this flat in the form of small baitfish looking for a comfortable place to seek food. Why do some flats have a lot of wading birds, while others have none? They eat the same things that fish eat. Skip the shallow water that is devoid of birds, and find a flat that is loaded with food. The fish that have been around awhile know where they are; you should too. A flat that has been warmed by the sun will be a welcome haven for cold winter trout.

A diary that has entries after every trip is one

of my most valuable tools. At the beginning of a new month, I review the notes made during previous years. This will give me a wealth of information not only where to fish, but also places to avoid. Every trip should begin with a plan of how to structure your day. Information you have entered in your own writing should contain weather, wind, water temperature, time of day, location, productive areas, as well as places that did not have fish. Flies that produced, depth fished and type of retrieve should also be noted.

In order to get to the shallows, you generally must cross deeper water. Probe these edges with a sinking tip line and weighted fly. A cut in the flat that leads to the shallows may be a migration route for fish. On more than one occasion I blew large fish out of such a place because I was a little early and in a hurry. Be very stealthy, use a push pole or slow running electric, and make long casts. When fishing the holes, I generally use smaller flies. A floating line with at least a nine foot leader will be used in the shallows. Since I am targeting larger fish, I will use big flies, size one, or larger. Bulky dressing is not needed. Barbs are always mashed down so that a dehooker, or long nose pliers, can remove the fish while in the water without the need to touch it. Materials that undulate in the current with minimum stripping will produce. Deceivers of the soft hackle variety as recommended by Jack Gartside will work and cast easily. They will land with a minimum of surface disturbance. Brown over orange is one of my favorite winter combinations. Darker colors will duplicate baitfish, other than greenbacks, that are a staple of a large trout’s winter diet. A minnow type pattern will cover more water than a crab or shrimp fly. It is surprising how well a large trout is camouflaged. Sight casting to these big boys will have your knees knocking.

Most strikes will be very aggressive! In deeper water, they will often follow and take with a soft inhale. Not so in the shallows. I have often thought a large snook hammered my fly, only to have a gator trout as my reward.

If some of your trout spots have never produced large fish during warm weather, give them a try now. You might be in for a big surprise and a lot of excitement.

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*

Spiders and Beetles *by Paul Sequira*

SFF has two nice freshwater events lined up and one of the best things about these outings is the simplicity of fly selection. You can actually have a successful trip with only two fly patterns in your fly box. The Foam Spider and Foam Beetle. Over the years, there must have been thousands of these flies tied at Carl Hanson's house and the homes of his many disciples. Yup, and with good reason, they catch bream and bass like nothing else and are simplest flies you'll ever tie.

Getting set up for tying these flies the first time is the worse part of it. You need a special tool that isn't sold in the fly shops to cut out the Spider bodies; but don't worry, it is simple to make. Many tiers simply take an empty 45 caliber cartridge case and sharpen the inside of the cartridge by running a utility knife blade at an angle to the edge. Brass tubing of various diameters can also be used; you can buy this tubing in any hobby shop. Ken Doty has the best one I've seen; a piece of metal golf club shaft cut to the proper length gives him two sizes, one small and one large. Actually, any hollow tube of the appropriate size will do; whatever you chose, sharpen it as described above. Use your sharpened tube to cut out some spider bodies by placing the foam on a solid surface and pressing the tube while twisting it through the foam. Pop the cut out spider body out of the tube. Do a bunch of them and you've got a good supply for many spiders. There are many ways to tie these flies, below is my method. Let's get to it.



Sharpened tubing required for cutting Spider bodies, closed cell foam and rubber leg material.

Materials:

- **Hook:** Mustad 3366 (or any standard length, light wire hook) in sizes 6 – 10
- **Thread:** size 3/0 or 6/0 any color, I use yellow or red
- **Body:** 1/8" thick white closed cell foam – you can color it with water proof magic markers if you want to, but white is as effective as any color and you can see it easily on the water.
- **Legs:** fine rubber leg material
- **Tail (optional):** yellow marabou

Tying Instructions:

1. Flatten the barb with pliers and place the hook in the vise in the standard manner. Tie thread in with a jam knot at approximately 1/3 the length of the hook shank from the hook eye.

Fly Tying Bench *by Paul Sequira*

Spiders and Beetles continued from page 7

2. Fold a spider body over the hook shank at the tie-in point and take several thread wraps around the foam and

hook. Make them tight but not too tight or you'll cut the foam.

3. Now take a piece of rubber leg material about 2" long and fold at the center point around your thread. Take two thread wraps around the leg and body on the near side of the hook. Repeat this step with another piece of rubber leg material on the other side of the hook. Pull all four legs straight up over the Spider and trim them off evenly about 1" long.

4. Take a couple more thread wraps around everything and tie off with a whip finish at the body/leg wrap position. Put a little head cement on the thread wraps and your Spider is ready to be fished.....*ps*



Clockwise from left: Beetle, Beetle with tail, Spider with tail, basic Spider—no tail or underbody.

Flies & photo— Paul Sequira

Options:

You can add a tail about 1½ the length of the hook shank with a small bunch of yellow marabou. This is a very effective modification (thanks Ken Doty) which I use it on all my Spiders; yellow is the only color recommended. I also wrap an underbody of yellow ultra chenille primarily to give the body a little more substance.

Beetles:

1. These are even simpler and work just as well as the Spiders. Cut a strip of 1/8" closed cell foam about ½" wide and as long as you like. Cut one end of the foam into a shallow point by slicing off an angled sliver of foam from each side of the strip. Tie in thread with a jam knot and spiral the thread down to the hook bend.

2. Tie in a small bunch of yellow marabou for a tail as in the spider. Tie in the pointed end of the foam at the bend of the hook on top of the marabou. Now tie in a piece of ultra chenille (or other material, color your choice) and wrap forward to about ¼ of the length of the hook shank from the eye and tie off. Cut away the excess chenille.

3. Fold the foam over the chenille and tie in at the chenille tie-off point slightly behind the hook eye. Cut the foam straight across so that it extends just over the hook eye. Leave the cut straight or nip off the corners.

4. Take a 2" piece of rubber leg material and fold it over the thread at the center point and take two wraps of thread around the legs and the foam. Repeat this step on the other side of the foam body with a second set of legs. Pull all four legs straight up over the Beetle and cut them off evenly about 1" long.

5. Now take several thread wraps around the center point of both sets of legs and the foam body and finish with a whip finish. Coat the wraps with head cement and your Beetle is ready for fishing.....*ps*

Don Coleman Classic — Pinellas Point, Jan. 20, 2007



Yep, that's where we got 'em. *Photo — Bill Aucain*



Once more the Dotys, Sue and Ken provided us with a fabulous fish fry. *Photo — Ken Hofmeister*



Rick Tripolino surveys the flats looking for his next prey. *Photo — Bill Aucain*



Of course another fabulous lunch, Thanks Sue and Ken
Photo — Ken Hofmeister

Almost forgot, our Chief Auctioneer Alan Sewell working the crowd at our Jan. 18th Auction and earning the club some funds! Charlie Most and Joe Bolesina ponder the treasures. Thanks to all the members that donated items and bought the stuff! *Photo — Terry Kirkpatrick*



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

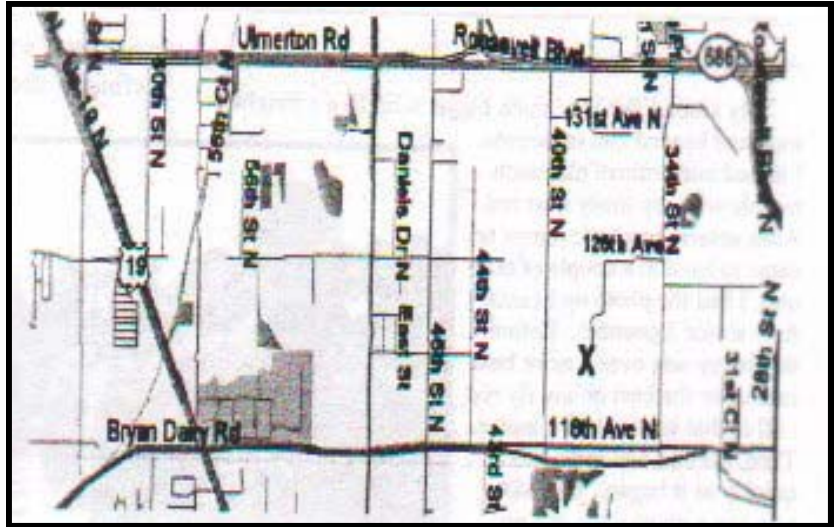
Mark Hays Ken McKinnon

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, February 15, 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: Kayak fishing Cross Bayou with local expert Jason Stock from Canoe Country Outfitters

WE'RE ON THE WEB

www.suncoastflyfishers.com

Suncoast Fly Fishers

P.O. BOX 40

Safety Harbor, FL 34695-0040