

MAY 2006

On The Fly



APRIL OUTING A WINNER

“The best outing ever” is the way one member described the April outing at Lake Pasadena.

Everyone caught fish, according to Rick Oldenski, outing chairman, with Don Manning landing the winner, a 17-inch largemouth bass. Don was also in a three-way tie with Paul Sequira and Ken Doty for the largest sunfish, 9½ inches.

“After enjoying a great picnic lunch on the veranda of the fish camp clubhouse, members headed home, happy and satisfied,” said Oldenski, adding, “if you weren’t, you should have been there.”

MAY OUTING – DOCK LIGHT SNOOK

The May outing will be a repeat of the annual all-night snook fishing extravaganza. After Alan Sewell’s “Fishing the Dock Lights” workshop at the May meeting, all human batteries should be fully charged for a night of mayhem and fun.

“Casting a dry fly to a rising trout on a mountain stream is nothing compared to sight casting a white marabou-tailed streamer to a hefty snook under a dock light,” Rick Oldenski, SSF outing chairman insisted.

Since this type of fishing calls for a boat, members with boats will draw the names of prospective fishing partners out of a hat. “Even if we have to fish in shifts, we hope to give all interested members a chance to fish,” Rick said.

This year, eligible waters will include all of Tampa Bay and the Inter-Coastal and Gulf waters from Sarasota to Tarpon Springs, although the best areas can be approached from the boat ramp at Bay Pines Veteran’s Memorial Park. Members will meet for breakfast and to swap stores at the MacDonald’s at the Tom Stuart Causeway and Duhme Road.

BELIZE – PERMIT AND BONEFISH CAPITAL

Five Fly fisherman from the Tampa Bay area including myself were a part of this unique experience. The trip started out of Tampa International Airport, proceeded to Miami, then to Belize and on to Danoriga. At this point we had a forty-five minute van ride to the Jaguar Reef Lodge Marina in which we were driven over wash board roads. We were picked at the Jaguar reef Lodge Marina up by boat, and then headed to Blue Horizon Lodge Island.

For the next 6 days we fished from the crack of dawn till dark. Breakfast was on the light side and our lunch was the SAME every day (ask Pat Damico about lunch, pasta salad). The evening meal was a little more - however it was very good - something different every night.

We experienced fifteen mile per hour winds every day-sometimes even more. Of course on the day we left, the bay was like glass. When it was time for us to head home, one of the boat motors had a problem but the Guides were able to find another boat and reload us for our fifty-minute boat ride back to Jaguar Marina (which is on the river). I was able to stay over for an extra day and went to Belize Zoo (my first choice was the Belize History Museum however it was closed on Saturdays.) It was really hot, however the zoo was wonderful.

We also did trolling with our fly rods in which we caught Cudas, Mackerel, and Bonita, two different kinds of Blue Runners, Jacks, and several other types of fish. Lots of fish were caught. The Fly Rod was used to catch all of the fish. We really had a great time fishing as well as getting to know each other better. One man got lucky enough to catch two Permits (ask Pat Damico about this). Being the fisherman that I am, I was he only one to catch both a Bone Fish and a Permit.

Don Manning

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

Ken Doty	Mark Hays
Ken McKinnon	Charlie Most
Richard Oldenski	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 subscription. Send e-mail submissions to:
psequira@tampabay.rr.com

OUTING PREVIEWS

June -- City Pond Rodeo Roundup
July -- Blackthorn Memorial, tribute to Don Coleman.

ANNUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT

Bass ----- Don Manning
Sunfish ----- Three-way tie -
no winner – 9½”

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Charlie Most is stepping down as Editor of “On the Fly,” and Paul Sequira will take over with the June Issue. All information relating to the newsletter and any correspondence regarding it should go to Paul at: psequira@tampabay.rr.com.

PROGRAMS

May ----- Snook Special with Alan Sewell,
a how too leading up to the outing.
June ----- Red Tide Effects with Jeremy Lake
and Gina Russo, Florida Fish
and Wildlife Commission
July ----- Dr. Aaron Adams, author of the
landmark classic Fisherman’s Coast,
practically a must-have book on fishing
local marine areas.

SHARE

Mae West said, “Too much of a good thing is wonderfujl.” On the Everglades trip, we set out to prove here wrong. She was right!

Thirteen SFF members experienced the fishing frenzy of a lifetime because Don Manning *shared* his Everglades “hot spot.”

Lake Pasadena outing was a hit because Ken Doty *shared* his favorite lake.

Snook are caught at night under the docks because Alan Sewell *shared* his “snook secrets” with SFF.

You are reading this column because Charlie Most *shared* his editorial skills with us this past year as editor. Paul Sequira volunteered to publish “On the Fly” this year so you will continue to know what’s happening.

We’ve all won something at the raffle because SFF members *shared* some flies or tackle with Art Tassoni.

A pig was sacrificed for a good cause John Zientarski and Stacy *shared* their home and barbecue skills with us at the annual pig roast.

We have an invitation to fish Picayune State Forest’s special spots with the help of Ranger Larry Klein because he *shared* his passion for fly fishing and this forest on a guided tour recently.

Great Lunches became better as the hunters among us *shared* venison at our outings.

Casting accuracy increased because Captain Pat Damico, Charlie Most, and the late Don Coleman *shared* their skill with us at the casting clinic.

We’ve all got a few “killer flies” in our boxes that we learned how to tie because some member *shared* the trick with us.

As we move forward, the heartbeat of SFF is about *sharing*. We *share* our knowledge, skills, and ideas in order to help members catch more fish and have more fun doing so.

As we *share*, we learn and improve. As we share, we recharge the passion for the sport that brought us together in the first place.

So – *share* your skills, ideas and knowledge by getting involved in a SFF committee of your choice. Don’t miss the experience!

Ken Hofmeister

SFF'S ASSAULT ON THE EVERGLADES

It's true! What's true? Everything you've ever heard about the fabulous bream and bass fishing in the canals along I-75 near Ft. Lauderdale; it is better than you can imagine. This year's SFF trip to the 'Glades was no exception and probably better than last year's. Thirteen members including Mark and Annie Hays, Sue and Ken Doty, Siobhan Archard, Myron Hansen, Ted Rich, Allan Sewell, Ken McKinnon, Don Manning, Joe Dial, our Prez, Ken Hofmeister and I made the trip on Friday, April 28th. From St Petersburg, the approximately 240-mile drive to the La Quinta, Plantation motel took about four hours. An easy drive on I-75 with very little traffic once you pass the Naples area.

The fishing this year took place mainly on the canals along Alligator Alley (I-75). We launched our boats at the Recreational Areas with launching ramps clearly identified and conveniently located every few miles on both sides of the highway just west of Ft Lauderdale. From these put-in spots you will find canals running either east/west or north/south and at some locations, you have access to both directions. Our Prez fished from his canoe but the rest of us used either Gheenoes or bay boats. We didn't have to travel far in the canal system to find fish; but an electric trolling motor is definitely required to maneuver and position the boat. We experienced some pretty windy conditions, which would have made it very difficult without the electrics.

The fishing was fabulous! Foam spiders, beetles and little poppers all in sizes 6 through 10 were the ticket. Bluegills, stump knockers, warmouths, bass, Mayan cichlids and Oscars (think bluegills on steroids here, go to <http://floridafisheries.com/Fishes/non-native.html> to view these exotics) were the quarry and at least one shell cracker was reported. A fish on every cast was so common that when a cast went untouched, you were convinced that you lost the fly! Our bugs were hit so often that they quickly became so bedraggled and worn that you'd think they wouldn't work. Not! It didn't matter, a spider with one leg and half the foam gone worked as well as a fresh one. Floating or sinking, they still took fish. Besides, who had time to change flies? Many times, a bug left touching the water while you retrieved your fly box for a new one, was taken with a vengeance!

The accommodations at the La Quinta were excellent and we received summer rates, \$75 per night for rooms that go for over \$200 during the regular season and this included a continental breakfast. This was a real convenience since we didn't have to waste valuable fishing time to travel to a restaurant each morning.

Dining was an adventure on Friday since the planned on trip to the 84 Diner turned up a newly remolded restaurant that wouldn't reopen for a couple of days; but a quick trip to Lester's Diner near the Baymont Hotel (now a La Quinta) took care of that. Lester's provided excellent food and service. Saturday night's dinner was a joy. Don Manning came through again with tales of a seafood restaurant with a great menu within five minutes of the hotel. The name of the place – *Grumpy Dick's!* With a name like that, we all just had to go. The place was mobbed with a 45-minute wait. Ken McKinnon noticed a few empty tables outside and asked the owner if something could be done to accommodate us there. The prospect of losing 13 hungry fishermen convinced him it would be a good idea and they quickly found enough tables and chairs to seat us outside. Since they didn't have outside servers assigned, the two owners served us themselves. The food was excellent and the owners hadn't forgotten how to wait tables; we couldn't have asked for better service. Another great meal with wonderful companionship.

How many fish did we catch? Who knows, it was certainly in the hundreds and we were too busy catching to count! I do know that this was one of the best fishing trips I have experienced in over 60 years of fishing from everywhere Maine to Alaska and Florida and I can't wait to do it again. We are already making plans for 2007, why don't you join the group next year and share the camaraderie of your fellow club members and the spectacular fishing.

Paul Sequira

SFF CLUB TEE SHIRTS

New cotton Tee shirts with the Club logo will be ordered from Columbia by Alan Sewell. Shirts are \$15. each and will be available in only one color - sage (green). These shirts have been very popular with the members and haven't been available recently. In the warmer weather, these shirts are somewhat more comfortable for fishing. The final order will be taken at the May meeting. This is your last chance to order so see Alan at the meeting.

LOCAL FLY FISHING GUIDES

Captain Pat Damico, Tampa Bay; 727/360-6466
Captain Mike Homer--Tampa Bay; 727/418-5005
Captain Ray Markham-----Sarasota & Tampa Bay
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