

July 2006

On The Fly

Newsletter of The Suncoast Fly Fishers

Volume 16 Issue 7

July 2006

SHARING THE WATERS

I have witnesses! Suncoast Fly Fishers like to have SFF members confirm the veracity of stories that are told. Even after affirmations and certifications from reliable sources, someone will ask: "OK, so what really happened?"

Well, Jerry Yancey saw this dolphin. Al Pitcher witnessed the porpoise chasing numerous mackerel to my boat. Ken Doty demonstrated proficiency with the landing net to scoop up countless mackerel before our porpoise friend could snag them. Morgan Savage experienced this spectacle on another occasion. But wait--there's more.

Keith Dudley was fishing with a new Redding ton eight weight from my boat. He landed a nice mackerel on the first cast. He too, had heard about this dolphin and thought that I was stretching the stories a bit. On his second mackerel, the dolphin came up and grabbed the mackerel and ran about fifteen yards and then stopped and let him go. "Wow" said Keith as he continued to pull the fish to the boat. Then the dolphin grabbed the mackerel again and shook him vigorously at boat side. "Unbelievable" exclaimed Keith. The dolphin released the mackerel and came back to grab it a third time as Keith was lifting it out of the water. Teeth marks were all over that poor fish.

This same porpoise has harassed me on numerous outings. Once he took a mackerel with my lure in it. Several times I would leave the site and run another mile to a different spot only to hear him blowing before I landed the second fish. He loves the sound of my motor and enjoys following my flies and lures.

Is he hungry? Does he want to play? Is he frustrated because we are in "his spot?" Is he curious? Probably so. Has this dolphin been conditioned to act this way because people have fed him? Is there anything we can do to change his behavior now?

It does cause us to reflect upon the relationship between all the creatures we encounter as we venture forth with fly rod in hand. How can we be more responsible in our interactions with all of the wondrous life around us?

Ken Hofmeister, President

JUNE OUTING REVIEW

At the June outing we learned that there are very few fish in the city ponds. Only two of the 10 ponds had fish, Lake Vista and Sirmons Lake. Joe Dail caught the biggest fish, a 6 in sunfish; Terry Kirkpatrick caught the only other fish, which was about the same size. At least we enjoyed sharing fishing stories over hot dogs and watermelon at lunch.

Richard Oldenski

JULY OUTING PREVIEW

The July outing will be at the Blackthorn Memorial. At this outing we will honor our departed friend, Don Coleman. Don was a skillful fly fisherman who was even more adept at teaching others what he had learned in over 60 years of fly-fishing. Our friends from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and from the Florida Fishing Club will join us to honor Don.

The Blackthorn Memorial is at the rest stop on southbound I-275 just North of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. There is a long flat and a sandbar that provide a good area for wade fishing. Those who prefer to boat can launch at the ramp at Maximo Park. Canoes and kayaks can be launched from the rest area. Please note the following change: lunch will be served at 11:00 AM.

Richard Oldenski

UPCOMING OUTING PREVIEWS

July - July 22, 2006

Tribute to Don Coleman - Blackthorn Memorial

August- Withlacoochee River

September – Emerson Point

October – Carl Hanson Memorial - Hillsboro River

November – Lake Pasadena

December – Don Coleman Memorial - tbd

FISHING TOURNAMENT

Bass - Don Manning - 17 inches

Sunfish - Three way tie - no winner - 9 ½ inches

Snook - Ken Doty - 22 ½ inches

Trout - Siobhan Archard - 15 inches

Richard Oldenski

PROGRAMS

July --- Dr. Aaron Adams, author of the landmark classic *Fisherman's Coast*, practically a must-have book on fishing local marine areas. Don't miss this meeting, it promises to be one of the best of the year. Several club tiers will also be demonstrating favorite local patterns.

August --- Show and Tell with SFF's own Terry Kirkpatrick.

September – Cobia, Shark & Tarpon Fishing on the fly rod with special guest speaker.

October – We're working on it – any ideas?

LOCAL FLY FISHING GUIDES

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

Capt. Mike Homer--Tampa Bay; 727/418-5005

Cap. Ray Markham-----Sarasota & Tampa Bay
941/723-2655

TARPON ON THE FLY



An exciting thing happened to me last week. I hooked my first tarpon using the fly rod. I received a call from Bill, a fishing buddy, saying that he had seen a number of tarpon rolling and suggested we fish for them. I have hooked maybe six tarpon when fishing for snook with spinning gear but never landed one. Since the newly discovered fish were "small ones," I decided it was time to try fly-fishing for them.

Being a mediocre caster, my saltwater flies are normally small-unweighted flies tied on a number 2 hook. Looking through my disorganized collection of flies, I ran across a 3/0 Poly White Bait tied by Don Coleman. I think he gave me the fly to use as a pattern when Alan Sewell and I were in a tying class at John Homer's fly shop in Clearwater. Don was very positive on this pattern, and it is probably a first choice for Alan, but I have had little success with this pattern tied on my size 2 hooks.

The tarpon were where Bill said they would be but were not cooperating. While Bill threw plugs, I struggled with fishing for the first time using an intermediate line and the 3/0 hook. At the time, I thought about Don telling me his Grandparents vacationed in Punta Gorda when he was a child and how they told of the great fishing on Alligator Creek. Alligator Creek now has a weir that allows fresh water into Charlotte Harbor but keeps the upper section fresh. Both sections are fishable with kayak or canoe but I felt were too physically demanding for Don. I regret not finding a way to take him there.

Bill hooked two tarpon and I hooked one. All three exploded out of the water and threw the

hooks. I don't know if the fish would have stayed on longer if the barb had not been removed. I do know that having a hookup with a fly tied by Don made it special. I have repaired the one damaged fly eye and plan on retiring it right next to the flies tied by Carl Hanson.

Ted Rich

FISHERMEN'S TALES, FISHERMEN'S STUFF

*"There's a story that my daddy tells religiously
Like clockwork every time he sees an opening
In a conversation. . . about the way things used to be.
Well I'd just roll my eyes and make a bee-line for the door
But I'd always wind up starry-eyed, cross-legged on the
floor
Hanging on to every word
Man, the things I heard*

(from "Something To Be Proud Of," by Montgomery-Gentry. Published by Hal Leonard)

Probably most of us have stories that were passed around every time we had a family gathering. If you're like me, they probably involved team sports or sports afield. And they probably involved some piece of equipment that you hung on to. Or maybe you came across something at a flea market, or garage sale that caught your eye.

For whatever reason, you're probably like the fellow who called me last week. "My father died and left me four Walton Powell fly rods. I'd like to know a little more about them." Was that rod that your uncle was so proud of really worth a lot? Did your grandfather get a great deal on a very limited production reel?

Of course you've got it because it means something to you. Maybe it's a tool you like to use every time you fish, or maybe you only keep it because of a specific memory. Whatever the reason you have it, we'd like to see it. Bring it to the August meeting and we'll try to figure out if it's collectable or not.

And tell us why you own it. The taller the tail the better!

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

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 subscription. Send e-mail submissions to:

psequira@tampabay.rr.com

SFF Website <http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com/>

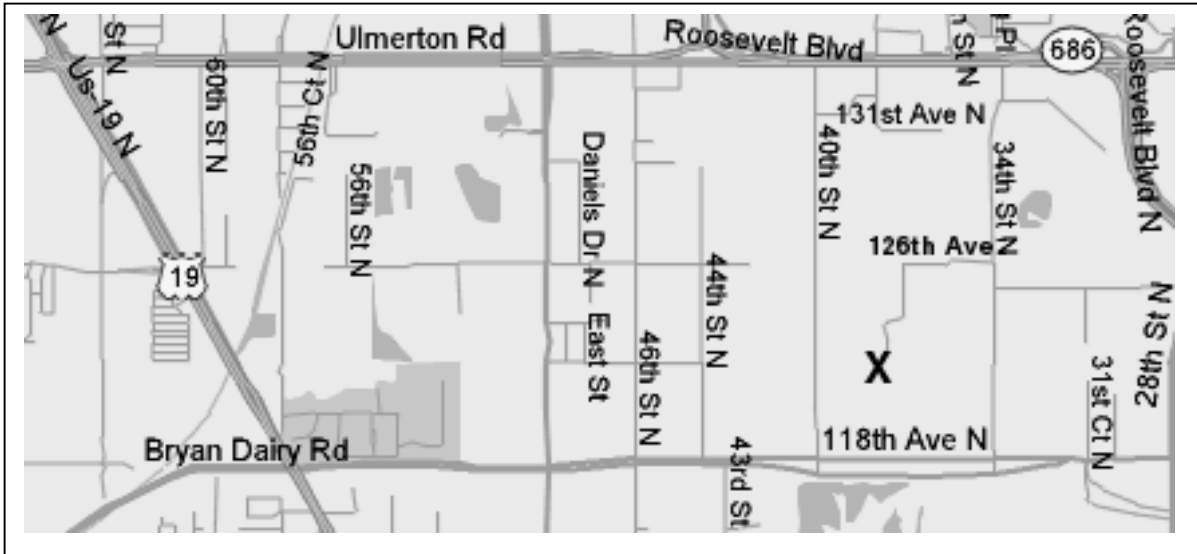
A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

I want to thank, *Ted Rich* and *Terry Kirkpatrick* for their contributions to this issue of *On The Fly*. As I said last month, this is your newsletter and it can only be as good as we all make it. Of course our Prez *Ken Hofmeister* and Outings Chairman *Richard Oldenski* contribute every month, but how about hearing from some of you! The newsletter will be so much more interesting and entertaining when we all contribute.

Please take the time to write an occasional article about your fishing adventures to share them with your fellow club members. I prefer your articles e-mailed to me in Word format but if you can't produce it in Word, just imbed your article in your e-mail and I'll take it from there. Of course, if you don't have access to a computer, I'll take it typewritten or even hand-written submissions. Also, please send pictures, electronic preferred, but I can scan your photographs and return the originals to you.

Paul Sequira, editor

North ↑



Next Club Meeting: **July 20, 2006**
Time: **6:30–7:00 PM Activities,**
7:00–8:30 PM Meeting and Program
Location: **Wyoming Antelope Club,**
3700 126th Ave. North, St. Petersburg
Program: **Dr. Aaron Adams, Author**
Fisherman's Coast

On The Fly

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