



The Prez Sez by Ken Hofmeister



TRANSLATING VALUES INTO ACTION

We received positive comments with no suggested revisions to the proposed vision/values for Suncoast Fly Fishers. At the July meeting, members will have an opportunity to confirm these “channel markers” for our club. The challenge, of course, is to translate the words into actions that make a difference. For starters, here are some SFF board actions/decisions that will help us to better “live the values.”

VISION *To be Florida’s leading fly-fishing club--helping members have more fun fly-casting, fly-fishing, and fly-tying--gaining new knowledge and/or skill at every meeting.*

MEETING MEMBER NEEDS *Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. will continuously seek to understand and meet the personal and practical needs of members. A key to attracting and retaining members is to meet or exceed their needs.*

FRIENDLINESS *SFF strives to be a friendly, inclusive, and unpretentious group of fly-fishers who have fun learning and fishing together. New members will find themselves welcomed, respected, invited, and needed.*

- Nametags at meeting will help us better know who’s who--and extend a friendly welcome.
- New Member Committee, chaired by Pat Damico, will help new members get started.
- New member packets, distributed by Alan Sewell, will contain valuable club and fishing information.
- Photos and brief new member sketches appearing in the newsletter will help us recognize and support new members.

CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT *We believe we can always improve the way we tie, cast, fish, and educate. We are committed to continually improving how we function as we benchmark with other groups. We solicit improvement ideas for our processes, services, and ourselves. We’re committed to preserving our waters and marine resources. We keep searching for safer and more productive ways to enjoy our sport.*

- August 11 casting clinic free for all FFF members--booster shot for January event.
- Two new club rods purchased for practice, instruction, and loaner purposes.
- Fly and knot tying tables at meetings will teach old dogs new tricks.
- Joint June, September, October outings with other clubs bring us new ideas.
- *FLYFISHER*, FFF newsletter, is another fly fishing resource for our members.

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

July 19—SFF Gen’l Mtg — Fishing Argentina with Capt Pat Damico

July 21 - Chassowitzka River Outing

August 11 - FFF Refresher Casting Clinic Ft DeSoto with Pat Damico

August 18 - Fred Howard Park Outing

Sept 22 - Joint outing with Mangrove Coast Club at Ft. DeSoto

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Outings—Reviews and Previews *by Richard Oldenski*



June Outing

We shared our June outing with the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishing Club at Emerson Point. The wind kept us out of the Manatee River and on Boca Ceia Bay.

Members from both clubs caught trout. Many of us saw snook but we were unable to trick them into taking our flies. Jim McPhail won the prize with a 15 inch trout. The Mangrove Coast Club treated us to a turkey sandwich box lunch, and we enjoyed sharing stories and ideas with them. We're looking forward to fishing with them again at our September outing.

July Outing

July 21, 2007 Chassahowitzka River

Our July outing will take us to the beautiful Chassahowitzka River. This is a freshwater outing, unless you're ambitious enough to follow the river to the Gulf of Mexico. We'll see otter, porpoises and maybe a bear as we leisurely fish the river as it passes through the Chassahowitzka Na-

ture Preserve. We'll meet at the boat ramp at the Citrus County Chassahowitzka Park and Campground. The park fee is \$2.00 per vehicle and \$2.50 for vehicles with trailer.

Bring your kayak, canoe or Gheenoe; or you might want to rent a canoe there for \$10 for a half day. This is a special price for SFF members, thanks to the negotiating skills of our president. If you'd like to camp there, full hookups are \$20 and tent sites are \$15/night. President Ken Hofmeister plans to camp there and has reserved the "clubhouse" for our lunch at Noon. Call 352-382-2200 to reserve a campsite or canoe.

To get there, drive North on US 19 to Citrus County. At Chassahowitzka, turn left onto West Miss Maggie Drive, a.k.a. Route 480. The campground is at the end of Miss Maggie Drive. For an alternate route, take the Veterans' Expressway to Route 98. Go West on 98 to US 19 and cross US 19 to Miss Maggie Drive.

Maps and the sign up sheet will be at the July meeting.

Future Outing Previews:

August - Fred Howard Park

September - Joint outing with the Mangrove Coast Club at Ft. DeSoto

October—Carl Hanson memorial Tournament

Fishing Tournament

Sun Fish—Ken Doty 9¼ inches

Redfish - Ted Rich 17 inches

Jim McPhail (15 inches)

All other categories are open at this time

Booster Casting Clinic -- Saturday Aug. 11

Ft. DeSoto Park, East Beach, will be the location of our casting clinic which will begin at 7:30 a.m. Available to all FFF members, the three hour session will end with a continental breakfast leaving time to apply your skills to the many nearby wadeable flats. "Outstanding presentation, the program was very well prepared and managed, It was perfect, Improved my casting ability; I definitely achieved my goal, Repeat the same thing, it's a great clinic," were some of the comments written after the last two sessions. All experience levels will be addressed in a very comfortable learning environment. Bring your own equipment; if you do not have any, it will be provided. Pat Damico, FFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor, will again be assisted by past president Enver Hysni. Call Pat at 727-504-8649 if you have any questions or need equipment.

Meeting Location Walter Fuller Park

The Suncoast Fly Fishers now gather at Walter Fuller Park, located at 7891 26th Avenue, North in St. Petersburg for their monthly General Meeting.

Walter Fuller is easily accessed: from I 275 take the 22nd Ave. N. exit and head west on 22nd Ave, make a right turn onto 79th St. N. (just past Azalea Middle School) which ends at 26th Ave, N. directly across from the driveway to the Recreation Hall parking lots. From Park St/Starkey Rd, go east on 26th Ave, N. approximately 3 blocks to the Rec. Hall driveway across from 79th St. See the map on the rear cover. Or, go to the SFF website <http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com/> and click on the "Directions" link. You will be able to get specific directions from your house to the Park.

SFF Program—July 19 Fishing Argentina with Capt. Pat Damico

Recently, member Pat Damico spent a week in Argentina on a dream fishing trip where he fished the fabled waters of that unspoiled country. Pat will share his memories and pictures of that trip with us high-lighted with a Power Point presentation that we all will enjoy.

By popular request, after the Argentina presentation Pat will discuss his techniques for baby tarpon fishing in local waters and display all the secret flies necessary to bring these mini silver kings to the boat.

Don't miss this meeting!!PS



Capt Pat Damico holds a typical Argentinean rainbow trout
Photo: Pat Damico

I've always relied on the kindness of strangers – or something to that effect. *By Mark Hays*

It never ceases to amaze me what a wonderful group of fishermen belong to the Suncoast Fly Fishers. Although I pride myself at tying workable flies for most occasions, it seems that some one is always handing me something new or special. Don Coleman and Paul Sequira have always given me my favorite snook patterns. My only truly tailing red was caught on a bend back tied by Carl Hanson and this month a new star has slipped into my sky.

Hearing that I was traveling to Colorado in June, Charlie Most handed me a small box of #16 yellow stone flies. He said that when he was there about a million years ago the trout loved them.

Well, I asked about them at a fly shop in Estes Park and was told that they had never fished them nor did they have any. I had to try them now, especially since someone said “they wouldn't work”. You probably have already guessed that not only did they work but they were great. Drifting them in the slower water of a small creek in Rocky Mountain National Park one morning I landed two brook and seven brown trout. Don't ask how many rises I missed.

A great deal of the waters I fished were flowing too fast for small dry flies but, again, an old timer at the fly shop told me just to fish hopper patterns with lots of floatant. All the guides suggested weighted nymphs which I dislike fishing. Guess what? One day with hoppers produced over 25 trout! Not bad for a Florida boy.

Thanks, again, Charlie!

Mark Hays

P.S. One thing I forgot to mention. All of these fish were caught on a #4 rod built for me by Paul Sequira



Flies, top to bottom: Parachute Hopper, Rene Harrop Hairwing Dun, Charlie Most's modified St Vrain Caddis, Floating midge pupa Photo: Paul Sequira

Baby Tarpon Flies by Capt. Pat Damico

My recent article on small Tarpon elicited several questions about not only what flies to use, but also how to use them effectively. Tarpon of any size seem to have their own agenda about what they like to eat at any given time.

According to Donald Larmouth and Rob Fordyce, authors of, 'Tarpon On Fly,' "Baby Tarpon will eat almost anything you would throw at a Snook, size 2 or size 1/0 Lefty's Deceivers, Glass Minnows, Sea-Ducers, Bend Backs, Clouser Deep Minnows, popping bugs, gurglers, divers, and the like. Downsized standard Tarpon patterns will also work."

Tarpon in some of the remote locations where they are pursued infrequently may never have seen an artificial lure, let alone a fly. Their willingness to take your offering can't be compared to some of our fish that are challenged every day with not only lures, but live baits of every description. I know of several pods of small Tarpon that live in canals or harbors that seem impossible to catch with artificials. Most juvenile tarpon success seems to coincide with their being in a place that is a little distance from their usual haunts. Their reason for being there is the same as most species, the opportunity for an easy meal. Once you identify their food source, duplication will improve your chance for a hookup. I firmly believe that time spent in observation is never wasted, and in fact will shorten the time before you yell, "fish on!"

Remember to match the hatch. Size, color, shape, and action, when duplicated are essential whenever any fish is selective. A recent experience with small Tarpon had them chasing a school of baitfish in shallow water adjacent to their deeper home. A quick cast into the melee with a suitable presentation resulted in instant success.

Small Tarpon are usually not sight fished like their bigger relatives. In the Keys, I have been able to stay with large schools of these fish because certain islands had a resident group that was nearby.

Once spotted rolling on the surface, a stealthy approach with judicious polling put us within casting range. Since water depth was four feet or less, and very clear, their presence was not difficult to track.

Tarpon rolling on the surface allow you to pin-

point their location. Being there at the appearance of first light will be to your advantage. Most baby Tarpon I see rolling are in depths of fifteen feet or more. This rolling activity is usually not associated with feeding, but rather with their air gulping movements. In this

situation, I feel their feeding activity is closer to the bottom rather than the top part of the water column. Tossing flies that are near the surface usually results in frustration. Using a sinking tip fly line with a sinking pattern will occasionally work, but finding fish in shallower water will insure your chances for success. At higher tides, areas that hold Snook will frequently attract these fish. Mangrove shorelines, docks, points, bridge abutments, and any structure that will attract baitfish will put these fish in a more fly friendly mood. My success locally has always improved when I fished structure that was relatively shallow.

A "strip, strip, strip, pause" retrieve; similar to that used for large tarpon, will be a good starting place. Vary this if you get refusals or short strikes. Keep hooks sharp and use a

shock tippet of thirty pound test Mason or fluorocarbon. Remember to bow with each jump to prevent a straight line to the gyrating fish that usually results in hooks coming out.

The acrobatics of smaller Tarpon will put a big grin on any fly fisher's face. I have had them land in the boat as well as in mangroves or branches of trees lying in the water. Once your efforts are rewarded, you will put this smaller Silver King at the top of your "Fun Fish" list.

A FFF, certified casting instructor, Capt. Pat Damico guides fly and light tackle trips in lower Tampa Bay and surrounding waterways. His website www.captpat.com will provide additional information.

This article originally appeared on Capt. Mel Berman's website www.capmel.com and is reprinted here with the author's permission.PS



Flies: Top to bottom: Gartside Gurgler, Buctail Deceiver, Keys Tarpon Fly, Damico Bead Butt

Flies and photo: Pat Damico

SFF Members Participate in the Clam Bayou Cleanup

Several weeks ago, an army of volunteers descended upon Clam Bayou to help clean up years of trash that has accumulated in this local body of water mainly from the storm drainage system in St Petersburg and Gulfport. Several SFF members were among that group including Ken McKinnon, Richard Oldenski and John Rodgers were there and our thanks go to all who participated. Below is a note Ken McKinnon received from the Green Armada the cleanup organizers.

Clam Bayou Wrapup

Dear Kenneth,

In a time where it's easy to be overwhelmed with such quick access to bad news it's gratifying to be able to have visible reminders that the majority of us are good people. Last Saturday almost 600 people from all over Tampa Bay put aside concerns about the town they lived in, the heat, the muck, the insects and alligators and focused on cleaning up 50 years worth of trash in Clam Bayou. Six hundred people got it done in two hours. This is a permanent gift to our children

Vince, Jeff and Mark

Cooperation

The true impact of this effort is much bigger than Clam Bayou. Mayor Yakes inspiring comments and commitment and Mayor Baker's wiliness to roll up his sleeves cancel other engagements and lead the charge in the swamp will never be forgotten. The goodwill created between the two cities will last for years to come.

On behalf of the Green Armada we'd like to thank our hometown for caring enough to act rather than complain. It's what we're supposed to do as citizens.

Event Summary

- 7,540 pounds of trash pulled from the Bayou.
- 420 officially registered volunteers plus dozens of city employees, green Armada volunteers and media personnel brings the official count to almost 600 people on the site.

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.

LOCAL FISHING GUIDES

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

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

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

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

Fly Tying Bench — Salt water Poppers *by Paul Sequeira*

To me, nothing is more exciting than the explosive take of a top water lure when pursuing any of my many favorite fish. When I'm fishing for bass or bream, I always have one flyrod setup with a popper; but strangely, in the salt I rarely go that route. On a recent fishing trip, Mark Hays and I enjoyed a steady pick of silver and spotted sea trout, mackerel, bluefish and ladyfish many of which were taken on top water plugs. When we spotted some top water activity, Mark tied a small (for salt water) foam popper on his 8-weight rod and was quickly rewarded with a hefty Spanish mackerel. That action continued for quite a while with trout, bluefish and macks falling for the popper. In fact, Mark mentioned that the very popper he was using had accounted for two Club outing "big fish wins" in the past.

Tying these poppers couldn't be simpler with only a few materials needed, you can make a supply that will last a long time in only a couple of pleasurable hours at the vise.

Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 34007 size #1 or equivalent (some tyers like to use a long shank hook i.e. 34011 but the standard length seems to work well). Mustad also manufactures special hump-shank hooks just for poppers however they are not always readily available except through some mail order houses.
- Body: Foam popper bodies are available in several sizes – small (for bream), medium and large. In this article, I used the medium size, 1/2" X 3/4" which I purchased at Jim Swann's shop several years ago. They are also available from most mail order fly tying material dealers. You may even still be able to buy cork bodies.



Popper and Photo: paul Sequeira

- Thread: White 3/0 flat-waxed nylon.
- Tail: White kip (calf tail). This has proven to be the most durable material. Feathers tend to get fouled around the hook and buck tail gets chewed up much too easily.

Flash: A few strands of silver or pearl Flashabou or Krystal Flash on the sides of the tail.

Tying Instructions:

1. Pinch the barb down and secure the hook in the vise in the normal fashion. Attach the thread immediately behind the hook eye and spiral it towards the bend for approximately 1/2" and tie it off and cut it. This will provide a little "tooth" for gluing it to the body.
2. Select a foam body and widen the pre-cut slit slightly by running a hacksaw blade through the slit.
3. Mix a small batch of epoxy. I like the 30-minute cure variety to avoid the discoloration the fast cure (5 minute) creates as it ages. Apply a line of epoxy into the widened slot with your bodkin and push the slot down over the hook

Fly Tying Bench—Salt Water Poppers *continued*

shank with the face of the popper just slightly behind the hook eye. Remove the hook/popper from the vise and exam it from the front of the hook, center the body on the hook and set it aside to dry.

4. At this point I usually go on to make several popper bodies and set them aside to allow the epoxy to dry before finishing the popper. A word about glues. Many Cyanoacrylate glues (Cya) will simply dissolve most foam but they could be used with cork or balsa popper bodies.
 5. Re-attach the thread to the hook shank with a jam knot immediately behind the popper body.
 6. Select a small batch of hair from a white Kip tail. Cut the batch and holding the hairs by the tips, remove any short hairs from the cut end. Cut the batch to match the length of the hook shank. Place the Kip hair on top of the hook shank and secure with several wraps of thread.
 7. Select a few strands (2 or 3) of flash material and secure to the sides of the Kip hair. Cut the flash slightly shorter than the hair.
 8. Whip finish the thread wraps and coat with head cement. It is not necessary to cover the thread wraps with hackle or anything else; your popper is finished. It is not necessary to paint the foam body; but as an option, you may want to paint the face of the popper with red paint.
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Suncoast Fly Fishers, Your Board Of Directors Working For You

Activities are at the heart of any successful organization. SFF's BOD has instituted the following Standing Committees to help us maintain a high level of activities that have proven to be popular with the membership and some new ones to fill a need as expressed through membership surveys. These committees are generally chaired by board members but you do not have to be a board member to fill that position. If you would like to volunteer to participate on any or these committees, please speak to any director.

Committees are as follows:

- Casting Skills - Pat Damico
- Club Outings - Richard Oldenski & Mark Hays
- FFF Liaison - Pat Damico
- Fishing Locations - Ken Doty
- Fly Tying - Alan Sewell
- Knot Tying - Ken Doty
- Membership - Alan Sewell & Paul Sequira
- Newsletter - Paul Sequira
- Publicity - Roger Blanton & Larry Cohen
- Programs - BOD
- Raffles - John Rodgers & Tom Hummel

Editor's Corner *by Paul Sequira*

Pictures — I need pictures! You will notice that I have had to resort to the archives to fill out the picture page. If you'd like to see some more up-to-date photos of club outings or some of your own outings, please e-mail them to me. Please keep them under 100 kb.

I have heard from a member that he is not receiving his e-newsletter. A quick check of my address book showed that I have the correct e-mail address for him. E-mails to him requesting confirmation of receipt have gone unanswered. I can think of a couple of things that may have happened: 1) the member in question may have inadvertently put me in his "blocked mail list". Or 2) because the newsletter is a large file with lots of links in it, the member's anti-virus and/or spam blocker software may be viewing the newsletter as a threat and putting it in the "Delete" or "Anti-Spam" folder instead of the "In Box".

If this is happening to you, check your "Blocked Messages" file for my address and if there, remove it. If you see an indication of new mail in either the "Delete" or "Anti-Spam" folders, check it out for the newsletter.

The newsletter is identified as either "SFF newsletter" or "On The Fly" with the month and year in the subject line of your e-mail.

If you have any questions, see me at the meeting or e-mail me at: psequira@tampabay.rr.com

Pictures From The Suncoast Fly Fishers



Emerson Point 6-23-07 The Mangrove Coast FFC fills us in on where the fish are. Photo: Ken Doty



More good advice from our hosts, The Mangrove Coast FFC. Photo: Ken Doty



Charlie Most with his prize winning bass of a couple of years ago. Photo: Charlie Most



Jim McPhail explains his fly tying technique at at Walt Fuller Park. Photo Ken Hofmeister



Terry Kirkpatrick searching out the big ones at Lake Pasadena. Photo: Charlie Most



Mark Hays with Super Gar Photo: Mark Hays

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

Club Officers

President: Ken Hofmeister 727/521-1637

Vice President: John Zientarski 727/391-1480

Secretary: Joe Dail

Treasurer: Alan Sewell

Board of Directors

Roger Blanton - Larry Cohen

Pat Damico - Ken McKinnon

Richard Oldenski - John Rodgers - Paul Sequira

“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 the editor, Paul Sequira

psequira@tampabay.rr.com



Next Club Meeting: Thursday, July 19, 2007

Time: 6:30-7:00 PM Outdoor Activities

7:00-8:30 Meeting & Program

Location: Walter Fuller Park

7891 26 Avenue, North, St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Program: Fishing Argentina with Capt. Pat Damico

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers

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