



On The Fly

WE REMEMBER WHEN

by Ken Hofmeister, Pres, SFF

Isn't it interesting how we can forget names, appointments, phone numbers, and many items on a "to do list" but can remember in remarkable detail most of our fishing experiences?

Who could forget the first time a bass hit a top water plug thrown by a kid?

Open a tackle box or a fly box and it becomes a trip down memory lane. You recall how the scratches got on each plug and how the fly was mangled.

Certain flies remind you of the great company of a kindred spirit who chased the unseen prey with you.

Return to a site and we have flashbacks of the line swishing through the water and the wind whistling on the taunt line as the monster fish made a break for freedom. We still shake or tremble a bit when we relive these moments.

Fishers are truly a different breed--bound together by a curious compulsion that is a mix of curiosity and eternal hope. We tinker at the fly tying vice certain that this new creation will be a virtual fish magnet. Each outing begins with optimism that we can do what has not been done before.

I suppose that's why we meet and fish together. We need to be around people who understand. This month's program features a sharing of memories tied to old fishing tackle.

See you there, *Ken*

JULY OUTING REVIEW

by Richard Oldenski

The July outing was a fitting tribute to Don Coleman. Three fly fishing clubs came together for fishing, feasting and friendship in memory of Don. Trout, ladyfish, small grouper and large pin fish were caught. Kayakers, with their ability to cover more water, out-fished the waders. A 22 inch ladyfish won the prize for Ken Doty.

After lunch President Ken Hofmeister led us in sharing memories of Don, who taught us as much about how to live a good life as he taught us about fly fishing. Special thanks to Sue Doty for her hearty beans, to Denise Bruner for her lemon cake and to all who shared their memories of Don Coleman.

SFF Shirts

The new Suncoast Fly Fishers tee shirts have arrived and most members who ordered one have picked them up. However, Alan has a few that are waiting to be claimed. Also, Alan ordered a few extra shirts and he has 6 or 7 for sale at \$13.00 each. A few are available in sizes DXL, XL and M. See Alan at the meeting. *(PS....ed)*

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Outings, Tournaments and Programs | 2 |
| Bass Fishing on Lake Tarpon | 2 & 3 |
| Editor's Message | 3 |
| Fishing Local Ponds | 4 |
| Understanding Tippetts & Leaders | 5 |
| The Tying Bench | 6 & 7 |
| Photos--Don Coleman Tribute | 8 |

THIS MONTH'S OUTING August 19, 2006 Withlacooche River *by Richard Oldenski*

The Withlacooche River will provide an outstanding opportunity for fresh water fishing at the August outing. We've arranged access to a remote part of the river through the Withlacooche R.V. Park and Canoe Rental. We will meet at the R.V. Park by 8:00 AM. The park staff will transport us and canoes up river to Highbluff. From there, we will fish the river back to the R. V. Park where lunch will be waiting for us at Noon.

You can bring your own canoe or kayak, or rent a canoe there. A two person canoe rents for \$40.00. The fee for the park staff to carry your canoe to Highbluff is \$20.00. RV hook-ups, van campsites and tent sites are available to rent if you want to camp out over night. Call the RV Park to reserve a campsite: 352-583-4778.

To get there, drive North on I-75 and exit at State Road 50. Drive East on State Road 50 past Ridge Manor and turn South (Right) on Route 575. Look for the canoe rental sign where 575 crosses the Withlacooche River. It's about an hour and thirty minute drive from St. Pete. The usual sign up sheet will be at the meeting. We'll need to know who plans to rent a canoe and who will bring their own. We'll also plan to car pool for the trip.

OUTING PREVIEWS

September - Emerson Point
October - Carl Hanson Tournament, Hillsborough River
November - Lake Pasadena
December - Don Coleman Classic at Ft. Desoto

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
Open Category - Ken Doty - 22 inch Ladyfish

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

August—Show and tell with terry Kirkpatrick—bring in fishing related memorabilia with a story
September—Cobia, shark & tarpon fishing on the fly rod with Pauly of Bill Jackson's
Oct & Nov— working out a schedule with two speakers

CCA TAMPA ALL PHOTO ALL RELEASE TOURNAMENT - Sept. 22&23, 2006

This year, the only annual CCA tournament in the Tampa Bay area has moved to The Tampa Bay Watch Headquarters on Tierra Verdi. This location just north of the Ft. DeSoto toll booths puts the event in SFF's own backyard for the very first time. This wonderful tournament is not only a really fun event, but the proceeds go to support CCA's conservation efforts. It is a bargain too. The \$75. entrance fee gives you your 2007 CCA dues, Friday night fish fry dinner from Billy's Stonecrab Restaurant, Saturday night steak & chicken dinner from Outback, a pile of free fishing stuff, a commemorative tee shirt, great door prizes and wonderful prizes for the various fishing awards. The total value way exceeds the entrance fee. Also, the perpetual fly fishing trophy will be up for grabs. The Park will provide shuttle service. Don't miss this chance to enjoy this wonderful event and do your part for salt water fisheries conservation in your own backyard. Alan Sewell and Robert Fischer will fill in the details at the meeting. *(PS.. ed.)*

AN AUGUST EVENING ON LAKE TARPON *by Roger Blanton*

I first saw the fly being tied by Charlie Most at the July club meeting. "Charlie, that fly looks exactly like the shad that were busting bass on Lake Tarpon last time I was there." I had been on Lake Tarpon with my long time friend 2 weeks earlier and promised myself that next time I'd have my fly rod in hand if I could find the perfect shad imitation. Charlie was tying the perfect imitation right in front of me – he called it Clouser's Floating Minnow. It has a cone shaped foam rubber head with white body and black back. The unusual thing about this fly is that it uses a central draft hook, made by Mustad. Maybe we can get Charlie to show us how it's made at a future meeting.

The trick to finding schooling shad is to be on the far south end of the lake between 5:30PM and 6:30PM. Watch for bass busting shad or diving birds picking up the leftovers. We arrived via my buddy's bass boat a little before 6 and at about 6:15 the feeding frenzy began. I cast Charlie's invention a short ways and retrieved vigorously like a shad swimming for its very life. Wham! First fish was a small schooly about 12 inches. "No photo op here, I said."

An Evening on Lake Tarpon...continued from page 2

My second fish was much bigger – hit like a freight train and headed into the weeds. I turned him without too much trouble with my trusty 8 wt rod. After several acrobatic jumps he came to hand in a couple of minutes. I had the photo op I came for – a nice 3 pounder. Before the frenzy was over 3 more bass came into the boat on my fly rod - all of that in about 30 minutes. Then, the bite was over, just as quickly as it began. The lake was like a ghost town and no number of casts seemed to summon the bass for a return match. Remember, this happens almost every evening from late July to mid August on Lake Tarpon. There are a few things to consider if you make this trip.

Take a rod with some backbone, because there are weed patches all over the south end and bass will head straight to them. An 8 wt is not too large and match with it with at least 12 lb fluorocarbon leader tippet. Your bluegill rod will not turn a bass of any size in these weeds. Next, I had the luxury of a bass boat, but you don't need that. The south end is a no wake zone, so jet skis and fast running boats are not an issue there if you choose to go by kayak or canoe. Lastly, while I was happy with my catch, my buddy was fishing with spinning tackle and a small grub. He outfished me, as usual, 2 to 1 and had a couple of fish close to 4 pounds. So, if you take a non-fly fishing friend, there will be plenty of opportunities to go round.

Thank-you again Charlie for your most excellent shad imitation.

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Paul Sequira, editor

Take a good look at the beautiful art work Siobhan Archard has created for our newsletter, *On The Fly*. The original that was created many years ago was nowhere to be found, but Siobhan recreated it from memory and it now dresses up the

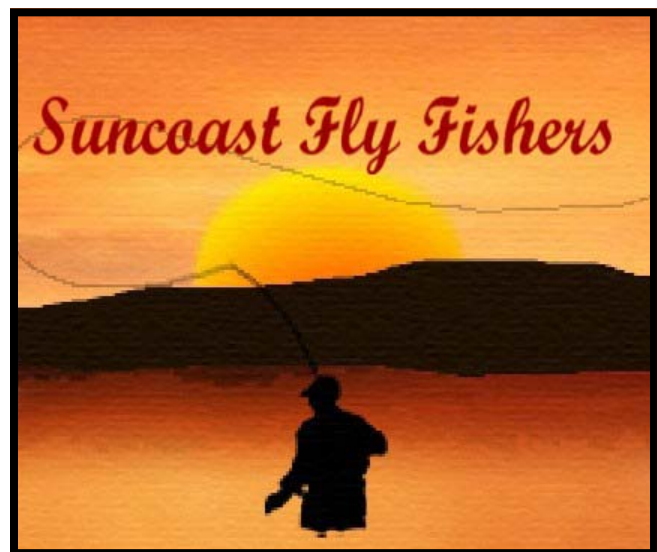
newsletter's front page. Thank you Siobhan, it is definitely the highlight of the newsletter.



Roger with the 3 pound Lake Tarpon Bass caught on Charlie's Clouser's Floating Minnow.

Last month (July '06) was the last general mailing of the newsletter via the USPS. The majority of club members have voted to accept the newsletter electronically and a test electronic mailing of the July issue was enthusiastically received. We have collected e-mail addresses from 80% of club members and from now on, we will be distributing *On The Fly* electronically. This will save SFF approximately \$400 a year and if we can get the rest of you onboard, we can save the club another \$100 annually. I hope all of the SFF members now receiving *On The Fly* in the new electronic format; will enjoy the color pictures and additional bonus pages.

To those of you still getting the four page black & white newsletter via the USPS, send me your e-mail address if you have one, and I'll add you to the list for electronic mailing. If you don't have a computer, perhaps a family member or close friend, who does have one, will allow you to receive the newsletter on their computer. Just pass that e-mail address on to me at: psequira@tampabay.rr.com



FISH A LOCAL POND *by Capt. Pat Damico*

With the, “dog days of summer,” upon us, where can we have some consistent fly rod action? Most of my articles deal with saltwater fishing, but we are fortunate to have a variety of freshwater ponds and lakes throughout Florida that all seem to harbor an assortment of panfish and bass. Even if never stocked, they all eventually contain cooperative, scrappy panfish that are not especially selective when it comes to supplementing their diet. If you are new to fly fishing, there isn’t a better way to get plenty of action in a short period of time. Children will love the experience and will look forward to their next outing. Let’s go over some requirements for consistent success.

Equipment can be very simple. Any four to six weight fly rod with a floating weight forward line will be adequate. Shorter rods will be more trouble free if there are a lot of overhanging trees and vegetation along the shoreline that you must walk around or cast under. I like tapered leaders of between seven and nine feet with a six pound tippet. A variety of panfish are usually available, mostly members of the bluegill family,

and also some crappie. Largemouth bass will be present and will hit your panfish offerings. More than a few big bass have been taken with small lures. Look around your chosen pond and see what food is available. Crickets, grasshoppers, ants, a variety of flies and spiders, beetles, small baitfish, frogs, and any other living things that reside in or near the water will provide food for these smaller predators. There is nothing more satisfying than hearing the telltale smack as they engulf an offering on the surface. Most of my selection will include floating flies. Poppers that are very tiny in sizes from ten to six are perfect. White, yellow, black and chartreuse will be more than enough colors. Bodies of cork, deerhair, balsa wood and foam are available. Foam would get my preference for ease of casting and durability. The heads can be flat, cup shaped, for more surface



disturbance, or pointed, so that they slide through grass and other obstacles. A few with weed guards would be a good idea. This is especially helpful when your presentation lands on shore, a dock, lily pads or a stump. When gently teased it will fall into the water frequently eliciting an immediate strike. A few wooly buggers and streamers will fulfill your subsurface needs.

Now that we are equipped, where will we fish? A lot will depend on whether you will walk the shoreline, wade, or use some type of boat. For our purposes, let's think about small ponds that will be fished from shore. The equipment we discussed will be adequate in either case. Besides our state, county, and city ponds and

lakes, there are many small ponds in developments and golf courses that are private but open to residents. They are rarely fished and are usually very productive. Farm ponds in the country can be real honey holes. Look for one that has a variety of depths and structure. Areas of shade, and deeper water will attract fish during the warmer parts of the day. The shallows will be the places to cast early in the morning and evening. Docks and

other wood structure are magnets and should be carefully plied with your offerings. If walking, you must be able to get close enough to cast without dressing trees with your flies. With a little legwork, you will discover some ponds will have larger fish than others and these will become your favorites. Gators and snakes should also be a concern.

Most fish will be close to the shoreline. I like to cast parallel to the shore. Panfish usually respond best to a very slow presentation. This is a good place to practice your weak hand casting skills. A good way to fish a top water offering is to let all the rings disappear after it hits the surface before imparting any movement. This represents a stunned, easy meal. Unlike saltwater fishing, a motionless fly is frequently engulfed. If nothing hap-

Fish A Local Pond....continued from page 4

pens, a slight twitch should be the first movement. A few aggressive twitches can now be made before making the next cast. Keep your rod close to the water's surface using your line hand to create most action to the fly. Wet flies should be allowed to sink a little before starting a very slow retrieve. When fishing deeper water, use a countdown method to locate cooperative fish. Once their level is attained, repeat the same count to stay with the fish. They will frequently suspend or locate over some submerged structure.

If you enjoy eating fresh fish, some panfish fillets will be a welcome addition to your table and will not hurt, but usually improve the fishery. Skinless fillets, rolled in your favorite coating before frying are great table fare. There isn't a better way to get the whole family interested in fishing. Unlike much of our other fishing, a rigged rod in the car and a small container with flies and leader material can be brought into action in a few minutes. This is a great way to spend an evening. Pound for pound, panfish are real fighters and will bring a smile to even the most sophisticated fly rod purist.

Capt. Pat Damico, a FFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor, can be reached via his website www.captpat.com, or by calling 727-504-8649.

This article, was originally published on Capt. Mel Berman's Fishing Florida Online Magazine website, and is re-printed here with permission of the author, Capt. Pat Damico, member, SFF.

UNDERSTANDING TIPPETS AND LEADERS

by Capt. Pat Damico

Many of the newcomers to fly fishing often ask the question, "What does the "X" designation mean in a fly leader and how do I know what size to use?" This certainly can be confusing and many of the experienced fly fishers don't often understand the relationship. It is very important, so I want to help you understand it. What is following is a short story done by a very good friend of mine. His name is Mike Laskowski and he has been involved with fly fishing for over 25 years, including ownership and operation of a very successful fly shop in western Pennsylvania. He is a super fly tyer and an expert rod builder. Here is the "tackle tip" that he explains very well.

ALGEBRA ON A TROUT STREAM?

by Mike Laskowski

With all the new, super strong leaders and leader material on the market, some people are having trouble using the right tippet for the size fly they are fishing, and blaming it on the new fangled leaders.

Some of the old leaders and leader material still on the market are 2 lb. test with a 4x tippet size. The newer materials are 2lb. test with a 7x tippet size. A 4x tippet will cast a size 12 fly, but a 7x tippet will cause all kinds of problems. Yet they are both 2 lb. test !

Choosing the right tippet for your fly shouldn't be determined by lb. test. It is best determined by the diameter of the tippet. You don't have to carry a pocket calculator with you to figure out which size tippet to use, if you follow a few simple rules.

Let's start with leader basics. The tippet is the business end of the leader. This is the end you attach your fly to. A tippet is given an "X" number which is determined by its diameter, such as 1X, 2X, 3X, etc. This number, which is in thousandths, is easy to decipher using a simple formula: $11 - X = \text{DIAMETER}$.

Take for instance a 5X tippet. Using the formula, $11 - 5 = 6$. That means the 5X tippet is .006 in diameter.

The tippet must be attached to the fly you are using. There is a formula for this too. Divide the hook size you are using by 3. For example, if you are using a size 12 fly: $12 \text{ divided } 3 = 4$, so you would use a 4X tippet.

There is some leeway due to different types of flies, wind, and water conditions. If you are using a sparsely tied spinner in a flat calm, you could easily go 1X size lighter.

Signs of using too light of a tippet are the fly spinning and twisting your leader, breaking off flies while casting, and poor turnover of the leader. If any of these are happening to you, go to the next size heavier tippet.

Mike is a friend of mine, who owns Oil Creek Outfitters in Venango County, PA. This was also on Evening Hatch website. A link to their website: www.eveninghatch.com might be of interest to anyone who wants some freshwater trout info. Pat

THE TYING BENCH

SUMMER SNOOK AND THE D. T. SPECIAL

This is one of my favorite seasons, summer is here and snook are on the beaches. This is a terrific time because early in the morning, you can walk the Gulf beaches and sight cast to snook in the swash channel along the shoreline. A favorite fly of mine to do this is the D.T. Special, which is simply an all white Apte Tarpon Fly, (aka Keys Tarpon Fly and probably a bunch of other names). By the way, this fly tied in white, yellow or yellow/red also takes trout and redfish

Tying the D.T. Special couldn't be simpler, the dressing and tying instructions follow:

MATERIALS:

Hook — size 2 or 1, Mustad 3407 or similar
Thread — white 3/0 monocord
Tail — four white saddle or neck hackles
Collar — two white neck hackles
Eye — thread wrapped to eye, then a painted on eye (this is optional)

DIRECTIONS:

Select six hackles and match into three pairs. Strip the soft fibers off the butts of two pairs, leaving the feathers about twice the length of the hook shank. Tie one pair in by the hackle stems above the point of the hook, such that the feathers bend out on one side, with two wraps of thread. Then tie in the second pair, again with the feathers bending out on the other side of the hook, and se-

cure both pairs with several wraps.

Take the third pair of neck hackles, remove a bit of the fuzz from the base of the feathers and tie in by the butts in front of the tie-in point of the tail. Now palmer these forward with three to four wraps.



D.T. SPECIAL tied by Paul Sequira

Secure with thread, and clip the excess hackle tips off. Stroke back the fibers, and wrap the base of the palmer to force it backward a bit.

Finish the fly off by building up the head a bit with several wraps of thread. A couple of coats of head cement finishes the fly.

If you want to get fancy, you can continue wrapping a couple of layers of thread towards the eye of the hook after you've built up the head. Paint a yellow eye on each side of the head with the end of a small dowel and use a smaller dowel to place a black dot in the center of the yellow.

Note: No, you're not experiencing deja vu. This page previously appeared in last month's test run of the proto type electronic edition of On The Fly which was distributed to the SFF Board of Directors and a few other interested members. So if you are one of the test group, then you have seen it before. It is however, the first fly in a series of local successful patterns that I plan to include as a regular item. If you have a favorite fly that you'd like to see in these pages, send me a sample, a photo and the dressing.....*Paul*

THE TYING BENCH

THE SNAKE FLY ...another favorite Snook fly

Another excellent fly for snook is Lou Tabory's Snake Fly. This fly was developed for striped bass along the New England coast and is nearly as popular as Lefty Kreh's Deceiver. The Snake Fly has proven to be very productive for many other fish from New England to Florida including spotted sea trout and redfish. Depending upon the type, color and quantity of the materials you use, the Snake fly can imitate slim bodied or medium bodied baitfish. It has a rough noisy head and a slinky body with lots of natural movement. The Snake Fly is easy to tie and uses only four common materials.

Materials:

- Hook – size 4 – 2/0 Mustad 3407 or similar
- Thread – 3/0 monochord or flat-waxed nylon
- Tail – six saddle hackles (my preference) or a bunch of ostrich herl and Krystal Flash, color to match
- Wing – two Marabou Blood feathers
- Head – Deer body hair

Directions:

Select six matched saddle hackles and stack them with the curve facing inward (not splayed). The tail is normally 1½ to 4½ inches long depending upon hook size. Ostrich herl will produce a fly with more movement but is not as robust as saddle hackle. Tie the tail in near the hook bend. Four or five strands of Krystal Flash may be added just ahead of the tail tie-in point. Fold the KF in half and tie-in just ahead of the tail and separate the strands equally to each side.

Tie in two marabou blood feathers on top of the hook half way between the bend and the eye of the hook extending half the length of the tail. Be sure to leave the front third of the hook shank bare for the spun deer hair head.



Lou Tabory's Snake Flies.....tied by Paul Sequira

Spin a head of several bunches of deer body hair. Thick hair works best, don't use the very fine hair, which is better suited for use on cadis hair wing flies. Let the points of the first bunch form a collar around the marabou. The second and if necessary, third bunch of hair should be spun to a somewhat loose head. Trim the head flat on the bottom and round off the top and sides to form a bullet shape.

Notes: The action of this fly depends on the size and density of the head, don't pack the hair tight like a bass bug, you don't want to create a floating fly. If you choose long slim hackles, sparse marabou and slim head, you'll create a nice slim profile baitfish imitation. Short wide spade type hackles and full marabou wing with a wide head will produce a fuller medium body shape. Note the two flies in the picture. They are within ¼ inch of each other in length but the choice of materials makes the tan fly appear much longer and slimmer than the white fly. An all white fly is very productive, especially for snook and is one of Mark Hays favorite go-to flies. However, we have found that other colors are also productive; all white with a red or orange head has been a good choice.

SFF's TRIBUTE TO DON COLEMAN July 22, 2006

Here are a few pictures I took at our recent outing at the Sunshine Skyway North Rest Area aka The Blackthorn Memorial. This tribute to SFF member Don Coleman was well attended by some of Don's many friends from three area fly fishing clubs. It was a beautiful day and pleasant memories of Don were shared by his friends at our lunch time gathering . Please also see the excellent group of photos by Terry Kirkpatrick at <http://fishtested.com/don>
Paul Sequira



Mark Hays looking for a redfish



Bill Hanson ready for action



Richard Oldenski and crew setting up the feast



Fishermen doing what fishermen do, swapping lies



Recalling memories of Don



SUNCOAST FLYFISHERS

Club Officers

President: Ken Hofmeister 727-521-1637

Vice Pres: John Zientawski 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 Flyfishers (SFF), a not for profit organization offering fly fishing and fly tying instructions to members and visitors. Club membership includes subscription. Send e-mail submissions to: psequira@tampabay.rr.com



Next Club Meeting: August 17, 2006

Time: 6:30-7:00 PM Activities, 7:00-9:00 PM Meeting

Location: Wyoming Antelope Club,
3700 126th Ave. N., St Petersburg

Program: Show and Tell with Terry Kirkpatrick

WE'RE ON THE WEB
www.suncoastflyfishers.com

On The Fly 

P.O. Box 10233

Largo, FL 33773