



# HOW ARE WE DOING?

By Ken Hofmeister, Pres. SFF

This month I have a question for all SFF members. What can we do to improve our club? On page 6 in this newsletter, you will find an evaluation and questionnaire. Your comments will give us a sense of where we are, and your ideas about how to move forward. Please print out the questionnaire and take a few moments to fill it out, sign it and hand it to any board member for review and response. Your board of directors want to make SFF the best club possible and your input will help us do that.

## October Program—Rod Walinchus



This month’s program is sure to be a winner, featuring Rod Walinchus whose life and career is totally immersed in fly fishing, as a teacher, speaker, lecturer, published author, illustrator, and licensed outfitter in Livingston, Montana and Port Charlotte, Florida. Rod will speak to us about his vast fly fishing experiences and will be a “don’t miss program”.

Currently Rod is a member of the Federation of Fly Fishers Board of Governors for its casting certification program and has appeared on *ESPN2 Outdoors*. He is the author of *Fly Fishing the North Platte River*, *The Flies of Southern Wyoming I and II*, and is co-author of *Fly Fishing the Yellowstone River*. Currently, he is the contributing editor of *Waterline Magazine* and writes a weekly column for the *Sun-Herald*. He is also on the staff of *Fly Fisherman* magazine as contributing artist and *Salt Water Fly Fishing* as an illustrator. His naturalistic watercolors of wildlife and sporting scenes have earned him numerous awards. (ed.)

## Outings – Reviews and Previews

### September Outing Review *By Richard Oldensk*

The September outing at Double Branch Creek was blessed with beautiful weather. We were less fortunate with fishing. By boat, kayak and wading; we fished every bay, stream and mangrove in the beautiful Upper Tampa Bay Park. Only one fish was caught, a 15 inch ladyfish that won the prize for new member Tom Hummel. Mark Hays hooked a large snook, but the feisty fish spit out his streamer. Mark still gets kudos; however, for grilling his delicious venison burgers for lunch. We had a good time. You should have been there.

### October Outing Preview *By Richard Oldensk*

At the October outing our club will host the annual Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament. Our friends from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club will join us on the Hillsborough River to see who can catch the most fish and tell the best Carl Hanson story.. Last year Mark Hays won the trophy for our club. We hope all members will attend this outing and help our club keep the coveted trophy and it’s bragging rights. Fishing begins anywhere you choose on the Hillsborough River at sunrise and ends at Noon with lunch and a memorial/award ceremony at the Temple Terrace Rotary Park on Fowler Avenue. Lunch will be catered by P&R barbecue Express. A map showing all the parks on the Hillsborough River will be available at the October meeting. Please sign up at the meeting or call Richard at 727-345-8938.

OCTOBER OUTING  
Saturday, Oct. 21, 2006  
Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament – Hillsborough River  
SFFSFF vs TBFFC

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## UPCOMING OUTINGS

November - Lake Pasadena

December - Don Coleman Classic at Ft. Desoto

## ANNUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT

Bass - Don Manning - 17 inches

Sunfish - Ken Hofmeister - 10 inches

Snook - Ken Doty - 22 ½ inches

Trout - Siobhan Archard - 15 inches

Open Category - Ken Doty - 22 inch Ladyfish

## FOR SALE — PESONAL COLLECTION FLY TYING SUPPLIES & FLIES, RODS, CASES, BOOTS, CLOTHES

Private sale for club members — Saturday, October 28, 2006  
9:00 am - noon

925 - 42nd Avenue North, St. Petersburg

Directions: take I-275 to the 38th Avenue exit  
go east on 38th to Martin Luther King, turn north  
go 4 blocks to 42nd Avenue, turn left  
3rd house on the right

For information call Linda Biltz 727-527-9084

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## SFF's WINTER CASTING CLINIC *by Capt. Pat Damico*

Fly Casting Clinic:

Saturday, January 27, 2007

9 a.m. to noon, Ft. Desoto Park, East Beach

Pat Damico, FFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor, will again conduct the program. Last year, seventeen members of our club attended. If you did not attend, ask someone who did about their experience. In addition to a morning of learning and practice, each attendee was given a coupon for a free six-month membership in the Federation of Fly Fishers. A very non-threatening environment will help all of us improve our casting skills while acquiring some new ones.

Everyone is invited, neophyte, intermediate as well as ad-

vanced casters. This program will be free to all FFF members. Anyone else attending will pay a nominal fee commensurate with his or her FFF membership requirements. Regular members, thirty-five dollars; senior members, twenty five dollars; junior members, under eighteen, fifteen dollars, etc. Check the FFF website [www.fedflyfishers.org](http://www.fedflyfishers.org) for additional membership information. In addition to the program, FFF membership, and good fellowship, an outstanding lunch will be served.

If you do not have equipment, notify Pat at 727-504-8649, or [pat4jaws@hotmail.com](mailto:pat4jaws@hotmail.com).

"(Fly) Fish when you can, and when you can't.....CAST!" George Revel

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## CLUB STUFF

### SFF MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Just a timely reminder SFF members, your 2007 membership renewals are **due this month**. Joe Bolesina, our club treasurer is expecting to see you, check book (or cash) in hand at the October meeting. Let's make Joe's job a littler easier this year by getting our dues paid on time. Regular membership is only \$25.00 and family memberships a bargain at \$35.00. Please see Joe at the meeting.

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 34690-0040 Attn: Joe Bolesina, (ed.)

### SFF SHIRTS AND HATS

Alan Sewell informs me that he still has a few of the new SFF club tee shirts left. The first few lucky members with \$13 will walk away with the rare 2006 issue collector's item SFF Tee shirt. Get yours now!

Also, due to numerous requests, Alan will be previewing new 2007 issue SFF club hats at the October meeting. Place your orders at the meeting. Alan will advise us of the cost but I'm sure they will be a bargain. (ed.)

Welcome to new members Tom Hummel and Bill Aucoin who joined SFF last month. We look forward to sharing our fly fishing experiences with you .

Check out the Tying Bench this month for a very unique fly pattern of Bob Clouser's Floating Minnow submitted by member Charlie Most. This very different Clouser looks very promising to me. Floating flies, like top-water plugs are very exciting to fish and the FC looks to be a lot easier to cast than most other floaters such as foam poppers. Charlie uses an unusual hook but there are several other hook styles that will work and you can find them in any tackle shop that carries a good selection of bass hooks. Try the FC, I intend to.

Like any successful fly, the Clouser has been modified by innovated tiers; there are several other types of Clousers and next month I will feature a couple that are proven fish catchers.

Unfortunately, I missed last month's club outing to Double Branch and as a result, I have no pictures to feature in this issue of *On The Fly*. If you take pictures at our club events, please e-mail some to me so we can share the day with club members who may have missed the outing. Please send your pictures to me in .jpg format and try to keep them under 150 kb.

We are so fortunate that Capt. Pat Damico has once again agreed to hold a casting clinic. This event will be an extra outing for the club and will really help your casting. See Pat's article on page 2.

Please let me know if you'd like to see some feature in our newsletter and feel free to submit any article for publication. E-mail your article to me in MS Word or Works format (HTML and RTF are okay too) at:

psequira@tampabay.rr.com

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### 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.*

### **October Outing - Oct. 21, 2006**

Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament -  
Hillsborough River  
Suncoast Fly Fishers vs. Tampa Bay Fly  
Fishing Club

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### LOCAL FLY FISHING GUIDES

Capt. Pat Damico — Tampa Bay; 727-360-6466

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

Capt. Ray Markham — Sarasota & Tampa Bay  
941-723-2655

### FOR SALE

13' Gheenoe (2003) with 8 hp Mercury outboard (extended warranty – 2008) and 2005 Continental trailer.

Other Items: trolling motor, battery, gas tank, live well, bilge pump, depth finder, GPS, anchor, Cajun Pale (type of anchor). Asking \$2,600.

Bob Castellano 941-235-0169

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## THE TYING BENCH

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### ANOTHER CLOUSER?

The Clouser Floating Minnow by *Charlie Most*



*Clouser Floating Minnows tied by Charlie Most*

Say “Clouser” to a fellow SFF member and images of barbell eyes, upside down hooks, and long fibers suggesting a minnow body come to mind. Clouser’s Deep Minnow is one of the deadliest flies ever developed. But Bob Clouser’s ingenuity did not stop there. He developed another minnow fly that is easier to cast, floats so it’s more fun to use, and in shallower water is every bit as deadly as his Deep Minnow. Logically called Clouser’s Floating Minnow, it’s a fly that works well for river smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, and should be great at enticing snook out of the mangroves.

Clouser’s genius shows here too. Instead of using cork or balsa wood, he just glued two closed-cell foam bluegill spider bodies to each side of the hook shank. I think the slight but positive buoyancy of these bodies is key to this fly’s success. It seems to struggle to stay at the surface creating a helpless stance that just draws strikes. And it’s simple to tie. Lash on small bunches of bucktail, synthetic fibers, calf tail or whatever for the wings, add some red fibers on the underside to suggest gills, and then glue on back to back foam spider bodies. It’s like a combination of fly tying and model airplanes building!

I found what I consider the right hook for this fly through a Mustad company goof. I had several of their 25-hook packs labeled “stingers.” But the first one I opened looked different from regular “stingers.”

It had a very long shank curving gracefully into a classic “sproat” bend. I used these so-called stingers to make my first Clouser Floating Minnows and they worked beautifully. When my original 25-hook pack was exhausted, I went looking for more.

Nothing in the Mustad catalog seemed right but then I noticed what they call a “central draught” hook which is close to what I was looking for except for a “bent back” kink a quarter shank or so back from the eye. The size designation is also different with a size 24 correlating with a regular 1/0 hook, etc. Since that kink could be straight-



Central Draught hook before and after straightening with foam body halves.

ened, I ordered four sizes of the hook from Bill Jackson’s. But be careful with the straightening since the factory kink is sharp and can break. In fact, even using round-nosed, wire bending pliers, I broke one out of every six or seven straightened.

Then Jim Swann said just heat the hook, straighten it, and then re-temper. Now why didn’t I think of that? Why all this fuss just over a hook? This fly simulates an injured or sick baitfish, and therefore an easy meal for any nearby fish. Clouser recommended a regular length shank. I am convinced the longer shank of the central draught hook makes the fly dangle at a steeper angle to better suggest a baitfish in distress.

My foam bodies came from Angler’s Supply House in Williamsport, PA (1-800-326-6612 for a catalog). They come in packs of 10 or 100. The most useful sizes are 241F (size 4 hooks) through 244F (size 1/0). They cost .60 to .80 cents for 10, or \$3.35 to \$5.50 for the 100 packs. Get them in white since felt tip markers can add any color.



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## Clouser Floating Minnow continued

With hooks, foam bodies, winging material, and some super glue (I use Zap-a-Gap super glue CA), you're all set make these flies.

Attach the thread right behind the hook eye and wrap back as far as the foam bodies will reach. Lash some red material on the bottom of the shank just forward of the rearmost thread wraps. Krystal Flash or any red fibers will work.

Now tie down the winging materials while wrapping forward with the thread. Keep them on top of the shank and towards the rear of the body area. Whip finish those wraps and starting just behind the hook eye apply superglue over the wraps back to the tie down point *on one side only*. Quickly place the flat side of a foam body, with the squared-off thicker end to the front, against the glue and push firmly. The hook eye should be at the center of the squared-off end of the body with the shank exiting below the pointed end at the back.

Now quickly look directly down the hook from the front and make sure the body is aligned vertically with the hook and the winging material as the superglue dries in seconds. Now repeat this step on the other side, sighting from the side to make sure one body is lined up with the other.

Now you have gaps between the body halves at the top and the bottom. Use tweezers or some forceps for the next step.

Using the superglue spout, lay a bead inside the top gap, then use the tweezers to squeeze this gap closed. Use the same steps to close the bottom gap. Be careful here; you can easily glue your fingers to the bug body and have to tear it up to get free. The basic idea is to keep your fingers or any tools away from the gaps as the glue might squeeze out. If you want a two-tone head to match a bi-color wing, color it first with felt tip markers. Super glue can seal the foam so the color will not take.

Adhesive-backed eyes add a finishing touch. Just stick them on, following up with a bead of super glue around the outer rim.

This fly is so quiet on the water, even during the retrieve, as to be hardly noticeable. It's not a fly for windy days unless you're in a quiet cove. But on quiet days, just cast to likely holding spots and fish it with very little action. Any nearby fish knows it's there, and fish seldom pass up what seems an easy meal.....*CM*

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## **YOU CAN'T PUSH A CHAIN**

*by Terry Kirkpatrick*

"You can't push a chain." It gets a chuckle because we know it's true. You can't push a fly line either.

Think about it. You "pull" your back cast off the water. You're applying force and the fly line wants to stay where it is. (Inertia) The arbitrator is your rod. It bends to absorb the excess energy you apply to start the line moving. When you stop, the rod continues to pull until it straightens out, sending the line back over your shoulder.

The line wants to continue to travel in the direction you convinced it to go. You want it to stop eventually. Once again, the rod bends accepting the energy of the line and holding it.

When the line has almost completely turned over, behind you, you start "pulling" it forward. Not only does the rod have the bend in it from the back cast, it bends even more as you again apply energy to overcome inertia. The rod will continue to bend as you apply more and more energy with your smooth forward cast. It will quit bending and start to transfer energy to the line the moment you stop accelerating your cast.

Accelerating. That's one of the key words. When you quit putting more pressure on the line than it takes to move at the speed it's moving, you've stopped casting. Even if you only slow down, the rod will start to return the stored energy to the line. A smooth acceleration to a sudden stop is what all the books on casting say. And this is why.

Of course we shouldn't think of any of this when we're on the water. But it is worth considering the next time you're practicing.

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## SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

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YOUR RATING 1- TO 5+	CATEGORY	YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT
	PROGRAMS	
	NEWSLETTER	
	WEB SITE	
	OUTINGS	
	SPECIAL EVENTS (EVERGLADES/COLEMAN CLASSIC)	
	PIG ROAST/AUCTIONS	
	COOPERATION WITH OTHER GROUPS (CCA, FFF, FWC, OTHER CLUBS)	
	CONSERVATION/EDUCATION	
	CASTING SKILLS	
	FLY TYING/FLY FISHING SKILLS	
	MEETING FACILITIES	

Please rate Suncoast Fly Fishers 1-5 (with 5 being fantastic) in these categories. Add your suggestions for improvement beside any less than 5 ratings. Please indicate which standing committee you would be willing to serve on next year. **Program** \_\_\_ **Board** \_\_\_ **Outings** \_\_\_ **Membership** \_\_\_ **Fly Fishing Skills** \_\_\_ **Special Events** \_\_\_ **Nominating Committee** \_\_\_ **Raffle** \_\_\_ **Auctions** \_\_\_ **Publicity** \_\_\_ **Other** \_\_\_

Sign and hand this evaluation to any board member for review and board response.

## 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

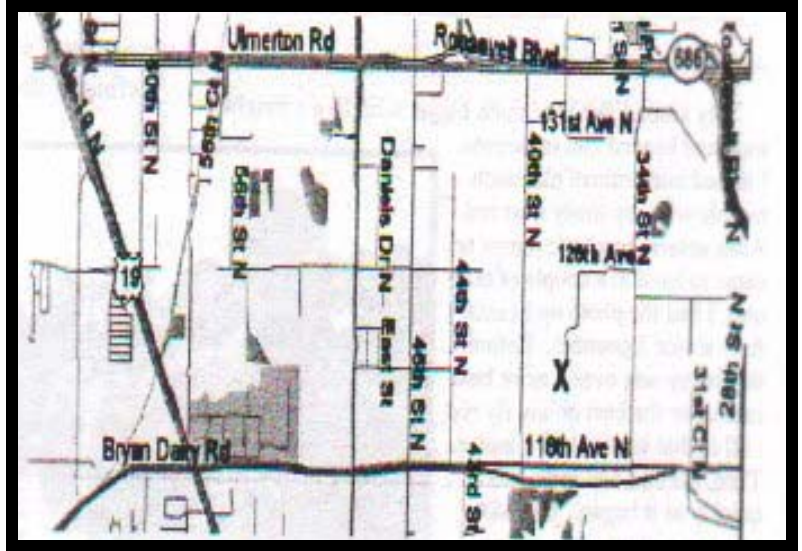
Larry Cohen      Ken Doty

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 instructions to members and visitors. Club membership includes subscription. Send e-mail submissions to: [psequira@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:psequira@tampabay.rr.com)



**Next Meeting:** Thursday, October 19, 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:** Guest Speaker Rod Walinchus

**We're on the web**

[www.suncoastflyfishers.com](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com)

*Suncoast Fly Fishers*

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