

The Prez Sez *by Ken Hofmeister*



ORGANIZE YOUR FISHING GEAR AND GET RID OF CLUTTER

The organization guru's write about how to rid your life of clutter. Most of them stress having a place for everything and putting things back in their place when you are through with them. Usually, these experts will suggest getting rid of anything that you have not used in the last six months to a year. So, you look at your clothes closet and remove the items you haven't worn in a year and pack them up for a trip to Goodwill, Salvation Army, or Boley Center. We look over the garage and vow to have a garage sale in order to clear a path.

And then we get to our fishing stuff. We have a few boxes of "Good Ideas"—flies we tied when our creativity surpassed our skill. These gems are stored; however, we know they are not our "go to" flies. In fact, they never get invited on a fishing trip. There are reels gathering dust and even some rods that never get to see the sun. We keep lines that would work for some rod—but not any we own.

We have some tackle boxes that were great ideas but proved to be too big to carry with us and were eventually replaced by something more practical. Back-ups are fine, but after a couple of paddles, we could probably get rid of the rest. And then there is the life jacket thing. Will we ever really get twenty people in our boat? How many of us have a supply of bait buckets even though we never use live bait? We had to pick them up along with countless floats. We've received fishing clothes that just won't work for us, along with books and games about our sport. Haven't touched them in over a year. Sometimes we have items we have no idea why we have them or where they came from. Remember that our trash may be someone else's treasure.

So what do we do to get organized and get rid of clutter in 2007? We get creative and package these unwanted items for the Suncoast Fly Fishers' Annual Auction at our January meeting. Alan Sewell, our comical auctioneer, will help others to see these gems as "must have" treasures. We'll have a great time getting rid of things we won't use while picking up some things we really want and need.

In the midst of all the laughter and dealing, Suncoast Fly Fishers will raise funds for our worthy causes and ensure that all of our members have what it takes to catch fish. Such a deal! See you at the December 23 Don Coleman Classic at Ft. DeSoto.

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 2006— NO MEETING
- Dec. 23, 2006 — Outing at Ft DeSoto
- Jan. 18, 2007— Meeting & Auction
- Jan. 20, 2007 — Outing, Pinellas Point
- Jan. 27, 2007—Casting Clinic at Ft De-Soto

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Outings—Reviews and Previews by Richard Oldenski



November Outing

Chilly weather with a stiff wind presented a challenge at the November outing at Lake Pasadena. The usual hungry sunfish were not to be found. However, a few bass in the 12 to 16 inch slot were taken. Don Manning caught the largest at 16 inches. The cold front apparently put a chill on this usually hot fishing hole. We consoled each other at lunch over turkey sandwiches and pumpkin pie.

December Outing—December 23, 2006

Don Coleman Classic, Ft DeSoto

The December outing will be the first in what we hope will continue to be an annual event. We've invited our friends from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing and the Florida Fishing Club to join us in memory of Don Coleman. Don was a regular attendee at the "unofficial"

December outings in the past. Now the December outing is one of the best attended outings and is no longer "unofficial". It could be because we need a break from Christmas shopping and decorating; or maybe it's because of Alan Sewell's chili and Mark Hays' reading of the GREAT TEXAS CHILI COOK-OFF that the December outing has become so popular. If you don't come to this outing, you'll miss a real good time.

Fishing can begin whenever you like any where in Ft. DeSoto Park. Lunch will be at Noon at the Arrowhead Picnic Area. If it rains, we'll meet at a shelter on the North Beach. Alan will serve his famous chili and the club will provide coffee and sodas. Since lunch was not served at the "unofficial" outing in the past, members would bring their lunch plus something to share. As this tradition continues, although not required, feel free to bring along something to share at lunch.

Future Outing Previews:

January 2007 - Pinellas Point

February - Bay Pines/ Cross Bayou

March - Snook Haven

April - Braden River

May - Night Snook Extravaganza

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

REMEMBER, THERE IS NO REGULAR CLUB MEETING IN DECEMBER..... SEE YOU ALL AT THE DON COLEMAN CLASSIC ON DECEMBER 23RD AT FT DESOTO.

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.

SFF MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your 2007 membership renewals were due in October; and a few members have not renewed yet. Joe Bolesina, our treasurer, is waiting to sign you up for another year of fishing fun and good fellowship. Please see Joe at the meeting with your check (or cash) made out to Suncoast Fly Fishers (or SFF); regular membership is \$25. and family is \$35. 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 34695-0040 Attn: Joe Bolesina

More Suncoast Fly Fishers Activities

SFF Auction

The January 2007 General Meeting will feature the ever popular SFF Annual Auction and by popular demand, our chief auctioneer Alan Sewell will host the activities. This is one of the most popular meetings of the year and only you can make it more successful and fun than any in the past. Alan needs your help in the form of items to auction off. Old items, new items, something you bought last year and can't imagine why, fishing items, non-fishing items. You bring it, Alan will sell it. This is a great fund raiser for SFF and loads of fun for all the members. So start looking for stuff to bring to the January meeting...*ed*.

Nominating Committee

Once again Art Tassoni has stepped forward to chair a nominating committee for SFF's 2007 election. Volunteers are needed to help Art put together a list of candidates for open officer and director positions for 2007. Volunteers should see Art at the next meeting*ed*

SFF Shirts and Hats

We're getting down to the bitter end of the 2006 issue of the much sought after and highly admired SFF tee shirts. Only a few left folks, don't be left out in the cold. See Alan to get yours, only \$13.00 to be properly attired for upcoming events!

Also, due to popular demand, Alan will once again be ordering SFF ball caps. If you missed out on the last go-round, now is the time to place your order with Alan. These are the ever popular tan/dark green version with the SFF tarpon fly embroidered on the front... Alan has negotiated a super low price @ \$5.75 each, you can buy one and a spare.....*ed*

Swine Dine aka Pig Roast

Get ready folks and keep your options open in March (day to be determined) for SFF's major fund raiser and feast. John Zientarski and his lovely wife Stacy are making plans for the Annual SFF Pig Roast and Silent Auction. I don't know how it could be better than last year's event but John tells us they are working on it. Please be ready to help with getting items for the auction.....*ed*

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

We're repeating this important announcement in the event that you missed this last month, .

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 advanced 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 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.

Capt. Pat has generously announced that he will provide a free six month refresher for those members that sign up for this casting clinic.....ed

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

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December Outing — Dec. 23, 2006

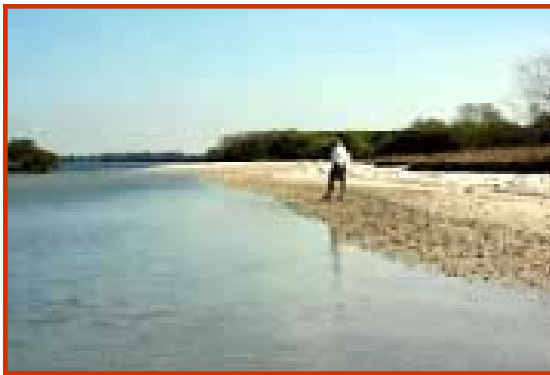
Don Coleman Classic — Ft DeSoto

Don't miss the first of what we hope will be an annual event in remembrance of our wonderful friend, Don Coleman. Ft DeSoto was one of Don's favorite places to fish and he especially enjoyed the December formally "unofficial" outing. I think Alan's chili and Mark's special barbecue had something to do with it.

US Geological Survey, Your Guide to Better Fishing

by Capt. Pat Damico

High water, dirt and suspended particles, swift currents, and unexpected water temperatures can greet you. A call to a nearby tackle shop the day before can be helpful, but availability of reliable information is diminishing as these businesses are engulfed with increasing land development. Can we take the guess work out of this dilemma?



USGS, or U. S. Geological Survey, has a website that has a wealth of very useful information. When traveling a river, a monitoring station will frequently be seen that transmits real time information to this website making it instantly available. All rivers in Florida, as well as other states that have stations are identified. My favorite way of finding them is to go to the map of the state you are interested in where colored dots represent all of the monitors. When the cursor is placed on a dot, the river's name, monitor location, gage height, and flood stage appear. A left click brings up a page that has this information in more detail showing graphs of the cubic feet per second discharge of the last week compared to the median daily statistics. A second graph shows the height in feet for the same period. Other graphs show precipitation and water temperature. This will save a lot of time as well as help you make an informed decision.

A trout fishing trip to Pennsylvania after a recent rain had a lot of the streams and smaller rivers swollen with muddy water. Several streams we considered had their origin at the base of an Army Corps of Engineers dam. A click onto the Pennsylvania site told us that two of the dams were storing water and had a water release that was close to the median level, which

was the best for fishing. Going to the location with ideal water conditions allowed us to spend our time fishing perfect water rather than running from place to place hoping for a good result. In Florida, some dams contribute to a rivers flow and should be checked before you trailer your boat. A few minutes at my computer the morning of a trip has saved me on many occasions.

[Go to the USGS web site](#) and place their home page with your favorites. Do a little surfing on their site for even more great information. You now have another source to help you plan successful fishing trips.

A certified casting instructor, Capt. Pat Damico fishes lower Tampa Bay and surrounding waters with light tackle and fly rod. His website www.captpat.com, will give you additional information.

This article originally appeared on Capt. Mel's website www.capmel.com and is reprinted here with permission of the author, Capt. Pat Damico....ed.

EDITOR'S COLUMN by Paul Sequira

This is the last issue of "On The Fly" for 2006. It has been six months since I took on the job as editor and so far, it has been a fun trip. I'm gratified that you the members, have expressed your approval of the new format and that so many of you have accepted the e-mail delivery. Being able to deliver the newsletter this way has avoided a very large printing and mailing expense for the club. Your compliments about my efforts to produce a newsletter that is entertaining, informative and attractive are truly appreciated.

I would like to thank the many members who have contributed articles and photos for publications these last six months and hope that 2007 will see a continuation of your contributions. It is the diversified subject matter that makes our newsletter interesting. I would particularly like to thank our President Ken Hofmeister and Outing Chairman Richard Oldenski for coming through every month with timely articles for the newsletter. Additionally I want to thank Pat Damico and Terry Kirkpatrick for their frequent contributions. Also, Don Manning, Siobhan Archard, Ted Rich, Mark Hays, Charlie Most, Roger Blanton, Bill Lakus and Peter Cole have provide some entertaining and informative material.

Thank you all, if I have missed anyone, it was purely unintentional and please accept my apologies... Paul

PS: For a terrific fishing tale and pictures by Terry Kirkpatrick about his recent bass outing with Don Manning, click on <http://fishtested.com/DonM> and enjoy!

Fly Tying Bench *by Paul Sequira*

CARL'S GLASS MINNOW

Our predominant baitfish in the winter is the glass minnow (bay anchovy) and Carl Hanson's Glass Minnow can't be beat for imitating this bait. Ft. DeSoto was a favorite fishing spot not only for Carl but Don Coleman too. It seems appropriate that we should feature this fly and put it to work at our Don Coleman Classic this month. Don taught Carl's fly for years so I lifted his tying instructions from one of the many papers Don wrote about it. In the following narrative you'll find Don's instructions and comments in italics; where needed, I've added my comments in regular print.



Top: Gray/white G.M. tied by Don Coleman

Bottom: Olive/white tied by Carl Hanson

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 3407 sizes 4, 2 and 1

Thread: Red 3/0 Uni-Thread or Flat Waxed Nylon

Body: Aluminum foil over wrapped with 15# – 20# clear monofilament

Wing: White bucktail under pearl or silver Krystal Flash under colored bucktail. All materials are sparse bunches and not less than twice the total length of the hook.

Directions:

Pinch the hook barb down with your pliers by coming in from the front of the hook. Now, put a slight bend in the hook shank as per Don's instructions as follows. *“Do not bend hooks using pliers or vises. Simply hold the hook point up by gripping the eye and part of the shank with the pliers lined up with the hook shank—not across the hook shank—and bend the hook by pressing down with your thumb inside the bend so that the shank will take a gradual bend and avoid creating a sharp bend which could weaken the hook shank. I find it best to use flat nosed, smooth jawed pliers with the tip of the pliers about one or one and one half eye lengths behind the back of the hook eye and allow the hook to bend where it will. Smooth jaws will avoid creating stress points in the hook shank. Long shank hooks are best, and bodies are unnecessary for bendback flies.”*

Now, secure the hook in the vise. *“Invert the hook in the vise before tying the wing so that the point is up and the short, straight part of the hook shank immediately behind the hook eye is level”*

Don describes Carl's method for creating the body as follows: *“Carl is credited with developing a fly with the body over-wrapped with 15 or 20 pound, clear monofilament. He wrapped the monofilament like you would snell a hook or tie a speedy nail knot. The body itself was usually aluminum foil from the kitchen wrapped around the hook shank.”*

Attach the thread with a jam knot on the straight portion of the hook shank directly behind the eye working back to the forward end of the over-wrapped body. Don's instructions for building the wing follows: *“The sparse wing of his [Carl's] fly was very simple: colored bucktail over white bucktail. Only in later years did he start adding Krystal Flash in the wing, although I don't believe he thought it necessary. The head should be kept relatively short, not long and tapered.”*

Some additional notes from Don: *“Carl Hanson's favorite fly has been bastardized so often lately by those who claim to have known Carl and the final version of his fly that some explanation is warranted. I was one of the regulars at Carl's fly tying clinic and his after hour's discussion group, for more than 15 years. I also fished regularly with Carl. In the early years of development, he tied the fly with the wing on top of the hook shank. The final version of Carl's Glass Minnow was a bendback on regular length saltwater hooks in sizes #6, #4, and #2. He always used red thread for his flies and coated them with fingernail polish. Period. No extra embellishments. His “Glass Minnows” have probably caught more fish in the Tampa Bay area than any other fly. Although Carl could tie any fly, the “Glass Minnow” was his trademark fly.”*

“This fly should be in every fly box, especially during the winter months when White bait have left the flats. Try swimming or swinging a brace of small bendbacks, using a dropper, around the sandy pot holes in the grass beds. Depending on its size, color, and how it is retrieved, this fly can imitate a small baitfish or a shrimp. Being semi-weedless, it is a great fly to use when floating grass is present.”

Lake Pasadena — November 18, 2006



Lake Pasadena Headquarters



Don Manning at the launching ramp.



Ken Doty with a nice Lake Pasadena bass



Ken McKinnon with his new boat



Don and Ken testing Richard's culinary skills



Joe Dial with a cool one

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

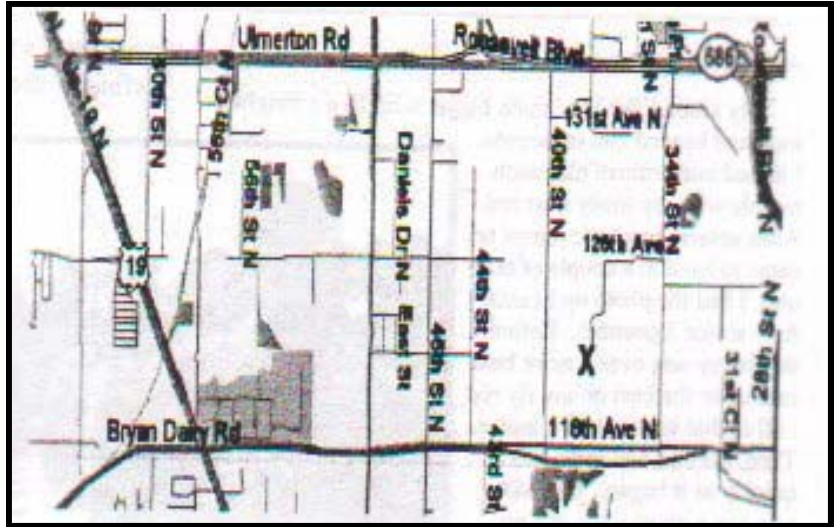
Mark Hays Ken McKinnon

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 instruction to members and visitors. Club membership includes newsletter subscription. Send e-mail submissions to:

psequira@tampabay.rr.com



NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

The Suncoast Fly Fishers' only gathering in December will be the Don Coleman Classic club outing at Ft DeSoto Park on Saturday, December 23rd. Fishing starts whenever you decide and anywhere in the Park. Lunch will be at 12:00 noon at the Arrowhead Picnic area. If it rains, we'll dine at a shelter on the North Beach.

WE'RE ON THE WEB

www.suncoastflyfishers.com

Suncoast Fly Fishers

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