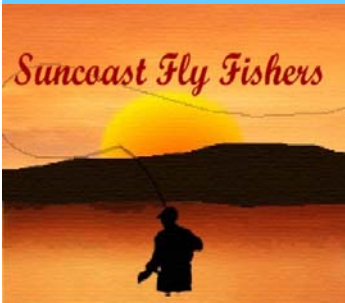


The Prez Sez by Ken Hofmeister



NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

On The Fly

AN INTERVIEW WITH ANNIE HAYS

Annie Hays represented SFF/FFF at the recent Florida Sportsman Show. You may have seen her tying “spiders” at our booth. Her self-assured smile was a definite asset in modeling the SFF club value of friendliness. She’s a thirteen-year-old eighth grader at St. Paul’s Catholic School and has been fishing since she was three. Proficient with a paddle in either kayak, canoe, or outrigger, she prefers to fish from a canoe. Her fly rod is a customized Paul Sequira special. Gators don’t scare Annie. Watch Annie improving her casting skills at the SFF Womens Casting Clinic January 5 at Ft. DeSoto. Pat Damico will lead this event for all female SFF/FFF members.

Ken: So, what have you caught recently (fly rod or spinning rod)?

Annie: “Well, I caught a 125 lb. tarpon, a 10-15 lb. bonito, and a 65 lb. blacktip shark. Thanksgiving, I caught a grouper and an 18 inch redfish. Then, there is the “usual” catch of mackerel and trout.”

Ken: You also catch snook at night under the docks and have caught brook trout in Colorado. What is your favorite fish to catch?

Annie: “I guess it would be tarpon.”

Ken: When did you begin fly-fishing and fly-tying?

Annie: “ I started fly fishing when I was ten or eleven. Dad gave me some ‘hands on’ instruction for fly tying. He put his hands over mine and tied some flies that way.”

Ken: What’s your favorite fresh water spot?

Annie: “ Chassahowitzka River. The manatees are so beautiful in that clear water. I caught bluegill, bass, and stump knockers there. But I also liked the Everglades where I caught Oscar, Mayan cichlids, and bass.”

Ken: Tough question Annie. Has your mother ever caught more or bigger fish than your dad?

Annie: “Absolutely! She’s killed my dad on some days. I have too—on some days.”

Ken: So what advice would you have for young fly fishers?

Annie: “Don’t bend your wrist!”

SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec—No General meeting -Happy Holidays
- Dec - Don Coleman Classic—chili lunch
- Mar 2008 - Tampa Bay Boat Show Tropi-cana Field
- Mar 2008 - FFF Expo Lakeland
- Fly Tying 101—January 8 & 9, 2008

Inside this issue:

Outing reviews, Previews, Tournament Results	2
Casting Clinics & Upcoming SFF Activities	3
Fly Tying 101 C. Most & FFF Natl Fly Fishing Expo	4
Any Luck? Pat Damico	6
Fly Tying Bench— Popovic’s Jiggy	7
SFF Pictures	8 & 9
Map and Meeting Preview	10

Outings—Reviews and Previews *by Richard Oldenski*



December Outing - December 22 , 2007

Don Coleman Invitational - Ft. Desoto

On December 22, we will honor our late friend and mentor, Don Coleman, with our now "official" December outing at Ft. Desoto Park.. Our friends from the Tampa Bay and Mangrove Coast Fly Fishing Clubs have been invited to join us. If you need a fishing partner, meet at the Ft. Desoto Park boat ramp at 07:30. Otherwise, start fishing when you're up and ready. Lunch will be served at Noon at the Arrowhead Picnic Area. Alan Sewell will be cooking his infamously delicious chili. Feel free to bring along a side dish or dessert to share. The club will provide sodas, water and fire extinguishers. If it should rain, lunch will be at shelter #5 at the North Beach.

November Outing Review

A cold front hit the morning of our November outing at Double Branch Creek. In spite of the cold air, we were on the water with kayaks, canoes and waders.

As expected, the fish went deep and were not eager to bite. A few of us caught trout with sinking tip line. The prize went to Ken Hofmeister, again, for a 14 inch speck. By Noon the sun was hot enough to warm us up to enjoy Mark Hays' smorgasbord of venison bergers, smoked mackerel and smoked fish spread. You should have been there.

Future Outing Previews:

January '08—Pinellas Point
February '08—Ft DeSoto

Fishing Tournament

Bass—Ken Hofmeister (13 inches)
Sun Fish—Ken Doty (9¼ inches)
Redfish - Ted Rich (17 inches)
Trout - Don Manning (17 inches)
Other Species - Don Manning - Ladyfish (24½ inches)

NO GENERAL MEETING IN DECEMBER

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Great Opportunity to Help the Club and Fill Your Fly Box: by Pat Damico

There will be two containers on the table at our monthly meetings, beginning this month. If you bring two flies to donate, place one in each container. You will be given a card on which to place your name for a drawing that will be held at the end of the meeting. If you win, you will get all the flies in the container marked, "DRAWING." The other container will be marked, "SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS," and these flies will go to new members as part of a welcome package when they pay their dues, or as part of our regular drawing if the number of flies is overwhelming. If you bring more flies, a chance to win will go with each two additional flies, with no limit on the number of chances to win. Flies should be new, and not the one you used on the last outing to catch fifty bluegills. This is a great opportunity to upgrade your fly selection.

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS ACTIVITIES

Casting Clinics with Capt. Pat Damico

Fly Casting for women, of all ages, Saturday, January 5, 2008:

We have had a number of requests to have a clinic for women. This session will make all participants comfortable, as well as enthusiastic about our sport. Starting with equipment selection, no it will not be a fashion show, we will advance at your individual pace so that by the end of our session you will understand the fundamentals and have a practice plan to prepare you for the next level. A high trust low fear environment will be emphasized. Remember, we all started at the beginning.

Traditional Casting Clinic, Saturday, January 12, 2008:

This will be similar to previous sessions where individual instruction will be given to help improve your casting results. Everyone is welcome, including women who have taken the January 5 clinic. More attention will be given to those who have been practicing since our last clinic. Just kidding! Critique sheets at the end of other sessions have included comments like: "Well done with great coaching/feedback, Effective response to all questions, Keep up the casting clinics, Had a good time learning new techniques, Keep emphasizing fundamentals, I felt very relaxed."

Bring a hat, glasses and equipment, if you have it. Lunch, coffee, water and soft drinks will be supplied. If you need equipment, it will be provided by the club. Enver Hysni will again be assisting Pat.

Both sessions will be at Ft. DeSoto Park, at the end of East Beach. They will be from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

FFF membership is a prerequisite for both sessions, which will include a six month follow up refresher. A special rate for those that are not presently members is available before Dec. 31. So in order to save ten dollars on regular and senior memberships register with Pat at pat4jaws@hotmail.com, or 727-360-6466 today!

SFF Upcoming Activities

Mark your calendar because the Suncoast Fly Fishers have a bunch of activities lined up.

- ◆ Our Annual "bring what you've got" auction with SFF's own Alan Sewell auctioneering will be held at the January 17, 2008 General Meeting. This is one of the most fun meetings of the year and a great boost to the Club's treasury — don't miss it.
- ◆ Two Fly Casting Clinics are scheduled in January at Ft DeSoto with Capt Pat Damico. See above for details.
- ◆ We will have a booth at the Tampa Bay Boat Show sponsored by the St Pete Times at Tropicana Field on March 14/16, 2008 and we will need fly tyers and talkers.
- ◆ We will also provide fly tyers for the Federation of Fly Fishers Expo in Lakeland scheduled for March 28/29, 2008.
- ◆ SFF's acclaimed Hog Roast and Auction is scheduled for March 22, 2008 once again to be hosted by John and Stacey Zientarski.
- ◆ Fly Tying 101 with Charlie Most. This is an opportunity for members who have no or very little fly tying experience to learn the basics from one of our most talented fly tyers. Starts January 8 & 9 — see page 4 for details.
- ◆ Rod building classes with FFF provided rod building kits for 12 lucky club members. Stay tuned for more information and starting dates.

FLY TYING 101 WITH CHARLIE MOST

Eleven SSF members have signed up for a basic beginning class in fly tying, set to kick off on **Tuesday, January 8** and continue for six weeks. To provide more personal attention, the class will be divided, with six scheduled for the 8th and the remaining five for **Wednesday the 9th**. There is space for one more student at the Wednesday session.

This first week will cover tools and their use, followed by a discussion of threads, hooks, and materials. The second week will concentrate on basic thread work including how to attach the thread, make even wraps, half-hitches to lock materials in place, and several whip finishing methods for the head.

This is primarily a tying technique class adjusted to meet the needs and interest of students. Included, however, will be patterns such as Lefty's Deceiver, Bendbacks, and the Seaducer for the techniques they need. Bluegill fly techniques such as wound hackles and dubbed bodies are also useful for tying many of the better fresh water trout flies.

Tools are not needed at the first session but tyers must bring their own, including threads, for the rest of the course. Club vises will be available, and hooks and other materials are provided. This course will be taught by Charlie Most, with help and ideas from anyone willing. Sessions are at his home, 7040 M. L. King Street, S., in St. Petersburg, beginning at 7:00 p.m. and lasting about an hour and a half.

Take Martin Luther King Street south to cross Pinellas Point Drive. 7040 is the second house on the left.

FFF National Fly Fishing Exposition

The Federation of Fly Fishers will hold the "The FFF National Fly Fishing Exposition" March 28 through 30, 2008 at the Lakeland Center in Lakeland, Florida. There will be over 100 vendors and national fly fishing manufacturers and their dealers. Lefty Kreh, Diana Rudolph, Bruce Richards, Jon Cave, Nick Curcione, Dave Whitlock and Oscar Felieu, plus many other notable fly fishers from around the world will demonstrate the skills you need to catch more fish. Open seminars covering fly fishing around the country, fly tying and bamboo rod building will be going on all day every day. Sign up for special workshops with the experts. How about knot tying with Lefty, saltwater fly tying with Oscar and Dave and Nick Curcione's rigging class. Don't miss Jimbo Meador's kayak class. Local experts will help you find more fish in Florida and will guide you to the best water. When you need to relax, visit the Fly Tying Theater where a dozen tyers will be demonstrating every conceivable pattern.

Attendees will also be able to view the educational and conservation programs offered by the Federation. In keeping with the Federation's policy of "All Fish, All Waters", we will feature tying and fishing programs for warm and cold water species, saltwater fishing and related subjects. Don't miss the social side, the Saturday night "Tarpon Hop" where you can eat, drink and rub elbows with fly fishers from around the globe. Oh, and dance!

The Lakeland Center's 28,262 square foot Exhibition Hall will feature two indoor casting ponds, a seminar stage and over 80 vendor booths. Attendees will be able to try out the newest rods, get instructions from the best in the business and talk to the best known experts in the fly fishing world. Special prices will be offered for multiple day attendance, hotel accommodations, theme park tickets and local nature tours.

Lakeland, Florida is centrally located between Tampa and Orlando. There is easy access to 100's of lakes, west coast and east coast saltwater fishing and the Everglades. Non anglers will be able to enjoy the many theme parks in central Florida, dozens of golf courses, super restaurants and the best beaches in the world.

Watch for the National Fly Fishing Expo web site coming soon. There you will be able to register for seminars and special events, find info on accommodations, view the programs and sign up for the Saturday night Tarpon hop dinner dance.

It all happens at the Lakeland Center in March. See you there.

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS INFORMATION

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,

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

Capt. Wayne Simmons Tampa Bay area
727-204-4188

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 of 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

Your Business Ad Here

A good way to help your club and advertise your business economically to fellow club members and other interested readers. Take a Business Membership and get a business card sized advertisement in every issue of "On The Fly". You provide copy ready advertisement. See Treasurer Alan Sewell or Secretary Joe Dail for cost.



"Never trust a man
who doesn't fish"
(Teddy Roosevelt)

Platinum Real Estate

Roger Blanton—Broker

Please contact me if you are buying or selling residential, commercial or investment property. A full service real estate and mortgage company.

Phone: 727-515-5247

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Any Luck? By Capt. Pat Damico

How many times has another fly fisher asked you this question? How do you answer? A short, yes, or no, is usually not in order. It can be one of those rare days when almost anything works, but more frequently an accurate answer would involve considerable detail. "Caught three browns on a size sixteen blue wing olive," tells us something, and could be an acceptable response. In saltwater, "A size one deceiver in white over chartreuse is producing," would sound typical. Is this enough information to help the other fisherman get a start on a day of success? Is more detail needed? Should the first response be, "Luck has nothing to do with it, they are just sipping, had to use a nine foot 6X leader with a downstream presentation without drag, the leader close to the fly better be under water, stay out of the water as much as possible and make a very soft delivery a few feet above where the fish is holding, a right hand curve cast with a reach upstream will help present the cdc pattern that they seem to want in the surface film; as you can see, I'm wearing camo clothes to blend in with the trees on the bank, any vibration will send them scurrying." Huh? When did you last get a detailed answer like that? And if you did, you were probably wondering why you asked the question.

One of the attractions in fly fishing is the more I learn, the more I realize I don't know, or a whole new series of interests is generated by a recent discovery. Fifty-five years of chasing fish with a long rod has made the sport more of a challenge that ever. When I first began, knowledge was not as readily available. A couple old wet fly fisherman took me under their wing and helped me get a start with some hand-me-down equipment.

Technical improvements in rods, reels, lines, leaders, and synthetic tying materials, are a few of the areas where we have seen an explosion of beneficial products to further fool a fish with a brain the size of a pea. The internet, books, and videos as well as personal instruction will give the beginner, or expert, a wealth of knowledge. Do we take advantage of this knowledge to improve our ability to catch fish, or are we in the same pattern of limited skill each time we



venture out? Do we keep remembering the day when we could do nothing wrong, and hope it will reoccur? Or are we on a constant journey to improve our skills so that we become one of the ten percent who catch ninety percent of the fish? Do you have an attitude that I'm just out for the fresh air and catching fish isn't important to me, or is that saved for fishless

days?

Since I love all areas of fly fishing, I really enjoy this never ending journey. Recently, I spent a few weeks in my native Pennsylvania, doing some trout and bass fishing. As a saltwater inshore guide in Florida, I get a variety of clients who want to pursue the challenges of this type of fishing. Speckled trout, snook, redfish, tarpon, and jack crevalle are some of the species we target. Many clients have fished freshwater, and have little or no saltwater experience. While giving some clinics on the transition from fresh to saltwater fly fishing, I emphasize what some of the requirements are for success. I encourage questions and feedback, but usually have the impression from the audience that what I am telling them about success is something they are capable of doing. The moment of truth occurs on the bow of my flats skiff when their first sight fishing opportunity unfolds.

As a saltwater guide, who fishes mostly shallow inshore water, most of my contacts begin with a phone call, or an email. The growth of fly fishing has many new devotees who have varying degrees of experience and abilities. Fly fishers who have spent many years on the water can be well prepared for a trip, or can have poor preparation for a productive day of fishing depending on how well they have continued to grow in the sport. Unlike many other pastimes, age can be an advantage in fly fishing if we use our time wisely.

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

Fly Tying Bench — Jiggy by Don Coleman

Dec. 22nd SFF will honor the memory of member Don Coleman with the outing named after him at Ft DeSoto Park. Don always enjoyed the December outing and it would be a nice tribute to him to use the flies Don would have used. Don didn't develop any saltwater flies of his own that I know of. He did however; enjoy modifying existing flies that he thought he could improve. Generally it was simplifying the tying procedure. This time of the year most of our baitfish are small and bendback flies would be a good choice. A fly similar to the bendback that Don introduced us to is Bob Popovic's Jiggy. Don was very fond of the Jiggy so we'll let him tell us how to tie it.PS



Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 34011 size 2
- Weight: Cone Head - ¼ inch copper or brass
- Wing: Bucktail – white and chartreuse
- Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash or Flashabou
- Eyes: stick-on (optional)

Jiggy tied by Don Coleman—Photo by Paul Sequeira

I know, the article describes a chartreuse over white Jiggy and the illustration is brown over yellow. (An excellent color combo in cold water.) Obviously this fly can be tied in any color combination you desire. As it turned out, this was the only unused Jiggy tied by Don that I had; the others are used and beat-up. I didn't have time to tie a new one and I wanted to use one of Don's flies anyway.

Directions as written by Don Coleman in his *Random Thoughts from the Tying Bench*:

JIGGIES -- Being a firm believer in the logic of the "Occam's Razor" principle, I was convinced that Bob Popovic's new fly, the Jiggy, would be successful. Bob and Ed Jaworowski claim that they now tie and fish these simple flies more than any other fly in their fly boxes. Capt. Gene Quigley reports that more than 70 percent of the saltwater fish landed by his clients are now caught on Bob's simple Jiggy. But I was still unprepared for the success of fellow club members when fishing around the grass beds in Tampa Bay, where Clousers are prone to collect grass and debris. I tie the fly on a #2 Mustad 34011 hook with the barb mashed down and with a slight bend in the hook shank for a bendback fly. I use 1/4 inch (Large) Cone Heads. I find the tungsten cones too heavy. Usually I wrap a few turns of chenille around the shank and jam it into the cavity (of the cone head) to stabilize the cone. I then tie a simple bucktail wing--Chartreuse over White separated by pearl mylar flash material for example--directly behind the cone head and epoxy the wraps to form a taper up to the back edge of the cone. All material must be tied on the point side of the hook to make the fly swim point up. I make the overall length of the fly approximately 3 inches long. Depending on the color of the wing, I use either red or black Flat Waxed Nylon thread. I do not use stick-on eyes as recommended by Popovic. But where are the beautiful names of yesteryear--like Parmachene Belle, Royal Coachman, Wickman's Fancy and Greenwell's Glory?

Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament Oct. 2007



Annie Hays at her favorite pastime, canoeing and fishing with her dad. Looks like she is watching her backcast just like Mark told her.

Don Coleman and your editor getting ready to slay 'em at a December outing a few years ago. We did pretty well as I remember.



Don Coleman holding court at one of the Homer's holiday party several years ago. I'll bet Don was telling us about a new fly he had discovered.

Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament Oct. 2007



What a fish! Don and yours truly fished with Dan Malzone several years ago and we had a great day with redfish and trout near Tarpon Key. This was Don's first redfish and the largest one of the day. That's a happy angler!



We're all listening to Jeff Klinkenberg intently, well most of us anyway.



Jeff Klinkenberg's presentation was very entertaining as usual. Lots of stories about his early years and adventures in the Everglades. If you missed last month's meeting, you missed a good one.

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

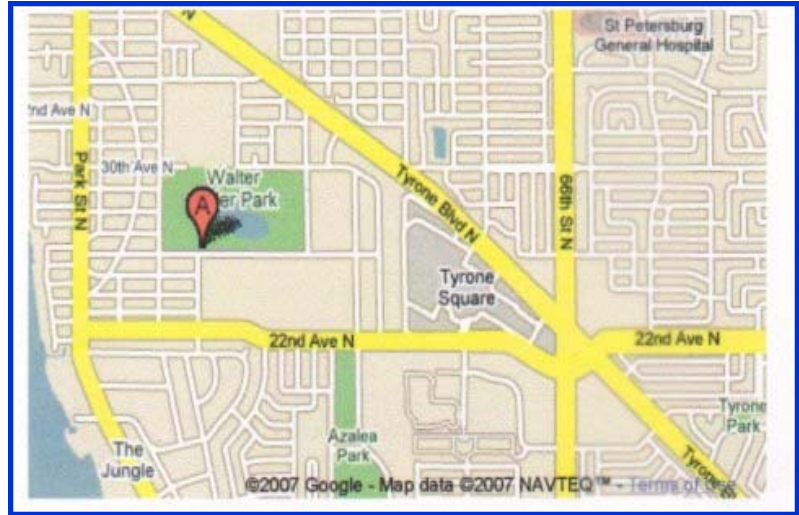
Roger Blanton - Pat Damico

Mark Hays - 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: No Meeting in December

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:

No Meeting in December

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers

P.O. BOX 40821

St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821