

# On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

July Outing. Where were the fish? P7



August Outing. In sight of this. P3



Dayle caught it. P10



Juvenile poons on the fly. P12



Zoom in on Tarpon  
Thursday, August 20, 7 PM  
Instructions coming.

Map your catches. P18

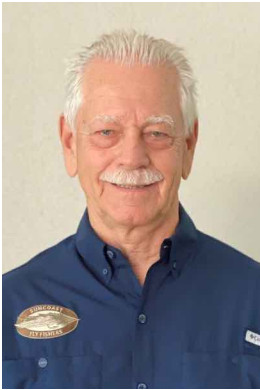


Hays' lab Mayhem has died. P21



Catching trout in your front yard. P14





## *President's Letter, August 2020*

Suncoast Fly Fishers,

This is the time of year when temperatures sizzle, afternoon thunderstorms pop up, tarpon stream through the area and SFF is once again holding meetings on video conference.

Last month we had our first ever member meeting using ZOOM. It was great to have so many of you tune in to meet face to virtual face. This month we are going to do it again. If you haven't yet tried ZOOM please don't shy away. It is much easier to use and more fun than you might expect. Here are some of the benefits.

You get to see how much I have aged since our last in person meeting. You don't have to dress up for the meeting. You don't really have to dress from the waist down at all. You just need to remember not to stand up if you choose this option. No one knows what's in that drink you are sipping. Someone will entertain the group with their goofy meme or virtual background. You get to meet everyone else's cat. Finally, you will quickly learn who understands the meaning of audio muted and video enabled.

Seriously though, meeting online does have its advantages. All of us get to participate. It doesn't matter if you are here in St. Petersburg or kicking back in your summer home in the Hamptons. If you have an internet connection, you can join the meeting from anywhere. The same is true for our featured speakers. In normal times it might be impossible to expect a guest speaker to travel half way across the country to meet with us in person but now all it takes is a computer and a connection.

Look for some exciting personalities in the next few months. This month we are going to have a panel discussion on tarpon. On our panel will be tarpon guide Captain Dave Dant, fisheries biologist and tarpon specialist Mike Larkin, and one or two other experts to be announced.

Please plan to join the member meeting on the regular date at the regular time, Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Every member will be sent an invitation to join the meeting. Look for it in an email message later this week. We will open the meeting by 6:45 to get settled in and chat amongst ourselves. The meeting will start at 7:00pm. I hope everyone can join in.

Stay safe and keep fishing!

*Rick*

Rick Warfel  
SFF President

## Meetings, Outings, and More

### **ZOOM in on Tarpon**

#### **August meeting, Thursday, 7 pm, August 20**

You're right. We can't meet in person but we can meet on Zoom and the August 20 meeting will include a panel of tarpon-on-the-fly experts:

- Captain Dave Dant
- Mike Larkin, NOAA Fisheries
- TBD

You'll be getting an Email blast with instructions. Tune in by 6:45 so we can start the meeting at 7. Watch, listen, and even ask questions.

At the Zoom meeting we will be reviving the *Tail Magazine* subscription give away. One lucky member that attends the member meeting on ZOOM will win a 1 year subscription to *Tail Magazine*. Be sure to sign on to the meeting so you'll have a chance to win.

The July member meeting on Zoom featured our website team giving members an introduction to the new SFF Website. By the way, the June docklight panel in June was broadcast on Facebook Live. Some 25 members met up live via ZOOM on their computers to watch docklight/beach fishing experts Alan Sewell, Mike Larkin, Captain Lisa Lowman, and Captain Court Douthit. It went live on Facebook on June 18 and now more than 400 people from all over have watched it. You can still watch it on [facebook.com/scff2020](https://facebook.com/scff2020)



#### **Welcome Anne Hays, our first social media editor**

Suncoast Fly Fishers is dedicated to staying connected with our members. We have created a new position to help us navigate the world of social media. Please welcome Anne Hays as our first ever social media editor. Look for more details in the months to come. Think Facebook, You Tube, Instagram, and more.

### **Urban Outing. Post your pictures on [Facebook.com/scff2020](https://facebook.com/scff2020)**

#### **August Outing, Saturday, August 22**

We'll not be getting together for smoked brisket this year because of the you-know-what virus but fishing is still on.

- Fish anywhere in lower Tampa Bay BUT make sure you can see the Sunshine Skyway at all times.
- Fish with friends and fellow members. Take pictures of each other and their fish, the scenery, the fly casting, the whatever and post them on our club's Facebook site....[facebook.com/scff2020](https://facebook.com/scff2020)
- There will be outing prizes for the longest snook, the longest redfish, and the longest seatrout. Measure and email photos of your fish to [robertburkard9@gmail.com](mailto:robertburkard9@gmail.com)



*Fish anywhere in sight of the Sunshine Skyway*

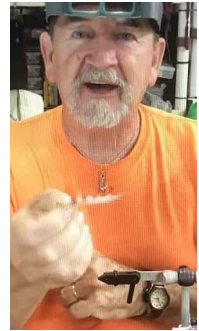
## P2/Meetings, Outings, and More

### **Welcome new members**

- John Powell of Palm Harbor
- Rick and Nanette O'Hara of Tampa
- And Jeff Edwards of Clearwater and Rochester, Michigan who sent this note to our Treasurer Tom Gadacz: *I joined as a way to learn about saltwater fly fishing remotely, so I won't need to begin from square one when I retire. We have a place in Clearwater, and I have dabbled, but need to get more focused. I have been fly fishing for trout since I was a kid growing up in Colorado, and in Michigan for the last 20+ years. To say that my saltwater knowledge is "limited" probably gives it too much credit*

### **Hangout on Facebook every Monday at 7:30 PM**

Go to our club's Facebook page every Monday at 7:30 pm and you'll see a club presentation on one or more topics. So far we have done the Docklight Panel and fly tying videos by Bruce Evensen on Facebook. Watch for the fly of the month: Seatrout Bendback (August), Spider/shrimp (October). Hannukah Fly (November). The December fly will be something colorful.



The plan is to introduce new fly fishing experts to the club to share their insights. President Rick Warfel said he also wants to expand the platforms that are used to make the content more accessible to the members. One possible example may be to post video content on YouTube.



### **Big Gun Shootout**

Quin Berry is leading the charge for the Suncoast Fly Fishers to participate – and win! – the Big Gun fly casting competition this fall. Practice sessions are already underway at Walter Fuller Park on Thursday evenings. Quin sets up the markers for all the different accuracy and distance competitions. If you would like to be notified of meeting days and starting times phone or text Quin at [870-656-9677](tel:870-656-9677). Also, read Tom Gadacz' article in the

**December 2019 issue of *On The Fly*.**

### **Fund Raising Auction (online!) is coming**

A continuing club objective is to have money in the checkbook to reward members with free guide trip raffles and other goodies. We can't even be sure if we can meet for our Ugly Sweater Party at Christmastime or a Hog Roast in 2021. So then, what? How about an online auction? Stay tuned.

### **Also coming up**

Sit down meals may or may not be possible but we can yuk it up on the water and on Facebook.

- September 19 outing -- Weedon Island Preserve. Picnic lunch not likely. Fish middle Tampa Bay.
- October 17 Outing – Hillsborough River. Rotary Riverfront Park. Win the Carl Hanson Trophy for SFF.
- November 21 – War Veterans Memorial Park near Bay Pines.
- December 5 -- Fort De Soto Park. Will we have a chili cook-off?

# We are Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

## Aims and Purposes

The Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. (SFF) is an organization of fishing enthusiasts who love fishing with the fly rod. We welcome all people of all ages with similar interests, regardless of their fly fishing skill level. We enthusiastically teach those that wish to learn or improve their fly casting, fly tying and related fly fishing skills. SFF meets monthly where we talk fly fishing, tie flies and most months feature a speaker with a program highlighting local fly fishing opportunities.

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization. SFF is a charter member of the Fly Fishers International (FFI). SFF is a member of the Florida Council of FFI. SFF supports the conservation of natural resources, boating safety and fishing regulations.

## Monthly Meetings. Guests welcome.

Third Thursday of every month (except December) at St. Pete's Walter Fuller Park Rec Center, 7891 26th Ave. N. 6 to 8:30 pm.

**Directions to our meeting at Walter Fuller Park.** From 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N turn North on 72<sup>nd</sup> St. N. Turn left (West) on 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue N. Then turn right into the rec center parking lot.

## Monthly Outings

Club members meet up every month for a fly fishing outing and lunch. Usually it is scheduled on the Saturday after the monthly meeting on the third Thursday of every month.

**Contact us by mail:** Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40821, St Petersburg, FL 33743-0821

## Visit our website and Facebook pages, too

[SuncoastFlyFishers.com](http://SuncoastFlyFishers.com)

[Facebook.com/scff2020S](https://www.facebook.com/scff2020S)

## Membership update

Suncoast Fly Fishers now has 129 members including 16 family members and 6 honorary members. Annual dues are payable in September. This also includes benefits and annual membership in [Fly Fishers International](#) and the [Florida Council](#) of Fly Fishers International

###

## Suncoast Fly Fishers

P. O. Box 40821  
St Petersburg, FL 33743  
[www.suncoastflyfishers.org](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.org)

## Club Officers

Pres: Rick Warfel  
Vice Pres: Quin Berry  
Secretary: David Redd  
Treasurer: Tom Gadacz

## Board of Directors

Bill Scarola, Bob Burkard, Bruce Evensen, Ryan Sollars, Cliff Nigh, Karen Warfel, George Haseltine, James Davis

**Committees**--Members are encouraged to serve on one or two committees. Do you? If not, speak to one of the officers at the next meeting.

Casting: Pat Damico, Dayle Mazzarella  
FFI Liaison: Pat Damico  
Conservation: Cliff Nigh  
Fly Tying: Myron Hansen  
Membership: Tom Gadacz  
New Members: Rick Warfel  
Webmaster: Dennis Marquis  
Facebook: Cliff Nigh  
Hog Roast: Open

Outings: Bob Burkard, David Redd, Bill AuCoin

Outreach, shows: David Redd, Bob Burkard, Bill Scarola, Tom Gadacz

Raffles: Dave Barson

Succession Plan: Rick Warfel

Programs: Board of Directors

Publicity: Bill AuCoin

Social media: Anne Hays

## On The Fly

Bill AuCoin, editor; Duane Mertz, Anne Hays, Bob Hood, Tim Elms, Marshall Craig.

# Bob Burkard: August Urban Outing



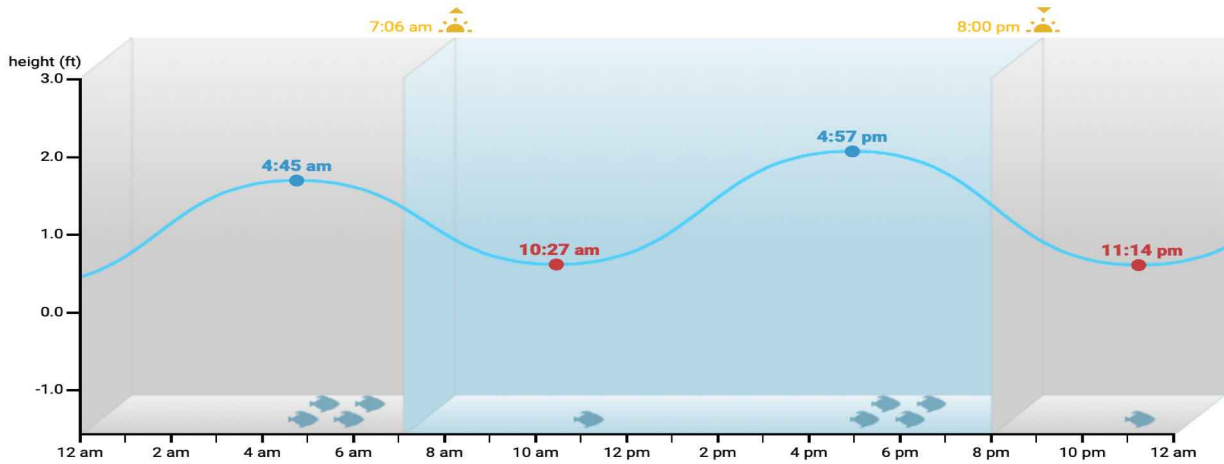
Bob Burkard, Outings Committee

**Urban Outing. Post your pictures on [Facebook.com/scff2020](https://www.facebook.com/scff2020)**

## August Outing, Saturday, August 22

We'll not be getting together for smoked brisket at Bay Vista Park this year because of the you-know-what virus but fishing is still on.

- Fish anywhere in lower Tampa Bay BUT make sure you can see the Sunshine Skyway at all times.
- There are no set hours. You can fish all day and even all night so long as the date is August 22, 2020.
- Fish with friends and fellow members. Take pictures of the fish, the scenery, the fly casting, the whatever and post them on our club's Facebook site....[facebook.com/scff2020](https://www.facebook.com/scff2020)
- There will be outing prizes for the longest snook, the longest redfish, and the longest seatrout. Measure and email photos of your fish to [robertburkard9@gmail.com](mailto:robertburkard9@gmail.com)



TIDES4FISHING | HIGH TIDES AND LOW TIDES IN POINT PINELLAS | AUGUST 22, 2020



## 2020 Outing Tournament Leaders

Species	Length	Winner	Outing (Month)
Longest bream	9.5"	Tim Elms	Virtual outing (May)
Longest black bass	17"	Tim Elms	Virtual outing (May)
Longest snook	34"	Jack Collins	Virtual outing (May)
Longest redfish	22"	Mark Hays	Docklight Outing (June)
Longest ladyfish	25"	Mandy McGarry	Weedon Island Preserve (January)
Longest seatrout	19"	Mandy McGarry	Docklight Outing (June)

**Bob Burkard, July Outing: No hits, no runs, no catches.**

Our July outing at Fort DeSoto Park was a bummer. No picnic (social distancing, doncha know) but worse than that the fishing was slower than slow. Nobody caught anything so far as we know.

Several club members tried different spots along the Gulf and Bunces Pass shorelines but, well, you know. Fort DeSoto Park fly fishers included Rick and Karen Warfel, Bill AuCoin, Kevin Kelly, Bill Sukowski, and me, myself, and I.

There were some plusses, though. We all got good exercise and some casting practice. WooHoo. Oh, and we got to watch Kevin Kelly shoot his fly line with his two-handed SPEY rod.

Did anybody else fish the outing? Well, if they did, they didn't want us to know.



*That's Kevin Kelly loading up his SPEY rod.*



*Rick and Karen Warfel. No luck along the Bunces Pass shoreline.*



*Bill AuCoin tried to hook the camera, but he missed.*



*Bob Burkard casting ~~Bunces Pass~~ Hurricane Pass*

***That's all, folks.  
Nothing to see here.  
Move right along.***

## Virus versus Fly-Fishing: Q and A

On July 30 we emailed members asking how the coronavirus was affecting their fly fishing.

### Tim Elms

- When was the last time you went fly fishing? *Today 6pm*
- How many times have you been fly fishing this year? *Hmmmm. How many days in the year is it? Probably 50% of them.*
- Are you fishing more, about the same, or less since the arrival of the Covid 19 virus? *Same. Hahaha.*

### Dennis Marquis

- How many times have you been fishing this year? *On average once a week*
- Are you fishing more, about the same, or less since the arrival of the Covid 19 virus? *Same*

### Duane Mertz

- My last fly fishing was in June. I did spin fish three times in July.
- I'm fishing about the same this year as last. I do like to fish our outings.

### Alan Sewell

- Covid 19 has definitely changed my fishing activities. When the " stay at home " ORDER was issued, I did what was asked. I did not fish the beaches, because they were closed. Now that issue is in the past, and there is abundant fish swimming thru the vacationers. My favorite place is Fort DeSoto, but there have been way too many visitors. I spent my down time tying flies, making new leaders, and repairing rods that I had put aside, crafting three new rods, and shooting. Now I am fishing every 2-3 days in the CCA STAR tournament. Catch a fish on a fly rod, photo and email, and you could win a new boat or other prizes in the \$500,000.00 event. FLIES CATCH NO FISH UNLESS THEY ARE IN THE WATER!

### Tony Piazza

- I have been in St. Louis since the first of June. Have been fly fishing twice. Have to drive 2 to 2 ½ hours to south central Missouri where there are spring fed streams cold enough to sustain a rainbow and brown trout fishery.
- After spending the winter in St. Pete tying flies on #2 & 1/0 hooks with Bruce Evensen, I had a difficult time adjusting to tying elk hair caddis flies on #16 hooks and Tricos on #22 hooks. Have had some success on the two trips but it is a long way to travel there and back. Sure miss the 15 minute trips in Tampa Bay. Hope to see all of you this November with this Covid 19 behind us.

### Bob Hood

- Last time was on our earlier Fort DeSoto outing this year, so I am definitely fishing less.

### Andy Constantinou

- The last time I fly fished was about a month ago and many times before. No change since Covid.
- PS: The last time I fished the water temp was 92. It was too hot. The fish did not want to know.



## Continued...Virus versus Fly Fishing. Members Weigh In

### Barry Salzman

- I have been fishing occasionally. The virus is not a factor; the heat is more of an influence and my limitation to weekends which can produce hit-and-miss weather conditions.
- I traded my canoe for a kayak and anticipate getting out more often. I have also come to the conclusion that fly fishing is best done standing up, so I have been using the fly rod for beach fishing or wading. The spinning rod is much easier to handle in the kayak.

### Capt. Ray Markham

- I find it somewhat difficult to fly fish out of a boat by myself, with limited ability to cast and control boat position at the same time, so if I'm fishing alone from a boat I may only have a 20% chance or less that I will fly fish.
- If I wade fish, I will fly fish more often, but with water quality issues over the last two years, I've limited my wade fishing. I have fly fished only 4 times this year...three times alone in freshwater and once in saltwater with another angler.
- Charters have been way down this year with more cancellations this year than I've had in the combined 24 years I've been guiding. The last time fly fishing was 3 weeks ago.
- I continue to fish 150-to 200 days a year, but this year I have not fished as much due to boat issues, launching site closures, and people's travel issues with COVID in general. In fact, I'm sending a refund today to a man who booked a trip with a deposit nearly 5 months ago. Overall, I'm fly fishing MUCH less, and fishing less in general.



### James Davis

- The last time I went fishing was Sunday July 26th
- I've been fly fishing about 10 times this year, and I have not been fishing as much since the onset of covid 19.
- Caught a snook fly fishing on the beach with a night fly and picked up a bluegill while fishing with Tim (Elms)and Dennis (Marquis).

### Chuck Hall

- When was the last time you went fly fishing? "This morning, between 50 and 75 times."
- How many times this year. "More, much more."

*(Fact check: true. We can always go fly fishing in our day dreams!)*

## Dayle Mazzarella: My Experience with Covid 19



*Suncoast Fly Fisher Dayle Mazzarella guides on the Hams Fork and other rivers near Kemmerer, Wyoming.*

Somewhere around July 17, I began having dry mouth while sleeping. I had never experienced this phenomenon. It was very uncomfortable. I would wake up in the middle the night with my lips stuck together and my tongue stuck to my cheeks and roof of my mouth. It was extremely uncomfortable. Still, I never connected dry mouth to COVID-19. I wasn't aware until a week later that dry mouth is a classic symptom of the virus.

Over the next few days, I noticed an increase in fatigue but passed it off to 9 or 10 straight days of guiding. I also noticed a slight nausea in the morning and a loss in appetite. I had no cough and no fever and no sore throat. It just never occurred to me that I had COVID-19. By the 21st or so, I noticed a very minor cough. I begin experiencing diarrhea. Still, I never really considered COVID as a possible culprit. I was scheduled for minor medical procedure on July 27. As a result, I was asked to take a COVID test on the 24th of July. I was surprised to see my test came back positive! I've only been back and forth to the river with a total of eight clients, none of whom have developed symptoms or tested positive for the illness. Barbara continues to test negative.

Since the 24th, my intestinal issues have been much more severe. As I write this on August 3rd, my symptoms have begun to subside but I retain an overwhelming sense of fatigue as my major symptom. Yesterday, I took two one-hour naps and slept nine hours. Over the last two weeks I've lost 9 pounds.

I would definitely say that after almost 2 weeks, I'm a long way from normal. While no one day has been any worse than a bad day with flu, the sum total of 14 days have been much worse than any flu I've ever had. Don't let anyone convince you that it's nothing but the flu - even a "mild" case can be far, far worse.

This disease is extremely transmittable and the symptoms are incredibly diverse. If a person has any unusual complaints it could be COVID-19. The other interesting thing about COVID-19 is that some people appear to be super spreaders while others, like me, don't seem to transmit to others. In any case, I thought people might be interested in my experience with a "minor" case of COVID-19. As for my advice to my fellow anglers:

I'm only the third reported case in Kemmerer, Wyoming! I've been incredibly careful and still contracted the virus. You should remember that regardless of how careful you are this disease can find you! Pursue your fishing with a clear-eyed sense of what risk you are willing to take.

There is no 100% method, short of 100% isolation, of guaranteeing you don't get it!

*Dayle*

## SFF and FFI PhD Scholarship Awarded to Christine Welsh

*By Tom Gadacz, FFI Florida Council President and SFF Treasurer and Cliff Nigh, SFF Conservation Chair*



*Tom Gadacz*

On November 8, 2019, Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) established the Suncoast Fly Fishers Scholarship at the University of South Florida, College of Marine Science to support a graduate student's research on the conservation, restoration, and reclamation of Tampa Bay and West Coast Florida Fisheries.

Cliff Nigh, SFF Conservation Chair proposed this award to the SFF Board which approved its establishment and funding of the first \$500 award. Cliff and Tom Gadacz met with Laurie Scott, Director of Development at USF to discuss the Scholarship and stipulated

that each scholarship recipient speaks about their research at an SFF membership meeting. We also discussed the opportunity for students to apply for the Fly Fisher International (FFI) Conservation Grant Program.

The USF College of Marine Science awarded the inaugural SFF scholarship to Christina Welsh, a second-year Ph.D. student studying Biological Oceanography. Christina also applied for the FFI Conservation Grant program for graduate students doing meritorious research.

The FFI Florida Council reviewed and approved Ms. Welsh's application and research proposal and sent it to David Peterson, FFI Conservation Chair for the FFI Conservation Committee's review. Christina was awarded the FFI Conservation Award of \$2,000 to support her research.



Christina's research focuses on understanding the metabolic physiology of larval fish concerning climate change. This includes measuring the amount of oxygen consumed by fish at rest and during exercise, and the minimum levels of oxygen needed for survival. By measuring these things at different temperatures, it is possible to estimate how fish populations change as seawater warms. The research will include species that are important components of recreational fisheries in Florida, like Red Drum and Spotted Seatrout.

Christina first became interested in studying marine science as an undergraduate at Stockton University, in her home state of New Jersey. Living in a small town close to the ocean showed her the value that natural resources provide to coastal communities. That was reflected in her research interests, as she participated in many projects that looked at the effects of climate change on important coastal species, including oysters, scallops, and various types of fish. Outside of school, her hobbies include running marathons and spending time with her two cats.

We are very proud of Christina Welsh and her background and commitment to Florida marine research and look forward to hearing her speak at a future SFF membership meeting.

###

*New member, new water*

**Tim Elms: Tarpon Roll and the Lightning Strikes**



*A Silver Prince*

Howdy! 2 out of 38! That's my number landed of juvenile Tarpon.

For months on end I wake up early or stay out very late watching for my arch nemesis show a silver nugget and dip their head back down.

These fish have taught me a lot of patience. I thought it would be a cake walk but they keep rolling. And they drive me insane.

Back in April during the hardest of the stay at home orders I would jump 1 or 2 a day. And I knew my time would come. After battles with snook or largemouth I would have a split second of a strike to realize what was going on and pop. They would be gone. Either I had 20lb tippet on for bass or I just didn't set hard enough for the bony skull of a tarpon. They would always eat my fly when least expected. Only when I started to target them specifically did I have a chance. But that is a very slim chance I would learn. No wonder people chase Tarpon. There is not a crazier fighting fish. And when you are in a pond from shore it's extremely violent and not a lot can be done. Bowing to the king, I mean prince, does have its purpose, but man it's like being in the octagon with no mouthpiece...

I have quite a lot of stories but here is my absolute favorite: I was fishing the pond I call Red Fish pond. (Because what I caught there first.) I saw a couple swirls of bigger fish and tossed my fly under a live oak that hangs very low from shore. It's a difficult cast. Usually made on my back cast literally 20ft from the shoreline that I'm on. As soon as my fly hit the swirl spot a micro Tarponie decides to eat and jump. And by jump, he looped my fly line in the tree overhang and spit my fly. Again, it happens so suddenly my brain can't tell my strip hand what to do fast enough. With my fly line in the tree my fly was left dangling at the surface. Then the little silver dollar decides to come back and eat it! This time, my 8wt rod is



*Strip hard my friends*



*See you at the beach*

in the grass as I'm reaching up at the fly line BUT the live oak is battling ITS first Tarpon like a fiberglass rod. 2 jumps and a deep dive. Then pop! My 30lb tippet was gone. I had 3 seconds of what I should have done but hindsight was equal and all I could do is watch and laugh.

I don't want to claim that I have tips or tricks for them. I seriously have had 2 in my hands. I have had them eat a really really, really slow purple bunny and I have had them eat a hand over hand super-fast retrieve white minnow. They are stubborn, but insanely fun. I'm leaving now to go and see if they are rolling... my wife calls it the old man and sea...and she's right. That's about it for this month. If you want to see a video of the release you can find it on our YouTube channel.... And you can find a link to that on our website!

*Strip Strip Strip!!!!—Tim*

## Gary Sundberg: Beautiful Swift River Trout. Life is Good.

For the last few weeks we have been spending time with our children in Massachusetts. I headed out to the Swift River which is a tailwater an hour and a half from downtown Boston.

Sections are fished heavily and by mid-July fish have seen most varieties of flies and presentations. Weekends are elbow-to-elbow but weekdays are lighter even with Covid 19.

Fish populations are good with large Browns, Rainbows, and Brook trout. Browns and Rainbows are super picky, rising to look at your fly and turn away or the take is so slow you need the patience of Job not to rip that fly out too soon.



*One of Gary's tiny flies*

Plus, the Brookies hit that fly before you can drift to that sight-fished Rainbow. Water is so clear that one pool is named *The Aquarium* because of the clarity and large number of fish. On top of that, fly sizes start at 18 and 22 size midges are used for droppers!

I hooked one nice Rainbow but horsed it in saltwater style and broke that 6x tippet. Oh yeah, 5x and 6x are tippet size.

Fortunately, Brook trout were willing and hit size 18 Caddis and Sulphur dry flies.

Beautiful river, water temp was 58 degrees and the air temp 80's. Life is good.

*Gary*



*Gary with a big jack he caught in Florida, not Massachusetts.*



## Mike Larkin and family: Fly fishing NC's Bald Mountain Creek



*Mike and his son Rylan at a club meeting.*

Mike Larkin and his family went to Burnsville, North Carolina for a week in the middle of July and they rented a house with a creek in the front yard.

The creek was the Bald Mountain creek.

They spent the days hiking to waterfalls and white-water river rafting, but they would fly fish every afternoon when they returned to the house.

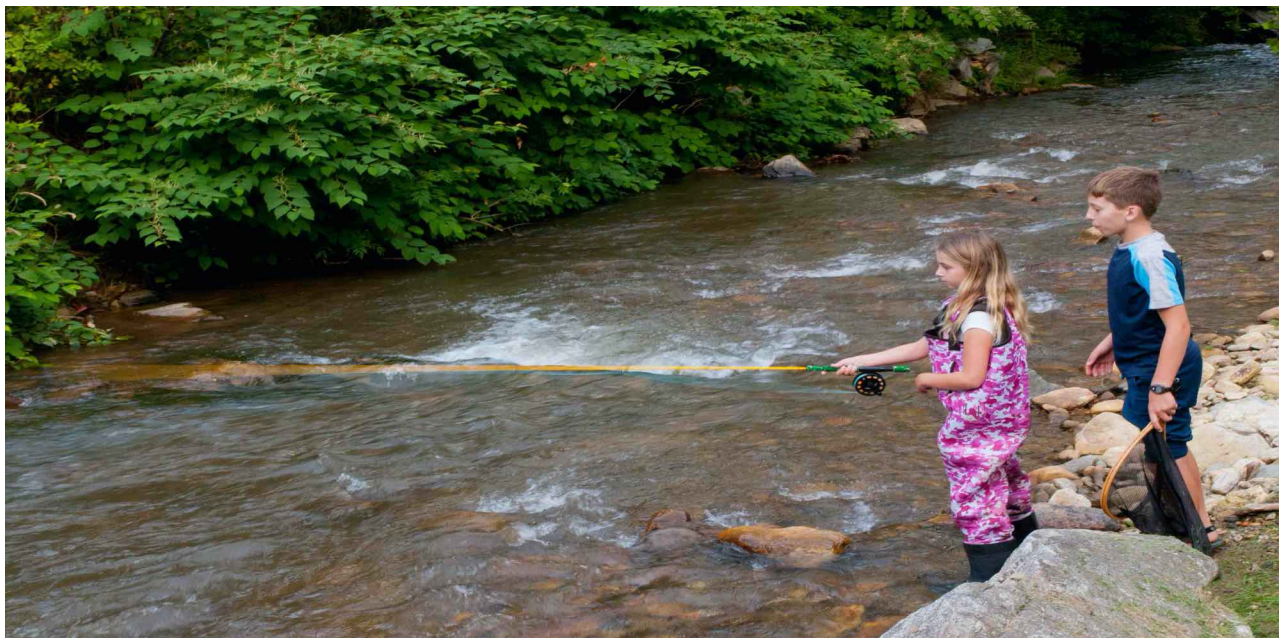


*Rylan with a brown trout*

They fly fished the creek using a 5-weight rod with a floating line. The flies were a parachute Adams dry fly as a strike indicator and a prince nymph about a foot under it.

Most of the trout were caught on the nymph but a handful of the trout hit the dry fly. They got 20 trout for the week ranging from 6 to 13 inches in length. The average size trout was 10 inches in length.

The trout species they caught were two brook trout, three brown trout, and the rest were rainbows.



*Marley and Rylan fly fishing the creek in our front yard*

**Dayle Mazarella: Clients Score on Wyoming's Hams Fork**

These are all from the Hams Fork in Wyoming. It's been a good season.

*Dayle*



**Robert Fischer: Macks are Back in Tampa Bay**

This mackerel from Tampa Bay served three functions:

- 1. it was a good fight on a 7 wt rod
- 2. it was entered in the CCA Star tournament.
- 3. it made a great lunch with butter, garlic, salt and pepper under a broiler. Nothing like making the most out of your fish catches! There are lots of mackerel and trout available now in the bay near the bait schools. Just look where the boats are casting nets for white bait and fish there! They liked 3" green and white or grey and white Clousers with lots of flash. Take several however because their teeth mess up flies pretty quickly. Lots of fun.



*Robert Fischer's Spanish mackerel for the grill.*

*Robert*

# Smitty's Fly Box: Summertime Baitfish Fly



Layne (Smitty) Smith

*This is a good match-the-hatch fly for schooling baitfish we see in late summer. You can call it an inshore slam fly.*



Summertime Baitfish Fly

## Materials

Hook: Daiichi  
Saltwater size 4

Thread: Danville Flat-waxed Nylon white

Weight: Silver bead 3.5mm

Tail: Two Whiting Hen Saddle feathers, ginger. 1-1/2 inches of small pearl Mylar tubing

Body: Ice Dubbing UV cinnamon

Hackle: Deer Creek Glis'n'Glint, Pearl/White

Eyes: 3mm 3D eyes

Head: Flymen Fish Mask size 4

Coating: Solarez UV Flex

**Tail Preparation. See instructions under photo**

## Tying Sequence:

1. Slip the bead onto the hook. Cover two thirds of the hook with a thread base.
2. Tie your tail down firmly on the hook and add a drop of glue when you have centered it on the hook shank. That will secure the tail.
3. Make a dubbing loop where the tie-in point of the tail ends. Dub the loop sparingly and wrap it to form a body. Don't brush the body yet.
4. Slide the silver bead down against the body and wrap a little thread to secure it. Add some glue or varnish to reinforce it. The weight sits 3 to 4 mm behind the hook eye. Make a new dubbing loop with sparse Glis'N'Glint in a hair hackle manner. Wrap it on pulling the fibers towards the tail. Form a small head.
5. Now brush through the dubbing. Use a dubbing needle to loosen the fibers.
6. Attach eyes to indentations in Fish Mask and slide mask onto fly. Tie a thread dam in front of mask whip finish and cut thread. Pull the fibers slightly back and apply Solarez Flex over the eyes and the gaps on the top and bottom of Fish Mask. Cure. Trim the fibers if they are too long.



## Tail Preparation

*Strip two hen saddle feathers leaving the tip and the stem. Put the feathers back to back and run the stems through the Mylar tubing. Add a drop of Solarez UV Flex on each side where the tube touched the stems and cure. Clip into the feathers forming a "V". Rather cut too little than too much. It can be adjusted later. I make several tails while watching TV.*

*Smitty*



**Bruce Evensen: Spotted Seatrout Bendback**



*Bruce Evensen*

This is my fly of the month and I'll be teaching it on Facebook, live, at 7:30 pm Monday, August 17. The seatrout bendback tied with purple and black fibers is a very, good fly for catching spotted seatrout on shallow grass flats.

*Bruce*



**Materials**

Hook: Mustad 3407 #2 Bend back 10 to 15 degrees

Thread: Black flat waxed nylon

Back: S.F. black fiber or black bucktail - if using black bucktail add pearl flash

UV Epoxy: cover thread wraps

**Tying Sequence**

1. Hook: Bend #2 hook to a Bend Back style.
2. Thread: Wrap Black flat waxed nylon thread from hook eye to across from hook point.
3. Belly: Tie in purple Estaz across from hook point up to hook bend. Tie off.
4. Body: Tie black Steve Farrah fiber or buck tail from hook eye to bend. Do not wrap past the bend. Tie off.
5. Glue: Coat thread wraps with UV Epoxy and set.
6. Go fishing.

*Bruce*

## Dennis Marquis: Teaching Yourself to Fly Fish

*You can never fish in the same river twice*



*Dennis Marquis with a big red caught fly fishing the Weedon Island Flats*

I'm reading a book titled *The Best Fishing Stories Told* which was edited and introduced by Nick Lyons. It's a collection of short stories and essays on all subjects and types of fishing.

I have yet to digest the whole book, I'm about half way through, and it continues to be an enjoyable meal. At the halfway point I got stuck on one piece, a short essay on fly-fishing by Verlyn Klinkenborg. It's named **2000 Words of Heartfelt Advice**. The piece struck several chords with me, including the need to learn and change quickly, juxtaposed by patience and the power of observation.

In it, the author is writing about how he got started as a fly fisher.

At one point he writes, "...To paraphrase Heraclitus, you can never fish in the same river twice. Conditions are always different, minute by minute, cast by cast, and the ability to adjust to changing conditions—to instruct yourself quickly—is a good measure of an angler's success." While I agree, I am always trying to balance between changing too quickly and being more patient.

While reading Klinkenborg I stopped and thought a lot about how I approach my never-ending quest to be a better fly fisher. To put things into perspective, I thought I would write about a recent trip. As a reminder, I enjoy hunting for speckled trout, so this trip was no different.

I save all my spots on my boat's navigation system, so I can easily put the boat right over the mark. It took about 25 minutes to get to the spot and settle the boat. In this case, I used the GPS anchor on my MinnKota to hold the boat over the "X". I made my first cast, and hooked up on the second strip. I was fishing a small white fly I've recently developed but have yet to name. Landed a couple more, missed several, then things got quiet. I stopped the MinnKota to let the boat drift naturally with the outgoing tide. When the boat had moved about 20 yards, I set the GPS anchor again and started to fish - hooked up rather quickly and landed a few more trout, one nice slot size, then things got quiet again. Once again I stopped the GPS anchor to let the boat drift with the current, and once again I re-anchored it and started to fish. As before, I found the trout again. I was moving in a southerly direction. At this point I took a good long look around and could see what I call a "current stream" flowing with the outgoing tide from where my boat had been, through where I was and then south toward a small mangrove island about 100 yards in the distance. As the current stream approached the island, it wound around it in a southwesterly direction, where it eventually met the boating channel. The channel runs north to south roughly parallel to the stream.



*Continued on next page*

## Dennis Marquis: Teaching Yourself to Fly Fish

These current streams I see are often smoother than the surrounding water. In my mind, these are no different than a winding fresh water stream physically bounded by land, only these saltwater flows are bounded by underwater structure and in this case, the island to the southeast and the flat to the northwest, creating a natural flow of deeper water off the channel between the two structures.

It has taken about a dozen trips to this area in all sorts of conditions before the right combination of conditions occurred which allowed me to see the “water highway” that was hidden below. I’ll fess up to using Google maps satellite view to help me – but it doesn’t supply the detail and conditions I see and experience while on the water.

Once found, I just followed the stream and continued to have fun landing trout. As I passed the island to my southeast and got closer to the channel to my west, I lost the trout. At this point I could see the bottom, my nav system was reading 2-3’ and realized that I had lost the stream only to run into another flat. Just for kicks, I went back and followed the stream northeast to see where it stopped, and again I found where it meets its northern boundary. I was able to chart this length of water for future reference using multiple “X” marks on my navigation system.



What I enjoy about fishing is the hunt, which is a combination of observation and learning the conditions that result in predictable strikes. With the fly I can be more strategic – it’s quieter, I can place the fly where I want it, control the sink rate more precisely and move the fly more delicately. Of course, there is always that big payoff, the reward – feeling the strike telegraphed up from the fly, through the leader, up the line to my left hand. Next is the set strip, followed by a tight line and then the slow bending rise of the rod, which brings the fight to my right hand. For me, the hunt is the double layer chocolate cake; the sensation of the strike, and the set is the chocolate icing all over it. I like chocolate!

Verlyn goes onto say, “It wasn’t the cast, the catch, or the release that mattered to me, ... It was the lesson about observation...”

“I had never realized that those differences – in light, in current, in sound -- would show me trout, if only I could be patient enough to look for them.” Had Verlyn contradicted himself? At one point he suggests we have to be quick to change, and here he is touting patience. I believe fishing requires the right combination of both; perhaps this is exactly the author’s point.

I’ll continue reading this book and when done I can offer it to anyone in the club to read and hopefully enjoy.

In the meantime, ***Fish It!***

*Dennis*

## Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner



### **Fly Fishing: We get better as we age**

Fly fishing is one of the few sports, maybe the only one, where you get better as you age. This depends very much on how you do it. In saltwater we use heavier equipment, must cast further with accuracy, and are constantly confronted with adverse wind conditions, a combination of issues that if not approached properly will cause physical deterioration of muscles, ligaments, and joints. Younger sports enthusiasts in tennis or golf often are plagued with these issues that can be debilitating. Tennis elbow and golf wrist are frequent results. The reason is usually poor execution of fundamentals. Someone who never fly fished can have an advantage over a veteran who has many issues with poor, "Muscle memory." Watching any accomplished sports enthusiast perform looks easy because flaws are

eliminated. An excuse I often hear is, "Fly fishing is too much work!" Do a search of Fly Fishing Clubs in your area and you will find a group of fly fisher's that share the same interests at many different levels. You can find capable instructors that will be only too happy to get you on the correct path to make this a safe and enjoyable pastime.

### **Fly Fishing: Getting into the weeds**

Floating weeds and grass are things we must contend with when fishing with a fly rod this time of year. If a fly doesn't look natural, fish will refuse it. Green stuff on the fly hook will always get a refusal. Flies that represent baitfish must be moved through the water to look natural. Select fly patterns that have the hook pointed up with relatively stiff hair extending past the hook bend for a weedless option. If weeds are on the surface, use a weighted fly and even a sink tip line that will get your offering deeper, thus avoiding the weeds. Clouser type minnows and bend backs are good examples. Floating flies can also have the hook point upward or completely protected. Examples are mouse patterns tied with deer hair. If you tie your flies or have a fly tier who keeps you supplied, use a strand of 20- or 30-pound hard monofilament tied in at the head to protect the hook point. Single strand wire is also an effective alternative, especially for darker flies. Flies that encourage strikes with little movement are also a great choice; crab, shrimp and sand flea imitations fill the bill here. Don't cast until there is an opening in the grass. Pay attention to wind and tide. Accuracy really is important. You want your fly to hit an open spot that is weed-free. Practice casting to targets in your back yard to improve your ability to hit a small spot. When fishing canals or channels, the windward side will frequently have all the debris, leaving the other side open. Beach fishing is another great option targeting fish in the wash close to the sand. An easterly wind will help keep it a weed-free zone.

*From the Tampa Bay Times....*

*Fly fisherman Pat Damico charts Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at [captpatdamico.com](http://captpatdamico.com) and (727) 504-8649*

## Mark Hays: Our Fishing Buddy



It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of a loyal club member. May has chomped her last ladyfish and will be sorely missed.

Other than chasing fish, I know her greatest pleasure was socializing with the club at events and outings. Licking Woody Miller's head was the highlight of every meeting.

Instead of flowers, please send donations to Mark and Marianne's "Help Our Daughter Get Hitched" fund.



Thank you so much for always being so kind and welcoming to our girl Mayhem.

*Mark*

## Fly Gear for Sale or Swap

**Marked down from \$1,500 to \$900 -- Ocean kayak and extras from Frank Moss. Call 727-421-5354**

Ocean Kayak, sit on top Prowler 15'. Extras include a paddle with tether, roof top car carrier, 6 plugs, sea anchor and lead anchor, two fly rod holders, one spinning rod holder, stick-it anchor pole, ceiling hoist, beach launch wheels, several nylon lines, a fly fishing vest. \$900

**Larry Lurie is selling his 16-foot Bass Tracker. Just \$4800. Email him at [lawrencelurie@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencelurie@gmail.com)**

40 HP Mercury. Walk through Bimini top; Minn Kota Power Drive Copilot 55-lb thrust trolling motor. Lowrance color fish finder/GPS. Shortwave radio w/marine band, NOAA weather. Stereo AM/FM/W-CD. Boat cover; Minn Kota electric winch; 22-gal aerated bait tank; two 6-gallon gas tanks w/ tank switch; two new deep-cycle batteries; built in charger w/switch to run on either battery or both. PayPal.

**Lynn Skipper has two fly rods and a reel. 813-542-3195. [vintagevette@msn.com](mailto:vintagevette@msn.com) 813-541-3195**

- ROSS FLY STIK HEAVY 10 wt 7'11" 4 piece with tube. Ideal rod for those night trips after snook under the docks where you need to horse them away from the dock quickly. Originally \$200, now \$100. Barely used with no nicks, blemishes etc.
- ORVIS TLS Power Matrix 4 piece 3 wt 8'4" Midflex with case. Originally \$175, now \$100.
- Orvis Battenkill ¾ wt reel with backing and 3 wt WFF line. Used one trip to Montana last year. Originally \$125, now \$75 OBO.

**Want to sell or trade? Need some fly gear? Email [Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin@verizon.net](mailto:wmaucoin@verizon.net)**

## Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



**ICAST 2020 New Product Showcase winners** – Dealers usually meet in person in Orlando (Or Las Vegas sometimes) to see new fishing gear but because of the Covid 19 virus it was an internet-only show this year. This is the fishing gear we'll see on store shelves in 2021. There's not much fly fishing gear but Pure Fishing's Hardy brand is a winner. ([Icastfishing](#))

**IFTD 2020 Fly Fishing Trade Show** – Until a couple of years ago the American Fly Fishing Trade Association (AFFTA) shared space with ICAST at the Orlando Convention Center but AFFTA decided to hold their own show in Denver in 2019. This year's show has been canceled because of the virus but take a look at the 2019 winners which, practically speaking, are new to store shelves right now. ([Hatch](#))

**Red Tide? Good riddance. (Well, for now.)** – Most recently published samples tell us that *Karenia brevis* was not observed on the Gulf coast except they did pick up "background concentrations" in one sample in Manatee County. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

**Join me in saying, Congratulations** -- Christina Welch is zeroing in on a very hot topic at the University of South Florida. ([Fly Fishers International](#))

**Actually, Gulf and Bay water temperatures are damn hot right now** – Here is a tutorial on best practices for releasing redfish, snook, and spotted seatrout. Do not use stainless steel hooks. I didn't know this. To get some oxygenated water into their gills it says to move them forward only, not backward. I didn't know this, either. ([MyFWC](#))

**We need a vaccine** -- Many fly fishing stores and manufacturers have had to close because of lockdown regulations, not because of lack of demand. But some are selling and shipping products to buyers. But the hardest hit sector? Fly fishing travel. ([Fly Fisherman](#))

**Extra, extra. Read all about it.** – A new issue of *ON THE FLY SOUTH* is out. Bonefish. Trout in Tennessee and NC. Middle Everglades water restoration. Bahamas have tightened Covid 19 restrictions. ([On The Fly South](#))

**Yeah, but did he catch it on the fly?** -- Just teasing. Vance McCullers caught this 15-pound, 2-oz. bass in Polk County and Florida's TrophyCatch program announces it is the largest Hall of Fame Bass caught this in Season 8. ([Space Coast Daily](#))

**I hear Orville Redenbacher popping** -- Welcome to a classic edition of the Orvis News Friday Fly-Fishing Film Festival with the best fly-fishing videos they can find. Phil Monahan puts this together. This one includes bonefishing in Mexico, brook trout fishing in Labrador, tarpon in the Everglades. ([Orvis Fly Fishing](#))

*Special Friends of  
Suncoast Fly Fishers*



textfaulkner@gmail.com 727-919-2903  
**9841 Lema Court New Port Richey**



plantationoncrystalriver.com  
800-632-6262



WWW.BILLJACKSONS.COM  
727-576-4169

**To place an ad in *On The Fly* please email  
Tom Gadacz at  
thomasgadacz@yahoo.com**



orvis.com/fly-fishing



**Star brite**  
www.starbrite.com



~ our toil doth sweeten others ~  
www.beehavenhoneyfarm.com

*Special Friends of  
Suncoast Fly Fishers*



[WWW.SHOP.CARBONMARINE.COM](http://WWW.SHOP.CARBONMARINE.COM)



**3625 S. Manhattan Avenue  
Tampa, Florida 33629  
727-504-4062**

GOODYEAR • TOYO • COOPER • MICHELIN



**727-822-3981**  
TODD MURRIAN [www.bobleetire.com](http://www.bobleetire.com)  
1831 • 4th STREET NORTH • ST. PETERSBURG, FL. 33704



**Hand Tied Flies**  
By Bruce Evensen  
Phone 727-403-9010  
Thousands to Choose From  
[etsy.com/shop/poppabrucesflies](http://etsy.com/shop/poppabrucesflies)



**Capt. Jerry Allen**  
6647 Central Ave. St. Petersburg, FL 33710  
727.954.8814 • [www.West-Coast-Kayaks.com](http://www.West-Coast-Kayaks.com)  
✂ Jerry @ West-Coast-Kayaks.com ✂

[WWW.WEST-COAST-KAYAKS.COM](http://WWW.WEST-COAST-KAYAKS.COM)

ANDY THORNAL COMPANY Since 1945

GATEWAY TO ADVENTURE SINCE 1945

(800) 499-9890

[WWW.ANDYTHORNAL.COM](http://WWW.ANDYTHORNAL.COM)





*Special Friends of  
Suncoast Fly Fishers*

**Fly Fishing  
Western Wyoming**  
Dayle Mazarella  
emailmazz@yahoo.com  
(760) 703-0118

WYOMING  
Guided Fishing Trips  
Casting Lessons  
Group Rates  
June - October  
SAN DIEGO  
Casting Lessons  
November - December  
TAMPA  
Casting Lessons  
January - May

Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Master Casting Instructor

Fly Fishing Western Wyoming .com  
Guided Trips - Casting Lessons

flyfishingwesternwyoming.com

**Metalfab Inc**  
ARCHITECTURAL METAL SPECIALISTS

**WALTER RUDA, PRESIDENT**

[METALFAB-INC.COM/CONTACT.PHP](http://METALFAB-INC.COM/CONTACT.PHP)

**Nigh Fly Rods**

Custom Bamboo Fly Rods  
[www.nighflyrods.com](http://www.nighflyrods.com)

CAPTAIN SHAWN McCOLE

Captain Shawn McCole  
Inshore Fly Fishing and Light Tackle  
Tarpon • Snook • Redfish  
Phone: 863•608•3758  
Email: captshawnmccole@gmail.com  
U.S.C.G. Licensed & Insured  
[www.captainshawnmccole.com](http://www.captainshawnmccole.com)

**www.tforods.com**

**FLY FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL**

*Special Friends of  
Suncoast Fly Fishers*



**St. Pete**  
FISHING OUTFITTERS  
3450 34<sup>th</sup> St. N. St. Pete



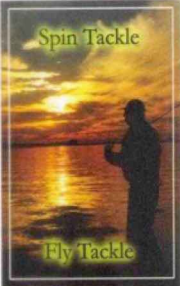
**CANOE COUNTRY FL.COM**  
"Wherever the  
WATER  
may take you!"  
727.545.4554  
Kayaks - Paddleboards - Canoes



**www.thomasbruce.com**



**JIM SWANN'S**  
Complete Fly Fishing Shop  
Rods - Reels - Hand Tied Flies - Guide Service  
Fly Tying Materials  
Classes in Fly Tying and Casting  
352-567-6029 13650 S. 98 By Pass  
Dade City, FL 33525



**The Fly Guy**  
Capt. Pat Damico  
2981 E. Vina del Mar Blvd.  
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706  
Tel: 727-360-6466  
Web: <http://captpat.com>  
Email: [flyguy@captpat.com](mailto:flyguy@captpat.com)

**WWW.CAPTPATDAMICO.COM**



**CUSTOM ROD**  
BUILDING AND REPAIR  
**ALAN SEWELL**  
Owner  
Phone: (727) 470-4570  
Fax: (727) 344-0503  
[sewellalan@yahoo.com](mailto:sewellalan@yahoo.com)  
SALT - FRESH - FLY