

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

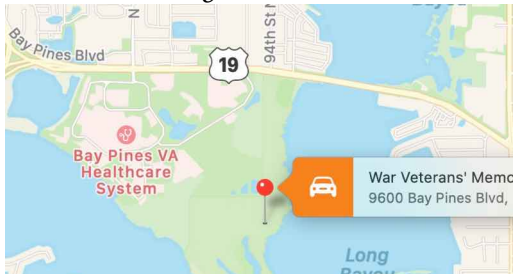
Zoom in 11/19 with
Andy Mill P3



Longest Fish Outing Winner P6



Nov.21 Outing --War Vets Park P7



Muchas Gracias Trey Reid P8



Hunt for Red October P13



James Davis' very good month P15





President's Letter, November 2020

Suncoast Fly Fishers,

We are having an Open House! This is something that I would like to see as an annual tradition. This year our open house will be on ZOOM and our special guest speaker will be Andy Mill. This will be our chance to invite the public to see what it means to be a member of Suncoast Fly Fishers and I for one think it means a lot.

First, I would like to remind everyone what it means to be in SFF during a normal year. To begin with we have *On The Fly*. Thanks to Bill AuCoin, his co-editors and the many contributors, this is by far the best newsletter that I have ever read. In a normal year we get together every month, except December, for our monthly meeting. There is usually something to eat and drink. One or more fly tyers demonstrate their latest creation. Boy, do I miss Smitty. Everyone has a chance to meet up with their friends in the club and we have a local expert or notable personality speak on a topic of interest. There are special meetings where all are invited to participate in a tie-a-thon and enjoy free pizza. There is the Trash and Treasure live auction each January with the always entertaining Alan Sewell serving as auctioneer. Of course, everyone looks forward to our annual business meeting and a chance for a good snooze.

Each month we usually give away a free subscription to *Tail Magazine*. At the end of each meeting there is a raffle with all kinds of items up for grabs. I have more fur and feathers from this event than I will ever be able to use. Sadly, we lost our beloved rafflemiester, Dave Barson, earlier this year. Each month we host a fly-fishing outing at a local fresh or saltwater venue. There is always a great meal. Some special treats include smoked brisket, our BBQ rib challenge and the annual chili cookoff at the Don Coleman classic.

Casting is the essence fly fishing, and we have many events to learn to cast or sharpen your skills. There is a casting session before each meeting, in the summer, when the days are long enough to provide enough sunlight. We normally have at least two casting clinics taught by master certified casting instructors and we always have a series of practice sessions to improve the chances for our members that want to compete in the Big Gun Shootout hosted by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club each November. Every week the club conducts a live fly-tying class hosted by Bruce Evensen. What a great opportunity to get started in fly tying or to learn new patterns and techniques.

Then there are special events. Our annual Christmas party in December. The trip to the Everglades in the spring. Our annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction. If that isn't enough, check out our website and Facebook page.

That was then and this is now. Covid-19 has taken over our lives', but it can't slow down our club. We have canceled or postponed many in person events, but we still have a lot to offer. Since the pandemic we have totally revamped our website and social media platforms. We are holding board meetings, member meetings and even fly-tying classes on ZOOM. We won't be gathering in person for lunches, but we are still holding fly fishing outings each month. And just for the record we still have the best newsletter that I have ever read. Join us for the virtual open house on Thursday November 19th featuring Andy Mill.

Stay safe and keep fishing!

Rick

Rick Warfel, SFF President

Meetings, Outings, and More

The November SFF meeting will be a Virtual Open House featuring guest speaker Andy Mill

Thursday, November 19, 7 PM. Zoom in at 6:45 pm.

Here's the link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82763574253>

- This is our chance to let the public know what SFF is all about so please invite anyone that might be interested in joining the club to this very special ZOOM meeting.
- Our November meeting speaker is Andy Mill, highly-heralded saltwater fly fisher and former alpine ski racer.
- Andy Mill has won many tournaments and is one of only two fly fishers to win tarpon, bonefish, and permit tournaments on the fly.
- He is the author of *A Passion for Tarpon* by Wild River Press (with a special forward by former President H. W. Bush and an introduction by Lefty Kreh)
- Andy and his son Nicky are on the editorial team of *Tail Fly Fishing* magazine. When you attend the Zoom meeting you could win a one-year subscription to TAIL FLY FISHING MAGAZINE.
- Members of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers are invited to join us for this special meeting.



Andy Mill, saltwater trophy fly fisher and former Olympian ski champion (Tail Flyfishing)

November 21 Virtual Outing – War Veterans Memorial Park

Saturday, November 21 Outing

- Fish anywhere around War Veterans Memorial Park. No picnic today. (Covid, you know.)
- SFF outing prizes (\$10 gift certificates to Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure) will go to the members catching the longest snook and longest ladyfish. Measure it. Take a picture of it. Email your picture to outing chairman Bob Burkard, at robertburkard9@gmail.com
- Wade-fishers are invited to join Bill AuCoin and others wading in from the canoe/kayak launch area shortly after the park opens at 7 am.

Saturday, December 5. 11am-12:30 pm :Remembering Dave Barson Sunset Park, 7200 Sunset Way, St. Pete



- We're all invited to come and share stories about Dave who exceeded our popular fly gear raffle.
- The SFF board passed a motion to donate \$100 to the foundation working on a cure for the autoimmune disease that affected Dave for many years.
- Dave donated a huge amount of fly gear to the club. It'll become part of our Trash 'n' Treasures auction trove.
- Light Covid-friendly snacks will be served. Email his daughter Jill to let her know if you can or cannot attend. If you can't attend she'll email you a zoom link so you can participate remotely. Email: jillgarcia216@gmail.com
- Wear a mask. Practice safe distancing, etc.

Meetings, Outings, and More

December 12, Don Coleman Outing – Fort DeSoto Park

Sorry – no chili cookoff this year.

Saturday, December 12

- Fish anywhere in and around Fort DeSoto Park
- The SFF outing prizes (\$10 gift certificates to Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure) will go to the members catching the longest fish. Measure. Take a picture of your fish then email your picture to our outing chair, Bob Burkard, at robertburkard9@gmail.com
- If you like to wade-fish then you can join Bill AuCoin and other waders. They're meeting up when the park opens (7 am) at the very North end of the North Beach parking lot.

Watch your inbox

- Watch for an email about renewing your SFF and FFI Memberships.
- You'll also be getting an email soon requesting your opinions about what the club can do to keep you involved and engaged.

Club fly tying on ZOOM

- Bruce Evensen is our go-to fly tie teacher on Zoom on the second Monday of every month.
- Now other members are volunteering to teach their favorites. James Davis tied his Night Fly on Zoom Monday, Nov. 9.
- Watch your inbox for links to the date, time, and materials for the next lessons. Miss the lesson? No worries. Go to the club's [Facebook](#) page and scroll down. It'll probably be there.

Auction Action in the Works

Covid 19 has thrown a wrench in the fund raising works. We didn't have a Hog Roast and silent auction in 2020 and a Hog Roast in 2021 is also in question. Our board of directors has been considering an online auction or two or three to put a few more bucks in the bank. Here's an update:

- Christmas Party – Cancelled.
- Hog Roast and Silent Auction 2021 – Cancelled. However, directors are looking into the possibility of holding an online auction in March and opening it up to the public.
- Fly (flea) Market – Postponed.
- January Trash 'n' Treasures – Postponed. Awaiting all-clear to have an in-person event.
- And, of course, feel free to donate a few bucks.

January 9 - Outfitters Day in Orlando

- Outfitters Day January 9 am to 4 pm
- It's outdoors on the casting lawn at the Ritz Carlton, Orlando
- Demonstrations, competitions, fly gear showcases
- Social distancing required.



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 22nd Avenue N turn North on 72nd St. N. Turn left (West) on 26th 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

Facebook.com/scff2020S

Membership update

Suncoast Fly Fishers now has 131 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. Welcome new member Art Beetle of Seminole

###

Suncoast Fly Fishers

P. O. Box 40821
St Petersburg, FL 33743
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

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: October Outing,



Bob Burkard, Outings Committee chairman

October's outing, the Carl Hanson Outing with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club was a huge success. Great turnout. Lots of laughs. And a real picnic at Pavilion 3. Alas, some of us had too much fun standing or sitting too close. Worrisome. (C-19, you know). So the board has decided no more picnics for a while.

Suncoast Fly Fishers won the longest fish category thanks to the 26-inch snook Robert Mitchell caught on a Mark Hays snake fly. James Davis also caught a great snook but he fished through lunch and didn't make it back for the trophy presentation. (Photo on page 15)



Robert Mitchell, right, and his 26" snook caught on a snake fly tied by Mark Hays (left).

So on behalf of the Suncoast Fly Fishers Robert gets to keep the Carl Hanson artwork until next year's Carl Hanson outing.

We did have a trophy for the member catching the most fish. That would be Robert Fischer who caught 9 fish including mangrove snapper, ladyfish, and needlefish. Since Fischer belongs to SFF and TBFFC, both clubs get to share in the glory.



Bob Burkard decided not to enter this needlefish for the longest fish award.



And Mark Hays, last year's winner, handing the artwork over to Robert Mitchell, his future son-in-law. That's called keeping it in the family.



Greg Rogers of TBFFC joined James Davis, Alan Sewell, Bob Burkard and Bill AuCoin at the East Beach picnic area.



After everybody else moved, James Davis stayed put at East Beach and caught fish.

November Virtual Outing at War Veterans Memorial Park

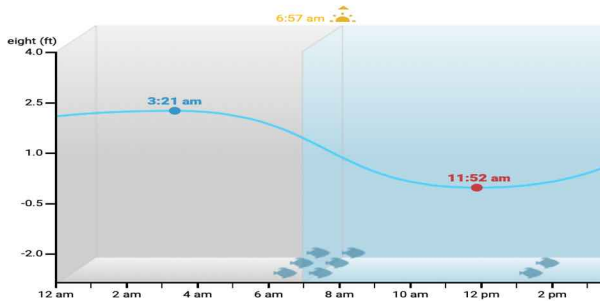
The board has decided that we should not resume picnic lunches at our outings until C-19 is over and done. (We had too much fun at the October outing and some people didn't observe the protocols. So there!) But we can still fish and, you know, your 9-foot fly rod makes a great social distancing tool.

Fish anywhere in Boca Ciega Bay. Members catching the longest seatrout and longest ladyfish will get \$10 gift certificates good at Bill Jackson's. Measure. Take a picture. Email the picture to Bob Burkard, outings chairman.

Bob



Park entrance is at Bay Pines Blvd. Boat ramp is on your left. Or, continue to the kayak/canoe launch area or to a shoreline parking area where you can wade in a fly fish.



War Vets Park: Nice outgoing tide until noon
Tides4Fishing.com



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)
	34"	James Davis	Fort DeSoto Park (October)
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)
Longest seatrout	19"	Robert Fischer	North Tampa Bay Outing (Sept.)

Duane Mertz: October Meeting with Trey Reid



Duane Mertz

Trey Reid, an avid fisher in saltwater and freshwater, and a writer who covers and interviews some of sports fishing's biggest names as a regular contributor to **Tail Flyfishing Magazine**, was the featured speaker at the October 15th SFF virtual meeting. Trey is also a full-time employee of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission who has his own talk radio show.

Trey entertained our group with a slideshow presentation about a fishing trip he made to Xcalak Mexico a remote fishing village on Mexico's east coast about 5-1/2 hours south of Cancun and two miles north of the Belize border. Xcalak is so remote it only got on the electrical grid 10 years ago.

Trey recommends staying at the **Acocote Inn** where you catch bonefish in front of the hotel as well as juvenile Tarpon in a lagoon adjacent to the hotel.

Within 10 minutes of town you can wade miles of flats for permit, bonefish, tarpon, and yellow jack both guided and DIY. Trey caught his first permit here which he calls his "Pandemic Permit".



Grand slam saltwater fly fishing, scuba dive the Great Mayan Reef, kayak or stand-up paddle board, explore ancient Mayan ruins, or just chill with a book on the beach.

Xcalak is a great alternative to Belize as it has much less fishing pressure and is comparatively less expensive. An angler can pay as little as \$2,000-\$2,500 for five days of guided fishing. Local guides charge \$300/day for 2 people.

The Acocote Inn costs about \$1,000 for four people to stay for a week and airfares to Xcalak are low.

Another advantage is that you can get along without speaking Spanish. The guides speak English for the most part, some not a lot, but enough to get by.

Muchas Gracias, Capt. Trey

###



Outdoor writer and broadcaster Trey Reid was our October meeting speaker on Zoom,

Big Gun Shootout November 15 at Picnic Island Park

Congratulations again to the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club for hosting this annual contest at Picnic Island Park in Old Port Tampa. Photos by Kevin Kelly and Bill AuCoin

- Team *White Tackle* (Dave Olsen, Eric Davis, Walt Hoover) scored highest of all three-person teams with 1264 points. Olsen's 113-foot cast also earned him the long distance championship. Hoover was the individual winner over 28 other competitors with 440 points.
- The *Epstein Didn't Kill Himself* team (Quin Berry, James Davis, David Redd) placed sixth and was the highest among SFF teams with 860 points.
- Team *Flingston Trio* (Bill AuCoin, Dennis Marquis, Bob Burkard) had 624 points. The two-person *Reel Deal* team (Rick Warfel and Barry Salzman) scored 500 points.
- Fly fishers competed in six different contests—One for distance and five for tight loop-accuracy.. For all the results go to our club's [Facebook](#) website.



Distance winner Dave Olson (l) with TBFFC President Walt Durkin.



Our club's competitors, left to right—Dennis Marquis, Quin Berry, James Davis, Barry Salzman, Bill AuCoin Rick Warfel, David Redd, and Bob Burkard.



James Davis loads up his rod for the longest distance contest.



Robert Fischer used a magical nail knot tool to attach the official six-foot leader.

P2/Big Gun Shootout at Picnic Island Park



Barry Salzman shoots his line under the "mangroves"



James Davis (l) held the first ticket out of the box and won a Redbone 8-weight rod donated by the fly shop at Tampa Fishing Outfitters. TBFFC's Walt Durkin congratulates. The Redbone rod was just one of many items donated by TFO for the event. Thanks, [Tampa Fishing Outfitters](#).



Bob Burkard won this Umpqua sling/back pack. You can't see his face, but he had a big smile.



Rick Warfel aims for the elusive Carl Hanson cup.



Dennis Marquis shoots for distance.



Quin Berry aims for the Carl Hanson Cup. Quin took charge of our club's practice and participation in this year's Big Gun Shootout.

Not so new member, new water

Tim Elms: What Fish are really thinking



Hold on tight!

Howdy! Your neighborhood Black Bass here. I've been hanging out lately with some of my buddies. And I gotta tell ya, we keep seeing this human with a cigarette dangling from his mouth while he relentlessly throws out some crazy colored rope at my friends and family. Each day we all run and laugh as this rope hits the water. Sometimes a fairly tasty treat is chasing this rope in and its too enticing for me not to eat it.

Meanwhile, our normal forage of meals are still driving us crazy. While we stopped social distancing after the spawn, we started to eat all together at the same time. It's very nice to have a community meal.



Welcome to the Jungle



That's ME!

On a bad note, the water seems to be cooling a little and unfortunately, I know those salty "peaceful protestors" from the canal will start pushing in here with their line-sider looks, their spotted tails, and big eyes. Who do they think they are. This is our buffet. Even some of our children have fallen to these hungry animals. Absolute savages.

I have watched several of these deplorables charge after these shiny yummy fish following the "colored rope." But I know better. I only eat around sunrise and sunset and look for things that POP really loud in the shallows. There's no way this human is causing that commotion, right? Seems to me when I eat one of those POPPING things, I basically get abducted from a UFO, and then I'm quickly back at home with a hangover.

Oh, when one of the mean little Tarpon eats this snack, I see them go crazy and throw an absolute tantrum in the water. I can't believe we even share water together. Who does that? Keep sipping air you weirdo. And don't even get me started on the Snook. The big ones have started to show up again and they just cut in line like a millennial with headphones on. Good Grief. No class.

I guess we will just wait out the holidays and look forward to another classy peaceful Valentines spawn with the civilized.

Pop! Pop! Yumm-- ~



Savage Tarpon

Mr. Bass

Dennis Marquis: Hunt for Reds in October



The picture of that first tail was burned into my memory.

Hunting for tailing redfish in the sprawling flats of Spartina Grass (aka cordgrass) in St Augustine has always been one of those blessed adventures I prayed for. So when my wife Cindy suggested we holiday there I was all in. While Cindy focused on the hotel and touring arrangements, I turned to Google to find a guide.

A simple search for “fly fishing redfish St Augustine” turned up a list of potential charters, one of the first being Old City Guide Service. I emailed them and got connected within an hour. Captain Matt and Captain Luke put their heads together and recommended

the optimal days to fish. Cindy and I were flexible, so we decided to wait and let Captain Matt pick the day based on conditions. With advice from the Captains, I came prepared with an 8wt Orvis Clearwater and 7wt Sage X, each rigged with a leader that was 3 feet of 40lb mono, 2.5 feet of 30lb mono and 2 feet of 20lb flouro. I would learn that the fly of choice was to be a greenish Kwan fly.

On the selected day, we met at 11 am at the Vilano boat ramp and headed north into the Tolomato River. We expecting a peak flood tide around 1pm. We fished in and around the National Estuarine Research Preserve. (Yes, that’s a mouthful). Talk about raw beauty... sprawling grass flats as far as the eye could see within 74,000 acres of open wilderness. Cindy and I were in awe. Seeing a few bald eagles up close was a bonus.

While waiting for the grass to flood, Captain Matt kept us busy chasing chomping schools of jacks using a white fiber bait pattern and our guide’s smooth gliding 18-foot Beavertail Skiff. These jacks were 10 lbs plus.

With a wink and a nod, Captain Matt signaled it was time to creep into the grass for the hunt. Poling slowwwwwwwwwly, stopping and peering between the blades of grass looking for movement and of course tails was the way of the day. After 30 minutes of poling, Captain Matt calmly announced, “I got one at 11 o’clock about 30 feet out”.

It took Cindy and me a bit of time before we understood what to look for but eventually we started seeing the fish. From the top of the bow mounted casting platform I would see a small boil, or movement in the grass, a ripple and suddenly there it was - a “whole” tail with a beautiful deep black spot surrounded by brownish red waving at me. The picture of that first tail was burned into my memory.



Magic fly-- Captain Matt’s crab fly with heavy tungsten eyes. Strip it slowly.

Our captain kept reminding us that these reds are happy, just rooting along the bottom taking advantage of the bounty released by the flood tide. I believe I even heard one croaking a merry tune as it waded nose down tail up in the grass.

Continued on following page

P2/Hunt for Reds in October

You can get close – they don't care. As long as you don't cast over their backs, they continue contentedly poking around. Your role is to quietly follow along until the fish presents a casting angle such that the fly and leader can be presented 4-5 feet in front and ahead of it. Once the leader settles, you slowly strip the fly back into the fish's forward zone and wait. As it forages closer, you strip short and slow. Sometimes the leader travels over the grass and the fly comes up and plops back in again. This doesn't seem to bother the fish. Most casts were gently placed 15-20 feet away from the bow of the boat.

Over the 3-4-hour period of the flood tide we stalked a good number of tails. Some disappeared in the process, others did something unpredictable and ruined the fun, while a few cooperated and came to play. I had good shots at several. I even worked a tailing sheepshead – no kidding! When these hungry reds see the fly, it's all over. They explode on it. After a couple of explosive and dynamic misses, I calmly and quietly said, "The third time will be the charm." It was.

With Captain Matt and his Skiff, Cindy and I zigzagged close to 20 miles upriver from the marina, stopping here and there to pole into and over the grass. The boat ride itself was worth the price of admission; the fish were a welcomed bonus. Captain Matt took us to one last spot, settled the boat, and the hunt was on again. After a few minutes I heard, "I got one dead ahead out about 20 feet". I picked up the twitching of the grass and pointed the tip of my 7wt Sage. Matt confirmed I was on target.

We waited for the fish to show us its traveling line. Once it did, Matt called the shot and I let it go. With the fish traveling left to right on an angle going away from the bow, I placed the fly where it needed to be. I stripped the fly back into the path of the fish and waited for a few seconds – seemed like minutes, until Matt told me to strip it slow and soft. As I did, the red came up, walloped the fly and the fight was on.

In the grass, while fighting these fish, it is important to lift the rod so the line doesn't drag and get tangled in the long spartina. With Matt's coaching, we boated the fish. After the high fives, and a few pics, I eased her back into the water and off she went. Turns out Cindy, my better half, caught the whole sequence on video. By now I've probably watched that video 100 times, each time reliving and enjoying the moment. It was near perfect.

Although we were hunting flood tide reds in October, Captain Matt made it clear that St. Augustine presents plenty of inshore fly-fishing options throughout the year. Optimal flood tide fishing for tailing reds runs from June into November. You can streamer fish for stacked low tide reds in the feeder creeks all year round, with optimal periods from late October through December and then again from March into June. Warmer periods offer tarpon, jacks, bonito and dock light snook and trout. During the coldest days of the year, when the water is at its clearest, and with a good sun, you can find laid up monster reds and sheepshead.

Cindy and I really enjoyed St Augustine; we walked, took in its rich history, shopped and ate. We agreed a 3-4 day stay, with a day of fishing mixed in, was optimal. I believe this will end up being an annual holiday for us – hunting for reds in October! In the meantime – fish it!

Dennis

James Davis: October Snook, Seatrout, and Bigmouth Bass.



This pond bass crashed the surface to eat James' frog fly

James Davis had a darn good month.

Here's a bass picture. I did pretty good out on the beach catching a big snook and I got a trout fishing with Dennis (Marquis) off of a flat using gurglers. The newsletter always is awesome. You do a great job.

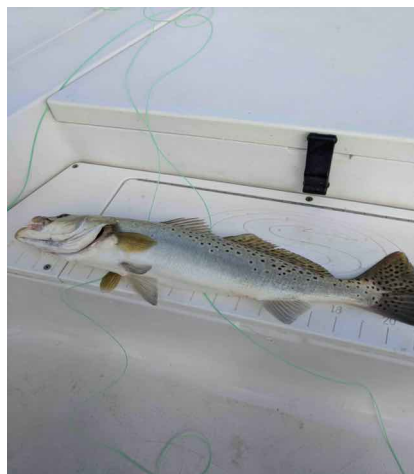
James



James wade fished the beach for this 34-inch linesider and tied him for the annual SFF tournament.

Dennis Marquis: More about that big day

It was windy but we managed the wind and had a banner day. I don't typically fish the weekend but we had a perfect tide and earlier in the week I had found a spot that was hot.



Here's a speckled trout, one of 20 or more fishes of many different species James caught fishing with Dennis Marquis.

James landed trout, mackerel, grouper, ladyfish and snapper. He also got a bluefish on a popper. I haven't landed a blue all year.

I had similar luck except I didn't land a mackerel or a blue but I did get a pompano.

I think we each easily landed 20 fish; could have been 30. We had double hook ups many times.

Bait and fish were busting all over.

Dennis



Dennis' pompano on the fly

Andy Constantinou: Before-and-After Fly



Same fly, before and after

October 13

I fished Cockroach Bay for a few hours on Friday and caught pinfish, mangrove snapper and sea trout, the sea trout was the largest about 12-inches. I've included a snap of the fly. They were still taking the original fly and when I stopped fishing it was nearly bare. Cheers,

Andy

Robert Fischer: I always take lots of flies



*Here's what I like to take on my trips.
Flies are the toys in our toy boxes.*

(Editor: in the October issue Tim Elms' "New Member, New Water" article made the point that we don't need to take so many flies with us. Robert Fischer quickly pushed back on that.)

I can't understand Tim Elms' point of view about only taking a few flies when he goes fishing. I take lots of them. What's the point of having soooooo many toys in the toy box if you aren't going to play with them all?

Robert

A Haunting Night on the Ponds

It was mid-October in Florida: Hot, still, and sunny. Alan Sewell, James Davis, Tim Elms, Bill AuCoin, and Dennis Marquis got together and fished freshwater park ponds here and there. Oh, and it was humid. We were literally dripping wet. Bugs were biting, too.

As the sun started to set, a cooling breeze started to blow and the bass and brim started to bite.



Logan Fowler Photo

Every one of us landed fish. James was fishing a popper dropper and twice had double hook ups! To make the outing even better, as night came and the moon appeared we were serenaded by several owls calling each other from nearby tall pines. The owls continued their haunting calls as we all walked back to our cars, already exaggerating the size and number of fish we all landed.

Myron Hansen: Fishing with Harry



Harry (my dog & 1st mate) and I were making our way across Boca Ciega Bay in our boat just as darkness was setting in. It was going to be a full moon night and this is our favorite time to fish the dock lights.

Since it was a little breezy and there was a chop on the water, we were cruising rather slowly. Suddenly a loud clattering came from the back of the boat. My first thought was “oh no,” something in the engine has broken. Harry and I both turned around to find not an engine problem, but a Spanish Mackerel jumping around in the boat.

After dealing with our surprise, the fish, Harry and I continued to the dock lights. It turned out to be a good night for catching trout on Clousers.

The numbers and size of the trout are growing, but the season is closed. After a couple of hours of fishing we headed home with just one fish in the cooler, an 18” mackerel.



Myron

Dennis Marquis: Close call—ladyfish versus dolphins



I was out fishing recently, hooked into a fairly large ladyfish – I estimated 20”+. It was giving me a nice fight on a 7wt.

As I got her in close to the boat three dolphins appeared. I saw the ladyfish’s eyes go wide and bright and then it dove under the starboard side of my boat. Rod bent in half to the breaking point, the ladyfish pulling for her life – what to do?

I started screaming and stamping my feet, the dolphins seemed to react to the noise, gave me an eyeball as if I were crazy and peeled off. I managed to convince the ladyfish that the coast was clear and eased her out from

under the boat, landed and measured at 23-inches. I let it go.

Rod intact. Ready to fish again!

Dennis

James Davis: Night Fly



James Davis tied his Night Fly for members on Zoom Monday 11/9. It's up on our club's Facebook page. This fly has caught all of our favorite inshore targets—snook, reds, seatrout. Yep, this is the fly that his 34-inch snook ate at October's outing at Fort DeSoto Park.



Materials

Hook: Owner size 1/0 or SC-17 or similar. A circle hook can work well here too

Thread: Flat waxed, in Red, Yellow, or White. James like yellow.

Tail:

- 1- White calf tail spreader.
- 2- White neck hackles, faced together. Three per side.

Flash: Pearl crystal flash

Head: White "deceiver strong" Rooster Saddle. Three for palmering

Glue: Super glue and UV epoxy.

Steps

- 1- Thread wrap hook from about and 1/8 " behind hook eye to the bend. Leave a little of hook shank exposed.
- 2- Tie in a clump of White Calf tail just in front of the bend, forming a ball to keep hackles spread apart.
- 3- Form a ball with thread over calf tail. Add neck hackles, marry 3 white hackles , pull off the fuzz part. ty in 3 per side with only 2 or 3 wraps so they flair away from the hook shank, as if tying in frog legs.
- 4- Add a SMALL drop of UV epoxy. Cure it to hold the three hackles in position. If you have a rotary vise turn the fly sideways to add the epoxy then add 3 more to the other side. Marry each set of three shiny sides to the outside.
- 5- Add three white saddle hackles and palmer them forward, and tie off. Whip finish the palmered hackles and form a small bead. Use yellow thread or red thread. Leave a small unwrapped space behind the hook eye.
- 6- Add super glue or epoxy to the thread head!

James

Smitty's Fly Box: Redheaded Step-Minnow



Layne (Smitty) Smith

This is a simple-to-tie fly pattern to imitate small minnows. It is tied in proven fish-catching colors-- **RED & WHITE**-- with a little eye-catching flash. Why is it called the "red-headed step-minnow?" I named it after the old expression about the "red headed step-child" who was the ugly duckling of the family, always shunned in place of the more popular of the children, but ends up being the beautiful "Swan" that saves the day! Fish it. I



Redheaded Step-Minnow

think this fly will save the day for you.

Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu SC15 #1/0
Thread: Danville Flatwaxed Nylon Red
Body: White or pale gray Senyo Laser Dub
Flash: Pearl Emulator Flash
Wing: Tan Senyo Laser Dub
Eyes: 3/32" silver
Glues: Solarez Thick and "Bone Dry" UV Resin

Tying sequence

1. Prepare laser dubbing by taking a small clump then separate out a little more than you need and roll and pull apart from both ends continually repositioning so both ends match up. You should be left with a piece with both ends tapered and aligned.
2. Wrap prepared laser dub around standing thread and align ends. Tie down and secure by tying back to bend of hook then returning to tie-in point.
3. Add emulator flash so it extends just past the tail-end of laser dub. Tie down with a few wraps of thread. Fold back tag end of emulator flash and tie down with a few forward thread wraps then trim off butt ends.
4. Repeat steps 1&2 with tan laser dub.
5. With your thread create a smooth cone shaped head (try to not advance thread forward past original tie-in point). When satisfied, whip finish and cut.
6. Attach eyes on each side at the rear portion of the head (make sure they are even). Add a drop of thick resin on top touching both eyes then cure to secure. Repeat on bottom.
7. Coat head, smoothing resin with bodkin and cure. Overcoat with Bone-Dry and cure.

Smitty

Bruce Evensen: The Hanukkah Fly



Bruce Evensen



Materials

- Hook: size 2 or four number 3407 Mustad.
- Red or green thread
- Red bucktail and green bucktail.
- Red and green flash.
- Red chenille
- Small bronze bead chain.

Tying Sequence

1. Wrap the hook shank from the hook Eye to the hook point.
2. Mix red and green bucktail together, tie in over the hook point.
3. Tie the flash around the bucktail.
4. Tie on bead chain eyes behind the hook eye.
5. Wrap on red chenille from bucktail up to the eyes.

These really work- go fish.

Bruce

Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner



Fly rodding for little tunny

Baby tunny, or false albacore, are perfect for fly rod fun. Large schools of these speedy predators are along our beaches and are easiest to find in passes where there is strong tidal flow and tons of baitfish.

Both an incoming or outgoing tide will trigger feeding action easily seen because terns and seagulls will feed heavily on baitfish pushed to the surface. A pair of binoculars will allow you to scan a larger area. Once feeding fish are observed, position your boat ahead of the school and shut down your outboard.

Leaving the motor on will put down the fish. The tide will bring the fish closer to you so a quick cast can be made. 9 weight fly rods are needed with a good reel that has 150 yards of backing and an efficient drag. A 30-pound hard monofilament shock tippet is needed to prevent cutoffs from sharp teeth. Wire leaders will spook fish and reduce takes. White or chartreuse over white flies that match baitfish size are used and must be stripped very fast to replicate fleeing baitfish. A sink tip or full sinking fly line, rather than a floating line, will get you deeper where the largest fish are often found.

Fly fisherman **Pat Damico** charts Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay. (727) 504-8649.

Then and Now. Once a flyfisher always a flyfisher.



Who is this teenager admiring his fish? Let's see. That's a freshwater trout. We see mountains. Colorado? Hmmm. Anybody?



Yeah, Tim Elms. Here he is all grown up with a big trout that he caught on the fly only two miles from where the teenager Tim caught his fish some years ago.

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



(Fly Fishers International)

It's a winner. Kudos to CCA, Capt. Mike Goodwine, and many others. I think I'm going to get this one. That said, what I really want is a Florida plate that shows a huge snook hiding in the mangrove roots. (Redfishtag.com)



Home school yourself – FFI online is back for a second season until March. Workshops, lectures, zoom classes, and more. First up, Peggy Brenner ties the famous Grey Ghost at 8 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

Considering another career? -- Our Suncoast waters need looking after. That's what Waterkeepers does.

([The Fishing Wire](http://TheFishingWire.com))

State fish art contest -- Got a young artist in your family? Let 'em know about this contest. Deadline is March 31. ([The Fishing Wire](http://TheFishingWire.com))

Meet Captain Marvin Miller on the Andros flats – “I stood on the deck of Marvin’s boat, my “Gotcha” fly pinched between my fingers, and blinked through my Polaroids. Marvin spoke softly from the poling platform, “Ten o’clock. Fish coming out.” ([Marshall Craig’s blog](http://MarshallCraig.com))

Parental discretion advised – In California a whale tried to swallow a kayak and its two paddlers.

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

So long hurricane season – Here’s Florida’s winter weather forecast. Can you say *glorious*? ([Almanac](http://Almanac.com))

Fly Gear for Sale or Swap

Price lowered 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

Lynn Skipper has two fly rods and an Orvis Battenkill reel. 813-542-3195.

hurricaneskipper@gmail.com

- 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)

Niner: Fly fisher in the bayou

Slurp that in little drummer boy.

Tell your spot-tailed friends how good the beignets are.

We tied them ourselves with extra confections.

Let's check for cavities, shall we?

Strip...strip...strip

SPOOKED!

I hate redfish.

--niner

Bill Scarola: Some *O-FISH-AL* Puns

*Did you hear about the magician who did COD tricks?
He'd say pick a COD, any COD.*

So TRAWL thru and SEA.

It's a great oppor-TUNA-ty!

Don't forget, Jonah of the bible had a WHALE of a time.

Remember to keep your FINS close and you ANOMONES closer.

If you find my advice over-WHALE-ming I plead GILL-ty.

If it weren't for doing these puns it would be a CRAPPIE day.

I am FIN-ished.

Bill

*Special Friends of
Suncoast Fly Fishers*



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



ORVIS
ORVIS
5%
FOR NATURE
orvis.com/fly-fishing



PLANTATION
on Crystal River
plantationoncrystalriver.com
800-632-6262



Star brite
www.starbrite.com



Bill Jackson
Shop For
Adventure
WWW.BILLJACKSONS.COM
727-576-4169

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



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

*Special Friends of
Suncoast Fly Fishers*



**CARBON
MARINE**

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
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



Capt. Jerry Allen
6647 Central Ave. St. Petersburg, FL 33710
727.954.8814 • www.West-Coast-Kayaks.com
✂ Jerry @ West-Coast-Kayaks.com ✂

WWW.WEST-COAST-KAYAKS.COM

ANDY THORNAL COMPANY Since 1945

GATEWAY TO ADVENTURE SINCE 1945

(800) 499-9890

WWW.ANDYTHORNAL.COM



**FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL**

*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](http://FlyFishingWesternWyoming.com)

Guided Trips - Casting Lessons

flyfishingwesternwyoming.com

Metalfab Inc
 ARCHITECTURAL METAL SPECIALISTS

WALTER RUDA, PRESIDENT

METALFAB-INC.COM/CONTACT.PHP

Nigh Fly Rods

Custom Bamboo Fly Rods

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

AFFORDABLE
 Temple Fork Outfitters
 RODS
 HIGH-PERFORMANCE

www.tforods.com

**FLY FISHERS
 INTERNATIONAL**

*Special Friends of
Suncoast Fly Fishers*




St. Pete
FISHING OUTFITTERS
3450 34th St. N. St. Pete



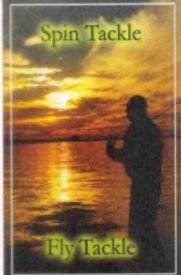
CANOE COUNTRY FL.COM
"Wherever the
WATER
may take you!"
727.545.4554
Kayaks - Paddleboards - Canoes



THOMAS BRUCE
Studio
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

WWW.CAPTPATDAMICO.COM



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