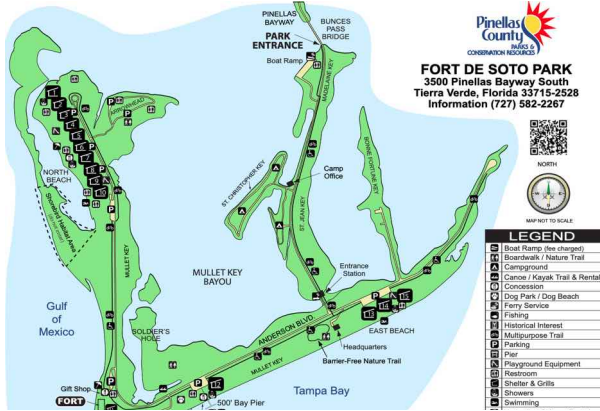


# On The Fly

*Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg*

*December 12 Outing  
Fort DeSoto Park P7*



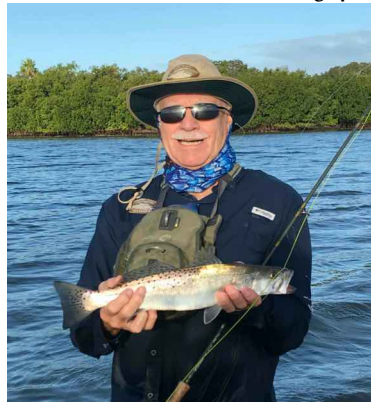
*Andy Mill Meeting P8-10*



*Poor man's tarpon P11*



*War Vets Park Outing p6*



*32-lb. red. Where? P14*



*Grouper on the fly. P16*



*Harry will be okay. P19*



*Merries, happies. P21*



## *President's Letter, December 2020*



Suncoast Fly Fishers,

What a difference a year makes. Last year we were planning our first ever SFF Christmas party and we were blissfully ignorant about the Corona virus. This year all of us know more than we ever wanted about Covid-19.

It has been a crazy year but there are some memories and accomplishments worth taking another look at. That first ever Christmas party turned out to be a huge success. Good food, great company and a fine time was had by all. Who could forget former president George Haseltine in his award winning ugly sweater and the fun we had with the secret Santa gift exchange. We won't celebrate as a club this year but like Frosty the Snowman, we'll be back again next year.

In January we had our best ever Trash & Treasure auction featuring the irreplaceable Alan Sewell at the gavel. February was our last regular in person meeting and one of our last regular outings. By the time March rolled around Covid had pretty much knocked us off our pins but it didn't keep us down for long.

By May we resumed our regular outings with a virtual format, fishing but no social gathering and by June we started having member meetings online. We are doing all we can to stay in touch and to serve our members. We have rolled out a new website and revitalized our Facebook page.

We are holding weekly fly tying classes on ZOOM. We have had some great online presentations including outstanding panel discussions on dock light fishing and Tarpon, an entertaining Q&A with Pat Damico, a fascinating interview with television host and Tail Magazine contributor Trey Reid and just last month an in depth and candid meeting with world famous Alpine skier, author and tournament angler Andy Mill.

We are not out of woods yet but the end is in sight. A vaccine will soon be available and the pandemic will be beaten into submission. When it is over, sometime next summer or early in the fall, we are going to get together for a real party.

Planning is already in the works. Keep supporting your club. Renew your membership, keep reading the newsletter and take advantage of everything we are doing online. Most of all have a Happy Holiday. See you next year.

Stay safe and keep fishing!

*Rick*

Rick Warfel, SFF President

## Meetings, Outings, and More

### **Your Officers and Board of Directors**

The Suncoast Fly Fishers Board of Directors met on Zoom December 3. Because of Covid-19 and its restrictions on meetings, the Suncoast Board of Directors has voted to extend the terms of all officers and board members who are up for reelection in 2021, for one more year.

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### **Your Dues are due now**

Karen Warfel has notified all members to pay their 2021 dues. If you haven't yet paid your dues please do so now and if you have any questions about how much or how to pay email Karen at [KMWARFEL@YAHOO.COM](mailto:KMWARFEL@YAHOO.COM) or phone her at 813-505-3162.

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### **December Virtual Outing – Fort DeSoto Park**

#### **Saturday, December 12, Virtual Outing**

- Fish anywhere around Fort DeSoto Park. No picnic. (Covid-19, 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. Take a picture. Email your picture to outings committee chair Bob Burkard. at [robertburkard9@gmail.com](mailto:robertburkard9@gmail.com)
- 

### **2021 Outings in Brief**

#### **Directors still needs to give their OK**

- All locations still need final approval of the board of directors and may be adjusted depending on Covid 19.
- Prizes at saltwater outings will be awarded for the longest snook, redfish, and seatrout except the June docklight outing prize is for the longest snook only.
- New location: April outing is at Boca Ciega Millennium Park. Whatcha think?
- July outing is freshwater only anywhere in Pinellas County. Well, this will be interesting.
- Outings are on the Saturday morning following the third Thursday of each month. (Not December)

January: Weedon Island.

February: Fort DeSoto Park.

March: Phillippe Park, Safety Harbor, fresh and salt.

April: Boca Ciega Millennium Park in Seminole.

May: Cypress Point Park, Tampa.

June: Fish the dark—docklights, beaches – Friday and Saturday. Prize for the longest snook.

July: Fish freshwater anywhere in Pinellas County.

August: Urban Outing, Bay Vista Park.

September: Carl Hanson Memorial on the Hillsborough River.

October: Fort DeSoto Park.

November: War Veterans Memorial Park near Bay Pines VA Hospital.

December: Fort DeSoto Park

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### **New fly tiers on ZOOM**

- Bruce Evensen is our go-to fly tie teacher on Zoom Monday nights at 7 pm.
- Now other members are volunteering to teach their favorites. Dennis Marquis tied a baitfish pattern on Monday, December 7. James Davis tied his Night Fly on Zoom Monday, Nov. 9.

# Phil Mazur and Dave Barson: We will miss you guys.



*Phil Mazur with an exotic oscar he caught fly fishing with members on one of the Everglades canals outings.*

Suncoast Fly Fishers lost two valued members in recent months, Dave Barson and Phil Mazur.

Dave died September 12 after a long and painful time in the hospital suffering from an outbreak of Pemphigus, an auto-immune disease. His family held a Celebration of Life on Zoom on Saturday, Dec. 5, attended by 60+ persons, family and friends, including seven club members. Like Phil, and like many SFF members, Dave was a fisherman from his earliest days. His friend Jack Phillips a long-time friend and fishing buddy, said if they hadn't been married they would have gone on a national fishing tour together.



*Dave Barson managed our club's popular fly materials raffle after each meeting.*

Phil is survived by Pat, his wife of 55 years, son Phillip, daughter Linda, five grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Pat wrote that in recent months Phil missed seeing his many friends here but decided against a memorial and instead wanted his ashes buried with his parents up north.

Phil died at home in late November. He had stage four cancer. Ted Rich, Alan Sewell, Dennis Marquis and others visited Phil at home and members could see him in recent weeks because from his bed at home he linked in and watched Suncoast Fly Fisher meetings on Zoom. At the December meeting the SFF Board of Directors voted to send a \$100 check to Suncoast Hospice in Phil's name.

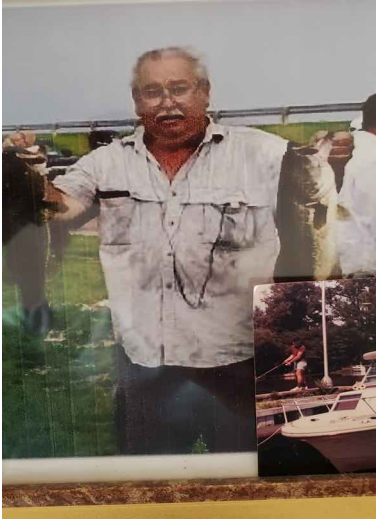
Phil was a Navy vet, having served four years as an electrician tech. After moving to St. Petersburg 21 years ago he worked another ten years as an electrician at the James Haley VA Hospital in Tampa. Phil was a

member of SFF Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing committee. He would meet other club members at Bay Pines VA hospital every week and teach fly tying to injured vets. Ted Rich said this project formed a strong bond among Phil and other regulars including himself, Alan Sewell, Dennis Marquis, Kevin Kelly, Tony Piazza, and Tom Gadacz.

Bill Scarola tied flies with Phil at Bill Jackson's. "We shared our fishing stories and became friends! He was a very good tier."



*Dave Barson ready to vote on a bowl of chili at one of our club's December Chili Cookoff outings.*



*Phil Mazur was a charter boat captain on the Great Lakes for many years.*

# 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://Facebook.com/scff2020S)

## Membership update

Suncoast Fly Fishers now has 128 members including 15 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

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: November Outing, War Vets Park

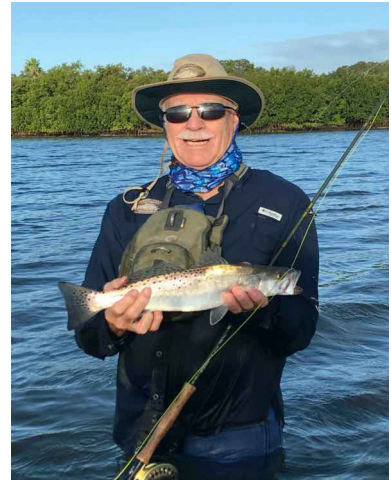


*Bob Burkard, Outings Committee chairman*

I couldn't fish the November outing but maybe that was a good thing. Bill AuCoin told me everything looked great, until it wasn't.

Pelicans were diving on bait. Nervous water marked big schools of bait. But. But. But, it was a tad chilly, the wind was not a friend, and the fish weren't very cooperative.

Except wade fisher and President Rick Warfel managed to save our reputation. He hooked and landed an 18.5-inch seatrout on a Clouser. Bill, also wade fishing, said he had a couple of swirls near his gurgler but the fish lucked out and didn't get hooked.



*Rick Warfel's 18.5-inch seatrout*



*Alan Sewell gets his gear and everything ready to catch the inshore slam from his kayak.*

Wader Wayne Shriver fished with his new fly rod and, dammit, one of the sections broke for no apparent reason. No worries, he said He'll get it replaced at Bill Jackson's.

### **Worrisome moments**

The wade fishers gave up about 10 am. Alan Sewell returned in his kayak, too, and told the others he was worried about fellow kayaker Tony Piazza who was not in sight. He called Tony's cell number a few times but there was no answer. Somebody asked if we should call the Coast Guard. Not yet. A few more calls. Finally, yes, Tony picked up. He was okay but it turned out he couldn't make progress paddling into the wind so he paddled to shore in a friendlier direction. He told Alan where he was. Alan knew the spot and went and picked up Tony and his kayak. All is well..



*Comrades in arms at the kayak launch – Kevin Kelly, Rick Warfel, Alan Sewell, Wayne Shriver.*



*Rick Warfel casts into 20-mph winds. The mucky bottom below wasn't friendly, either.*

# Bob Burkard: Don Coleman Invitational at Fort DeSoto Park

December 12. No picnic this year. (Yeah, the virus.) This is the Don Coleman Invitational so we've invited fly fishers from the Tampa and Sarasota fly clubs to join us. Fish the waters surrounding the park. There'll be a prize for the suncoaster catching the longest snook, redfish, seatrout, and ladyfish. Also, this is your last chance to overtake the leaders in the annual outing tournament. (See the leader board below). So, everybody, measure and email pictures of your longest fish of any species to [robertburkard9@gmail.com](mailto:robertburkard9@gmail.com)

Fort DeSoto Park always ranks at the top of our favored outing locations. What's not to like? (OK, there is a \$5/car entrance fee.) We can fish the gulf beaches, the bay, the backcountry. There's grass, deep sandy potholes, and, snook ambush mangrove shorelines. There are a zillion places where you can park and wade and launch your 'yak. Or, you can launch your powerboat at the boat ramp. More info [here](#).



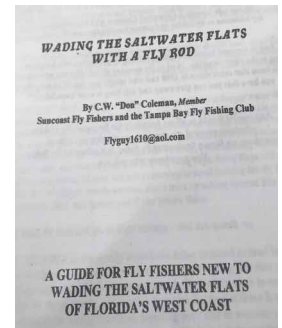
Next year then!

*Bob*

## Who was Don Coleman?



That's Don in the picture on the left tying flies at Carl Hanson's home. He was a long time SFF member and an eager, avid saltwater flats angler. Better still, he wrote down what he learned and packaged it into a booklet that all members get when they join. It's a gold mine. Read it. Remember it. C. W. Don Coleman, aka Chief Curmudgeon, died in 2006.



## LAST CHANCE TO WIN-- 2020 Outing Tournament Leaders

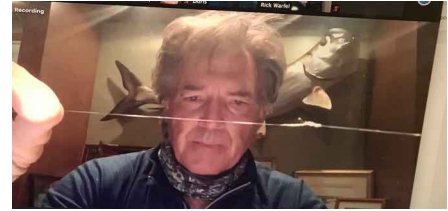
Species	Length	Winner	Outing (Month)
Longest bream	9.5"	Tim Elms	Virtual outing (May)
Longest black bass	17"	Tim Elms	Virtual outing (May)
Longest snook	34"	Jack Collins	Virtual outing (May)
Longest snook	34"	James Davis	Fort DeSoto Park (October)
Longest redfish	22"	Mark Hays	Docklight Outing (June)
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.)

## Andy Mill, Tarpon Pro, Zooms for Suncoast Fly Fishers

*From ski racer to Gold Cup fly fishing champ, he shared his story and insights*

By Bill AuCoin

Suncoast Fly Fishers and guests were fixated on our screens. And the subject of our fixation? Andy Mill was talking (Zoom, you know) about his life and the eye-openers along the way that motivated him to become so focused on luring and landing tarpon on the fly.



*Tarponman Andy Mill was our guest speaker on our November 19 Zoom meeting.*

Yes, he made a name for himself as a winter Olympics ski racer and a TV network broadcaster. But he got into fly fishing before that. He was a preteen riding his bike to baseball practice in Colorado when he saw a guy practicing his fly cast on the grass. He peddled over to watch and chatted him up. The fly caster he met turned out to be Ernest Schwiebert. Look him up.

Andy and his buddies, boys of a certain age, loved to fish for mountain trout in the summer. Andy also tied flies for the local fly shop. He watched Flip Pallot's *Walker's Cay Chronicles*. "I watched it every Sunday. I just knew I had to be a fly fisher," he said.

In the winter he skied, and he was very good. At age 12 he won a big race and then he was tracking. His racing skills put him on the U.S. Olympics Winter Ski Team. Still, when he flew to Europe for those ski races, he packed a fly rod and he caught trout in the glacial rivers. His ski racing career ended at age 28 after a series of painful injuries: broken legs, back, neck. Well. What's next?

Fly fishing, of course. He fished here and there around the world. In Belize he caught tarpon. The first bite, he said, "set my future." He drilled down on details that separate winners from also-rans, things like casting quickly and accurately from any direction, the best knots, leaders, and more. Much more.

Andy fished IFGA fly leader rules, of course, so he wanted to know exactly how much pressure he could put on a fish with each class tippet. He set up an in-the-home pulley system that let him measure on a weight scale how hard he could pull without breaking the leader. "Chrissy would stand at the door and read the number on the scale to me," he said, referring to then-wife Chris Evert, tennis star and mother of their three sons.

He learned more on every trip. It's a "cat-and-mouse game." Never drop a fly right in front of a tarpon. It might spook. Instead, put the fly so the tarpon spots it from the side. Then he'll pounce on it. If you see a daisy chain, throw the fly outside the circle. If a line of tarpon is coming your way, throw your fly to the last tarpon.



If you see the tarpon suck it in, don't set the hook until you feel the weight of the fish. And don't let the 'poon go sideways on you. Bring it in quick. Break its spirit.

Along the way he has met, fished with, and interviewed most of the big stars of saltwater fly fishing -- Lefty, Stu, Flip, Al, Chico -- and got them to talk about how they were bit by that same tarpon-on-the-fly bug. Andy wrote *A Passion for Tarpon* which is a best seller: 8,000-plus sold at \$100 each. Now, he and his son Nicky, a fellow tarpon-addict, have their own podcast channel, [Mill House Podcasts](#) with in-depth conversations with innovators, legends, and pioneers of the outdoors. They're really good.

*Left, Andy Mill with his friend Lefty Kreh, RIP, saltwater fly fishing's patron saint. Photo by Rusty Chinnis.*



## Tim Elms: My connection to Andy Mill



*Tim Elms, formerly of Colorado, has been zooming in on Andy Mill since Andy's downhill ski racing days.*

I had the pleasure of talking with Andy before the Zoom meeting. What a solid dude! I was helping him with technical issues, and we talked about fishing and hunting before we even mentioned a computer. We instantly joked around and speaking with him was like talking to just another great friend who loves to fish, hunt, and enjoy the outdoors.

I remember growing up in Colorado watching skiing competitions and Andy would be doing some commentary and such, never in a million years did I think we would ever have a conversation about elk, snook and podcasts while we are both in Florida enjoying the weather.

To say I am a fan would be an understatement. Logging in to Zoom and watching Andy talk about tarpon fishing was infectious.

Andy covered so many topics on trophy Tarpon fishing. From reel drag setups, leader builds, to his favorite flies. We even got a special tour of his Florida home, aka *fish den*. He told stories of a couple of specific fish he remembers like it was yesterday. Chasing tournament and IFGA trophies definitely gets technical but Andy was great making it still sound like a blast. I love when a real pro has no problems sharing their secrets with anyone wanting to hear. Watching someone speak so passionately about our sport was amazing and time flew by. I could have sat for hours.



To me, his relationship with his son was my favorite part. Andy speaking about his relationship with Nicky was something other than fishing that I really could relate with. You can see how his face lights up even more when he speaks about his boy.

Even though fishing sometimes feels like an individual sport, usually there is a great captain, a pole pusher, or a great buddy with you, too. My father and I never shared hunting or fishing but he was my best man on my wedding day and there is nothing better than that.

*Thanks Andy!*

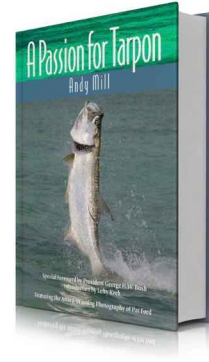
*Tim*

## Quin Berry: “I couldn’t put that book down”



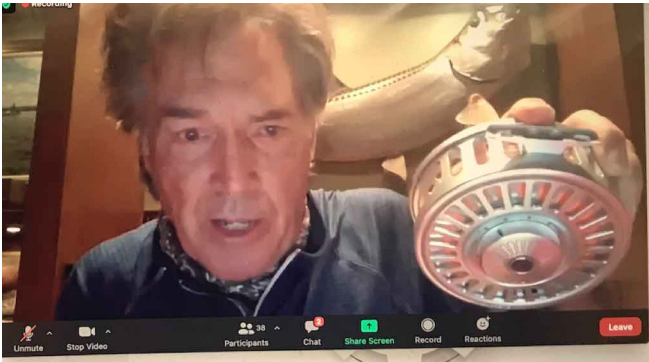
*Quin Berry with a hefty Spanish mackerel he caught fishing with Captain Ethan Kiburz.*

I love books. I had dreamed of catching a tarpon since childhood while reading *Field and Stream* magazine, so once, while fishing, I asked a local guide friend if he could suggest a book about catching tarpon on fly and without hesitation he suggested Andy Mill’s book, *A Passion for Tarpon*. What he didn’t say was it cost \$100! The only time I’ve spent that much on a book was for a signed copy of Gary LaFontaine’s book, *Caddis*. (It was worth it, by the way.)



So I bought a copy of *A Passion for Tarpon* and couldn’t put it down. I had never seen a tarpon but I was fired up and knew I had to try and catch one. After a few trips and getting humiliated by my confusion, bad casting and inability to come tight I had some luck and jumped a few and finally landed one. I was hooked on the excitement.

When Rick told me Andy Mills was going to be a speaker for our club, I started to think about what questions I wanted to ask him. What equipment did he use? What knots? What did his leader look like? What reels did he use? I had a million questions.



*Tarpon tournament pro-author-broadcaster Andy Mill spoke to Suncoast Fly Fishers on Zoom at our November 2020 meeting. He showed us his Hardy tarpon reel and discussed how he can go from zero to max drag with one turn of the knob because when you’re fighting a tarpon the position of your fingers on the dial tells you where the drag is set.*

On our Zoom meeting with Andy I got my questions answered and so much more. What I liked best from Andy’s presentation was his enthusiasm for our sport. He was oozing passion thru my iPhone as I watched. When he showed his reels and explained the finer points of picking a reel I understood what he meant. He was as eager to show his fly boxes as he was to tell his stories of an outdoor life.

Andy’s presentation proved him to be a good story teller but also showed the work and effort he put in to win the tournaments and attain the goals he set for himself. I believe he could have talked all night and I would have been on the edge of my seat with him.

*Quin*

## Dennis Marquis: Poor Man's Tarpon



Elopiformes, Elopidae, Elops, saurus, the order, family, genus and species of the Ladyfish. Some of the ladyfish's closest relatives are the Tarpon and Bonefish, as all three are classified in the order Elopiformes. While all three are classified in the same order, the Tarpon, relatively speaking, is more closely related to the ladyfish as both are classified within the same family, Elopidae. The name Elops saurus, is derived from the Greek "elops" translated as a kind of serpent and "saurus" meaning lizard. I've consistently found published data indicating that ladyfish tend to live upwards of 6 years and can grow to 36 inches. When it comes to weight, the info is inconsistent, I've read that ladyfish can reach 10, 15 and even up to 30 lbs. Who among us wouldn't cherish a battle with a 10lb+ 36" ladyfish? I could only dream of the day.



I migrated down to Florida in January 2016 from Pennsylvania. I brought two 9wt fly rods with me, as these were the only ones I owned at the time. I fished with these rods until I joined the club and with help from all of you, I became more educated.

Now I have 6 thru 8wt rods. In 2020, I've been fishing exclusively with my 7wts (with the exception of docklights); I may shortly start bringing the 6wt out with me. As I continue to learn more about proper technique, it becomes even more fun trying to challenge myself with lighter equipment.

On one recent day, I was drifting the last of the outgoing tide on the north side of Indian Key. I was hugging the drop off that is especially obvious in the morning as the sun is coming up over your shoulder. The boat was in about 4-5' of water, with the

bow drifting toward the eastern point of the key, I was casting right to left into the grass at about 2-3' of depth. For most of the summer and into the fall I used exclusively white flies of various patterns.

Over the last couple of weeks I noticed I was not as effective with the white flies. I also noticed that the large schools of baitfish were getting harder to find. I am starting to learn that when this happens, it's time for me to switch to flies with color, I opt for burnt orange and olive. With this in mind, I decided to start the day with a tried and true, Bruce's Red Rouser. I will admit that I have modified the pattern a bit. I use extra-long chenille for the body and more flash and silly legs than bucktail for the tail.

For the day, I already had my fill of trout, ladyfish and mackerel; I was satisfied. After just landing a mackerel, I checked the 30lb bite tippet and fly and decided it was time to change both – thank goodness I did.

- Continued on next page -

I started to fish again, and a fish came along ate the rouser and took off. **When was the last time you had a fish take you into your backing?** The reel was screaming. I made an ill-conceived advance on the reel and was rewarded with a cut finger and a sore knuckle. I tightened the drag a few clicks and buried my rod tip and line into the water away from the fish. The extra resistance made it slow down enough for me to get control of the reel again. When I did I could see that I was clearly into the bright orange backing I deliberately line onto all my reels. At this point I suspected a sizeable mackerel, as I applied pressure and started to reel in line the fish left the water dancing on its tail revealing itself as a good size ladyfish. I had a few minutes of fun managing it up to the boat.

As a rule, ladyfish are not permitted in my boat. I typically grab the dehooker and release them way before they have a chance to splatter poop and blood all over everything. I made an exception for this one. I had to respect the fish for the fight it provided by measuring it and taking a picture. For me it was my personal best at 24". As a specimen it was gorgeous, the yellow around its collar, up through the dorsal fin and down through the pectoral fin was simply brilliant. Remembering the recent advice of Capt. Pat, I held my breath when I took the fish out of the water, and try to get it released before it was tough for me to hold my own breath.

**Appearance**

Also known as skipjack and ten-pounder

- Silver color on body, with a blueish back
- Head small and pointed
- Mouth terminal (at the very front of head)
- Slender body with small scales
- Last dorsal ray not extended into long filament

**Similar Species:** Juvenile tarpon, *M. atlanticus*, and bonefish, *A. vulpes*

**Size:** 36 inches (2 to 3 pounds)



I battled the ladyfish with 7wt Sage X that I recently purchased from Dayle, I paired it with a Lamson Guru S - 7+ that I bought at St Pete Outfitters with advice from Cliff. I lined the reel with a Rio Flats Pro Stealth (sink tip). The line is 100'; I estimate the fish made a 150' run. My leader was 3' 40lb flouro, 2' 30lb flouro, and 2' 15lb flouro with a bite tippet of 30lb flouro. It has become habit with me to use a 30lb bite tippet because I run into so many mackerel, even so I still lose a few flies.

I find that ladyfish at 20+” are a worthy adversary, offering the fly fisher everything you could hope for in excitement, especially if you pare down to 7wt tackle. While some seem disappointed running into a school, I have to admit that I actively look for them. At 61 and retired, as my friend Tim says, “The tug is the drug!” and for me the more the merrier. As you can fish it!

Dennis

## Not so new member, new water

### Tim Elms: A Year to Remember



Howdy! I cannot believe its December. Man-o-man what a year. I am in shock we are still dealing with the Rona in December. As we all went through this madness of lost loved ones, jobs, and flat out living in some type of fear for 9 months; I wanted to share my most fortunate moments of fly fishing this year. I had one first after another and here were my memorable top 5.

**#5 First Spanish Mackerel.** Yeah, I know it's not impressive to land a spanny but, at the beginning of the year I went out with Dennis Marquis for the first time on his skiff to fish the flats and I can't explain how fun it is to throw a fly to the feeding mack attack. If you have never done it, go chase the schools with a buddy and toss a fly with a decent tippet. It's a blast.

**#4 First day of over 100 fish on a fly in a pond.** Back in March, I had 5 days of over 100 fish on a fly. I lucked out to catch what I think to be the final days of the spawn and none of these Bass had seen a fly before. I honestly couldn't find a fly that didn't catch a bass. It was madness for a week. I can't wait for the spawn now that I have had so much practice with them.



**#3 First dock light fishing.** For our dock light fishing outing, I again joined Dennis on "Fish It!" This time Dennis was unaware I had never done it. But the night started without a hitch with my first cast catching a Snook with many moments of lost Tarpon. Since then we have had many successful dock light sessions with many, many more firsts.—Thanks CAPT!

**#2 First cast of 100ft.** Don't be impressed. Haven't done it since. It was a glimpse of greatness. The wind was perfect and I was just seeing how much line I could actually get out...boom backing... hahah

**#1 Tarpon.** These little fish turned my fly fishing into obsession at times. I am most proud that my first Tarpon was (on a fly) on my own and from shore. Most people can't say that. I put my time in day after day until I figured out the border of the puzzle. They still drive me nuts and can't wait for more. I completely understand the lifelong pursuit now of these dinosaurs. I have yet to chase them on the beach with a fly rod and that is my number one goal for 2021. I really want to land a Poon over 100lb on a fly.

Great runner ups: Trophy Bluegills, Giant Large Mouths on a Frog, First Red Fish in a pond, Speckled Trout on top water, Big Blue Tilapias, Gar, and a whole bunch more.

I'm forever grateful to my wife for putting up with my fishing nonsense.

I CAN'T WAIT TO CLOSE THE DOOR ON 2020! Stay tuned for the adventures ahead. OH, and PS thanks to our club for keeping things going and keeping it exciting!

Strip Strip Strip!-- *~Tim*



## Marshall Craig: Jumbo Reds. Big Winds.



*That's Marshall Craig behind the mask holding a Louisiana redfish he caught on the fly. His friend Steve caught one much bigger. Scroll down to the next page.*

I had seen the photographs: fishermen struggling to hold humongous redfish up for a photo, not able to hold them out to the camera - no need to exaggerate.

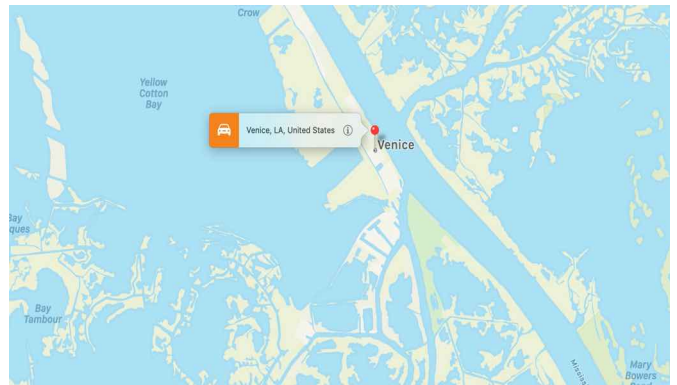
When my friend Steve invited me and my son Hutch to join him and his pal Ray on a redfish expedition to Louisiana, I was pumped. Ray had arranged for a floating VRBO in the Venice Marina the first week in November.

The town of Venice, pop 202, is in Plaquemines Parish, in the Mississippi Delta, a 1 ½ hour drive southeast of New Orleans.

The floating "lodge" was ideal, allowing us to slurp a last cup of coffee before stepping into our guides' flats boats. Our guides, Captain Brian Esposito (954) 592-0844 and Captain Andy Thompson (786) 473-3185, are fly and light tackle specialists who also guide in the Everglades National Park. They did a fine job under tough conditions.

### Mad Max Movie

Takeaways from the area: vast expanses of roseau cane and shallow, brown-water flats and bays intersected by channels cut by the oil patch industry; oil and gas processing plants scattered about with unused equipment rusting in place, like a Mad Max movie; shrimpers proceeding slowly out to the gulf with nets suspended out like wings; vast flocks of birds, including roseate spoonbills; the sight of the superstructure of a freighter looming on the other side of a levy from where you are casting a fly. There is a remarkable amount of food in the water – shrimp skittering on the surface; baitfish everywhere.



*Venice, Louisiana on the Mississippi River. Monster red drum and black drum capital. Apple Maps*

Our own Captain Pat Damico told me that the casting wouldn't be difficult – short casts were all that was needed. True, but there is the issue that you had to see the fish first. Cloudy water driven by northeast winds made finding and casting tough.



*OK mister, set me free.*

Our guides searched for lee sides with sufficient water to float a Hells Bay boat, with the wind direction allowing us to deliver a fly. The first day's wind was light enough to allow us to fish closer to the outside, where we could see the Gulf of Mexico.

*-- Continued on next page --*

Captain Andy took us through an oyster bed in three feet of water scattered with sticks rising eight feet above the surface to fend off shrimpers. Not the expected redfish, but a steady procession of black drum came along. We hooked several, letting the fly drop in the water column. I was gobsmacked at how big and ugly they were. They were obstinate on the end of the line, wouldn't come to the boat, wouldn't leave the scene, like fighting a feisty anvil.



*That's Marshall's friend Steve with a 32-pound redfish caught on the fly. Well done, sir.*

#### **And we have a winner**

The fly fishermen among us did catch redfish but it was hard going. Steve nailed a 32-lb fish on a fly, testifying the jumbos were out there.

The hardware guys did better, Hutch landing a 30-lb fish and Ray, using the reliable Johnson spoon, boating a succession of 15-20-lb fish each day we were on the water.

It is the last phrase "on the water," that is the catch. On the second and third days a front blew up and the fishing went from tough to near impossible. The northeast wind blew the water off the flats. The last day I was in four layers of clothing.

We ended hostilities at noon and headed back to NOLA for a great late lunch.

### *Marshall*

## Captain Andy's Redfish Fly

*Andy ties this fly in lots of different colors: He likes purple and black, yellow and white, and more combinations.*



Hook: Gamakatsu B10-S 1/0 or 2/0 hook.

Tail: Craft fur tail with the hide left on. Cut it like a rabbit zonker strip.

Collar: Finn raccoon collar then palmer EP foxy brush.

Eyes: Lead or bead chain eyes depending on depth.

## The “Piazza Method” Part 1, Grouper on the Fly

By Dennis Marquis

Ok, I want to be up front and admit that we did not intend to fish for gag grouper on a recent docklight trip – it kinda just happened. With that in mind, why not? Why not target this species when fishing the docks and inshore – even off shore for that matter. (Check out [Capt. Buddy La Pointe's post](#) on this subject.) The answer is you can with the appropriate tackle and know how or, in our case, you get lucky!

I took club member Tony Piazza dock-light fishing right before Thanksgiving. It was Tony's first ever docklight fishing trip. I always enjoy taking a newbie out and getting them hooked up with fish over the lights in the dark.

We set out about 7:30. I'm fortunate to have too good seatrout lights within 600 yards of my dock, so I typically hit those on the way out and in again. Good way to start and end a trip. In Tony's case, it's a perfect place to acclimate a first timer to the process. Boat positioning, stealth, balance, casting with the winds and tides, etc. It all comes into play. On a calm night it's easier, but with winds it gets tricky. Some fishers can't even see their line, so you have to rely on feel. A common remark, “I have no idea where that went, do you?”.

Tony started the night with an all-white schminnow, which he says he tied the day of the trip after watching Cliff Nigh's on-line video. He came with schminnows in #1, #2 and #4 size hooks. While I suggested the 2 or 4, Tony used the 1 – hahahahahah. **Tony never lost that #1 schminnow fly all night.** We fished till 12:30 am and he landed 20+ seatrout, a mangrove snapper, and two nice gag groupers. What do I know?



*Tony Piazza with a 17"-gag grouper caught on a Tierra Verde residential dock-light fishing with Dennis Marquis in November.*

I lack patience so I tend to move my flies more quickly, try as many areas around the dock-light as I can reach and at all distances. Tony, as the anti-Dennis, has a way more relaxed and calmer approach. I might make three casts in the time I saw him execute one. He would permit his fly to drift with the outgoing tide and sink a bit more than I. Just about when I was getting ready to tell him his approach was all wrong, his rod bends, and bends good. The line was straight as an arrow and not really moving. I popped on my spotlight and could not see a fish. I told Tony I suspected he had hooked a nice redfish. Knowing Tony has never landed a red on the fly, and not wanting to spoil his day, I got the net ready. The fish just powered down and Tony kept good pressure with his 8-wt until he wore it out and the fish came up. As it came to the surface, I couldn't believe it. It was a gag grouper. I netted the fish and got it into the boat.

Nice fish at 17". We got a pic and let it go. Later that night, with his same now-patented “Piazza Method”, the same thing happened again, this time the gag was a bit shorter at 14”.

--Continued on next page--



## Continued The “Piazza Method” Part 1, Grouper on the Fly

At the risk of sounding cliché, 2020 was been a different type of year. I have to add gag grouper into the “different” part. Prior to 2020, I had not landed a gag on the fly. Never even thought about it, never even dreamed of it. In 2020, I have landed at least a dozen, probably more. In that same time period, I have had four different guests on my boat who have also landed gags. With the exception of Tony, all of the gags have been less than 14”. Most have been found on the edges, in the grass just before a drop off. Stubborn and grumpy, these fish are fun to catch. Each time they ate the same flies I was using while hunting trout, white in the hot months, and burnt orange/olive as things cooled off.

After several run ins with these big mouthed, pudgy young ones, I knew the drill. On another recent trip, when James Davis hooked into a fish, and then told me that he lost it and was snagged – I knew what happened. I politely asked James for his rod. I told him he had hooked a grouper and wasn’t snagged. The fish simply found a spot to hide and refused to cooperate. I applied steady pressure away from the “snagged” location. I felt the grouper come out and gave James his rod back and said now land your fish. He did!

I’ve now added grouper to the species list that I routinely expect to catch. Like bluefish, I don’t expect to find them in great numbers, but I am no longer surprised when I do. It does occur to me, that in the case of grouper, if I targeted this species more I would increase my ability to reliably find and land Double G. Especially if I use the *Piazza Method*! The tug is our drug; so as you can and where you can, **fish it!**

## The “Piazza Method” Part II, Mending Line in Saltwater

I tend to be super transparent, so I hope by now you know that I enjoy hunting for Specks. That doesn’t mean that I don’t like fly-fishing for reds and snook. At this stage of my life I’m hooked on the tug and I can get a lot more tugs from trout. I should say that I enjoy a good bass pond too, especially if it has hungry bluegills!

Don’t look down on me for admitting to this, but I can count the number of times I fished for freshwater trout on one hand. All instances occurred between June through October of 2018, while Cindy and I traveled in an RV. In preparation for that run, I read a lot, watched videos and bothered anyone in the club with the first name of Pat or Dayle, who I could about freshwater trout fishing. While somewhat successful, I am still an amateur.

While a novice at freshwater trout fishing, I did manage to learn the mend, or the basic version of one. I understand that in moving water, the mend helps provide a more natural drag free drift for the fly. I can’t admit to ever landing a trout as a result of a good mend until now.

I wrote about a recent docklight trip I made with Tony Piazza and how I learned the “Piazza Method” for landing gag grouper. This is part II of that article where I discuss how Tony taught me to apply freshwater trout techniques to my quest for saltwater speckled trout; only he didn’t realize at the time that he was such a great tutor.

--Continued on next page--

## The “Piazza Method” Part II, Mending Line

We were near the end of our docklight trip, and as planned we were to zip across some open water to a couple of lights on the east side of the Pass-a-Grille channel before heading back to the dock. By the time we got the boat into position the outgoing tide was moving fast. In this situation we had the bow of the boat pointed into the tide about 5-6 good rod lengths away from where we needed the fly. The tide was moving left to right through the dock light such that soon after you laid down a nice straight cast, you would see a down current bow in the line which would drag the fly. I was on the bow platform and Tony on the stern. He was casting more down current, as I was casting more across it.

I would make my cast, and start stripping and quickly had several trout following the fly. I would feel a “poke” but no hook up. This went on for a while. Down at the other end of the boat, Tony was landing fish and turns to me and says, “This is like shooting fish in a barrel!”. I wouldn’t know, as I was shooting blanks. I stopped and watched Tony. I saw him make his cast, and mend his line a couple of times and let the fly just drift in the strong current. He also moved his rod with the current. He would feel the strike and set the hook – no stripping! Remind you freshwater aficionados of anything?



When in Rome. I made a cross current cast, and quickly made two big mends and let my fly swing ahead of the line out of the light and into the shadows. Once there, I let the current take the fly with it until the mended line straightened near the end of the drift. Bingo, without one strip I was hooked up. Four straight casts, four slot trout. The Piazza Method worked and I became happy again.

I have said this before, that one of the things I like most about fishing with various club members are the things we can learn from each other, as we all have different techniques that we use. I had a bonus trip with Tony, learning two new ways to fish around the docklights. Remember, the tug is our drug, so as you can ***fish it!***

*Dennis*

## Dennis Marquis: Vet’s First Saltwater Fish on the Fly



Long story short. I met a vet recently. He happened to be part of the Healing Waters program in Michigan. He has respiratory issues as a result of his military service.

John had not fly fished in two years and had never fly fished in saltwater. He caught a nice trout.

*Dennis*

## Myron Hansen: Late Night Rescue



*Cold and wet. Harry, a fly fisher's friend, will be okay.*

On a recent dock light fishing trip, a Spanish mackerel surprisingly “dropped in” our boat as my first mate Harry and I cruised across Boca Ciega Bay. On our latest outing, my first mate “dropped out.”

The indicators for a great night of fishing were all aligned. The soon to be full moon was beautiful; the solunar tables were predicting good fishing, and a cold front was less than 24 hours away. Having already boated a redfish, two mangrove snappers, and a couple of trout, I hooked a strong fish that was staying below the surface and really fighting. Suddenly a loud splash grabbed my attention.

Harry had fallen overboard! He was dog paddling beside the boat. With the bending rod in my left hand I grabbed the handle on Harry's life jacket with my right hand and brought him into the boat. As I sat him down, his tail started wagging.

Harry was fine, just wet and cold. I dried him with a towel the best I could, but there was no way to dry him quickly and stop his shivering. I put my jacket around him and we headed for the ramp and our nice, warm home.

By the way, I landed the fish, it was an 18-inch seatrout.

*Myron*

## Chris O'Byrne: Crappie, Bass on Bartow's Lake Grassy

I fished Central Florida lakes a few times over the Thanksgiving break.

The water is from 71 to 73 degrees. The cold fronts are bringing wind, making the fish skittish.

Bass and bluegill are deep, 7 feet and deeper. Crappie are available. 5 feet deep or more, around structure. Flies need to be presented slowly.

*Chris*

*PS: Yeah, a nice crappie. I was ready, too. The sides were meaty! And Anna got one even bigger.*



*That's Anna Dienes of the Andy Thornal fly shop in Winter Haven. She caught this crappie (and others) fishing with Suncoast Fly Fisher Chris O'Byrne.*

**Bruce Evensen: Bruce's Orange Rouser**



*Bruce Evensen*

This is one of Bruce's oldies but goodies. For December's outing at Fort DeSoto Park Bruce ties it in Orange or Burnt Orange, and marks up the body like a pinfish.



**Materials**

Hook: Stingers size 1, 2, or 2/0

Tail: Orange or burnt orange bucktail

Legs: Barred orange and brown silly legs

Eyes: Medium brass bead chain, or tie on lead barbell eyes for more weight

Flash: Gold Krystal Flash

Body: Orange or root-beer Chenille or Estaz. medium length

Thread: Orange flat waxed nylon

Glue: Super glue and/or UV epoxy

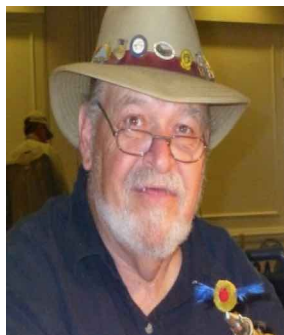
Magic Marker: Black or brown

**Steps**

1. Wrap hook shank from eye to bend.
2. Tie on bead-chain eyes, Clouser style, just behind the hook eye.
3. Add a clump of bucktail just in front of the bend about 1-½ times the shank length.
4. Place stripes on the bucktail with an odd number of stripes, 3 or 5.
5. Tie in two Silly legs of barred orange to the side of the fly and two brown Silly Legs in front of the bucktail so that there is one of each on the sides.
6. Add gold Krystal Flash in the middle on top of the legs.
7. Add orange Chenille or Estaz just in front of the tail and legs. Tie it in then bring the thread forward to the eyes and wrap Estaz forward and tie off just behind the eyes.
8. Add a drop of glue or epoxy to the eyes & thread

*Bruce*

## Smitty's Fly Box: The Black Ghost



Layne (Smitty) Smith

This was one of Don Coleman's favorite streamer patterns. It is a classic freshwater trout pattern that Don loved to tie and fish. It was created by Herb Welch. The Black Ghost is one of the last remnants of the streamer tradition developed by Maine fly-tiers in the years before and shortly after World War II. Something about the black, yellow, and white color combination in this venerable streamer pattern seems to make trout—especially big browns—want to kill it.



*Smitty*

### Materials

Hook: Daiichi 2340 6X long or Mustad L87, size 4

Thread: Black Danville flatwaxed nylon

Tail: Flat silver tinsel

Body: Black silk floss

Throat: Bright yellow cape feather (wide with long barbs)

Wing: 4 white whiting American neck hackles

Cheeks: Jungle cock

NOTE: Use CA cement (like Zap A Gap) and Solarez UV Resin

### Tying sequence

**Step 1:** Start your thread a heads-width back of the hook eye, wrap rearward to the bend of the hook, and tie in the tail. Choose several fibers of wide neck hackle, align the tips, and tie them in at the bend of the hook. After tying in the tail, return your thread to the original starting point just behind the hook eye.

**Step 2:** Tie in the flat silver tinsel and wrap your thread rearward to tail to secure in place. Return thread to original tie in point just behind hook eye

**Step 3:** Tie in black silk floss then wrap your thread all the way back to the tail securing floss to the hook shank, again return thread to original tie in point. Next, wrap floss up the hook shank in touching turns. After reaching the tie in point, wrap floss back to the tail and again wrap forward to tie in point taking touching turns the whole way. This will create bulk and a lifelike taper. Tie off the floss and trim any excess.

**Step 4:** Next, wrap the tinsel over the floss body to rib the fly. You can do this with your hands or (if you have a rotary vise) spin your vise to rib the fly. Tie off tinsel at original tie in point and trim off any excess.

-- Tying sequence continues on next page --

## P2/Smitty's Fly Box: The Black Ghost

**Step 5:** Tie in yellow cape by the tip and secure with a few wraps of thread and a dab of ca cement. Wrap hackle forward in touching wraps doubling barbs rearward as you go. Five or six wraps should do. Tie off securely and trim away any excess.

**Step 6:** Thoroughly moisten finger and press down on top of barbs dividing them equally on each side of hook shank so they hang in the throat position. Take a small piece of 2mm scrap foam, fold in half and "tent" barbs using a clip to hold them in place for a couple of minutes till they dry. Once dry, remove foam and back wrap thread a few turns to secure.

**Step 7:** Pair up feathers into 2 sets of matching tip lengths and then turning them concave to each other (like praying hands), rematch the tips. Holding all four feathers together as one, measure so they extend past tail about ¼". Peel away any excess barbs to leave bare stems. With a pair of needle-nose pliers, flatten all stems perpendicular to wing orientation. Holding all feathers tightly close to the stems, lay them down on hook shank and tie in with a few firm wraps. Make sure wing is aligned properly atop hook shank then apply a drop of CA cement to hold in place. Add a few more thread wraps and trim off excess stems.

**Step 8:** Tie in Jungle Cock on both sides of hook shank to create eyes for the streamer. Trim excess stems and then tie a neat head and whip finish. Trim off excess thread.

**Step 9:** Coat head with UV Resin and cure.

\*Note: If you can't find Jungle Cock, get a matched pair of church windows from a pheasant skin, put a drop of SHHAN on each then draw then one at a time through pinched finger and thumb, steadily blowing on the feather during the process. Repeat as often as needed to get the desired look.

###

## Smitty's Fly Box: Christmas Tree Flies



## Dennis Marquis: Flash and Brush Baitfish Pattern



I believe I learned this small simple bait pattern from Quin Berry. He and I used it on several successful docklight adventures. I have also used it on the flats and drop offs. You can tie it in whatever colors seems to fit the need, I will start with white. This pattern is simple to tie. When done the fly can be no more than 2.5", and shorter can even be better. Less material is better than more.



*Dennis*

### Materials

Hook: #2 or #4 3407 or whatever hook suits you  
Tail: SF Flash Blend, white (Quin uses Artic Fox Tail in white)  
Head: EP Minnow Head Brush 1.5" white  
Eyes: Large black bead chain  
Thread: White  
Thorax: Optional – red rabbit zonker  
Glue: Head cement or Super Glue.

### Steps

- 1: Smash barb and set hook in vice.
- 2: Tie in bead chain and wrap thread to hook bend. I tie in bead chain at one bead length behind hook eye.  
Step
3. Clip a pencil size clump of the SF Flash Blend about two hook shanks, for a #2 3407 that is 1.5". Rotate fibers around shank and tie in securely.
4. Tie in the head brush, then advance thread to eye and leave it there. Wrap head brush forward in a palmering method trying to keep brush hairs pointing to the back of the fly.
5. Wrap head brush over bead eyes toward hook eye, around shank and back over bead eyes, then around shank and over and through bead eyes once more. Come around shank behind hook eye and tie off. Clip brush tag.
6. Optional: rotate fly upside down and tie in a beard of red zonker fiber.
7. Whip finish, apply head cement.
8. As needed you can trim tail to fit the proportions of the fly. I also use a EP Finger Brush to comb and blend the materials from front to back.

## Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner



### Careful sight casting. Now watch it take your fly.

The ultimate thrill for a fly fisherman is to carefully present a fly to a large, unsuspecting fish in shallow water and enjoy a violent, aggressive take. The combination of early morning skinny water, which gives the fish a chance to relax overnight from daytime disturbances, and lack of summer floating grass will continue to improve. Watch carefully for disturbances that indicate moving and feeding fish. Herons and pelicans flying over shallow flats will disturb fish and give you a target. Small baitfish scattering often gives away the position of large trout, redfish and also snook. A tail slowly waving belongs to a redfish digging for a crab or shrimp. Sheepshead do the same thing. Stealth is the key to success. Wading gets you closer than most boats.

Move like a feeding heron to prevent ripples on calm water that alert fish to an intruder's presence. A fish that knows you're there might hang around but will stop feeding. Equip your 7- or 8-weight fly rod with a 12-foot tapered leader. A 12- to 15-pound tippet might be needed. A loop knot tied to a size 4 crab pattern in a color that matches the bottom with bead-chain eyes and weed guard completes the setup. Cast carefully and accurately. Remember, crustaceans move slowly. If you have follows and refusals, slow everything down. Always strip set the hook when the fish is felt. Trying to set the hook by raising the tip of the rod usually guarantees a miss.

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

## Then and Now. Once a fisher always a fisher.



Who is this guy with a stringer of trout? This photo was taken in the 1970s.



Here's the same guy with a chinook salmon. This was taken in 1992.



Yeah, a few years later, it's still Bill Scarola. Fishing is in his DNA. Bill caught this Spanish mackerel on the fly in Clearwater Pass.



## Niner: Tarpon Baby

*Tarpon baby, just sip a little air for me, oh please  
Been an awful good boy  
Tarpon baby, so hurry up and eat my fly*

*Tarpon honey, be 39 inch to the tail, no  
whale  
I've got all day for you, dear  
Tarpon baby, so hurry up and eat my fly*

*Think of all the fun we've had  
Think of all leader breaks that make me  
mad  
Next year, I know I'll be more than good  
If you check off my Christmas list*

*--Merry Christmas*



*--niner*

## Fly Gear for Sale or Swap

**Tim Elms has lowered the price on a few SFF logo fishing shirts with the jumping snook design. Email [trelms@yahoo.com](mailto:trelms@yahoo.com)**

Machine wash and dryable. If you want one, he'll deliver it to you or meet you half-way. Non hooded (XXL only) is light grey. Priced at \$18. White hooded shirts are L and XL priced at \$35. One XXL has a small stain. That one goes for \$20.



**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

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

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## 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 ANEMONES 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.*

*He was the only one returning from a deep sea adventure, the SOLE survivor.*

*An old fishing proverb... "All good things come to those who BAIT!"*

*Pelican 1: "That's a pretty good fish you have there!"*

*Pelican 2: Yep it FILLS THE BILL!*

*When some fishermen tell a tale, they go to any LENGTH. I am FIN-ished.*

*Bill*

## Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



**Mono or fluoro leader?** This argument is causing a major schism in the church of fly-fishing. Tim Elms has called this article to my attention. Clearly the writer has given it a lot of thought. And the winner is? ([Blog,Jans](#))

**Our first club outing at this park** – Tentatively, our April outing is at Boca Ciega Millennium Park in Seminole. The shoreline looks just right for waders. It's also got a kayak launch. And a lake. ([Boca Ciega Millennium Park](#))

**Andy and Nicky. And now Chico** -- Tail Fly Fishing has put another star on its editorial team, Chico Fernandez. He was our 2017 Hog Roast speaker. (Yeah, he was great!) Andy Mill and his son Nicky are on the Tail editorial team, too. ([Tail](#))

**And speaking of Andy and Nicky** – This is a terrific article. It fleshes out many of the stories that Andy told us during our November Zoom meeting. ([Garden and Gun](#))

**Are you looking for an outdoorsy soul mate?** There's an app for that. ([Outdoor Hub](#))

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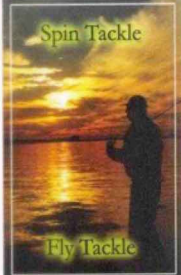
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