



President's Letter, January 2021

Suncoast Fly Fishers,

Out with the old, in with the new. Happy New Year! Well, I hope you aren't disappointed, but things really haven't changed all that much just yet. We still have the virus, we are still social distancing and SFF is still not holding in person events. Trust me, things are about to get better. The vaccine has gotten off to a rocky start but that will soon get sorted out.

Here is what I see going forward. As soon as the vaccine becomes widely available to the point that most people can get the shots if they want them and the infection rates start coming down, we will resume in person events. I don't know exactly when that will happen, but I am guessing it will be sometime late summer or early fall. The board will review the situation each month and as soon as we think it is safe to go back in the water, we will let you know.

What does that mean for the club? It means that we won't have our Trash & Treasure auction this month, we won't have a casting clinic this winter or spring and we won't have a Hog Roast again this year. We will continue to have monthly member meetings on ZOOM and virtual outings each month. Bruce will continue to hold online fly tying classes each Monday night and we will continue to grow our social media footprint. You can look forward to some exciting presentations at our member meetings. This month we will have a presentation by Christina Welsh. Christina is a graduate student at USF College of Marine Science. She is the recipient of last year's inaugural SFF sponsored scholarship and the FFI Conservation Award. Her research focuses on understanding the metabolic physiology of larval fish in response to climate change.

When we return, we plan to do it in style. Our first in person meeting will feature a special event and our first outing will include a family picnic with one of our signature meals, games and giveaway's. We will schedule a casting clinic in the fall and again after the first of the year in 2022. November will be our open house. This time we will do it live and in person. December will bring the return of the SFF holiday party and next January we will resume our Trash & Treasure auction. In March of 2022 we will gather for our best Hog Roast ever after a 2-year hiatus.

We won't ever forget 2020 and we may not ever return to precisely the way things were before the pandemic, but we will get back to doing the things that SFF is known for and we will get back to doing it in person. Stay safe and keep fishing!

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Rick

Rick Warfel, SFF President