

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

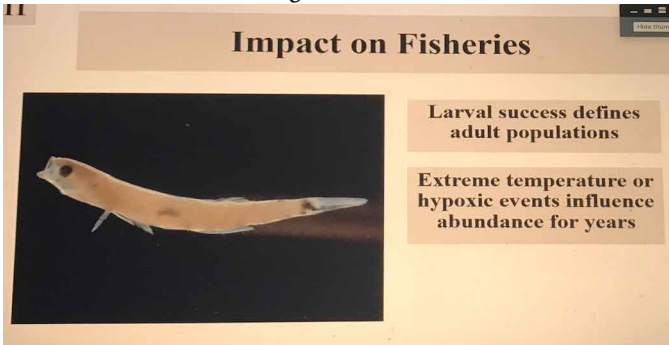
Weedon Preserve Waders. P6



Feb. 20 Outing Fort DeSoto. P7
(Waders meet at boat ramp at 7 am)



Climate Change and Gamefish. P8



Fischer: 13 Big Reds. P10



Woody's 4 pound bass. P10



Skippers in the Everglades. P11





President's Letter, February 2021

Suncoast Fly Fishers,

Time for a little humor.

I have been fly fishing for over 50 years and for most of that time I was largely self-taught. It is much like my golf swing which has been compared to a man with a free suit. You know the old joke about the free suit. A man wins a free suit but when he tries it on, he finds that one arm is too short, so he takes it back to the store to complain. The tailor thinks for a moment and tells the customer to lower his right shoulder to make the arms look even. "But when I do that it pulls up at the waist." Said the customer. The tailor tells the customer to lean forward to straighten that out. He leaves the shop awkwardly walking bent forward with one shoulder drooping. A couple sees the man leaving and the husband says, "Look at that poor cripple leaving the clothing store." The woman said, "Yes but he has a great tailor, the suit fits perfectly."

As with most saltwater fly fishermen, I always want to be able to cast farther and like many fly casters I often go about it the wrong way. I lunge with the rod on my final casting stroke. I know better but it is a habit that I find difficult to break. At the last casting clinic, Dayle Mazzarella addressed the topic of constant acceleration. It is not enough to maintain your rod speed during the cast. You must continue accelerating in order to load the rod properly. He compared it to a proper golf swing. You must start slow and continue to accelerate as the club head passes through the ball.

That really resonated with me. My casting hasn't gotten any better, but my golf game has improved significantly.

Stay safe and keep fishing!

Rick

Rick Warfel, SFF President

Meetings, Outings, and More

February Virtual Meeting and Outing

Zoom Meeting, Thursday, February 18

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82761499392>

- We'll meet up on Zoom at 7 pm on Thursday, February 18. You'll get a reminder with sign-in information. The Zoom invitation for the member meeting will be the same each month.

Virtual outing Saturday, February 20, Outing

- The outing is Saturday, February 20. Fish anywhere around Fort De Soto 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, seatrout and redfish. Measure. Take a picture. Email your picture to outings committee chair Bob Burkard. at robertburkard9@gmail.com
- Wade fishing? Your call. You're welcome to meet up with other club members at 7 am on the western edge of the Fort De Soto boat ramp parking lot.

2021 Outings in Brief

- The March freshwater outing has been adjusted. Fish freshwater anywhere in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and/or Manatee counties.
- \$10 gift certificates will be awarded for the longest snook, redfish, seatrout (saltwater outings) and longest bass and bluegill (freshwater outings) except the June docklight outing prize is for the longest snook only. Rewards will be presented when we start meeting in person again.
- Outings are on the Saturday morning following the third Thursday of each month. (Dec. is earlier.)

| 2021 Outings | Outing Date | | Outing | | Target Fish | |
|-----------------|------------------|---|--------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | |
| | 1/23/2021 | Weedon Island | | | (1) Longest Snook & (2) Trout, & (3) Longest Redfish | |
| | 2/20/2021 | Ft. DeSoto | | | (1) Longest Snook & (2) Trout | |
| | 3/20/2021 | Freshwater: Anywhere in (Tri-County) Pinellas, Hillsborough, or Manatee Counties | | | (1) Longest Bass & (2) Longest Bream & (3) Longest Cichlid | |
| | 4/17/2021 | Upper Tampa Bay and Alligator Lake (Safety Harbor): Philippe Park | | | (1) Longest Trout & (2) Longest Bass | |
| | ?? | Everglades Outing: Fish Fry | | | | |
| | 5/22/2021 | Cypress Point Park | | | (1) Longest Trout | |
| | 6/18 & 6/19/2021 | Night Snook: Friday and Saturday Nights Docklight and Beach (fishing in the dark) Anywhere in Tampa Bay | | | Longest Snook | |
| | 7/15/2021 | Skyway Bridge South - Within Sight of the Bridge | | | Longest Fish on a Fly | |
| | 8/21/2021 | Urban Outing (Bay Vista Park) Weedon Island to Rt 275 | | | (1) Longest Snook & (2) Trout, & (3) Longest Redfish | |
| | 9/18/2021 | Fort DeSoto | | | (1) Longest Snook & (2) Trout, & (3) Longest Redfish | |
| | 10/23/2021 | Hillsborough River - Carl Hanson | | | (1) longest Bass & (2) Most Blue Gills | |
| | 11/18/2021 | Boca Ciega Bay - Bay Pines War Veterans Memorial Park | | | (1) Longest Ladyfish & (2) Longest Trout | |
| | 12/11/2021 | Christmas Party - TBD | | | | |
| | 12/18/2021 | Ft DeSoto - Don Coleman | | | Longest Fish on a Fly | |

Meetings, Outings, and More

Now you can pay dues and make donations online

2021 membership dues are now payable. If you haven't yet paid up please do so now. You can pay online on the Suncoast Fly Fishers website. Click on [eshop](#) on the menu bar. Or, if you have any questions about how much or how to pay, phone Karen at 813-505-3162 or email her at

KMWARFEL@YAHOO.COM

When will we have real meetings and outings again?

The Covid-19 has put a serious tailing loop into the fun-fun dynamics of the Suncoast Fly Fishers. Meetings are on Zoom (better'n nothing) but nothing beats the in person meetings where we slurp free coffee and gobble Dunkin Donuts. So when will we be able to meet in person again? It's anybody's guess, but President Rick Warfel and board members are making an educated guess that we should be able to have safe in-person meetings and outings in late summer. And the subject of the first in-person meeting? The *Trash 'n' Treasures* auction. Yay. Hurry, hurry.

Board of Directors Discussions/Decisions

- Karen Warfel was recognized and thanked for the outstanding financial reporting work that she does and for synching membership dues with Fly Fishers International.
 - A motion was passed to order 50 more copies of the Don Coleman booklet, *Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod*. Each new member will continue to get one.
 - The board agreed to the purchase of more business cards.
 - The board also agreed to continue the club's \$500 scholarship to a USF student each year to support marine research beneficial to the Tampa Bay area.
 - Quin Berry volunteered to investigate the possibility of raising money for the club by selling fly collections on our website's *eShop* section.
-

Florida Council Bylaws Update

The Florida Council has had Conservation, Education, and Membership committee chairpersons. Now, with a unanimous vote by members, these chairs are part of the bylaws.

Wow: Check out the new FFI member portal

Starting now, you can join FFI or renew your membership through our upgraded membership portal that will provide a host of new benefits. You have the option to create an enhanced profile. Add your photo. Participate in forums. You can even write and send forms to communicate with FFI staff and to ask questions. Here's the [link](#).

BREAKING NEWS: Club members Anne Hays and Robert Mitchell have married.

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/scff2020

Membership update

Suncoast Fly Fishers now has 131 members including 14 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 members

Mark Myers
Rudi Thomfohrde
Mike Ziegler
Ray Virgilio (returning)

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: Tim Elms
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: January Outing, Weedon Island Preserve



Bob Burkard, Outings Committee chairman

Ten members and a guest walked into a bar. Oops. Actually, they met up at 7 am and waded into Tampa Bay. They made hundreds of perfect fly casts with enticing flies. But, but, but... the fish were not falling for the pitch.

The plan was to hike to the Tampa Bay shoreline then wade in and fish. Before we all got going, a guy in a pickup truck pulled up and announced that a big school of redfish was moving all around Riviera Bay at the top of Bayou Grande.



Weedon waders Not shown: Kevin Kelly, who shot picture.

That didn't work out well for Bob Hood. While wading he tripped over a log and fell forward, filling his waders with water. He broke a rod tip and ripped his waders. But before that commotion, he did catch a small seatrout, a stingray and a catfish. Steve Udovich helped Bob stand up and get sorted out. Steve caught several ladyfish.



Seven hiked the Lookout Point Trail down to the shoreline and wade-fished the Benjamin Pass area. Real fish were not very interested but there were some hookups: Kevin Kelly caught two mangrove branches and the back of his shirt. Rick Warfel caught a needlefish and four puffer fish. And, then, just before noon, when it was almost quitting time, our guest John Kozloski spotted a tailing fish. First cast. Nope. Second cast. Hookup. But it wasn't a tailing red. It was a tailing seatrout.



*Tampa Bay sunrise.
Wayne Shriver photo*



"I give up mister." John Kosloski caught this tailing seatrout.



John K. fights his seatrout.

Bob Burkard: February 20 Outing – Fort De Soto Park

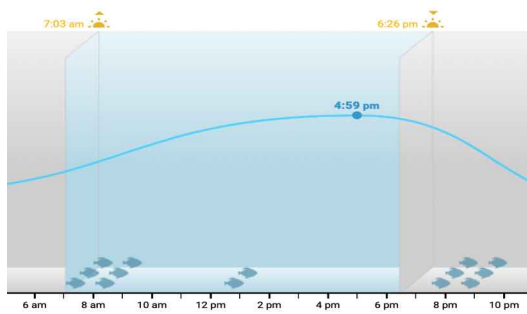
Fish the water surrounding Fort De Soto Park. If you're a wade fisher, join other members meeting up at 7 am on the western edge of the FDP boat ramp parking area. This is a good spot to slide your kayak into the water, too.

Another plus? You don't have to wait in line for the park to open then pay \$5 to get into the park. Oh, and do not park your car in a boat-and-trailer slot or you might get a \$30 fine.

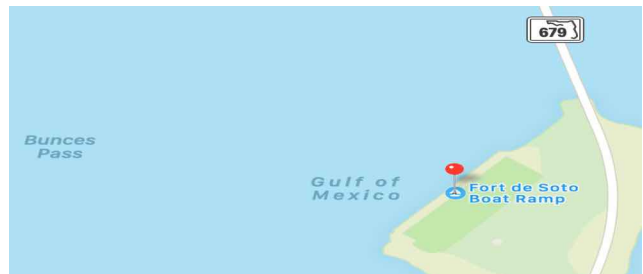
Members catching the longest snook, seatrout, and redfish win gift cards to Bill Jackson's and if they're the longest of the day you'll take the lead in one of the outing tournament categories. Measure and email pictures of your longest fish to robertburkard9@gmail.com



Fish anywhere around Fort De Soto Park. Waders will meet up at 7 am at the FDP boat ramp.



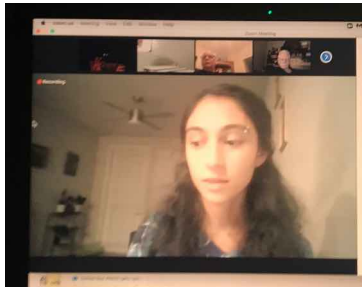
We'll have a nice incoming tide with a major solunar between 7 and 10 am (Tides4fishing.com)



Leaders on the 2021 Outing Tournament Trail

| Species | Length | Winner | Outing (Month) |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|----------------|
| Longest bream | | | |
| Longest black bass | | | |
| Longest snook | | | |
| Longest redfish | | | |
| Longest ladyfish | | | |
| Longest seatrout | | | |

Ph.D. Candidate Christina Welsh at SFF January Meeting

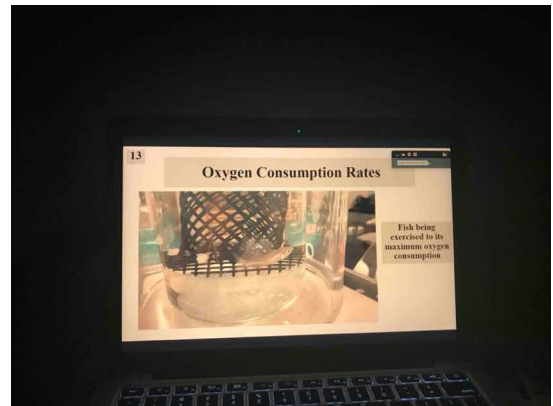


Christina Welsh, Ph.D. candidate, is researching how climate change affects fish populations. She was the recipient of SFF's first marine science scholarship at the University of South Florida

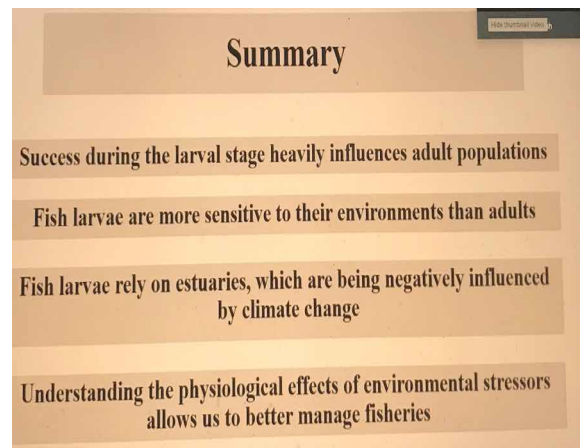
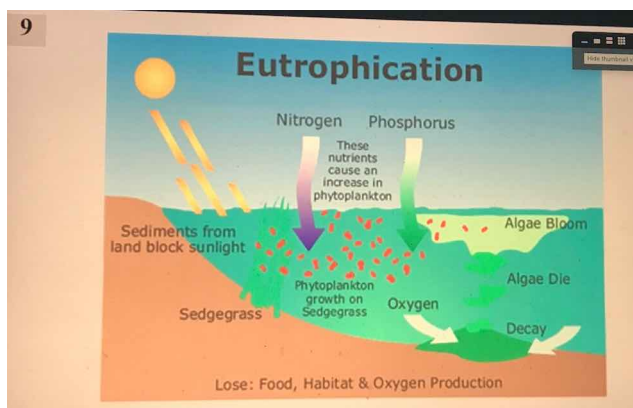
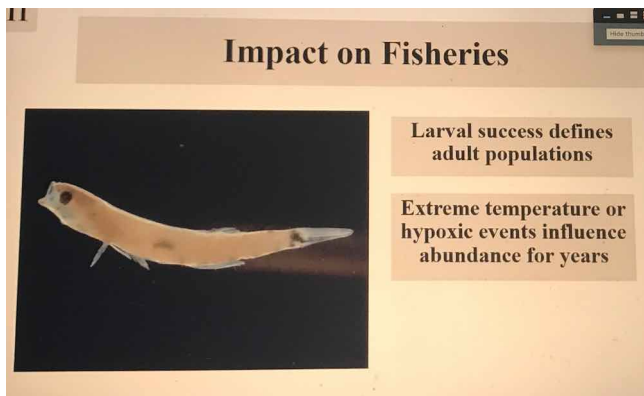
Suncoast Fly Fishers' 2020 scholarship winner joined us Thursday, January 21 and updated us on her research to help determine the effects of global warming on saltwater gamefish.

Christina Welsh, a second year Ph.D. candidate studying biological oceanography, is digging into the possible effects of climate change on salt fish populations. The major takeaways are that populations will be negatively affected because their larvae are more vulnerable to water temperature changes and that those changes will be more severe in estuaries, home to most larvae. Her conclusion is that it will be very important for fish management agencies to include these stressors in their studies and regulations.

And this is sad because it's looking like populations of our favorites -- seatrout, redfish, snook, tarpon -- won't be hanging around here. They're going to move north.



When the water's warmer this minnow must consume more oxygen and is always out of breath, so to speak.



Tim Elms: Don't be afraid of the dark



Howdy! Happy February. I had a lot going on this past month. Work, family, and weather got in the way of lots of fishing.

But, I have found that fishing in the dark can really help you understand timing and control of your loops. Fish eat at night also.

Here are some of my tips for fishing in the dark...lying on our backs and counting the stars.



Nighttime is sometimes the best time



Snook love to feed at night

throw at night.

First, safety though. Bring a light! Duh. Try to go with someone. Plan before you go. Meaning, be sure of your surroundings --water, banks, trees, ledges, anything. Fish a spot during the day and make mental notes for fishing it in the nighttime. Bring a couple flies. No need to switch every 10 casts. I think they are either hungry or not.

Are there lights around? Even streetlights will make bait dance around in the glow. I like to try top water first! It's amazing to throw a top water and hear the boom when its completely dark and silent out.

Dark flies have worked best for me when I switch to bait patterns. Snook, bass, bluegill, and tarpon all have taken the same purple bunny I

Shorten and stiffen up your leader. Nothing worse than casting into a tree and losing your favorite fly. But at night your leader is much harder for fish to see so use that to your advantage.

Trust your cast. It's obviously harder to see what's going on with your loops. Night fishing will really show you how to feel for your rod to load and not seeing it happen. When in doubt just slow way down. Your "pause" between forward and back casts will start to come completely by feel.



I throw a purple bunny fly at night

Dial in your ears. Fish often feed in frenzies at night. They are safer not showing their location. Keep your ears peeled for any sounds of fish eating and get in there fast.

That's it. Give it a try especially when it really starts to heat up. Go somewhere you are remarkably familiar with and enjoy the wildlife. This is Florida, you never know what's out there.

Until next month...getting amped for the spawn.

Strip.Strip.Strip!—Tim

Robert Fischer: 13 Big Redfish Wading Tampa Bay

Nice 28" redfish caught on a perfect winter day in Tampa Bay. This was one of 13 that I caught in knee deep clear water. The fish were very spooky and required a 14' leader, a small #4 crab and a dead slow retrieve. A lot like bone-fishing in the Bahamas, except bonefish aren't usually this spooky. My best redfish day ever.

Robert

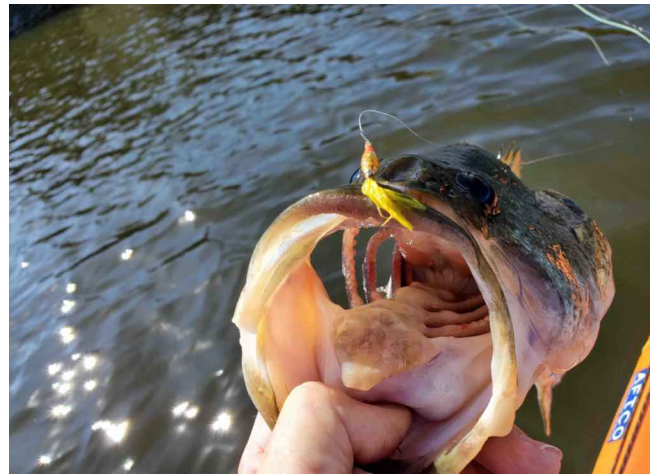
(Robert said his bite tippet was 12-lb test)



Woody Miller: Four Pound Bass on Alligator Lake

Here are pictures of the four-pound bass I caught Thursday (Jan. 21) at Alligator Lake. I was using a 3-wt and caught it on a #10 Myakka Minnow.

Woody



Tony Piazza: Pompano on Tarpon Key Flats



I caught this Pompano on the flat south of Tarpon Key near the remnants of the sunken barge. It took a brown over orange Clouser pattern tied on a number 4 hook.

This is the only fish I have kept in a long time.

I survived the guilt.

Tony

Lynn Skipper: Sightcasting with Capt. John Hand



Below are the two reds I caught while fishing last week with Captain John Hand out of Everglades City. Both were sight cast caught fish and the only two reds we saw in three days of fishing. Plenty of 10-15 inch trout, one Spanish Mackerel, plenty of lady fish and lizardfish (alias Raptor fish). Great weather and great partner fishing. Also one red grouper and one large croaker. Lynn

Lynn

Andy Constantinou: Uh Oh. Crawfish have invaded England.

Greetings from Latimer. Here's a snap of an American Crawfish. They are invading our lake in Buckinghamshire.

Cheers, Andy

Thanks, Andy. Some of us of a certain age remember this oldie but goodie sung by Hank Williams

Goodbye Joe me gotta go me oh my oh
Me gotta go pole the pirogue down the bayou
My Yvonne the sweetest one me oh my oh
Son of a gun we'll have big fun on the bayou

Jambalaya and a crawfish pie and filé gumbo
Cause tonight I'm gonna see my ma cher amio
Pick guitar fill fruit jar and be gay-o
Son of a gun we'll have big fun on the bayou



Your Fish & Wildlife Officers Are On the Job*

Pinellas County

Lieutenant Bibeau observed an individual actively fishing and conducted a fisheries inspection on the angler's catch. The individual admitted to having a sixteen-inch redfish in a nearby bucket. Lieutenant Bibeau retrieved the undersized and out of season redfish and walked back with the individual to retrieve their ID from a nearby vehicle. Lieutenant Bibeau observed a cooler in the backseat of the vehicle which contained an undersized and out of season snook, two undersized gag grouper and one undersized mangrove snapper. Lieutenant Bibeau issued the individual the appropriate misdemeanor citations and warnings for the fisheries violations.

Escambia County

Officer Allgood received information that a person posted pictures of several illegal fish on Facebook. The post commented on the fish caught, and stated he caught a small gag grouper. Officer Allgood was able to determine where the person lived and responded to his residence. He spoke to the individual who posted the pictures and found that he still had the fish in a cooler. The individual was in possession of over the bag limit of red drum, undersized red drum, undersized mangrove snapper and undersized gag grouper. The individual was issued a notice to appear citation for the violations.

Brevard County

Officers Perry and Johnson were on patrol when they conducted a fisheries inspection on a man returning to land after fishing from a kayak. While talking with the man, he told the officers he had caught several redfish and trout. He also said he kept a trout and one redfish. After measuring the fish, Officer Johnson determined the redfish was oversized. In addition, it is illegal to possess redfish or trout in Lee County due to the executive order. The man was issued a notice to appear and warnings for the violations.

Columbia County

Officer Specialist McDonald wrapped up an investigation involving three individuals who posted a Facebook video of them playing with a baby alligator. In the video, the subjects take turns allowing the alligator to bite them on their fingers and one subject even allowed the alligator to bite him on the chest. Charges for the three are being filed with the State Attorney's Office for possession of an alligator.

Palm Beach County

Officer Trawinski responded to a call for service in Woodlands Middle School. Upon arrival, he noticed a four-foot American Alligator walking through parking lot. The officer was able to catch and relocate an alligator without incident.

**Pinched from FWC's law enforcement report for November 2020*

Bruce's February Outing Fly of the Month

Watch Bruce teach this fly online....[facebook.com/scff2020](https://www.facebook.com/scff2020)

Bruce Evensen: Inshore Winter Shrimp



Bruce Evensen

This is the February Fly of the Month for the Fort DeSoto Park outing. Bruce tied this fly on Zoom on Monday, Feb. 8.



Materials

Hook: #2 3407 Mustad

Egg Sack: Orange Fiber

Legs: LT brown-barbed Silly Legs Body: Silver braid or Mylar wrap.

Head: Tan maribou

Body: Beige fine chenille

Eyes: Small barbell, black wing: white, yellow, olive bucktail.

Thread: Tan flat-waxed nylon.

Tying Steps

Step 1. Take thread wrap from hook eye to bend of the hook.

Step 2. Put small piece of orange fiber at the bend of the hook for the egg sac.

Step 3. Take 3 five inch pieces of silly legs, double over to have six legs, and tie in above egg sac.

Step 4. Tie in short small amount of tan marabou.

Step 5. Tie small black barbell slightly back from hook eye.

Step 6. Take beige chenille wrap from egg sac down hook shank to hook eye.

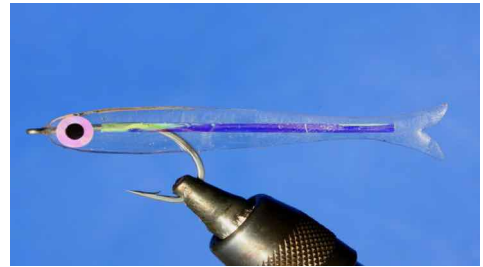
Step 7. Put drop of glue at the tie off.

Step 8. Get out and catch fish!

Smitty's Fly Box: Neerly Nuttin' Glass Minnow



This is a substitute for all you tiers who want to make gummy minnows but have a hard time handling the materials. The technique to make them is definitely different than most flies, but rather simple once you get it figured out. The fly consists of lightly cured acrylic resins. The final product is a realistic bay



anchovy or silversides imitation that is flexible and virtually indestructible! Fish it as you would any glass minnow style fly. The flexible rear two-thirds will swim like live bait. You can make this fly in 1", 2" or 3" lengths to "match the hatch" of local baitfish according to time of season. *Smitty*

Materials

Hook: Short Shank TMC 800S or Gamakatsu SC15 (adjust hook size to baitfish size)

Eyes: Stick-on Tape eyes

Lateral Line: Saltwater Flashabou or Holographic Flashabou

Body: Hard & Flexible Solarez UV Acrylic Resin

Optional: Pearl foil tissue, glitter or markers

Tying sequence

Step 1. Draw a slender baitfish shape on a piece of paper (approx. 3" long).

Step 2. Create a digital file on the computer by scanning the shape.

Step 3. Print the baitfish shape on transparency film using a standard inkjet printer. To create different sized flies, simply adjust the picture size before printing. I make these flies in a variety of sizes between 1-3". With one sheet of transparency film, you can create many baitfish sizes.

Step 4. Cut one of the baitfish shapes out using scissors. This will act as your template.

Step 5. Lay the baitfish template flat with the hook placed on top of the template.

Step 6. Apply hard formulation of UV resin along the front third of the template from the hook eye to just past the hook bend. The hard UV resin gives the front portion of the fly strength so that the flexible UV resin portion of the fly (applied in step 8) will not rip off the hook. Note that you will complete one side of the fly before working on the opposite side.

Step 7. Apply eyes and lateral line to this side of the fly.

Step 8. Apply flexible UV resin along the entire length of the template to create a three dimensional shape for this side.

Step 9. Remove the template. The template can be reused to create many flies.

Step 10. Repeat steps 7 and 8 on the opposite side to finish the fly.

(NOTE: This tying sequence can get pretty tricky. If you need help Smitty says feel free to email him at bluegillflies45@gmail.com)



Glitz and glitter version



Shake a tail feather version

Bill Scarola: Mirrodine Fly



Bill was our guest tier on Zoom Monday, January 25. He wrote, "You can tie this in several ways. The goal is to imitate the Mirrodine lure. I've tied this fly from behind the hook eye going straight back with materials but I prefer tying the material forward then pulling it back to form a fuller body.



MATERIALS:

HOOK: # 1 or 2 stinger hooks or similar
THREAD: Flat waxed in white and or olive/gray
UNDER BODY: Doll Hair in white or white EP fibers
UPPER BODY: EP fibers in mullet color or dark green Congo hair blend.
EYES: 4.5 -5mm holographic, stick on eyes. in red or silver
FLASH: Pearl Flashabou or Krystal Flash
BEARD: Red or orange marker
GLUES: Super glue and U V epoxy, and fletching glue or E6000 etc.

TYING SEQUENCE

- 1: Wrap hook from hook eye to bend.
- 2: Add a clump of white EP fibers approx. 2" long and tie forward of hook eye with several wraps of thread.
- 3: Add 3-4 strips of flash to hook shank so they are lying toward the bend.
- 4: Add your top EP mullet fibers & tie in forward as the lower white fibers.
- 5: Pull upper fibers back toward bend, and bring thread up to top of shank, then pull white fibers backward, be sure to keep the fibers separate.
- 6: Build up a dam of thread to hold materials back just behind the hook eye. A small clothespin helps here. Wet the material with your fingers and comb or brush back material. Be careful not to wrap your thread over the material at the head.
- 7: Attach the eyes. Add them with a drop of fletching glue or other. Place eyes on the darker color material above the hook shank. Keep eyes even.
- 8: Cover the eyes with a drop or two of THIN UV epoxy glue and cure, the thin will penetrate the fibers and help secure eyes.
- 9: Now trim your fly with scissors to shape the baitfish to a tapered body and tail. Hold your fly by the head and trim from the tail forward.

Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner



Some fly fishers love winter's low tides

Cold fronts, wind, and very low tides have kept most shallow-water bait and spin fishermen home, but I know some fly fishermen who have waited for these conditions. It is not by coincidence that they are also excellent at spotting fish and even better at getting a fly exactly where it needs to be placed with accuracy and stealth. The way these anglers dress, you would think they are going ice fishing instead of fishing shallow-water flats on Florida's gulf coast. They generally wade fish, occasionally using a watercraft only to traverse deeper water on the way in or out of their very shallow destination. Watercraft can get you to areas that are fished very little because of the distance needed to their location. The largest redfish and trout are frequently caught this time of year in very skinny water. Think about some of the shallow flats you are familiar with that have been productive in the past or some you avoided because they were fished heavily by guides and other fishermen. Sun at your back will help you see fish that could be difficult to see on overcast days, but be careful of casting a fish-scaring shadow. Use your favorite fly rod with a floating line and long leader tapered to 12 or 15-pound test. Use a loop knot to attach a favorite size 4 baitfish or shrimp pattern that has small bead chain eyes to keep the hook pointed up, improving your hook set.

Fly fisherman Pat Damico charts Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at captpatdamico.com and 727-504-8649.

Fly Gear for Sale or Swap

Barry Salzman is selling his Simms waders. Just \$125. Email Salzman@tampabay.rr.com

These are Simms Freestone waders. \$125. Size Large. Original price \$279. Excellent condition. No leaks. No repairs. Used infrequently.

Tim Elms has lowered the price on a few SFF logo fishing shirts with the jumping snook design. Email

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

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

Bill Scarola: Someone's in the Kitchen with Rosamary



Bill Scarola

*Did you hear of the Italian chef who died?
He pasta way. We CANOLI do so much.*

*His legacy will become a PIZZA history! Here today and
gone TOMATO. How sad is that he ran out of THYME.*

*I'm sending OLIVE my prayers to the FAMIGLIA. His
wife, 'ROSAMARY is really upset. CHEESE not over it yet!*

*You never SAUSAGE a sad thing. It's such a shame good
people have to die FUSILLI reasons.*

She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her STILL.

*I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an OPTICAL
ALEUTIAN!*

A hole has been found in the nudist-camp wall. The police are LOOKING into it.

*Two hats were hanging on a hat rack. One hat said to the other: Yu stay here, I'LL
GO ON A HEAD!!*

Caio! Bill

Niner: Fly-Fisher Dreams

*Redfish are red, Blue fish are blue
Tarpon are sweet but, hey, you are too.
Snook don't like cold, specks think it's great.
I think I'll use my favorite bait
Whipping my bugs into the blue.
Fly fishing can make all dreams come true.
Or it can't.*

--niner

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



A March fly fishing tournament for your consideration. Tampa Bay Waterkeepers has organized a major fly fishing tournament March 13-14. It's a catch-and-release redfish tournament with major prizes. You can also participate in an optional *Snook Calcutta*. It's a social-distancing tournament. There isn't an in-person captains meeting and the weigh-in will be by photo and email. Limit: 50 teams 100 anglers. (Tampabaywaterkeeper.org)

A May fly fishing tournament for your consideration. It's the new *25 on the Fly Tournament* to raise money for a good cause. This is an actual tournament with online results and scoring. Check out the details. Our member Scott Russell is a major player in this organization. (The Mayfly Project)

Six tips for longer casts. Here's one. Some slide their hand down to the reel to make the rod "longer." (Deneki Outdoors)

Top five fly casting mistakes and how to correct them. (Orvis News)

Five tips for streamer fishing. H/T. Pat Damico (Hatch)

Can you fly cast 100 feet? It's very doable, writes author Louis Cahill. I'm working on it. (Gink and Gasoline)

So far, so good. Water quality on our Gulf shorelines checks out good. But keep an eye on these weekly reports. (Healthy beaches)

Make time to watch *TIME*. This film made the rounds on the 2020 Fly Fishing Film Tour and now it's available to watch free online. It's an exploration of Lefty Kreh's legacy and connections to Flip Pallot, Blane Chocklett, and Bob Clouser and about fly fishing the backwaters of inland Florida. (American Museum of Fly Fishing)

The other *On the Fly*. The February issue of *On the Fly South* is out. (On The Fly South)

Your club gets a mention. Here's a recent article about fishing clubs that seniors can join in the Tampa Bay area. Actually, you don't have to be a senior to join Suncoast Fly Fishers. But you will meet a few. (TBN Weekly)

Don't drain the swamp. The Everglades swamp, that is. (DC is another issue). It'll take a long time to fix all the pollution, algae blooms, water flow, etc. but progress is being made. Two major components are a 10,500-acre reservoir and a 6,500-acre storm-water storage area (STA). This is where the dirty water will be stored before it is released to flow south to the Everglades. Here's an update. (The Fishing Wire)

How do you straighten your fly line? The good. The bad. And the Ugly. I don't think fly line companies want you to stretch your fly line from the bumper of your car. (Proboard fly forum)

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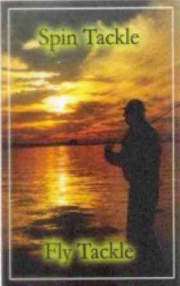
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