

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