

# On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

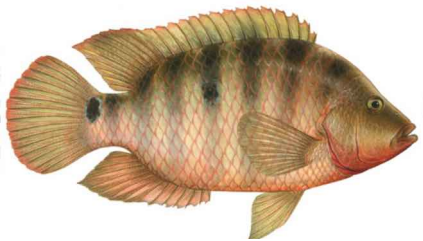
*Layered-up for February's Outing. P6*



*Florida's Freshwater Fly Guru. March Meeting Speaker. P3*



*Catch it. Kill it. Eat it. P7*



*Who is this fly-caster?. P3*



*Macs are mean. P12*



*Lynn Skipper's inshore slam. P13*





## President's Letter, March 2021

Suncoast Fly Fishers,

I think we can finally declare that the end is in sight. I am not saying that everything will be back to normal, but I do think we can start thinking about resuming our in-person events.

The criteria that the board is using to decide when it might be safe to reopen would be that everyone that wants a vaccine can pretty much be able to get one and the infection rates start coming down. We think that we will meet that threshold sometime in the Spring. April and May could be too early, and our normal June outing is a socially distanced dock light event. July looks like the right time to start getting back together.

We are planning to have an in-person member meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup>, and an in-person outing on July 17<sup>th</sup>. If the situation with the Corona virus deteriorates, we may need to rethink our schedule but for now our plan is to be back in-person by July.

Our first in-person gathering is going to be one of our favorite meetings. Alan Sewell will be the host for a Suncoast Fly Fishers Trash & Treasures auction. I am sure everyone has lots of goodies to share. Let's try and find as many of those hidden gems as possible. I know all of you are anxious to get back together. We will be serving free pizza to everyone!

For our first in-person outing, we are going to return to Ft. De Soto. I know we have been there a lot since the beginning of the pandemic but, it is a great venue and a terrific place to hold a celebration. Bob Burkard and the outings committee are planning a very special event. Look for details in the months to come.

For now, we will still be having our member meetings online using ZOOM. If you haven't given it a try please join us this month. Our guest speaker will be Chris O'Byrne. Chris will be talking about fishing during the pandemic and locating urban places to find fish.

We are still holding fly tying classes online and posting videos on Facebook and YouTube. Please check out our social media sites and share them with your friends. We want everyone to know about Suncoast Fly Fishers and what a great group of people all of you are.

Stay safe and keep fishing!

*Rick*

Rick Warfel, SFF President

## Meetings, Outings, and More

### Zoom Meeting, 7 pm, Thursday, March 18. Speaker: Chris O'Byrne

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

- Chris O'Byrne is our speaker. Topic: *Urban fishing in freshwater lakes.*
- We'll meet up on Zoom at 7 pm on Thursday, March 18. The Zoom invitation for the member meeting will be the same each month.



*Chris O'Byrne will talk about how to catch bass, bream and Mayan cichlids..*

### Virtual outing Saturday, March 20, Freshwater

- Fly fish freshwater anywhere in Pinellas, Hillsborough, or Manatee Counties.
- SFF outing prizes (\$10 gift certificates to Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure) will go to the members catching the longest bass, longest Mayan cichlid, and the longest bream. Measure. Take pictures. Email your picture to outings committee chair Bob Burkard. at [robertburkard9@gmail.com](mailto:robertburkard9@gmail.com)
- But where, exactly? You're welcome to meet up with other club members at Walsingham Lake in Largo. Tentatively, some are casting from shore. (Probably not wading with the gators, though.) Some are kayak-fishing.

### Guess the caster and win a subscription to Tail Magazine.

You may have seen this image on our club's website and Facebook pages. Have you ever wondered about the fly caster with the perfect loop? It is actually a silhouette taken from a photograph of one of our members.



If you look through the last couple hundred of our newsletters maybe you can find the picture. See if you can identify the caster. We will be taking your guesses only at the March member meeting on ZOOM. The first one with the correct answer will win a one-year subscription to Tail Magazine.

### 2021 outings at a glance

- March 20: Freshwater only. Fish anywhere in Pinellas, Hillsborough, or Manatee Counties.
- April 17: Phillippe Park, Safety Harbor, fresh and salt
- May 22: Cypress Point Park, Tampa
- June 19: Fish the dark—docklights, beaches – Friday and Saturday. Prize for the longest snook
- July 17: Fort De Soto Park and an in-person pavilion picnic to mark our first steps in returning to normal
- August 21: Urban Outing, Bay Vista Park, St. Petersburg
- October 23:: Carl Hanson Memorial on the Hillsborough River. S: Fort De Soto Park
- September 18: November 20: War Veterans Memorial Park near Bay Pines VA Hospital
- December 11: Fort De Soto Park

## Meetings, Outings, and More

### When will we meet again?

July. Maybe. Fingers crossed. Covid willing.

- Thursday, July 15 meeting at Walter Fuller Park. This will be popular Trash 'n' Treasures meeting with auctioneer Alan Sewell. Bring fishing gear, books, etc. that you want to get rid of. And a credit card, checkbook, or cash to get some great deals on used items that you will use.
- Saturday, July 17 outing and festive picnic at the South Sunshine Skyway Rest Area. Outings chair Bob Burkard will reserve the shelter. It'll be one of our most special meals ever.
- Casting clinic coming later this year. Master Casting Instructor and member Dayle Mazzarella is in touch with President Rick Warfel about it.

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### Coming soon on **eShop**

The first item of gear that we'll sell on the *eShop* page of our website is one-of-a-kind box of unique inshore-slam flies tied by members who excel at this. The Suncoast Fly Fishers fly box will have two flies each of six different patterns. VP Quin Berry will manage the project. Stay tuned.

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### Investing in *Generation Next*

Conservation Committee Chair Cliff Nigh has talked to the University of South Florida about accepting a check from SFF to award another SFF \$500.00 scholarship to one of its incoming marine science doctoral candidates whose work benefits the waters of South Florida. They said, yes, of course. The first SFF scholarship award scholar was Christina Welsh who spoke at our January Zoom meeting. Treasurer Tom Gadacz, who is also president of the Florida Council of Fly Fishers International, said SFF's scholarship also serves as a nomination to FFI for its \$2000 conservation Award. USF marine research scholars get to conduct research on USF's super dooper research vessel. Take a **look**.

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### Got videos? Post them on the SFF Facebook site

President Warfel and our techies need more quick videos for the SFF Facebook page. It'll be clickbait, so to speak, hopefully helping drive more traffic to our page. There may be a prize for the best. Email them to Anne Hays Mitchell -- [anne.hays327689@gmail.com](mailto:anne.hays327689@gmail.com)

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### Memories are made of this

Woody Miller has taken tons of photos at meetings, outings, and such going back to 2009. More than 600 images. Total size is 2.75 GB. Many members in these photos are no longer with us. Our website guru, Tim Elms, is coordinating with Woody to transfer them to the club's archives. Thanks, Woody.

# 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/scff2020](https://Facebook.com/scff2020)

**Online Pay Portal: Pay dues, donate, purchase**

<https://suncoastflyfishers.com/eshop/>

## 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

Charlotte Stevens  
John Kozloski  
Claude Neidlinger

## 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:** Tim Elms

**Facebook:** Cliff Nigh, Anne Hays

**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: February Outing, Fort De Soto Park



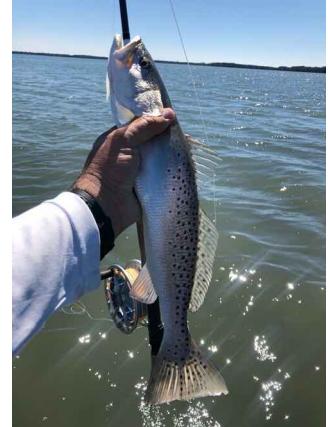
*Bob Burkard, Outings Committee chairman*

ladyfish: 19.5 inches.

Well, February's cold front moved in right on schedule: Outing day.

Warriors that we are, fly fishers layered up and wade-fished the windy flats west of the FDP boat ramp. Hearty fly fishers were AuCoin, Kelly, Shriver, Ziegler, Gibian, Hays, the Mitchells, Arthur Birnkrant, Davis, plus me, myself, and I.

Yes, we have some outing winners and new leaders in the annual tournament categories. Tim Elms went solo somewhere on Mullet Key and caught the longest seatrout: 20-inches. Mark Hays caught the longest



*Solo angler Tim Elms got a picture of his winning 20-inch seatrout.*



*A long cormorant grabbed the ladyfish that grabbed Bob Burkard's fly. Alas, cormorant was not the designated species*  
*Wayne Shriver photo*

Other fish were hooked and landed, but we had to work hard for them. James Davis caught a 16-inch seatrout. New member Tim Gibian, fishing his first SFF outing, caught several seatrout working deeper potholes along the mangrove shoreline. I landed some ladyfish, small seatrout, and pinfish. I threw one of them to a hungry great blue heron. Later a cormorant flew in and clamped its jaws around the ladyfish I was trying to control. (So, do I get a prize for the longest cormorant? Sarc.)

Bill AuCoin caught a 19-inch seatrout but confessed that he was actually wading to another spot pulling the fly in the water behind him. Yeah, he was "trolling." The speckled trout bit his bend-back minnow.

Annie Hays, soon to be Annie Mitchell, reported that she and her hubby Robert and her Dad, Mark, wade-fished the channel that leads into the camping area. "Dad caught a 19.5-inch ladyfish, and Robert caught a 17-inch ladyfish. We didn't



*Kevin Kelly "paddled" his kayak with his feet, thus keeping his arm free to cast the fly rod.*

bother taking a picture of my 6-inch speckled trout." All were caught on Clousers with bead eyes. "We would've been able to work a large school of trout, but right before my dad started fishing, a dolphin came in and chased the trout away."



*Mark Hays' 19.5-inch ladyfish at FDP*

Welcome to the wild.

*Bob*

More outing photos on [facebook.com/scff2020](https://www.facebook.com/scff2020)

# Bob Burkard: March 20 Outing – Fish the Fresh

March is traditionally our freshwater outing. We used to fish Walsingham Lake and meet up at a pavilion at noon for the picnic. Not this time.

So, this year we must fish freshwater, but each of us also gets to decide where to fish. The only stipulation is that you can fish only in Pinellas, Hillsborough, or Manatee Counties. (So, if you live in a gated community with lots of retainer ponds with hundreds of hungry, stupid bass, your catch still qualifies. Tim Elms, are you listening?)

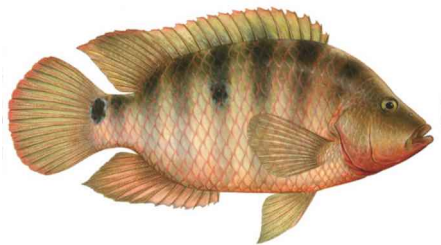
Members catching the longest bass, longest cichlid, and longest bream will win gift cards to Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure and if your fishes are the longest of the day you'll take the lead in one of the outing tournament categories. Measure and email pictures of your possible winning fish to [robertburkard9@gmail.com](mailto:robertburkard9@gmail.com)



*Mark Hays caught this 18-inch bass at the Walsingham Lake outing in March of 2018.*

### Mayan cichlid? Catch and Consume.

Yes, catching the longest version of this hard-fighting invasive will earn you a prize when and if we get back together in person. Here's advice from **MyFWC**: *Flyfishers may use wooly worms and popping bugs. Good eating fish; take as many as you like, but do not live release them.*

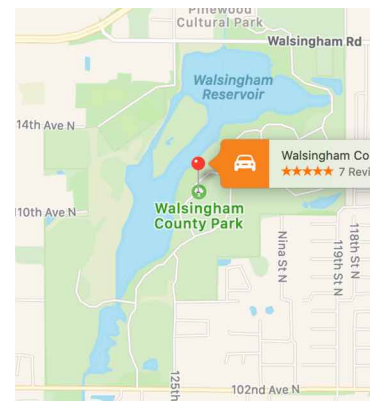


*Mayan cichlid. AKA Atomic Sunfish*

### But, but, but...where should you fish?

It's your call. We asked members to tell us in advance where they'll be fly-fishing and whether by boat, kayak, wading, or shoreline casting.

Only one person replied. Bill Scarola. He'll be fishing Walsingham Lake from his kayak. The word is that several other members are planning to meetup at Walsingham Lake Park to fish from the shoreline.



### *Leaders on the 2021 Outing Tournament Trail*

Species	Length (inches)	Winner	Outing (Month)
<b>Longest black bass</b>			
<b>Longest bream</b>			
<b>Longest Mayan cichlid</b>			
<b>Longest snook</b>			
<b>Longest redfish</b>			
<b>Longest ladyfish</b>	19.5	Mark Hays	Fort De Soto Park (Feb)
<b>Longest seatrout</b>	20	Tim Elms	Fort De Soto Park (Feb)

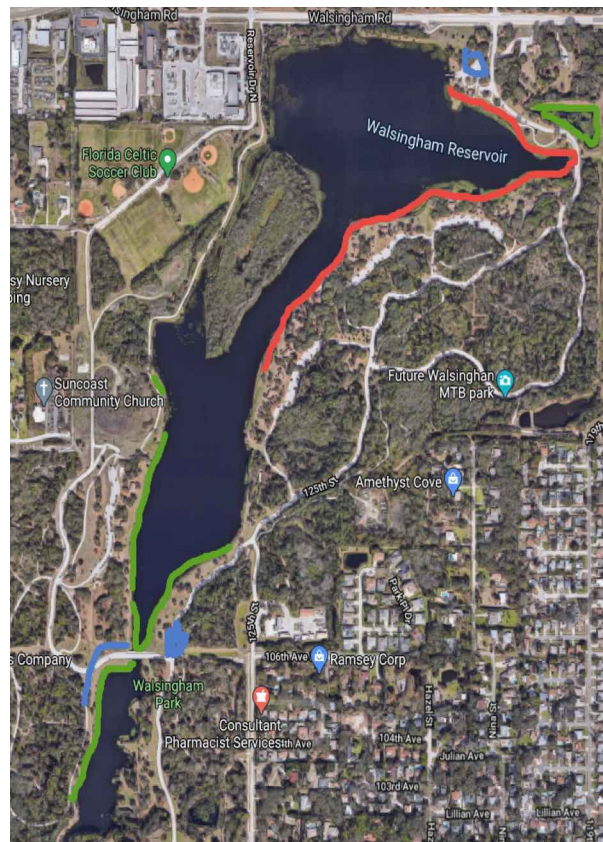
## Tim Elms fished Walsingham and Taylor Lakes last week

As I'm fishing this bass tournament all month I needed new water so I actually fished Walsingham yesterday (3/8). Here is a map of what I learned.

- Blue spots are parking. There is very very limited parking around much of the lake.
- Red is unfishable from shore. Mostly lilipads.
- Green is where I walked and fished. I got one bass in two hours, a 9-incher.
- Be very careful. I saw several very large gators.
- If you have a kayak I think you will do very well. There is a boat launch at the north entrance of the park.

I also fished John Taylor lake...a few miles north of Walsingham Lake. I got two bass and a couple of bluegill. The sea wall at the north end was the best spot to fish.

Just FYI from your favorite basser.



*Tim*



## Tim Elms: Keeping my nose to the grindstone



Howdy! The heat is on! Kinda. It was for a week in the beginning of March but lately its cooled off quite a bit and put a slow down on my bass wrangling. Hopefully by the time this gets released it will be constant temps with a bit less wind.



*One of many bass landed and measured.*



*Tim's stripping finger needs repair.*

I am currently fishing the Spring Bass Classic tournament put on by Cliff's shop and their other stores.

It's a total inches competition for 25 days, so every fish I hook really needs to be landed. Fishing top water 50% of the time has worked during low light. And small minnow patters work otherwise. I have caught over 1,300-inches of bass so far (all on a fly rod) and I am shooting for around 4,000 inches. It's been a grind and my stripping finger is pretty toast.

Here are my fish so far:



I believe I am going to fish that Barramundi spot out by Orlando in the next couple of weeks and hope that's my next article for ya! I'm happy to fish for Bass but anything else would be a treat!

Until next month...keep practicing your strip sets.

*Strip.Strip.Strip!*

*Tim*

## John Kozloski: My Steps to Catch Tailing Reds



*New member John Kozloski is catching tailing redfish at Weedon Island Preserve.*

The red in the photo was caught on a size four shrimp pattern that I tie. My friend Rick from Pennsylvania was there to take the picture for me. I saw reds tailing in the grassy flat off of the Lookout Point trail at Weedon Island Preserve.

Two guys were out there with wide nets. When I asked why they showed me the shrimp they collect and sell to aquarium people. It dawned on me, based on the way the reds tailed, that this shrimp was what they were feeding on. So I'm developing a better fly pattern based on the picture of the ghost shrimp. That's a size 6 shrimp hook under the ghost

shrimp which is a female with eggs floating over the hook.



*This is the female ghost shrimp the reds were feeding on. Kozloski is creating a shrimp fly pattern to match.*

Here's my step-by-step guide to finding tailing reds at the Lookout Point area.

- Pick your day. I research tides and wind forecast. I use the **Windfinder APP**. Select the area (e.g. Middle Tampa Bay) and you'll see 3-hour forecasts for wind, temps, barometer, wave height, and tide height.
- Start at day break. I park at Boy Scout trail and walk straight out, from that small parking lot walk in... then to the right. I find the gate has always been open by 6:30 am.
- Tide should be, at that time, a negative tide: -.70 to -.3.
- Good to have partly cloudy days, with winds 6 to 9 mph. It's easier casting if you have a wind blowing from the north because the fish are moving south.
- I use a 9' 16# leader with about 3' of 16# tippet.
- Shrimp pattern is tied on #4 or #6 shrimp hook. I'm tying with #6 to see if that's a better size to match the ghost shrimp.
- I walk north along the mangroves then angle out towards the power plant channel entrance.
- Start fishing. Wade south as the reds are swimming against the tide coming into the bay. A negative tide lets you fish out that far till about 10:00. Once the tide has risen a foot or so the water is too deep to see their tails. At this point you are sight fishing for moving reds and they are very wary.
- Reds do not typically stop moving until the sun gets up high, then they find a hole to park in.
- Watch the grass because the reds are searching for ghost shrimp. I try to stay off the grass beds.
- The grass you are standing near, not in, should be a combination of that dark mossy grass and bright green grass. The bright green grass is about the thickness of pencil lead and about as long as a pencil.
- The type of grass I speak of is out farther than you think, that's why you need to start with a negative tide and early in the morning.
- It is this grass combination that holds Ghost Shrimp,... and the Reds know it.
- Look at a map and draw a line past the entrance to the power plant channel entrance. That's how far out you need to be. Follow that line south.
- Don't be overly concerned about being stealthy. Stay back about 30-40 feet and approach at a 20 degree angle from the red that's feeding.
- Keep in mind which way the wind is blowing off your shoulder so you don't land the fly on its head.
- The smaller the fly, the closer you can land the fly without spooking the red.
- Cast so your fly lands softly about 3 feet in front of the feeding red.
- If you have ever fished chironomids (midges) in a lake you will know how to retrieve the fly slowly. It's a slow grab of 6 inches of line with a twist of the wrist. Start just as soon as the fly lands and slowly keep repeating the twist to slowly keep the fly moving through the grass.
- If the red doesn't pick it up, no worries. Keep watching because it's tail will pop up a few feet farther south as it keeps trying to spook ghost shrimp out of the grass. *John*

## Myron Hansen: Fly Fishing with Harry



Fishing the dock lights is not seasonal for me and *Harry* (our 3-year old Cockapoo). We do it year around because there are few fishing experiences that beat sight casting for big fish. Our recent excursion was during a chilly February night. Few fish were visible in the cold water, but I immediately hooked and boated a red. Then I caught a nice trout.

Both fish were “keeper size” and if the season had been open we would have two “fish for the table.”

I suddenly realized that if I could now catch a snook of any size, I would have an “inshore slam.” This is when the anxiety began. The rest of the evening was basically devoted to trying to boat a snook.



I found an area with several snook swimming out in the open and away from the dock. When I hooked the first one, it hit with a “*bang*.” *Harry* immediately got between me and the fight, then hung his front legs over the side of the boat to watch the action. The fish then jumped totally out of the water – it “tail walked” --and broke the knot between the tippet and the fly.



*This is Harry, a super smart Cockapoo and Myron’s fishing buddy. Harry watched the snook come up out of the water and tail-walk across the surface but he didn’t get a picture this time.*

Later when I told my wife about the jumping snook, she said, “You should have taken a picture.” As if I could have held the camera with my third hand, or maybe my foot, or have had *Harry* take the photo.

Before the evening was over, I hooked and lost another snook. “Fishing is not a crime,” but failure to boat any size snook that night seemed like one. No inshore slam!

The next day my wife was busy at the computer and turned to me and said “Rick Grasset says that you should be using a clear sink tip line, with a 30-lb. shock tippet, and attach the fly with an improved clinch knot. Were you?”

I didn’t answer. I may have mumbled something under my breath.

*Myron*



Capt. Ray Markham: Big Seatrout, Snook, Ladyfish



I've been running a few fly trips lately. The attached photo is of Mike Scheid of Kentucky who fished with me last week. He caught this trout, which was his first-ever spotted seatrout on a chartreuse/white Clouser Minnow along with numerous other trout to 24", ladyfish, and snook to 25".

Ray

Robert Fischer: You Win Some; You Lose Some

Here's a follow up to my great redfish trip last month. I went to the same place again. Twice. And I caught no reds but I did catch lots of catfish and ladies. I just got lucky on that first trip. Truly it is "better to be lucky than good."

Robert

(Editor: Robert isn't lucky; he's just good. This time the redfish got lucky.)



Robert Fischer with one of 13 big reds he caught wade fishing in February on a small #4 crab fly with a "dead slow" retrieve.

Tony Piazza: I got "the look" when my leader broke



Dennis Marquis invited me out for some docility fishing. For over 3 hours we hooked a couple dozen specs in the 17 - 18-inch range. Dennis took the prize with a 19" spec. All took white flies with some weight on them. I hooked one snook that took less than three seconds to cut me off. Dennis asked what size tippet I was using. I said 15-lb and he gave me "the look". I have a lot to learn.

Tony



Lynn Skipper: Inshore Slam in Everglades City



I fished with Captain John Hand in Everglades City the first week in March. I was fortunate to catch the inshore slam on Friday. The red fish was 25-inches. The snook was 22-inches. And the trout was 21-inches. I got a 30-inch-plus snook out of the mangroves to the boat. I had an even larger snook on the line. I say larger based on the size of its head because that's all the bull shark left me. I also fished Biscayne Bay and lost half of a 6 to 8 pound bonefish to a shark. Lynn



Gary Sundberg: Seatrout are Happy. Macs are Mean.

I'm OK with that.



I've been catching lots of seatrout in St. Joseph's Sound near Palm Harbor fishing out of my kayak! I'm catching macs, too, but they have been hard on the Clousers.

Gary

## Team Hays: Bows and Arrows and Fly Rods



*Newlyweds Annie and Robert Mitchell at Lake Eaton in early March*

Forest.

Robert landed a crappie the size of his hand on a white muddler minnow.

*Anne*

Robert, Dad, and I went to the annual Traditional Bowhunters of Florida state archery tournament this weekend (March 6-7).

The weather went from hot and sunny on Friday to cold and rainy on Saturday.

We camped about 10 feet from spring-fed Lake Eaton in Ocala National



*Robert Mitchell did some shoreline fly fishing on Lake Eaton, catching a hand-sized crappie.*

## Mazzarella: Hams Fork Trout Season is here



We're getting excited to get our season in Wyoming started. Here are a couple of photos from a couple of years ago.

Wishing you and everyone else well!

*Dayle  
and  
Barbara*

*Dayle guides clients on Wyoming's Hams Fork River. He knows where the rainbows, browns and cutthroats are hiding out..*



## Bill Scarola: Green Gurglers and White Spiders



*Bill Scarola*

Bill ties his gurgler Monday March 15th on Zoom. at 7 pm. Type in the #'s only if you have the app. on your device

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88117766760> -



### **MATERIALS**

A- Body-1/8 foam in green and white

B- Hook- size 4 and or 6, freshwater hooks or B10S stingers

C- Underbody Estaz in various colors. The photo shows it in chartreuse and white

but almost any color will work.

D- Tail: Marabou and/or Steve Farrar fibers in various colors. (Chartreuse and white shown.)

E- Legs: Sili legs for spider looking ones and for frog legs. Colors:white and or green striped.

F- Markups: black and red Magic Markers

G- Glue: Super glue, etc.

### **TYING SEQUENCE**

#### **Part 1: White Spider**

Step 1: Wrap hook from eye to bend. We do the same for the green ones.

Step 2: Cut a 3/8" wide X 1" long strip of white foam and tie it in at the hook bend. and keep it lying back.

Step 3: Add Estaz material just in front of the foam and palmer it forward. Wrap your thread forward after tying it in

Step 4: Tie two pieces of white Sili Legs in an X-pattern on top of the hook shank and on top or under the Estaz.

Step 5: Bring your foam forward and put a few wraps of thread just behind the hook eye. Leave a short piece of foam sticking up over the hook eye, no longer than a quarter inch. You can always trim the foam if it's too long. then whip-finish the head.

Step 6: Add a drop of Super Glue to the head of the finished fly.

#### **Part 2: Green Frog Gurgler.**

1- Wrap hook shank

2- Add tail material about a 1/2 to 3/4" .at the bend. Alternate for frog: instead of a tail put several strands of green striped Sili Legs at the bend on each side so they stick out to the rear at a slight angle. cut them to approximately 3/4" long.

3. Cut a stripe of green foam 3/8" by 2" and tie in at hook bend. You'll bring it forward later.

4. Add light green or yellow Estaz, or another color, and bring it forward stopping just short of the hook eye.

5. Bring foam forward over the Estaz Then fold it back doubling it over to form a head. Put several thread wraps on the hook to form a bubble Cut the end of the foam into a "V" so it lays on top, pointing back, forming a 1/4"-double piece sticking up to catch water as you strip the fly. (As shown.)

6. Whip finish the head and cover with a drop of glue.

6- You can use a marker in red or in black to put eyes on the side of the foam. You can also mark dots on the body of the fly.



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

## Bruce Evensen: The Purple Dragon



*Bruce Evensen*

Bruce tied his *Purple Dragon* on Zoom Monday, March 8, and you can watch it on our club's Facebook site.



*The Purple Dragon*

### **Materials**

Hook: 32-C71555 Circle streamer or similar

Thread: Black flat-waxed.

Flash: Purple Krystal Flash

Body: Purple Extra Select Craft Fur

Eyes: 5mm silver/black

Glue: UV epoxy. Thick

### **Tying Steps**

Step 1. Wrap thread from hook eye to bend

Step 2. Add a clump of purple ES craft fur, tie it in just behind the hook eye and rotate it to the underside of the shank, add one or two clumps on the shank top to build up the body.

Step 3. Add several strands of flash to the top and or sides of the body.

Step 4. Attach eyes with your glue of choice and ...

Step 5. UV epoxy the head and over the eyes.



## Smitty's Fly Box: Green Weenie



My grandfather introduced me to this fly. As a youngster, I used to fish with him for panfish in farm ponds around our neighborhood and it proved to be a successful bluegill fly as well. It was first tied by Ken Igo and Russ Mowry in the 1950's and it catches everything from salmon to bream

*Smitty*



### Materials:

Hook: Daiichi 1560 size 10 or 12

Weight: Gold bead (optional lead wire as well)

Thread: Danville's Flat Waxed Nylon chartreuse thread

Body: Chartreuse chenille. Optional: Silicone rubber legs

Head cement: SHHAN or Solarez UV Resin

### Tying Sequence:

Step 1. Slide the gold bead onto the hook and press it against the eye.

Step 2. Wrap a layer of lead wire starting behind the bead and ending just as the hook begins to curve. \*\*

Step 3. Lay a base of thread directly over the lead wire, starting behind the bead and wrapping to the curve of the hook and then back to bead. \*\*

Step 4. Press one end of the chartreuse chenille against the hook shaft right behind the bead and wrap back to the bend. Tie it into place.

Step 5. Create a ½ inch loop in the chenille by folding it so it is pointing toward the eye. Tie the chenille off so it creates a vertical loop tail protruding from the back of the hook.

Step 6. Wrap the thread to just behind the bead. (if you are adding legs, stop the thread at the two-thirds spot on the hook, tie in a pair of legs and then continue to wrap thread to bead).

Step 7. Wind the chenille around the shaft to create the body of the fly; wrap it all the way up to the bead (if legs have been added, weave chenille between legs to create separation and then continue to wrap chenille up to bead). Tie the chenille into place with the thread, whip-finish and apply head cement to hold the knots in place.

**\*\*NOTE: Use steps 2 and 3 only if you need the extra weight for swift current or deep pools.**

## Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner



### Wind is a blessing ...and a problem

Winter saltwater fly fishing is a favorite of mine because most fair-weather anglers are home and not on the water. The clear-water flats are free of floating grass and make sight fishing for trout, reds, sheepshead and occasionally snook a perfect venue. Wind can help or hinder.

Perfect calm makes it easier to see fish, but they spook easily, making long casts necessary. A little surface ripple from the wind hinders the ability to see fish, but the fish are more relaxed, meaning you can get closer. A 9-foot fly rod, the ideal length for most of our fishing, should keep the fly and hook at least that far from you. If the wind is blowing into your non-casting side, the only problem is casting accuracy. Wind into your casting side is easily corrected by casting horizontally and close to the water, giving the wind little chance to affect the cast. A tight loop in your line created by having the rod tip travel in a straight-line path will be almost unaffected by the wind. A large loop is a disaster and must be avoided, especially if thrown high. A strong wind into your casting side is problematic. It can be corrected by casting on your line-hand side using either a cast with your arm across your body or tilting your body away from the wind and "brushing your hair" with your casting hand as you have the rod tip travel on your leeward side. Learning to cast with both hands is ideal.

*Fly fisherman Pat Damico charts Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay. [captpatdamico.com](http://captpatdamico.com) and 727-504-8649.*

## Fly Gear for Sale or Swap

### Robert Fischer casting platform. Phone 813-495-5685

Aluminum casting platform with removable backrest, 39" x 24" x 18". Built by Sanchez Bros. Very good condition. Ideal for flats or bay boat to raise you 18" above the deck. \$300. Call



### Barry Salzman is selling his Simms waders. Email [Salzman@tampabay.rr.com](mailto: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](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.



### Ocean Kayak and extras. Was \$1,500. Now \$900. Call Frank Moss.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, \[wmaucoin@verizon.net\]\(mailto:wmaucoin@verizon.net\)](mailto:BillAuCoin@verizon.net)

## Bill Scarola: Fishy Puns of the Month



Bill Scarola

What do fish take to stay healthy? Vitamin SEA!

What day do most fish hate the most? FRYday!

What do you get if you cross a fly rod with a P E sock?  
ANSWER: a hook line and STINKER!

Why do many fish live in salt-water?  
ANSWER: Because Pepper-water makes them sneeze.

Despite being in Schools, fish only got a SEA-plus on the math tests.

What is Forrest Gump's email password?  
ANSWER: 1forrest1

Can February March? No, but April May!!!

Do you need an ark to go fishing?  
ANSWER: Because I NOAH a guy!

All good things come to fishermen that BAIT

If 2020 was a fish... I'd throw it back!!!

Padump bum ching

Bill

## Fly Fishing Funnies



This and more at [The Funnies](#)

## Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



**The secret is out** – Breaking news just in time for our March freshwater outing. Neighborhood ponds hold lots of bass and some huge bass, too. The largest bass submitted to MYFWC's *TrophyCatch* came from a neighborhood pond. How big? 16-pounds. 12-ounces. Yeah. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

**How to catch a Mayan cichlid.** --Mayan cichlid has been added to our outing prize list. Here's an oldie but goodie article with tips about catching this aggressive panfish on the fly. ([Florida Sportsman](#))

**How to cook a Mayan cichlid.** – Some say it's the best-tasting panfish of all. And it's easy to cook. Dip it in butter. Coat it with bread crumbs, parmesan, etc. Bake it for 20 minutes. ([Taste of Home](#))

**They thought the turtle fly was a joke** – Some guy came up with a turtle fly. LOL. Bass don't eat turtles. Well, guess what? ([The Fishing Wire](#))

**Drink more coffee. Catch more fish.** – Thanks for calling this to our attention, Jack Collins. I think I'll try the SNOOK flavor. You might prefer BONEFISH or TAMPA BAY WATERKEEPER. Half the profits go to coastal water cleanups. (That makes it taste better than Starbuck's French Roast, imho.) Motto: *Caffeinating Conservation*. ([Fresh Catch Coffee](#))

**All new kayak from one of our club's *Special Friends*** -- This new model has features that will appeal to fly fishers. And one of the old features is what continues to make the brand so popular with fly fishers. Yeah. You can stand up in it. ([NuCanoe](#))

**Fluorocarbon is 50 years old.** Seaguar invented fluorocarbon 50 years ago. And, to celebrate, they've got a photo contest going this year. You could be one of 50 to win a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative Leader Spool Line Management System filled with Gold Label Leader. Go for it. Seaguar is one of our club's *Special Friends*. ([Seaguar](#))

**Red Tide update** -- Low to medium levels of the red tide organism have been discovered in Southwest Florida Gulf samples in Lee and Charlotte Counties and satellite imagery shows it in Monroe County, too. So far, Pinellas is in the clear. ([MyFWC](#))

**Did you read about what happened to Andrei Vasilevskiy's hockey stick?** –Sometimes a hockey stick is supposed to remain a hockey stick, not a fishing net. Yeah, like especially when it's the hockey stick used to win the Stanley Cup. H/T Rick Warfel. ([MSM](#))

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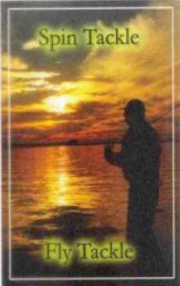
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