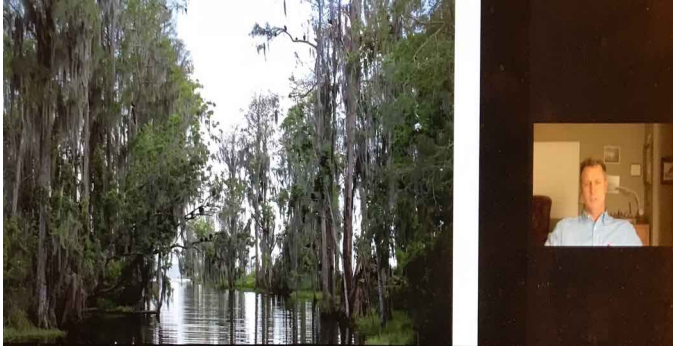


# On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

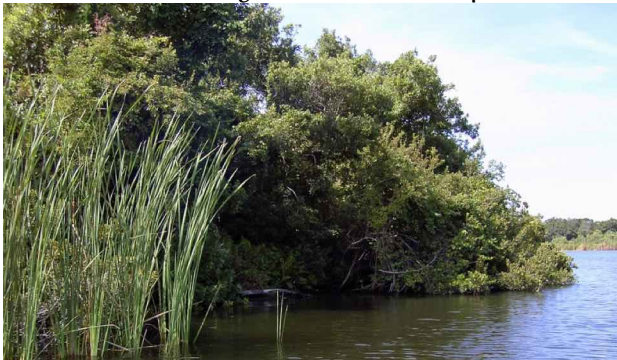
O'Byrne: Opportunity Knocks Fly Fishing P8



March Freshwater Outing P6



How to Fish Alligator Lake in April P9



Don't fly to Australia P10



Sheepshead on Clousers P12



Fly Fishers Hard Boiled Eggs P15





## President's Letter, April 2021

Suncoast Fly Fishers,

Most of us don't learn to fish completely on our own. The first person that ever took me fishing was my mom. She did not really know a lot about fishing but she knew how much I loved it so she would take me to the local ponds and creeks to let me try my luck.

The person that really taught me how to fish was the drummer in my dad's band. His name was Truman Parmelee. Truman was a cartoonist from New York, and he was one of the funniest people that I ever knew. He was an exceptionally large man, and I was a skinny kid. Together we made quite a sight, especially when we were found paddling about in my 8' pram. We fished together every Saturday and he shared with me his considerable knowledge about all kinds of fresh and saltwater fishing. Truman didn't fish bait and that was fine with me. He gave me my first fly rod. It was a 7 ½ ft. Wright and McGill Trailmaster that I still have. One of the most exciting experiences in my fishing life was catching the first fish on that rod. It was a Bass of about 5 inches, and I was thrilled.

Our club is full of generous members willing to share their time and expertise to help beginners and new members on where and how to fish. Collectively our outings offer great opportunities to gather and learn from many seasoned anglers with countless years of experience. Bill AuCoin usually leads a group on a wading expedition at each month's outing.

Alan Sewel and a dedicated group of members have spent innumerable hours working with veterans to teach fly tying, rod building and fly fishing. Tom Gadacz has led our efforts to introduce youth groups to fly fishing and fly casting.

Casting clinics are presented once or twice a year taught by our Master Certified Instructors Dayle Mazzarella and Pat Damico and Certified Instructor Chris O'Byrne.

Bruce Evensen has hosted hundreds of fly tying classes at his garage/studio each Monday evening. Students cover the full range of experience from novice to master. All are welcome.

One of the things that most impresses me are members that are willing to just take folks fishing. Tom Jones would often issue an open call for members to join him on a dock light expedition on a first come first basis. Dennis Marquis had a mission to take as many members fishing with him as possible.

Fly fishing is not easy, and it can be intimidating. Having a mentor to guide you through the process is invaluable. I would encourage all of you to reach out to help get someone involved in the sport and best of all just take someone fishing.

Stay safe and keep fishing!

*Rick*

Rick Warfel, SFF President

## Meetings, Outings, and More

### Zoom Meeting, 7 pm, Thursday, April 15. Speaker

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

- Member Tim Elms is our speaker with information that will help you catch fresh and saltwater fish at Saturday's outing in Safety Harbor. Tim has spent a lot of time finding and fishing freshwater ponds, lakes, and spillways in Safety Harbor. Bonus: some of those "freshwater" ponds hold big snook, too. You don't want to miss this one.
- We'll meet up on Zoom at 7 pm on Thursday, April 15. The Zoom invitation for the member meeting will be the same each month but you'll get a reminder, too.



*Tim Elms will share what he has learned about where and how to fish Safety Harbor's ponds, lakes, and spillways.*

### Outing, Saturday, April 17, Safety Harbor Freshwater AND Saltwater

- Fly fish upper Tampa Bay north of the Courtney Campbell Causeway. Or fly fish any of the freshwater lakes, ponds, and spillways in Safety Harbor.
- SFF outing prizes (\$10 gift certificates to Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure) will go to the members catching the longest snook and redfish, bass and 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 salty wade fishers at Phillippe Park in Safety Harbor. 8 am. Park close to Pavilion 2. That'll give you quick access to the Tampa Bay shoreline and it looks like there are some depth changes and sea grasses. There's a boat ramp near the north entrance to Phillippe Park.

### When will we meet again?

July 15, Covid virus willing, we'll see each other at Walter Fuller Park. Arrive at 6:45. Alan Sewell will auction Trash 'n' Treasures and all of the money goes to our club bank account. Donate used fishing gear, books, or whatever you don't use any more. Bring 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 Fort De Soto Park. 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.



*We'll meet in person July 15 at Walter Fuller Park Rec Center, 7891 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue N. in St. Pete.*

### Help teach kids how to fly fish

Tom Gadacz is asking for volunteers to help teach fly fishing to youth at two Hillsborough County summer camps. You'll need to be vaccinated, wear a mask, and wash your hands often. (Tom said he'll bring some hand washing solution and a few extra masks.)

- June 9 Wednesday at Riverview Civic Center @ 9:00 - 11:00
- June 22 Tuesday at Carrollwood Village Park @ 9:00 - 11:00

Email [thomasgadacz@yahoo.com](mailto:thomasgadacz@yahoo.com)

## Meetings, Outings, and More

### Nice thank-you for our USF scholarship



And thanks to Cliff Nigh, our conservation committee chair who did a great job getting this effort started and seeing it through. We appreciate the support of the SFF board and our members. Our club's 2020 \$500 scholarship has helped fund the Ph.D. research of our 2020 scholarship winner, Christina Welsh,

who is researching the effects of global warming on saltwater gamefish. USF has accepted our offer to award another SFF \$500 scholarship in 2021 to an incoming marine science doctoral candidate whose work benefits the waters of South Florida

### Become a mentor for *The Mayfly Project*

SFF member Scott Russell is looking for a few additional mentors for the organization's 2021 project, which is set to begin shortly after Labor Day. Please reach out to Scott, at 727-403-8165 or [russellti@me.com](mailto:russellti@me.com), for additional information on this wonderful opportunity to help foster children in our community.

The Mayfly Project is a non-profit that uses fly fishing to mentor some of the 415,000 youth that are in our foster care system on any given day.

### 2021 outings at a glance

- April 17: Phillippe Park, Safety Harbor, fresh and salt
- May 22: Cypress Point Park, Tampa Bay
- June 19-29: Fish the dark—dock-lights, beaches – Friday and Saturday. Prize for the longest snook
- July 17: Fort De Soto Park and in-person pavilion picnic to mark our first steps in returning to normal
- August 21: Urban Outing, Bay Vista Park, St. Petersburg
- September 18: Fort De Soto Park
- October 23: Carl Hanson Memorial on the Hillsborough River.
- November 20: Fort De Soto Park
- December 11: Don Coleman Invitational, Fort De Soto Park

### 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.

### 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)

# 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.

## 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 Mitchell

**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 Mitchell, Bob Hood, Tim Elms, Marshall Craig.

## Bob Burkard: March Fish Anywhere Outing Report



*Bob Burkard, Outings Committee chairman*

cichlid. He caught 17 bass and ended the day with this texty signoff: "I'm pooped."

Well, March's freshwater-fish anywhere outing coincided with a cold front, just like the February outing. Coulda-toldya. After 9 years of living near Tampa Bay this humble guy who grew up in the Northeast US has acclimated to the Florida heat, so now a Florida cold front really does feel cold.

But lots of bass and bream were caught, and so was the invasive Mayan cichlid. Members had the option of fishing anywhere in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, or Polk Counties.

Tim Elms was really and truly a big winner. He won all three categories, catching an 18-inch bass, an 11-inch bluegill, and an 11.5-inch Mayan



*Tim Elms' 11-inch bluegill*



*Mark Hays' crappie. He also caught bass and bluegill.*

Mark Hays launched his Gheenoe and fished Walsingham Lake with his daughter Annie and member Mandy McGarry. Mark caught five bass casting white gurglers, a snake fly, and a bend-back minnow. His longest, which he caught on his snake fly, was 13-inches long. He also caught an 11-inch speckled perch (crappie) while trolling a snake fly. Mandy caught five bluegills; her largest was 9 inches and it hit one of Smitty's beetle flies. Annie caught two small bluegills and a small bass on a white gurgler.

Bill Scarola launched and fished from his boat. He caught, in his words... "Nada -zippo- I was shut

out! But the good news is that I fixed the leak in my Alumacraft, as it was bone-dry when I got back to the Ramp!! Yippie Kii Aaa!!"



*New member Claude Neidlinger caught three bluegills fishing from the shoreline.*



*Mandy McGarry caught five bluegills in Walsingham Lake.*

The Walsingham Lake shoreline attracted a few fly casters (and captured some of our flies, too). New member Claude Neidlinger worked the shoreline with me and Bill AuCoin. Claude caught three beautiful bluegill up to 7 inches long on woolly bugger-like flies. I caught a 5 incher. Bill caught nada, zippo.

*Bob*

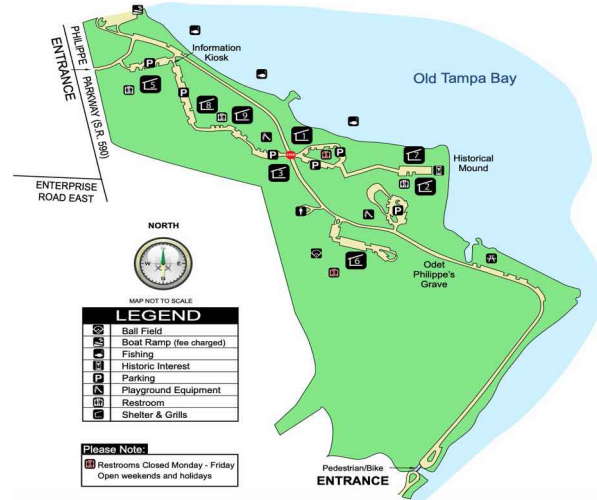
More outing photos on [facebook.com/scff2020](https://www.facebook.com/scff2020)

## Bob Burkard: April 17 Outing in Safety Harbor

Fly fish upper Tampa Bay north of the Courtney Campbell Causeway. Or fly fish any of the freshwater lakes, ponds, and spillways in Safety Harbor.

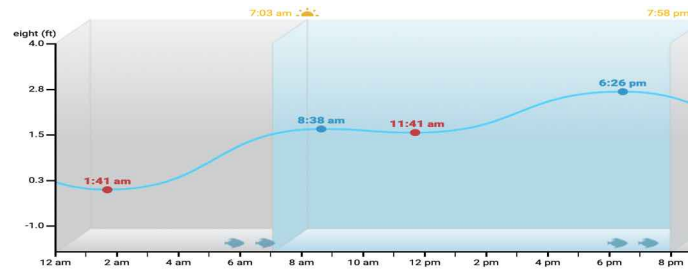
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But where, exactly? You're welcome to meet up with other salty wade fishers at Phillippe Park in Safety Harbor. 8 am. Park your car close to Pavilion 2. That'll give you quick access to the Tampa Bay shoreline and it looks like there are some depth changes and sea grasses that hold fish.



Wade fishers are meeting up in Phillippe Park at 8 am at the parking lot near Pavilion 2. There's a boat ramp near the north entrance.

Outing Prizes for the longest snook, redfish, bass, and bream. Measure. Take a picture. Email it to Bob Burkard.  
**ROBERTBURKARD9@GMAIL.COM**



Slow incoming tide on April 17. (Tides4Fishing.com)

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

Species	Length (inches)	Winner	Outing (Month)
<b>Longest black bass</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Tim Elms</b>	<b>Freshwater (March)</b>
<b>Longest bream</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Tim Elms</b>	<b>Freshwater (March)</b>
<b>Longest Mayan cichlid</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>Tim Elms</b>	<b>Freshwater (March)</b>
<b>Longest snook</b>			
<b>Longest redfish</b>			
<b>Longest ladyfish</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>Mark Hays</b>	<b>Fort De Soto Park (Feb)</b>
<b>Longest seatrout</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Tim Elms</b>	<b>Fort De Soto Park (Feb)</b>

## Chris O'Byrne: Opportunity Knocks Fly Fishing



Chris O'Byrne was our April meeting speaker on Zoom.

Let's say you're running errands in the car. You pass a familiar strip mall. There's the car dealership. Oh, look. There's a retaining pond. You hadn't noticed that before. Opportunity knocks.

And by the way, did you put your fly rod in the car this morning? Flies?

Chris O'Byrne, a long time Suncoast Fly Fisher, was our April meeting speaker on Zoom. The official title of Chris' slide-show presentation was *SUBSIDIARY FISHING* and he made this point over and over. You can double your fly fishing pleasure by seizing moments to fish untraditional, secondary (and even tertiary) bodies of water.

Chris is a practice-what-he-preaches fly fisher who shares his knowledge.

His website is [Featherwater.com](http://Featherwater.com).

His latest book is [The Beautiful Addiction](#).

Recommendation: Watch the videos on the [Orvis Guide to Fly Fishing](#) site. Listen to this -- [Fly Fishing Consultant Podcast](#).

Driving along if he sees a mangrove thicket he'll look for a place to pull off the road. Yes, he has walked through those tangled-root jungles and busted his way onto rarely-fished salt flats.



Over the years Chris has seized those slices of the day and fly-fished rain-runoff retention ponds, New York City's Central Park lake, drainage ditch spillways, a creek under railroad tracks, a bacteria-thick section of the Potomac River, and rapids behind the 7/11 in Webster, NY. Along the way he has successfully avoided rattlesnakes, moccasins, gators, and bacterial infections.



Chris didn't admit to doing this, but he did seem to know a lot about how to get somebody to drop you off so you can fly fish those retention ponds in the middle of Interstate Highway clover-leaves.

Chris catches fish in these subsidiary spots. You will, too.



And, here's a plus: The next time you discover and fish a neighborhood pond it'll take you back to when you were a kid fishing those little ponds here and there. Be Prepared.

###



# Terry Kirkpatrick: Tips for fly fishing Alligator Lake



*Terry (Sunfish) Kirkpatrick - longtime member and bamboo fly rod artist.*

Alligator Lake was one of the best brim lakes in Florida. I don't know if this is still true or not. My experience in the last few years is limited.

There's only one launch point on alligator lake. That's a public boat ramp on the north west side of the lake, next to the Little League ball fields. The street to the boat ramp is off 7th Avenue south, at the railroad tracks. The ramp is good but parking is limited.

Alligator runs more or less north and south. Like an inverted figure 8. Alligator creek comes in from the south and is fishable but not productive. (You might get one fish, and that fish could be a whopper, or a minnow.) I've always had success fishing the lower part of the lake.

Look for overhanging branches and fish the shadow line. Both the east and the west sides can be productive. Once again, fish the shadow line.

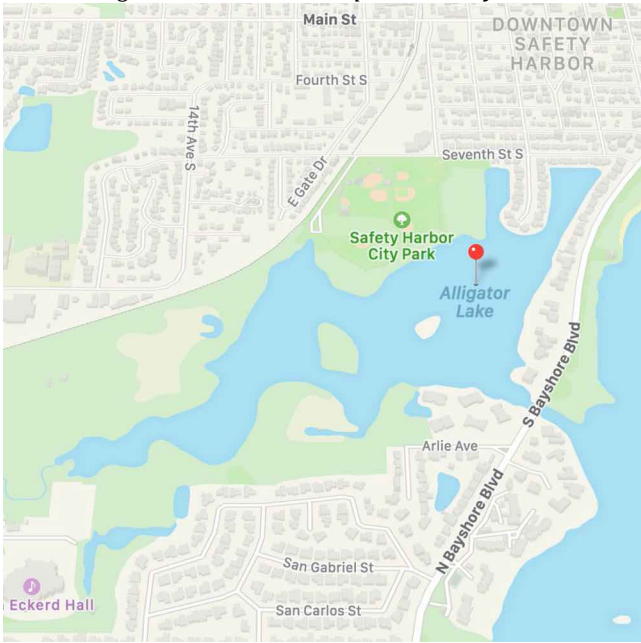
*A point. Two shoreline vegetations*



My favorite fly is a size 10 Spider, or an olive sparkle bugger

*Terry*

*Alligator Lake. Boat ramp is near City Park.*



*Sparkle Bugger*



*Brim like shade*



## Tim Elms: Barramundi Thunder from Down Under



*Barra Baby*

Howdy! I mean, G'DAY MATE!

Just Kidding,

BOY HOWDY the Australian version of a snook is as FUN as all Jelly Beans. I was invited to "Fish the Pit" by some of my Fly Fishing friends from Fort Myers. The "Pit", or **Osceola Outback Adventures**, is a Barramundi Farm outside of Orlando that lets you catch this crazy and rare fish. It's the only place in the western hemisphere that has them.

First, the place is off the beaten path with many ponds they made for different types and sizes of fish. It's a beautiful property when you get back in there. They have largemouth bass and even peacocks in a canal. The staff were very fun and helpful.



*Crikey! Joe with a line ripper*

The fishing? Well, its definatley more like catching. I believe between the 4 of us I'd say over a 100 in the 3 hour time slot. Yeah, its not very sporting in a sense of hunting fish. But, I will tell ya that Barramundi are a strong, strong fish that loves to jump like tarpon and rip line. I would compare it to a tripletail that jumps.

We caught them on all sorts of flies, but a diver and dark colored minnows worked the best. Especially when it got hot, a dark minnow that sank to the bottom and stripped very slowly back was almost a sure thing every cast. Watch the fray as their mouth is very close to a snook's and they will wear out a leader very fast. We found out that a 30-pound fluoro bite tippet works best.

I would for sure recommend doing this once if you ever thought about it. The drive is a little long and the price is a little steep. But if you want to test your fly fighting skills on a fish that pulls hard, leaps, and thrashes around. I would highly suggest training at this place.

Vegemite is not needed.



*M.J. with the best of the day*



*Dave with another Koala killer*

*Strip Strip Strip!!!!—Tim*

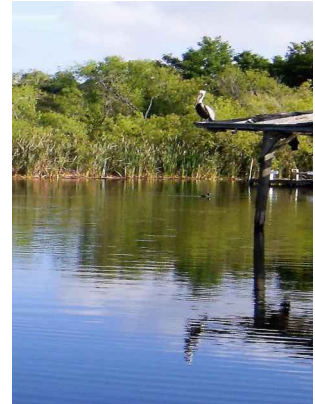
## Chris O'Byrne: Spring Reluctance



*This little bass was chasing bait in an area of bluegill beds*

This reluctant spring had things a little off kilter. Anglers needed two layers of coffee in the morning, then sun clothes and Gatorade before noon. The extended cool had the fish a little upset. Bluegill were bedding, but their defensive strikes were hard to hook. Bass were not sure what they wanted to do. Some were suspended in deep water, 15-20 feet.

The brown pelicans who are still in Polk county from the storm weeks ago pointed them out. But a couple wandered into the bluegill areas to say hi.



*Overstaying his welcome*

*Chris*

## Capt. Ray Markham: It was a very good day



I guided a fly fishing couple from Rhode Island.

They caught snook, seatrout, Spanish mackerel, ladyfish, and some quality lizardfish!

*Ray*



*Lizardfish on the fly!*

## Tony Piazza: Drowned rat with a happy face

Dennis Marquis invited me to join him for dock-light fishing. Full moon & strong incoming tide made for a great trip.

Landed a couple dozen seatrout with Dennis topping off with a 22-inch fish that hadn't missed a meal in a long time. The trip ended when rain started and of course neither of us had brought a slicker. We were two drowned rats with happy faces.

*Tony*



## Tim Elms 200 bass equal 2,369.25 inches



The tournament is over! I finished in FIRST place with a total of 2,369.25 inches of bass and a total of about 200 fish!

The tournament turned into a mess as they changed the final date to March 27 opposed to the original date of March 24. I did not fish for a bass after the 24<sup>th</sup> but I still squeaked out the win.



I learned a lot about fishing for bass in those 24 days. I fished 21 days if I recall. Each session of fishing for me was around 1 to 3 hours.

The first two weeks were solid fishing but the final weeks were a grind, for sure. Anyways, thanks to Tampa Bay Outfitters and their affiliate stores and sponsors. I decided to donate my winnings to youth participants and to a fellow fly fisher in hopes of keeping them interested in the love of fishing.

When the event started, I just wanted to see how well I could do. Again, all my fish were caught on a fly, from shore, and I was fishing against any bass fisherman with any gear, any lure, or any bait, from any boat. Thanks for all the support!

*Tim*

## Rick Warfel: Bumping Clousers for Sheepshead



*Rick Warfel's sheephead he caught fishing a Clouser*

Fishing on the East side of the bay is definitely picking up.

There isn't a lot of bait in the water but the fish are becoming more active.

Here is a nice sheephead that took a Clouser fished near the bottom.

*Rick*

## Andy Constantinou: Clousers win again

I've been out on the flats at Cockroach Bay a few times and have had great results with sea trout on a Clouser. I use a 5 weight rod as the fish are quite small, 10 to 14 inches. Great sport.

*Cheers, Andy*

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

## Bruce Evensen: Red Eyed Dart



*Bruce Evensen*

Bruce tied the Red Eyed Dart on Zoom Monday, April 12. If you missed it, you can watch the recording on our club's Facebook site.



*Bruce*

### **Materials**

Hook: 3407 Mustad, size 4

Thread: Flat Waxed Nylon. White

Tail: White bucktail, flash, silver Mylar

Collar: Palmer Crystal Chenille, medium

Eye: 4 mm. Red and black

Head: Epoxy coating

### **Tying Steps**

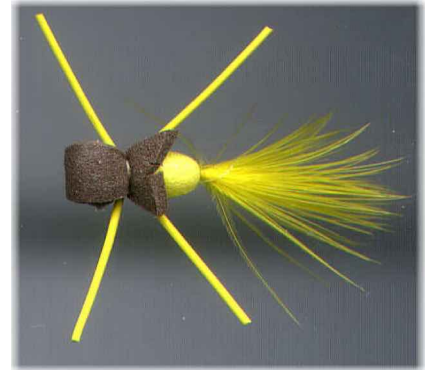
- 1: Wrap shank from behind hook eye to hook point. Use ½ match stick length of bucktail to tie on over thread wrap.
- 2: Tie on 4 or 5 strands of Mylar around the bucktail and tie on 2 or 3 wraps of medium chenille.
- 3: Glue on eyes just behind the hook eye.
4. Coat thread wraps and eyes with epoxy.

## Smitty's Fly Box: Sink or Float Foam Panfish Fly



You can tie this foam fly to float or to sink. For the sinking version you tie a brass bead under the foam on the hook shank. Add the bead and the fly sinks slowly to be enticing to Mr. Picky Bluegill.

*Smitty*



### Materials:

Hook: Mustad R50 size 8 or your favorite short-shanked hook

Weight: Small brass bead (optional)

Thread: Yellow flat waxed nylon

Tail: Yellow marabou (yellow Krystal Flash optional)

Body: Yellow foam strip

Legs: Yellow rubber legs

Thorax: Peacock herl

Head: Brown foam

Eyes: Clear glass beads

### Tying instructions:

1. Press down the barb
2. Tie in a tuft of yellow marabou as a tail. Length approx. 1½ times hook shank and tie in the foam on top of the hook shank (covering optional brass bead). Leave space for eyes and head.
3. Wind the thread forwards over the foam.
4. Fold the rear half of the foam forwards and tie down and cut off surplus.
5. Tie in two rubber legs as an X. Length approx. as a tail.
6. Cut a narrow triangle of brown foam and tie in over hook eye pointing forwards.
7. Tie in the eyes on top of the hook shank
8. Cover the base of the eyes and underside of the head with peacock herl.
9. Fold the brown foam tightly backwards over the head tie down and cut off surplus.
10. Whip finish.

# David Putnam: World's easiest-to-peel hard-boiled eggs



David Putnam, fly fisher and chef

*Editor's note:*

*Hard boiled eggs have sustained many fly fishers who leave early and return late. Here's the deal: the best hard boiled eggs are those that are easiest to peel.*

*Since hard boiled eggs are so vital to our existence, I emailed Suncoast Fly Fishers and asked them to share their recipes. Alas, no takers. Finally, I had to reach out to former member David Putnam, who now lives in Maine. He would win the Great British Baking Show but they won't invite him to compete.*

*David said you can cook them the night before your fishing trip and bring them with you the next day. And he said it's okay to discard the egg shells in the water.*

## Directions: Easy to peel hard-boiled eggs

Bring one-inch of water to a rolling boil in a medium saucepan over high heat.



Place six eggs in steamer basket. Transfer basket to saucepan.

Cover, reduce heat to medium-low, and cook eggs for 13 minutes.



When eggs are almost finished cooking, combine two ice cubes and two cups of cold water in medium bowl. When the eggs have boiled for 13 minutes transfer eggs to the ice bath with a spoon or tongs. Let them sit for 15 minutes.

After cooling, put eggs in a grocery store egg container. For seasoning later include a Ziplock bag with a mix of salt, pepper, and perhaps a little paprika.



I usually peel the eggs before eating.

## Putnam

### COMMENTS

*I like them sprinkled with Malibu seasoning. And I eat them with avocados. (Tim Elms)*

*Keep 'em cool while you fish. I like to make it part of a meal along with a fat slice of summer sausage, an apple, and a Zone bar. (Bill AuCoin)*

*What are you laughing at? Summer sausage? Watch this short documentary. (YouTube, posted by "anonymous")*

### DID YOU KNOW?

*Eggs are the only food source except for meat that have all of the essential amino acids. (Healthline)*

## Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner



### How to score the Fly Rod Slam

Now is a great opportunity for a much sought-after fly rod slam. Fishing lighted areas at night, especially with this week's strong tides, will be a blast. Hungry predators will be feeding very actively where food is plentiful and easy to catch. Redfish, trout and snook will lazily inhale baitfish as the tide sweeps them into gaping mouths. Fish lighted docks and bridge fenders that are familiar during the day so that you can plan your obstacle-free approach. A bow-mounted electric motor is preferred rather than anchoring because larger fish can be turned away from the barnacle-encrusted structure that ruins fly lines and leaders. Keep your fly rod tip close to the water and avoid high sticking which can break long rods. Rig two 8- or 9-weight rods, one with a floating line and the second with a clear sinking tip. 25-pound fluorocarbon tippets and loop knots tied to size 2-4 white baitfish imitations will produce, especially when cast up tide of the fish which will be oriented facing their incoming meal. Match available baitfish size. Strip setting when the fish is felt rather than raising the rod tip to set the hook will ensure a high rate of success.

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

## Bill Scarola: Fishy Puns of the Month



Bill Scarola

*I bought a boat because it was for SAIL!*

*What did the shark say when he ate a clown fish?*

*Answer" It said, That tasted a bit FUNNY!*

*Why are fish more clever than people?*

*Answer: Ever see a fish spend a fortune to catch a human?*

*Do you know why nurses use red crayons?*

*Answer: They often Draw Blood.*

*Which country do fish go to for vacation?*

*Answer: Finland!*

*Did you know who owned the fishing store?*

*Answer: Rod and Annette .*

*Padump bum ching*



## Gear for Sale or Swap



**Rick O'Hara is selling his handheld fish-finder/GPS. It's a deal.**

I have a Lowrance iFinder H20 GPS for sale. It comes complete with a Navionics South Florida chip, numerous 10,000 Islands fishing spots accumulated over the years, and the manual. The price is \$50. I can be contacted by email ([flyguy47@verizon.net](mailto:flyguy47@verizon.net)) or phone 727-410-0459.

**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.



**Scout flats boat and trailer. \$7,900. Call Tom Jones before April 30. 727-667-4112**



2000 Scout 162 Sport Fish. Yamaha 50 HP four stroke. Minn Kota Riptide trolling motor. Bimini top. Owens Aluminum trailer with spare. Boat Cover. Detailed and in excellent condition.

**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. \$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:Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin@verizon.net)

## Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



**Piney Point danger lessens**—The major danger is over but, still, some 170-million gallons of wastewater had to be released into the deep channel at Port Manatee on the Eastern Shore of Tampa Bay. ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

**What's next?** They're talking about algae blooms and red tide complications. Oh, and, don't eat the fish. ([WFLA](#))

**Daily sampling of Bay waters** – Florida DEP is sampling 11 locations every day. H/T Tim Elms. ([Florida DEP](#))

**Also, check this one from time to time** – They post red tide testing data every eight days. ([MyFWC](#))

**Big bass snack on little insects.** Chris O'Byrne delivers the details on his blog. Big bass eat insect imitations, too. Here's the drill: Let it sink. Strip slowly. Then strip quickly. They like tiny minnows, too, so cast small streamers. Chris writes, "Cast one of these dangles over a point. Then let it sink a while. Then strip it back like you're afraid the fish will steal it." ([Featherwater](#))

**Florida loses Apalachicola lawsuit** – The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled against Florida in that long-running legal fight against the state of Georgia for using so much more freshwater that used to flow into Apalachicola, Florida. The high court ruled that Florida did not provide clear and convincing evidence for claiming that Georgia's consumption of water led to the collapse of its oyster fishery. ([UPI](#))

**Are you breaking the law?** – As of April 1 you must wear your outboard motor "kill switch" (aka engine cutoff switch) or you're a lawbreaker. That's to make sure that if you get thrown out of the boat it doesn't keep running around causing damage, injuries, or spook fish unnecessarily. ([BoatUS](#))

**Good girl** -- Do yourself a favor. If you don't want your water-loving, wet and dirty dog messing up the backseat, make her wear the new Orvis PRO Dog Waders. ([Midcurrent](#))

**Reel. Remove. Release.** -- Step by step, here's how to unhook a bird. ([MyFWC](#))

**Florida boat ramps.** – For the April outing, fyi, there's a boat ramp near the north entrance to Phillippe Park. Another is on the northern shoreline of Alligator Lake. There are more all over Florida. Bookmark this site. Zoom into the map for location details. ([Florida Boat Ramp Finder](#))

**Fly Fisher Tricks and Treats** – There are lots of good ideas on this site. It's an oldie-but-goodie. One I've adopted is to thread my bite tippet through an elastic hair band then wrap the band around the spool. That keeps the line secure on the spool and also makes it easy to pull out and snip off the length of leader you need. ([Fly Fisherman](#))

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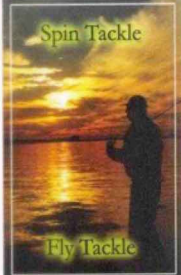
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