

## 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