

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

Florida Fly Expo Oct. 1-2 P4



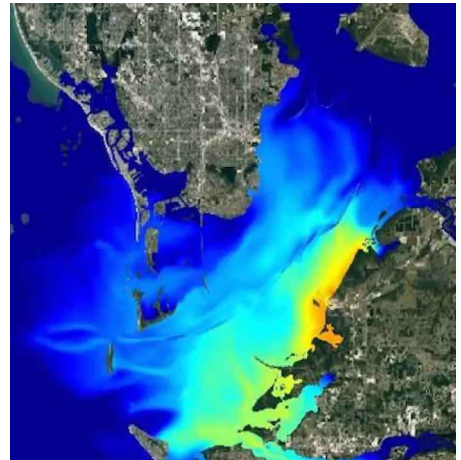
June docklight/beaches outing P8



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President's Letter, June 2021

Suncoast Fly Fishers,

I think that everyone these days falls into one of three categories.

ZOOM Embraced

ZOOM Tolerant

ZOOM Adverse.

Based on my experience, as the leader of a fly fishing club that has been forced into the world of digital meetings, 70% of us are ZOOM adverse, 20% are ZOOM tolerant, 10% are true ZOOMOPHILES and 100% have become ZOOM weary.

This month we are going to have our last regularly scheduled meeting on ZOOM. It will be our annual dock light panel of experts.

What goes around comes around. The dock light panel in 2020 was the first virtual event for SFF and it was one of the most viewed items that we have posted on social media. Our weekly ZOOM fly tying sessions with Bruce Evensen at the bench have also been very popular.

I won't say that the June member meeting will be the last time we hear a presentation on ZOOM. I do hope to be able to schedule some special presentations in addition to our regular monthly meetings. I think we will find that there are some interesting guest speakers that would be willing to visit us on ZOOM when it might not be practical for them to meet with us in person.

I hope those of you that have not embraced ZOOM and those that have gotten a little tired of the format can join us one more time this month for a virtual member meeting and each Monday for fly tying on ZOOM. Starting in July we can all enjoy getting back together in person!

Stay safe and keep fishing!

Rick

Rick Warfel, SFF President

Meetings, Outings, and More

Thursday, June 17, Zoom Meeting, 6:45 – 8:30 pm

Subject: Fly fishing docklights and beaches in the dark

- Link and log in: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82761499392>, Meeting ID: 827 6149 9392
- Our speakers are a panel of experts at fishing docks and beaches in the dark of night. Get your questions ready.

June Dark of Night Outing – Docklights or Beaches

Friday Night, June 18 and Saturday Night, June 19

- Fish docks or beaches from 9 pm Friday to 6 am Saturday, then again from 9 pm Saturday to 6 am Sunday.
- You can fish anywhere in the Tampa Bay area.
- The outing prize goes to the fly fisher catching the longest snook. Send in a photo.
- Got a winner for the annual tournament? Reds, seatrout, snook, ladyfish. Be sure to measure them and send in a picture.
- robertburkard9@gmail.com.



June 22: Summer Camp Fly Casting Instruction

- Tom Gadacz is asking for volunteers to help teach fly fishing to youth at another Hillsborough County summer camp.
- This is summer camp fly casting number 2 at Carrollwood Village Park from 9 to 11 am. The first was June 9 at Riverview Civic Center.
- 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.)

Email thomasgadacz@yahoo.com



Rick Warfel helps out at Riverview on June 9.

July 15 In person: Trash 'n' Treasures auction

Meet up at Walter Fuller Park Rec. Center at 6 PM

- Big fun is on the schedule and we'll raise needed funds for the club.
- Bring 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 others are bringing to the party.
- Our meeting will run from 6:00 to 9:00 pm this month only to give us plenty of time to bid on items.
- Yes, snacks and sweets will be served. Don't worry. Be happy.



Auctioneer Alan Sewell. All the money raised goes to our club.

Continued on next page

Meetings, Outings, and More

July 17 Outing and club picnic in person at Fort DeSoto Park

- 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. Arrive hungry.
-

October 1-2, Florida Council Fly Fishing Expo

We're all better together

- **Mission Inn Resort** in Howey in the Hills, northwest of Orlando on the Harris Chain of Lakes
- The theme is "We're all better together"
- How-to seminars on Friday and Saturday, indoors and outdoors
- Welcoming reception Friday evening
- Live auction Saturday
- Banquet with a featured speaker on Saturday evening



"We are inviting fly fishers of all skill levels to come, to join the fun, to make new friends, and to be better fly casters, better fly tyers, and better at catching gamefish on the fly," said Tom Gadacz, Florida Council President, also a member of Suncoast Fly Fishers.

David Olson, Vice President of the Florida Council, is in charge of planning the Expo. He said the theme of this year's Expo is *We're all better together*. He said seminars will be held Friday and Saturday, indoors and outdoors. There will be a welcoming reception Friday night. On Saturday evening there is a live auction and banquet with a featured speaker.

Plan ahead: More 2021-2022 outings, parties, and picnics to come

- 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: Boca Ciega Bay at Bay Pines Veterans Park
 - December 11: Christmas Party
 - December 18: Don Coleman Invitational, Fort De Soto Park
 - January 20, 2022. Trash 'n' Treasures
 - January 22, 2022: Outing, Weedon Island Preserve
 - February 19, 2022. Outing, Fort DeSoto Park
 - March Hog Roast. Date and location to be determined. We need a committee chairperson to manage planning, etc. Anybody?
-

November 5, 6 and 7, 2021, Virtual Fishing Fair, Fly Fishers International

- FFI has had to cancel its major in-person expo, but in many ways this Expo, on Zoom, is going to be a much bigger deal, attracting fly fishers from all over the world.

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](https://www.facebook.com/scff2020)

Online Pay Portal: Pay dues, donate, purchase

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

Membership update

Suncoast Fly Fishers now has 136 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

Bonnie Olson, Madeira Beach
Fritz Miller, Seminole
Jeff Kopelman, Treasure Island
Bob Cirulnick, South Pasadena

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

Hog Roast: Open

Membership: Tom Gadacz

New Members: Rick Warfel

Webmaster: Tim Elms

Facebook: Cliff Nigh, Anne Mitchell

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 Mitchell

On The Fly

Bill AuCoin, editor; Anne Mitchell, Bob Hood, Tim Elms, Marshall Craig.

Bob Burkard: May Outing at Cypress Point Park

Cypress Point Park is one of my favorite fishing spots in Tampa Bay, and I arrived excited and looking forward to a great day of fishing with our club members. The fishing was great: the air and water temperatures were just right, the tide was low but moving, and a breeze kept the bugs away. However, catching was not so great and we “worked” hard for every fish we caught. With that said, we do have an outing winner and a new leader in the outing tournament.

Rick Warfel won the outing with a 14-inch seatrout, one of three he caught along with a ladyfish. Nobody caught a redfish, the other outing species of the month. Bill AuCoin caught an 18.5-inch snook which puts him in the lead in that category in the annual outing tournament. With the night snook outing coming up this month, there is a lot of pressure on this category.



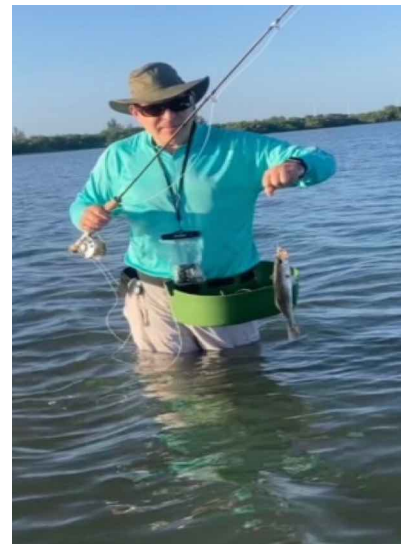
Cypress Point Park Wade Fishers, l to r, Wayne Shriver, Bob Hood, Bob Burkard, Rick Warfel, Claude Neidlinger, John Kosloski, Mandy McGarry, Casey Jarrell, and Truk Trukenbrod. (Tom Gadacz was late to the photo session.)



Claude Neidlinger, new member from Minnesota, is making a smooth transition to salty fly fishing. Ya.

I caught a few smaller trout and a large catfish. That darn catfish put up a nice fight. I am always amazed at myself when I catch a large “junk” fish that puts up a good fight, and I am disappointed.

Continued on next page



That's me. Even a small trout makes for a great day when you're fishing with friends

Continued...Bob Burkard: May Outing at Cypress Point Park

The May outing marked a happy-but-sad occasion, too. This was the last (maybe?) club outing for member Mandy McGarry who is moving to Taos, New Mexico. She was new to fly fishing when she joined Suncoast Fly Fishers about three years ago, but she reported that she is now hooked on it and looks forward to fly fishing the beautiful mountain stream near Taos. We will miss her and wish her great luck and much happiness in her new life adventure.

Tom Gadacz spoke to Mandy at the outing and got a nice photo. Mandy wrote Tom, "I will miss you and the rest of the club as well. Thanks for helping me get my foot in the door. I'll be back and pop in at a meeting or an outing to say hello to everyone."

Tom said he gave her an invitation to fish Fort De Soto with him anytime she may return.



Mandy McGarry, right, is heading to Taos, NM. Her friend Casey Jarrell joined her on her goodbyes to all SFF outing at Cypress Point Park.

And...here's a salute to the fly fishers who took pictures of their fish without dropping their smart phones in the water.



Tom Gadacz' mangrove snapper



Rick Warfel's 14-inch seatrout



Bill AuCoin's 18.5-inch snook.

Bob

Bob Burkard: June's Two-Night Outing *Fish Docklights or Beaches in the Dark*



*Bob Burkard, Outings
Committee chairman*

Friday Night, June 18 and Saturday Night, June 19 9 pm to 6 am

We are truly blessed to live in this area and belong to our club. The Tampa Bay area has miles and miles of residential canals and homes with amazing docklights shining up or down. Gamefish hang out near them because the lights also attract bugs and baitfish, providing wonderful fishing opportunities.

We are also blessed to have miles and miles of Gulf and Bay beaches and other shorelines. Those shallow shorelines are feeding zones for gamefish because that's also where there are lots of baitfish. Again, these provide great fishing opportunities for fly fishing.

And those two blessings make the Tampa Bay area, in my humble opinion, the saltwater fishing capital of America. Yes, fish get a lot of fishing pressure. Yes, the fish are easily spooked. Yes, you have to fish smart to get them to grab your fly. But the rewards are huge. Especially, if you fish at night after the crowds and jet skis, etc., etc., have gone home.

Which brings me to the main subject: June is our annual docklight/beaches outing where our club members pursue snook. This summer Suncoast Fly Fishers traditional outing is a two-night competition, so you've got Friday night AND Saturday night to go for the gold. You can fish anywhere in the Tampa Bay area. Be sure to link in to our club's June Zoom meeting at 6:45 pm on Thursday, June 17. The featured speaker will be a panel of fly fishers who have earned reputations for caching big gamefish at night. They'll share secrets (including places to fish) that you won't read in the articles. [Here's the link.](#)

Measure your longest fish, take pictures, and email them to me. The outing prize goes to the longest snook. The annual tournament prizes are awarded at the end of the year. Check out the leading lengths on the next page. As of May the longest snook is 18.5 inches, the longest ladyfish is 19.5 inches, the longest seatrout is 20-inches, and the redfish category is open.



*That's me sight casting to a snook
on a residential docklight in the
Weedon Island area.*

My email address is...

Robertburkard9@gmail.com

Bob

*Left, docklights on a canal in
the Pasadena Yacht and
Country Club.*

Updated: 2021 Outings and Tournament Leaders

Leaders on the 2021 Outing Tournament Trail

Species	Length (inches)	Winner	Outing (Month)
Longest black bass	18	Tim Elms	Freshwater (March)
Longest bream	11	Tim Elms	Freshwater (March)
Longest Mayan cichlid	11.5	Tim Elms	Freshwater (March)
Longest snook	18.5	Bill AuCoin	Cypress Point Park (May)
Longest redfish			
Longest ladyfish	19.5	Mark Hays	Fort De Soto Park (Feb)
Longest seatrout	20	Tim Elms	Fort De Soto Park (Feb)

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 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
5/22/2021	Cypress Point Park	(1) Longest Trout (2) Longest Redfish
6/18 & 6/19/2021	Night Snook: Friday and Saturday Nights Docklight and Beach (fishing in the dark) Anywhere in Tampa Bay	Longest Snook
7/17/2021	Fort DeSoto – 1 st Get together	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

Tim Elms: Here Comes the Night!

Howdy! It's been a crazy month so far. Work and life are slowly getting back to normal. And now that the sun is beating us up in the day it's time to look for fish around the lights of the residential docks.

Obviously, dock lights are hard to fish from shore but when you get a chance to go, don't pass it up.

I was lucky enough to go out with a buddy of mine last week and we stayed unbelievably busy throwing flies from 9pm to 430am. I don't get a lot of chances of fly fishing dock lights but I will give up some of my tactics.

First, and foremost, think about safety and how you will react if things get dicey. Even if that means you jump a tarpon and need to know what you will do when they go nuts with pilings in both directions. Hopefully, your partner will get you out as fast as they can without you getting flipped out of the boat.

Second, don't get picky about your fly selection. If you see lots of glass minnows and hear fish eating, that's what they are eating. Same with shrimps skipping, or greenbacks racing through a light giving the middle finger to the sleepy snook. This night, I literally stuck with one fly all night. I was confident in it and if fish weren't eating it, I wasn't gonna change for that one fish.

Third tip, KNOTS! LEADERS! So many fish can be seen in the lights, but it's the lunkers in the shadow that will surprise you instantly. Make sure your leader knots are tested and that you have a bite tippet on. I hate reading these articles about people losing a snook because they are throwing 12lb tippet at the fly. 12lb class is great! Just protect your tippet with 12-18 inches of a shock or bite tippet.



Little linesider to get me back in the mood



One of many seatrout

My last tip is to slow down. (This goes for fly fishing in general). Slow your cast down. Slow your approach down. Do not rush. Period.

This trip was one of my favorites by far. From the first light, seatrout were thick. I pray the trout make it through these first weeks of the slaughter now they are back open. Snook were super sneaky. We saw probably 20-30 slot-sized snook that would not even budge. Laid up and not moving snook, I have learned, are pretty stubborn. It's the ones that run up and eat and go back to the dark that are more likely to grab it.

We did jump a couple of tarpon. This sneaky monster makes me forget about everything else and skips my heart. I was a little outgunned with my 8wt but I'll take a jump and a pop any day.

Until the next one.. *Strip Strip Strip!!!!—Tim*

Marshall Craig: Piney Point and Pollution



Marshall Craig

A Discussion with Steve Murawski, Ph.D USF College of Marine Science

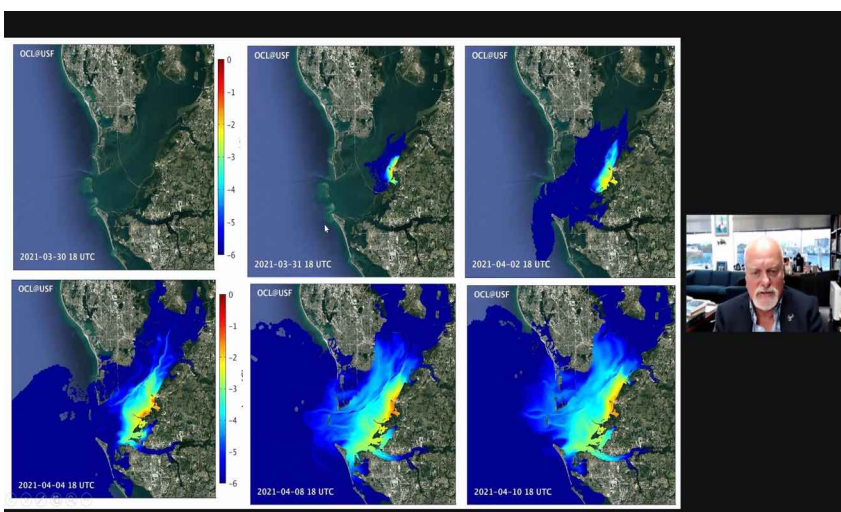
On May 20, at the monthly Zoom video conference, SFF members were treated to a presentation by Steve Murawski, PhD, Marine Ecosystems Analysis Professor at the USF College of Marine Science. He was introduced by Laurie Scott, Director of Development at the College of Marine Science.



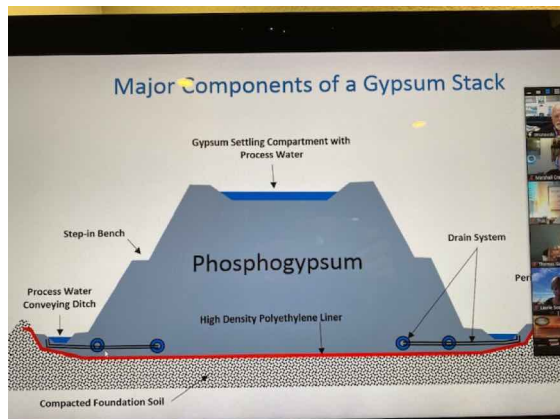
Steve Murawski PhD

With 45 years of experience in Marine Science, Dr. Murawski's specialty is the analysis of the effect human activity has on the ecology of an area. His presentation focused on the leak discovered on March 27 at the Piney Point phosphate plant (closed in 2001) and the step taken to minimize danger to the local community – draining off the slurry of rainwater and the chemical byproducts of phosphate manufacture.

Dr. Murawski's team sampled Bay water and marine life, including fish, after the spill and for some time thereafter to determine the impact of the spill, short and long term.



Dr. Murawski estimates that some 215,000 gallons were pumped in a controlled release of slurry into the water near Bishop's Harbor, dropping the water level of the slurry pond over the gypsum stack below the crack discovered in the HDP containment liner



In addition to the health concern of mildly radioactive phosphates, the nitrogen and ammonium in the discharge had the potential of causing plankton and algae blooms in the bay.

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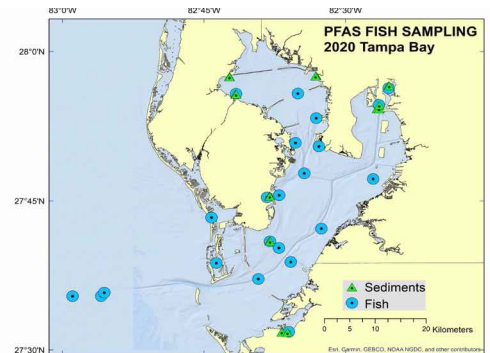
Continued...Dr. Steve Murawski: Piney Point. What flyfishers need to know

What are the potential harmful effects to the ecosystem and people?

- History of plankton blooms from nitrogen-rich discharges (e.g., at this site in 2001) Red Tides?
- Potential negative effects of acidic conditions (previous spills by Mosaic resulted in very low pH levels and mass mortalities)
- Uptake of high levels of chemicals with sub-lethal impacts on various species – spawning times/locations?
- Potential for radiological uptake (half-lives of some common radioactive elements can be centuries or more)
- Cumulative impacts on already stressed ecosystems
- Seafood safety issues?

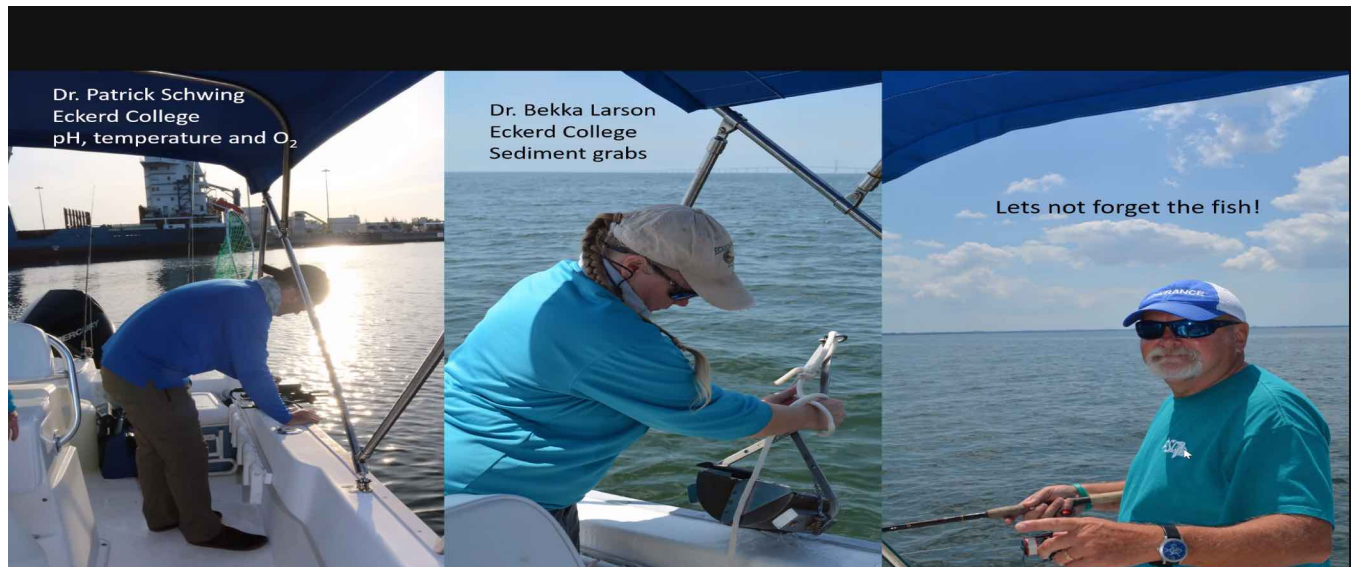
Assisted by the USF Ocean Modeling Group, his team studied the movement of the contaminant particles, pushed by tide and wind. His assessment is that there is no long-term damage to the Bay. That said, the issue of the gypsum stack will not go away. The state is setting aside \$100 million into trying to solve the Piney Point problem. But 25 gypsum stacks remain at risk in central Florida.

Of greater concern are PFAS chemicals in the Bay. These are man-made, termed “Deep Water” or “Forever” chemicals. They sink into sediment, do not degrade like organics and cause longer term pollution. The higher up the Bay, the greater the concentration. Storm water is the major source by far; its containment is the next major task.



On balance, Dr. Murawski finds Tampa Bay reasonably healthy, a success story. He suggested the SFF might help with sampling in the future, allying with his group. Lastly, he allowed we were fun to hang out with and might even lead him to pick up a fly rod.

“Forever” chemicals, PFAs, sink to the bottom and cause long term pollution



Marshall

Tim Gibian: West Virginia's Trifecta-Plus

Here are some photos of a guided trip I took to Second Creek in West Virginia earlier this month, a gift from my wife for my retirement!

Fantastic fishing. I caught the "trifecta plus:" rainbows, brownies, brookies, and a large golden.

Tim



Capt. Pat Damico: Family Time in the Catskills

Fishing Beaverkill with two sons and grandson. All good fly fishermen! Doesn't get any better than this!



Three generations fly fishing somewhere in the Catskills. Somewhere, Pat? Beaverkill? Anyone? Anyone?



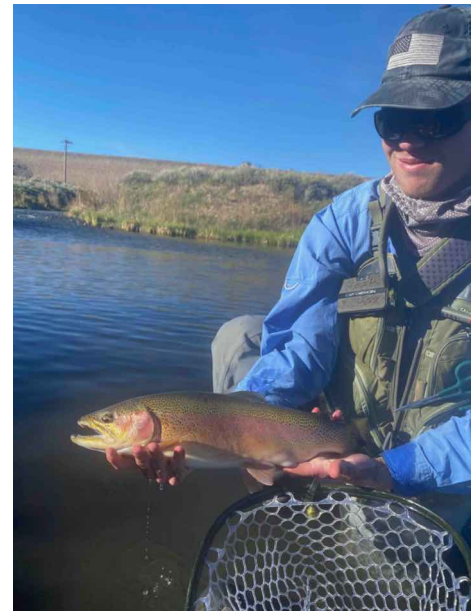
Son Pat and grandson Jonathan Damico in the Catskills

Mazzarella: Dayle is back on Wyoming's Hams Fork River

We just got to Wyoming a couple of days ago, ready to start our Guiding season. Of course, Dayle hit the Hams Fork right away with our nephew, Dylan. This photo tells it all! Scouting has been good - We're ready to fish!!

Our best to everyone.

Barbara & Dayle



Toni Fernstrom: Meanwhile in Northern New Mexico

May 24, 2021

Toni: Greetings from Taos.

Me: Are you on vacation?



Toni: Well, let's call it vacation for lack of something more appropriate. I've been out here since the beginning of the month and will leave for Florida this weekend.

Anyway, the rivers here are all "blown out" due to the runoff and some recent rain (May is considered the "mud month" ...) so the fishing is kind of off.

Was just told by the local fly shop that the nearby Eagle's Nest Lake could be an option, as well as the Cimarron River which is the tailwater to the lake - might give it a go tomorrow.

That being said, please don't expect any "fish" pics ;-)...

Toni



That's Toni tying one of his signature flies at an SFF fly tying meeting.

Scott Russell: Work Hard. Play Hard



Scott Russell and a bonefish he caught a trip down to Green Turtle Cay in the Bahamas. "The bonefish there were large. This was my best, a 9-pounder," he said.

I had the opportunity to go to the Abaco Islands in May as a member of St. Petersburg Rotary Club working alongside SOL Relief, Inc. -- a disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization. We helped to rebuild homes destroyed during Hurricane Dorian in 2019.

During the trip we were given a tour of some of the most damaged areas on both Great Abaco Island and Green Turtle Cay.

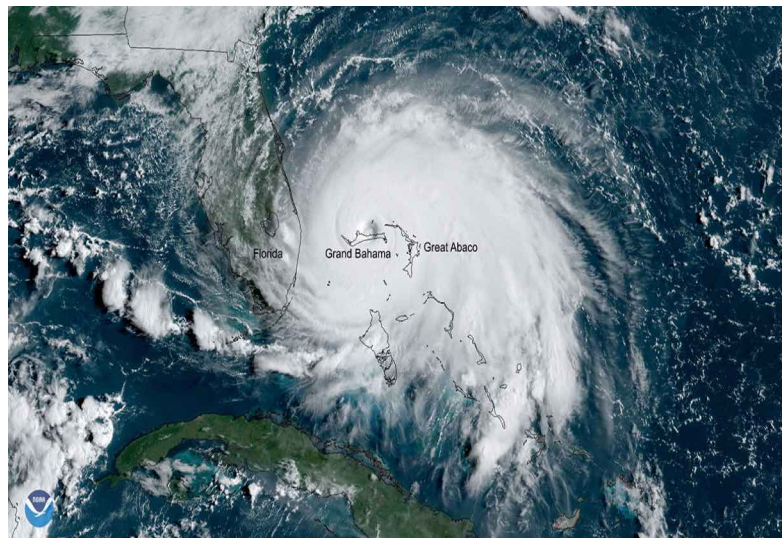
Between 20+ foot storm surge, 220+ mile-an-hour wind, and several days of intense weather, the level of destruction was simply hard to fathom and the stories we heard from residents were heart wrenching. It was obvious anyone unfortunate enough to be in Dorian's way had their lives changed forever and they still need a lot of help!

After our work week was done, I stayed behind for a little play time.

I fished for bones on both Green Turtle Cay and Great Abaco Island. Some days were more challenging than others and it reinforced for me how clouds are not your friend when targeting bonefish.

Fly selection was very important when fishing at different depths. If you're going to the Abacos don't assume they'll have flies available since the area is still recovering and getting materials is difficult. Definitely ask your guide what type and size flies to bring.

The entire trip was an awesome experience.



Hurricane Dorian hit the Abacos as a Category 5 on September 2, 2019. (blogs.lmcs.org)

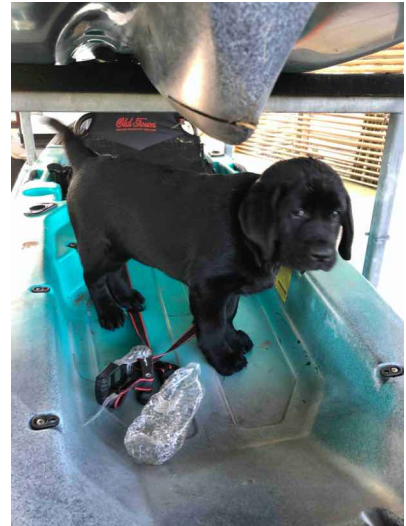
Scott

Anne Mitchell: Meet Mabel



Last August, my parents and I lost our yellow Labrador, Mayhem, nicknamed *May*. She was 12 years old and had been in poor health for about a month.

On May 13th of this year, my parents made the six-hour trip from Apalachicola to rural Georgia to pick up our newest member of the family. Mabel is now four months old and weighs about 30 pounds. We haven't had the chance to take her fishing yet, but we can't wait to do so. Her personality is already just as big as Mayhem's, and she's growing like a weed every day. We can't wait to introduce her to the SFF at our July meeting



Mabel says, Hey, let's go kayaking. Well, she is a water dog after all.



Even puppies need a rest from time to time.



This is May, RIP, with an Apalachicola redfish. (Yeah, Mabel has big paws and jaw to fill.)



Mabel already knows how to ask politely for treats.

Anne

Gary Sundberg: Rod Sections Stuck? Try this!



Rod sections were stuck together: I've tried....

- WWD-40
- Dawn dish soap
- Clenzoil
- Behind the leg trick
- Two-person pull
- Dishwashing gloves

But no satisfaction. Until....

- I placed a frozen bag of French Fries on the stuck rod joint for five minutes. Then...

wait for it...

- Pop. No effort. sections apart!
- Watch it on [YouTube](#)



Solution: a bag of frozen French fries. Bananas were not used. (Woody Miller photo)



Voila! Plus, Gary said, no bananas were harmed taking this photo

Gary

Editor's note: I didn't have a bag of frozen French fries but I discovered an alternate method...

- 1 Let your rod sit in the hot afternoon sun for two hours.
2. Place the stuck section between two frozen gel packs: Bengay Non-medicated pack and Tampa Bay Sports Medicine pack.
3. Wait for four minutes and 22 seconds.
4. Then, give it a go. Yeah! Pop goes the weasel.

"Last year I went fishing with Salvador Dali. He was using a dotted line. He caught every other fish." Steven Wright

Smitty's Fly Box: Docklight Foxcicle



Because this fly incorporates just two materials you can, by mixing and matching the colors of the materials, produce a huge range of color combinations to attract the quarry

you are after (Snook, Redfish, Bass and even Steelhead)

Smitty

Additional Tools

Bodkin, potato chip clip, dubbing wax, dubbing whirl, plunger-style hackle pliers, a toothbrush, and a slick paperback book at least 1" thick. A whip finish tool is optional.

Materials

Hook: Your favorite 2X-heavy, 4X-long streamer hook size #4 (also sizes 2-6)

Head: Silver Tungsten cone, Large *

Weight: .020 lead-free round wire

Adhesive #1L Superglue (Zap-a-Gap, Z-ment, or your favorite CA Cement)

Adhesive #2: Favorite head cement (SHHAN, Z-ment, UV Resin, etc.)

Thread: White Danville flat waxed nylon

Tail: White arctic fox fur

Body/Wing: Pearl, Steelie Blue and Silver Ice Dub

Tying instructions

1. Pass hook point through small hole in cone head and slide around hook bend and up to hook eye. Place the hook firmly into the jaws of your vise.

2. 020 wire is used to add weight and stabilize the cone head. Holding the end of the wire tightly, make about 10 to 15 wraps up the hook then helicopter to break break it off close and make sure you can slide the warps up the hook shank.



I've tied this one in docklight colors but you can change colors to catch other species, fresh or salt.

Continued on next page

P2/Smitty's Fly Box: Docklight Foxcicle

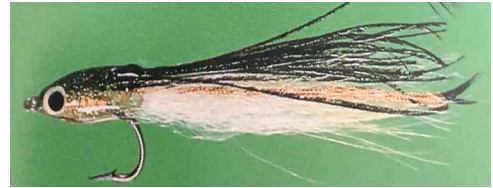
Tying instructions, continued

3. Slide cone head back toward the bend slightly. Apply a drop or two of cement onto the hook shank just behind the hook eye. Push cone head forward to hook eye, then push wire wraps forward into the back of the cone and hold for a few seconds while the adhesive sets. You can now tuck in the tail of wire without the wrap simply spinning around the hook shank. The cone should now be locked in position. With your bodkin, make sure the hook eye is clean of adhesive.
4. Get thread started behind wire wraps. Wrap forward to further lock the weight to the hook; then end with your thread halfway down the hook shank.
5. Cut an ample clump of arctic fox from the hide. Pull out some but not all of the underfur and even the tip ends of the tail. Measure to slightly longer than hook shank. Wetting the material really helps get it under control and makes tie-in much easier.
6. Check your measurements again as you transfer it to your other hand. Snip off excess butt ends and tie in at the rear edge of wire wraps. Continue wraps back to hook bend to bind down the fur to the shank then wrap forward to tie in point halfway up the hook shank.
7. Lay out small clumps of Pearl Ice Dub on the edge of the book about the length of your chip clip. Next a much thinner layer of Steelie Blue Ice Dub over top of the Pearl. Add some Silver Ice Dub starting halfway down the pile and adding more to the end.
8. Lay a metal ruler on top of the dubbing, splitting it in half. Push the strip of dubbing off the edge of the book and grab it with the chip clip. Set aside. Also have ready dubbing wax, dubbing whirl and plunger style hackle pliers.
9. Use your thread to make a dubbing loop slightly longer than the head of the chip clip remembering to take a wrap-around legs of loop then a couple of wraps backwards over the hook shank and loop stopping just over the hook point.
10. Use dubbing wax to coat both legs of loop. Place dubbing into loop and close loop with dubbing whirl. Pinch loop just below dubbing with your finger and thumb and give the whirl a good strong clockwise turn. Release thumb and finger. After dubbing has formed a noodle, brush vigorously with a toothbrush.
11. Take a few wraps with bottom end of loop around the hook of your plunger hackle pliers, close hook to secure thread and snip away whirl. Wrap standing thread backwards to hook bend then forward to back of the cone.
12. Wrap dubbing forward in touching wraps preening material backwards as you go. Keep wrapping until you reach the cone head. Use standing thread to tie off. Trim any excess loop. Whip finish and cut thread. Coat thread wraps with head cement or UV Resin.
13. Again brush out dubbing to release any trapped fibers. Preen backwards and trim away any unruly fibers to create baitfish shape.

Bill Scarola: Popovic's Surf Candy



I tied this pattern in New Jersey before I moved to Florida and caught bluefish, and weakfish and fluke (aka flounder for you south folk!). I usually tie this fly green over white with some thin and thicker body materials:



NOTE: This pattern can be tied with various colors, singular or in combos.

Materials

Glue: UV epoxy. The thick type works best

Body: White bucktail, & other of your choosing

Body: Peacock herl

Flash: Gold Flashabou

Eyes: Stick-on holographic, size 4.5-5mm

Thread: Flat waxed white, or colors to match your materials

Red marker

Hook: 3407, or stingers in sizes 1,1/0,2 or 2/0 or even larger for larger fliess

Sequence

Note 1: All materials are tied in from just behind the hook eye!

Note 2: By adding more material and epoxy you can make this fly thicker and/or longer with hooks 4/0 - 5/0

Note 3: Making this pattern with a combination of colors can imitate many bait fish. For example, adding olive green bucktail over the white, or gray bucktail over white. Also, varying the thickness of the pattern, can expand your fish catching skills! MIX AND MATCH IT UP!!! Have fun.

Step 1: Wrap hook shank half way from hook eye.

Step 2: Add a match stick thick clump of white bucktail. about 3X hook length or 3-4" in all.

Step 3: Tie in 4-5 strands of gold flash on each side.

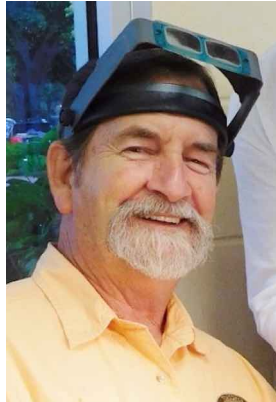
Step 4: Add 4-5 strands of Peacock herl on top of the bucktail and tie off the thread. Same length as above.

Step 5: First, apply a thin layer of UV epoxy forming a 'bullet', shaped head approximately one-half inch long, or half of the hook's length. Cure with UV light

Step 6: Add your eyes. If desired, use your red marker to mark gill slits just behind the eyes then apply a second coat of epoxy covering the eyes and all the first coat and cure.

Bill

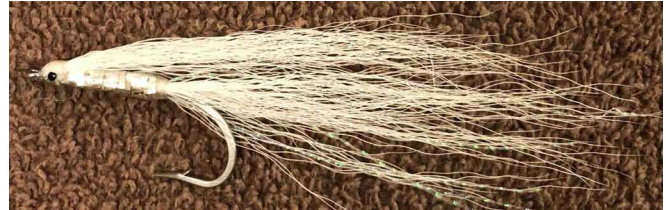
Bruce Evensen: Platinum Blonde Fly



Bruce Evensen

This is the Fly of the Month for our June docklights and beaches outing.

Bruce teaches this fly on Zoom Monday June 14.



The Zoom sign-in number is [88117766760](https://www.zoom.us/j/88117766760)

You'll need the materials listed below. If you miss it live, you can watch it later on our [Facebook site](#).

In person classes resume July 5. Seating is limited

In person classes will resume in Bruce's fly-tying studio at 6 pm on Monday, July 5. His address is 531 80th Avenue N in St. Petersburg.

In Person sign-in

Bruce's studio has a limited capacity of 16 fly tiers. So sign up early by emailing Bill Scarola at scar7765@gmail.com. Bruce wants to see how the turn out will be since many of us are anxious to get out again.

So let 'MINNOW' !!!!
Don't FLOUNDER around. Register early!!
Or you'll be FIN-ished!

Materials needed to tie Bruce's Platinum Blonde Fly

Hook: 3407 size 1, or other.

Eye: Stick on size 3mm, silver/black

Tail: White bucktail

Wing: White bucktail

Body: Silver foil

Flash: Pearl Flashabou

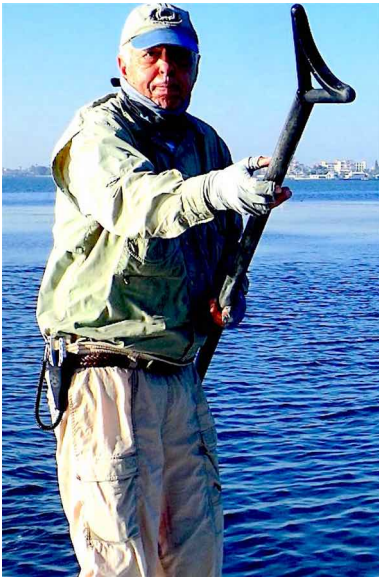
Head: Built-up thread

Glue: U V epoxy.



That's Bruce back there, and starting July 5, he's ready to teach the step by steps for his favorite flies at his St. Pete Fly Tying Studio. But, seating is limited to 16. So, signup now by emailing Bill Scarola at scar7765@gmail.com

Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner



Tarpon on the Fly

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

This is the best time of year to catch big tarpon on a fly. Stories of needing an hour and a half to get a silver side to the boat are not uncommon. Is this necessary or even good for both fish and angler? When a bucket-size mouth inhales your small fly, usually a size 1 or 1/0, and you manage a successful hook set, then what? The fish will instantly react, usually running and jumping and heading away from you. Your tackle should be adequate, 11 weight rod, good large arbor reel, smooth drag with 30-pound test backing. Many good guides will use a 40-60 pound shock tippet attached to the fly. Skipping the lighter class tippet, used mostly for record book work, will give you a mechanical advantage. Concentrate on keeping the fish off balance and confused. You must bow when they jump, giving some slack to prevent break-offs. All other time must be spent putting as much pressure as

possible on the fish. When the fish goes to the right, with the rod tip low, apply pressure to her left side. Getting the line over the fish and off-balance is helpful. Keep a moderate bend in the rod using the butt section and your body, not your arms to shorten the fight.

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

Capt. Pat Damico: More Tarpon on the Fly Tips

Fly fishing for early season tarpon on the beach has begun. Get out at daybreak with an easterly wind and calm water to take advantage of great tarpon action. Get at these fish now because they haven't been beaten up yet by hordes of fishermen and are in the pre-spawn mode making them more likely to grab a well-presented fly.

Position your boat close to shore with the sun at your back. Good polarized glasses will allow you to see their flash as they lazily roll on the surface occasionally showing inside of swim markers. Use 11 weight fly rods with a floating or sink tip line.

Have your fly at the fish's depth. A 40-60 wt fluorocarbon shock tippet tied to a size 1 to 1/0 Keys type or toad pattern in darker colors has been most successful. Minimize boat movement using only a push pole in shallow water. The ideal cast is having the fish come straight to you, then place the offering in her path. Figure out a pattern where most fish are moving and have them come to you.

If you haven't been using heavier rods, practice before getting on the water. Use your body to make casting easier and then use your body to fight the fish, not your arms. If anchored, a floating marker buoy with a quick disconnect will allow you to chase hooked fish and then return to your spot.

Bill Scarola: Fishy Puns of the Month



Bill Scarola

St. Peter confronts a guy at the Pearly Gates.

Sorry, buddy, you told one too many lies while you lived on Earth". I can't allow you to come in!

The guy responds: " Aww, St. Peter, can't you remember when you, too, were a fisherman?"

Ummm, Ok, said St. Peter. Come on in!

Old Harry was leaning over the bar, crying in his beer. *My wife says if I ever go fishing again, she'll leave me!*

Oh, his friend says, *That's terrible!*

Yeah, sniffed Ole Harry, wiping a tear from his eye. I'm sure gonna miss her.

Murphy was fishing in Maine even though the season was officially closed. A stranger approached asking him if he had caught anything?

Have I caught anything? exclaimed Murphy. *I've got a few hundred pounds of the finest Rock Bass you ever saw on ice in my truck!*

Do you know who I am? asked the stranger. *I'm the game warden. And who are you?*

Murphy replied confidently, *I'm the biggest liar in all of Maine.*

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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 or phone 727-410-0459.

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.



Want to sell or trade? Need some fly gear? Email Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin@verizon.net

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Help fund research for your favorite gamefish. An extra \$17 per year buys the special license plate for redfish or tarpon. There are more. I remember reading about a guy with a *Save the Manatee* license plate. Just for laughs, he also has a personalized license plate. "EAT-UM" ([CCA](#) [TBEP](#))



Trending...Goliath grouper – The Goliath grouper population has recovered so much that now the FWC is considering a plan to allow the total harvest of 100 statewide. The idea is they will let one goliath grouper be caught each week. You will need to win the lottery for that week and then pay \$300 for that one-week license. The money would help fund more research. ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

Speaking of goliath grouper --. I knew a guy who was scuba diving and speared a goliath grouper down by what is now the Sunshine Skyway. This was back in the 1950s. He and his buddy towed it back behind their boat to the old St. Pete Pier. They called a friend with a car towing service. He drove out on the pier and hooked the grouper on the rear towing hook and raised it up from the water. Then they drove all over St. Pete showing the goliath grouper to their friends. But it fell off at a major intersection and it was quite an incident.

You can't buy his flies, though – The May issue of *On the Fly South* is online. I went straight for this article. It's about a guy that I know.. He ties a lot of Craft Fur and chenille sand fleas, beach tarpon bunnies, and more. This is a good read with insights on the best flies to fish in different situations. ([On the Fly South](#))

Are you kidding me? E-10(10% Ethanol), is dangerous for recreational boat engines – it voids your warranty, you know -- and now our government overseers are sneaking E-15 into gas stations without proper warnings. Come-on, man. ([BoatU.S.](#))

Piney Point could be making it worse– Red Tide on south Pinellas Beaches? ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

Build the wall – Florida is dealing with a new invasive species. It's the zebra mussel, the same invasive that's causing grief in the Great Lakes and freshwater lakes and rivers all over the U.S. Now, the Florida FWC is asking for our help to stop it from invading Florida's freshwater lakes and rivers. ([Trade Only Today](#))

Which kind of dock lights do you like? I just figured the underwater LED lights were best but this Captain tilts towards the lights close to and shining down on the water. That said, look for docklights with good tidal flow. Another tell, a biggie, is when somebody yells, HEY, LOOK AT ALL THE SNOOK MOVING AROUND THAT LIGHT! ([Saltwater Sportsman](#))

Tenkara rod for tuna fishing? Not really, but when you watch this video maybe you'll agree that your fly rod would not need a reel when the fish are up close and personal like these. ([You Tube](#))

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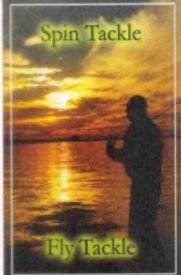
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