

# On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

July 15 Trash 'n' Treasures P3



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June's docklight winners P6



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Tie Smitty's Squirminator P17





## President's Letter, July 2021

Suncoast Fly Fishers,

I am ready to welcome you back to in-person meetings and events!  
I am tired of having the pandemic dominate all aspects of our lives.

Three things come to mind. It is good to be returning to a more normal life. It is great to be getting our club back together in-person and it's not completely over.

I  
n my family, we got vaccinated as soon as possible. It was our first step to returning to normal. Fast forward to today and we find ourselves comfortable going into crowded places without wearing a mask, eating in restaurants, and we are even ready to consider commercial airline travel again. If there is one good thing that came from the pandemic, I haven't had a cold or the flu since we started wearing masks and socially distancing.

The most exciting thing for me is to have our club return to meeting in-person. This month our member meeting will feature a Trash & Treasure auction with auctioneer Alan Sewell. This event is always a good time. For those of us that have accumulated too much gear, it is a great time to donate to a good cause. For those that are new to fly fishing, it is an opportunity to stock up. For those of us that can't resist the urge to buy too much gear, it is a good time to scratch that itch.

Our outing is going to be a celebration of our return to in-person gatherings. We are fishing one of our favorite venues, Ft. Desoto. Look for some fun events, a great meal and a chance to win a surprise give away. I can't wait to see every one of you and to hear about all the fish you did and didn't catch.

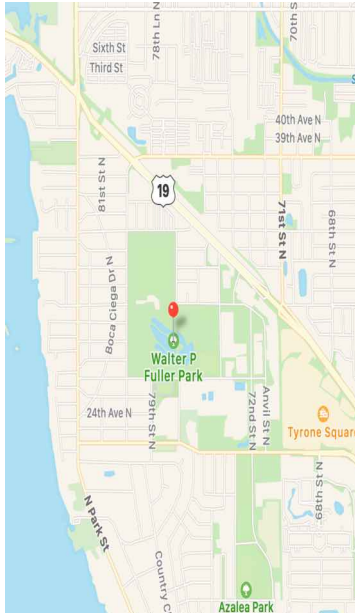
The pandemic has taken a toll on all of us. Many have suffered devastating personal and financial losses. I hope that having SFF start in-person meetings and events will bring some joy to your lives. If you are not comfortable meeting in-person just yet, stay in touch, we'll see you when you're ready.

Stay safe and keep fishing!

*Rick*

Rick Warfel, SFF President

## Meetings, Outings, and More



### July 15 in person meeting *Trash 'n' Treasures*

**Meet at the recreation center  
at Walter Fuller Park at 6 PM  
7891 26th Avenue N.**

- 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.
- Coffee, soda, waters, snacks and sweets will be on the side.



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

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

- Fish early then meet up at 11:30 at Pavilion 2 in the North Beach parking area.
- Arrive hungry. Bob Burkard is grilling BBQ ribs, Rick Warfel is grilling brisket, James Davis is bringing pork and beans, Alan Sewell is doing his famous chili with a side of cornbread.
- Yeah, arrive very hungry.
- The angler catching the longest fish on the fly wins the outing prize.



## Meetings, Outings, and More

### July 12 and every Monday: Free fly tying lessons

- Join fellow members at 6 pm at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio, 531 80<sup>th</sup> Street N., St. Pete
  - Seating is limited so email Bill Scarola to reserve your space. [SCAR7765@gmail.com](mailto:SCAR7765@gmail.com)
  - Beginners welcome. Bruce has extra vises and materials if you need them.
  - On July 12 Bill Scarola will teach the steps for the Purple-Nurple, July fly of the month.
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### 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.
- 

### 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 8: Free casting clinic with Master Casting Instructors Dayle Mazzarella and Pat Damico
  - 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 Expo, Fly Fishers International

- FFI has had to cancel its major in-person expo, but in many ways this **Virtual Expo** 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 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)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

[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 138 members including 15 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

**Brian Clark and Family  
Bonnie Olson**

## 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

**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: June Dark of Night Outing



Our June night fishing was one of this year's most productive outings. Most notably, we had an outing winner for the largest snook and several large redfish added to this year's list of catches.

Nobody fished the beaches, so far as I know.

Our outing winner for the largest snook was Mark Hays. He landed 28-inch snook fishing dock lights between Treasure Island and Madeira Beach. That bit his #1 EP baitfish fly. He also caught a 24-inch redfish (on a #2 DT Special) and I'm sure that was quite a fight. Check out his daughter Anne's nice write up in this issue about their night on the town. But I'm sorry to report (well, I'm not really that sorry) that Mark's 24-inch red did not take the lead in the annual tournament contest.



*Mark Hays and his 28-inch snook.*



*That's me and my 25 inch redfish.*

I was a winner, too. My redfish was 25-inches, one-inch longer than Mark's redfish, and I get to enter it into the annual tournament contest. Yay me.

On Saturday night Bill AuCoin and I were fishing a skinny residential canal west of Weedon Island Preserve. I hooked up with the red on my first cast and I'm still not sure how I kept it from breaking off on the nearby docks. Funny. This dock had two dozen snook on it. I placed my fly in the dark water near the ring of light, (just like Alan Sewell tells us each time he gives guidance on dock light fishing). The fish took off. However, it didn't jump and waste its energy like snook do. "I'll bet it's a redfish," said Bill AuCoin, who was my skipper, fish netter, and official photographer. He was right.

Bill and I started the evening looking a rolling at rolling tarpon near Weedon island, but I did not get a hookup. We started the expedition before dark in some open water and saw many juveniles rolling. Great experience, but humbling.

On Friday night, Bill and Tim Elms also made multiple casts to rolling tarpon with no bites. Then, at 9 pm, they switched to sight-fishing the residential canals west of Weedon. Tim landed a couple of snook. One was 21 and the other was 22 inches.

And speaking of tarpon, Quin Berry fly-fished the dock lights both nights with a guide, Jacob Lenges, and he was happy to share his experiences with our club members. On Friday night he landed schoolie snook, average-sized seatrout, big redfish, and juvenile tarpon. On Saturday night they focused on juvenile 'poons. "The tarpon were frustrating to say the least with many follows but only a couple of eats. Quin reported that he had a great time fishing for fun both nights, learned a lot more about tarpon habits, and will certainly go dock light fishing again. Thanks Quin for sharing.

*Bob*

## Bob Burkard: July outing + picnic at Fort De Soto Park

*Fish early. Meet up at Pavilion 2 before noon-for a great picnic lunch*

This is our first in-person picnic outing since Covid shut us down. And to celebrate the occasion we're going to put on a feast. Meet up before noon at Pavilion 2 at the North Beach parking area.

I'm grilling BBQ ribs. Rick Warfel is smoking brisket. James Davis is bringing his special pork and beans. Alan Sewell is doing his famous chili with a side of cornbread. Are you hungry yet?

And I have a good feeling about the fishing, too. We have a fairly strong outgoing tide. It's a good time of the year to catch all gamefish (and others, too.). And, the outing prize goes to the fly fisher catching the longest fish of any species.

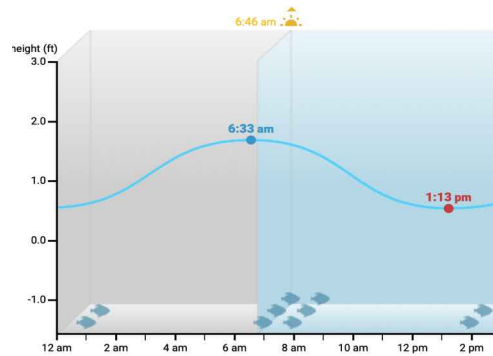
In the Clearwater-St. Pete-Tampa area Fort De Soto Park is positively, absolutely the shiniest object on the map for having so much fishable water. You get to decide whether to fish a Gulf or Bay shoreline or whether to work the backcountry water. You don't even have to park in a parking lot. Pull off to the side of the road and hike a path through the mangroves to almost virgin water. Tim Elms knows a good spot, but he's not talking.

The park opens at 7 am. The fee is \$5 per car. Some fly fishers like to get an earlier start so they park at the boat ramp.



*In July 2020 James Davis caught this snook fishing the seagrassy shoreline from FDP's East Beach picnic area.*

It's a right turn after you cross over the Bunces Pass bridge. Wade fish the flat on the west side. If you park your car at the boat ramp be sure you don't park in one of those long slots for cars with boat trailers or you could get ticketed.



*Note the major Solunar between 7 and 9:30 am.*



*First light fly fishers. These are Suncoast Fly Fishers wade fishing the flat west of the Fort De Soto Park boat ramp.*

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	28	Mark Hays	Docklights/beaches (June)
Longest redfish	25	Bob Burkard	Docklights/beaches (June)
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	Fort De Soto Park	(1) Longest Snook & (2) Trout
3/20/2021	Freshwater - Anywhere in Pinellas County	(1) Longest Bass (2) Longest Cichlid
4/17/2021	Upper Tampa Bay and Alligator Lake (Safety Harbor): Philippe Park	(1) Longest Redfish & (2) Longest Fresh Water Fish
5/22/2021	Cypress Point Park	(1) Longest Trout
6//18 & 6/19/2021	Night Snook: Friday and Saturday Nights Docklight and Beach (fishing in the dark)	Longest Snook
7/15/2021	Fort De Soto Park — Picnic lunch at Pavilion 2	(1) Longest Fish on 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 De Soto Park	(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	
12/18/2021	Fort De Soto Park- Don Coleman invitational	Longest Fish on Fly



## Tim Elms: Summer Lovin'



*Too serious for a snook.*

Howdy! After praying for rain in May, we sure got it in June. Of course, I've been fishing freshwater every chance I get, and things have changed into the summer pattern for sure. The bass are deep during the day but are around shallow late at night or early morning. Otherwise, the panfish are out and about still spawning in some spots.

I spent a lot of the month of June chasing Mayan Cichlids and other warm water fresh fishes...Gar and such. Exotics turn summer

high sun into some of my favorite fishing from shore.

Sight fishing is always a plus and Mayans are so fun to see them eat and go crazy. Gar are fun but hard as all heck to hook on a fly. I still haven't switched over to the nylon rope trick for gar, but I will try it next time I see a bunch of them. These dinosaurs are fantastic because they sit pretty high (also sip air) even when the water is complete chocolate milk. Toss your fly close to their nose or strip right past their nose and they chase just about anything. When they strike they basically mouth it for a while so hooking them in their bony mouth is quite difficult. They thrash around and leap, which make for a fun fight.

I have also had a lot of luck finding smaller snook chasing bait all over the city in ponds and canals. These little Snook are so fun to get on top water. If you see them crashing bait and making their signature sounds when they eat, toss your favorite top water minnow at them, and let it rip in. I find the smaller snook definitely like a fly stripped at a faster pace. Usually a long pause will entice a quick refusal and you won't see them again.

Juvi Tarpon have been around all over town also. I usually end up wasting half a day throwing at rolling little silver nuggets. They are feeding on the tiny fry hatch that is still going on so I have struggled getting eats even with my smaller flies. I have a feeling it will happen soon when the bait gets a little bigger.



Keep pounding even in the heat... *Strip Strip Strip!!!!—Tim*

## Anne Mitchell: An Unexpected Docklight Outing

To say that I was un-optimistic about the June overnight outing would be an understatement. My dad, Mark Hays, and my husband, Robert Mitchell, had awful luck the last time we went night fishing, and I couldn't remember the last good night trip I'd had.

The main reason for my pessimism is that we were supposed to have identical weather to the last time Dad, Robert, and I had launched at Jungle Prada at night.

We were set to have a strong south wind that would buffet Dad's small flats boat all around the canals and Blind's Pass. As we pulled up to the boat ramp at 11 pm it even started lightly sprinkling. As if all that wasn't enough to put a damper on our mood, as soon as we arrived at our first dock my throat swelled up from the red tide particles wafting on the strong wind as a bloated pinfish floated past us.

But then, once we arrived at our third dock, our luck started to turn around. Even though the wind was honking, it had changed slightly to the southwest.

Dad had to fight the trolling motor all night, but we weren't zooming past the docks at 20 knots as we'd expected. The tide was moving at a good clip, but at least that kept the fish active all night.



*It's a two-fer. Robert and Anne Mitchell and two seatrout.*

At that third dock, we found some small speckled trout that were feeding on minnows. Dad had calculated the fly size perfectly, and Robert and I managed to bring in some small trout and ladyfish. That dock was fairly challenging because of the placement of the underwater light, so it was good practice for us before we found the monster fish later on.

Dad decided to fish at dock number four, and he may as well have been picking out fish at the seafood section. He made a few decisive casts to the edge of the dock and immediately pulled in two mangrove snapper, which he deposited directly into our cooler.

A few docks later, we found some decent sized trout. Robert caught the only keeper at 16.5 inches. Dad and I got a brought in a 14.5 and a 14 incher respectively.

*Continued on next page*

## P2/Anne Mitchell: An Unexpected Docklight Outing

*We were noticing a pattern very quickly. Many of the houses that had underwater lights had clearly grown tired of people fishing around them all night. Almost all of the lights were very hard to cast to, so this made our job a real challenge.*

So far, we were having a great night. Robert wasn't too thrilled with the "singing" catfish he caught, but we we'd made it to the wee hours of the morning with few dock snags and more fish than expected. But then we came to our final fishing area.

This location will have to remain a secret, but I've already given up where we launched so you can guess that we were somewhere around the Treasure Island Blind's Pass area. We were fishing around some docks, and we had to protect ourselves from the gale directly at the pass.

Dad eased the boat towards the first dock in a canal. Robert cast his smaller rod towards the light. Suddenly his rod bent and he started fighting for his life. We're pretty sure it was a monster redfish, but the fish broke off just before he could bring it to the boat. Robert's still pretty upset about that one getting away.

After that, we went a short distance to two well-lit docks right next to each other. A monster redfish or snook snapped my fly right at the dock. My line didn't stand a chance.



*Mark's 24-inch redfish*



*Outing Prize Winner: Mark Hays and his 26-inch linesider.*

But then the fly master showed us how it's done. Dad brought in a 24-inch redfish after just a few casts. After that, he cast out a rod with a 30-pound test leader. The Kracken snapped the fly off and Dad tied a new one on in about 15 seconds. He knew he couldn't pick up a weaker rod because these fish were too powerful, and they didn't seem to mind the sight of heavier leaders.

After a couple casts, Dad caught the biggest snook he's ever caught on a fly. It measured 26 inches and it was quite a battle for him to keep it off the pilings. That was the best Father's Day present he ever could've asked for.

We finally decided to call it a morning at 4:15 am. It wasn't going to get any better than that!

*Anne*

Tom Gadacz: 2021 Florida Council Fly Fishing Expo  
“We’re all better together”



President, Florida Council, Fly Fishers International

I would like to extend my personal invitation to all club members to come to the 2021 Fly Florida Fishing Expo October 1-2 at the Mission Inn Resort in Howey in the Hills on the Harris Chain of Lakes. It’s about a two-hour drive from St. Pete.

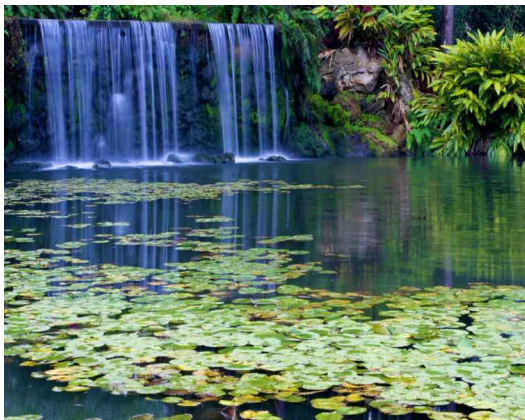
This is the first Expo we’ve had since the 2018 Expo at Plantation Inn in Homosassa Springs and it’s going to be a big deal. Events include...

- Friday: Welcoming reception
- Friday and Saturday: Fly casting and fly tying seminars
- Saturday evening: Live auction and banquet with a featured speaker.

The expo is sponsored by the Florida Council of Fly Fishers International. Fly fishers at any skill level will up their game, make new friends, and to be better fly casters, better fly tyers, and better at catching gamefish on the fly.

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*.

Hotel reservations can be made at the [Mission Inn Resort](#) under *Florida Fly Fishers* at 951-784-0330.



One of many ponds at Mission Inn Resort



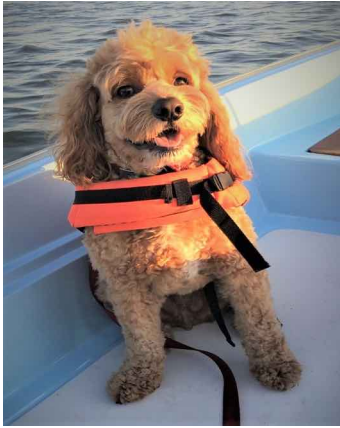
Mission Inn Resort in Howey in the Hills

Tom



There are fly fishing opportunities, too.

## Myron Hansen: A large creature swam up beside the boat

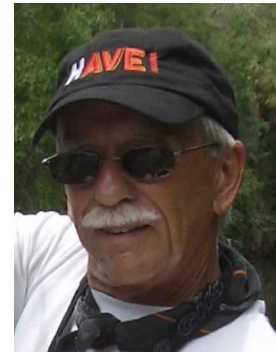


*Harry got the night off*

*Friday, June 18*

Last Sunday night was another “dock light night.” Harry, “Thee Dog,” had the night off. He and I deserved a night apart after trips where he fell overboard when a mackerel jumped in the boat plus frequent skirmishes between us as I attempted to boat a fish.

This outing was with my friend James. He was running the trolling motor and I was doing the fishing for a while. As I was bringing a small snapper to the boat, a large creature swam up beside the boat. All I could really see was a big open mouth just as I lifted the fish out of the water.



*Myron Hansen*

James and I looked at each other with a “What the.....!” expression on our faces. Was that a tarpon, a shark, or? We then realized it was a dolphin. A little while later when I had a seatrout on my line near the boat, a dolphin came up from under the boat and tried the same thing.

Recently I have had other experiences with pesky dolphins around the lights. One even followed me and a grandson for more than a mile. These aren’t the friendly “Flipper” dolphins I admired on TV as a child. If a dolphin got a hold of my fish, how quickly could I cut my line before losing my entire rig? These encounters have happened more frequently in the last year than all my other years of fishing at night.

Can dolphins be rogue? Why not? Most other species on the planet seem to have quirky members.

It wasn’t a great night for fishing, but a good night for renewing a friendship after a long pandemic. On our next outing we will be targeting snook and we will do our best to avoid “Freaky Flipper.”

Do dolphins eat snook?

*Myron*



*Is this dolphin faking it's smile?*

## Pat Damico: Big brown feeding under a tree

One evening at our monthly meetings I tied some terrestrials: ants, beetles, crickets, and hoppers used in freshwater and I was a little disappointed in the interest.

Some of the members asked me to tie a saltwater fly instead. When I asked how many fished freshwater, almost everyone did.

Isn't this a paradox? Stream entomology is very complicated and a turnoff for many, but when regular mayfly hatches begin to wane, terrestrials can be very productive.

Many of my dry fly flyfisher friends will sit on the bank waiting for a hatch to occur and I will find an area where terrestrials will be very successful and spend my time fishing.



*Pat's largest ever brown trout. He made a long horizontal cast under a tree that was dropping food from above. Where? He was fly fishing Fishing Creek in Pennsylvania's Columbia County.*

### **Is this a hint?**

While walking through some grass to get to your fishing spot if hoppers and crickets are taking off ahead of you, doesn't this tell you something? If the leaves on a tree next to where your car is parked have telltale holes in them and Japanese beetles should this be dismissed? The log you are sitting on to enjoy a snack makes you move because a colony of ants has found your crumbs, is this a hint?



*Here's more than a hint, beetles and ants mostly, that Pat found in the stomachs of three, 11-1-inch trout from stocked water. Pat was fly fishing with 6X tippetts. That's about 3 lb test.*

In all these instances, note size and color and match the hatch! For instance, I carry foam beetles in black, brown, and chartreuse sizes 10 to 14. Most terrestrials are designed to float. Isn't this dry fly fishing? The large brown trout pictured, my best ever in Pennsylvania, was a couple of feet from the stream bank sipping on terrestrials with a few of her friends while a breeze was dropping an abundance of food from overhead.

A long horizontal reach cast with rod tip close to the water allowed a necessary drag-free drift and a perfect take. Local freshwater ponds and streams, loaded with panfish, will give you a place to start.

*Pat*

## Tom Gadacz: Eco Adventure Camps 2021

This year Hillsborough County Park System in Florida offered a limited number of youths a two-week experience learning outdoor nature skills. We had two sessions of 20 youths per session and about a third of them were girls. The sessions were on June 9 at Riverview Civic Center and June 22 at Carrollwood Village Park.

We have been teaching fly casting skills to the youths in these summer camps since 2013. Last year all sessions were cancelled due to COVID-19. Past sessions had 40 youths per session and we usually did 3 to 4 sessions every summer.

Members of Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF), a Fly Fishers International (FFI) Charter club and member of the FFI Florida Council, participate in the program by providing fly casting instructions.

During a brief classroom session several topics were discussed and included fly fishing equipment and techniques, differences between spin and fly casting, the kinds of fish in fresh and salt water, how flies imitate the food fish eat, and fly casting.

The kids are paired up and help each other. The casting stroke was demonstrated and practiced using the paint brush drill. The instructors moved among each pair giving praise and a few instructions. After practicing the forward and back stroke, they begin casting 5 weight 8' 6" fly rods.

Hula hoops and 18" potting plates were the targets and placed at 30 feet from the caster. The non-casting partner observes and encourages their partner. Avoiding rotation of the wrist was the greatest initial challenge. They changed positions every 10-15 minutes.



*Distance and aim: FFI Casting Instructor Chris O'Byrne (l) shows Riverview campers how to cast the fly into the pot.*



*If you can cast a paint brush...This Riverview camper does it just right.*



*SFF President Rick Warfel guides a Riverview Civic Center caster.*



*Riverview: practice, practice!*

**Continued on next page**

## P2/Eco Adventure Camps 2021

Most of the youth had some proficiency by the end of the sessions and a few were very good. Every youth received a SFF Certificate of Completion of the Junior Training for Fly Casting.

The Eco Adventure Camp at Riverview was covered on June 11 by our local FOX Channel 13 and host, Charlie Belcher. The young man they showed fly casting was rewarded by his parents with a fly casting outfit and a promised trip to the Rocky Mountains for fly fishing.

The youth fly casting sessions were staffed by SFF members Rick Warfel, SFF President, David Redd, Quinn Berry, Tom Gadacz, Chris O'Byrne, and Robert Fischer.

We wish to thank Director Heather Gay and camp councilors Jessie Brown and Brad Lympany.

*Tom*



*Robert Fischer shows a Carrollwood camper how to make the proper fly cast.*



*Riverview Civic Center campers and SFF instructors. Good job, everybody.*



*Quinn Berry demonstrates the paint brush drill to campers at Carrollwood Village Park.*



*Carrollwood Village Park summer fly casting graduates and their instructors from Suncoast Fly Fishers.*



*Campers got a look at different flies that imitate the food that fish eat.*



## Smitty's Fly Box: The Squirminator



First of all this fly is not for purists. The *Squirminator*, like most cyborgs, is built to do one specific task *very well* ... it can get the ever lovin' \$%#&\* kicked out of it and walk (swim?) away unscathed. It is constructed almost exclusively of advanced, man-made materials. Fish this fly as you would a Clouser, swimming it along the bottom or give it a bobbing action like a jig. It's built to get through most any underwater situation that will come your way!!!

*Smitty*

### Materials:

Hook: Orvis Tactical Barbless Jig Hook, size 10 -12  
Head: Gold slotted tungsten bead, 1/8"  
Tail: Any child's squishy toy with tentacles (yellow)  
Adhesive #1: Superglue  
Thread: Fluorescent orange, 8/0 or 70-denier  
Underbody: Fluorescent orange Antron dubbing  
Overbody: Yellow egg yarn  
Hot spot: Tying thread  
Adhesive #2: Head cement



### Tying Sequence:

1. Slide bead onto hook (small hole first). Set aside for the time being.
2. Cut a single tentacle from the toy and slide the cut end onto hook hook point, coming out the side so when lying straight on the hook the cut end will be just above the hook point.
3. Slide "worm" down hook bend slightly, then apply a dab of super glue to straight part of shank where worm was then return worm to proper place.
4. Start tying thread just behind the bead and wrap back towards the hook bend in touching wraps to cover the hook shank. Return thread to just behind the bead.
5. Dub thread with enough Antron dubbing to fill the gap between bead and tail.
6. Cut a 3/8" piece of yellow egg yarn. Divide in half and use only one part. Then spread the material out to about to 1 1/2" in length.
7. Give your bobbin a counter-clockwise spin to flatten out your thread (This will make it easy to split the thread with your bodkin). After you split the thread, insert your left index finger to hold open the gap.
8. Insert bug yarn into the gap and pull out your finger. Make sure yarn is evenly divided then give the bobbin a clockwise spin to cord thread back up and trap the fibers.
9. Once you have a good fuzzy length established, start to wrap brush over the orange underbody in open wraps. Using the index finger and thumb of your left hand, make sure to stroke back material as you wrap. Finish at the bead.
10. While holding the antron fibers back, use thread to build up a hot spot collar. Finish with a six turn whip finish. Add a few drops of head cement on thread wraps and in the bead gap for extra strength.

###.

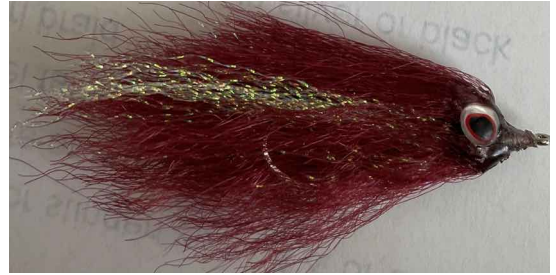
*July Outing Fly of the Month for fishing Fort De Soto Park  
On July 12, join other club members to tie this fly at Bruce Evensen's studio*

## Bill Scarola : Purple-Nurple



Bill Scarola

Bill Scarola will teach the step by steps to fly tyers at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio on July 12 starting at 6 pm.  
**The address is 531 80<sup>th</sup> Street N., St. Pete**  
Seating is limited so before you go be sure to reserve your space. Email Bill Scarola at [SCAR7765@gmail.com](mailto:SCAR7765@gmail.com)



**Materials** (If you're new to fly tying, Bruce will have a vise and materials you can use.)

**Hook:** B-10 stingers or 3407 sizes 1,1/0, 2, 2/0. Bend back or straight hook.

**Eyes:** Stick on holographic eyes silver/black, etc.

**Thread:** Flat waxed to match your material, burgundy or brown, or mono.

**Body:** Doll hair, or you can substitute Craft Fur or EP Fibers.

**Flash:** Pearl Flashabou

**Glue:** Super Glue and Fletching glue, or E6000 glue, and UV epoxy

### **Tying Sequence**

**Step 1:** Add doll hair either as one large clump and spread it around top and bottom or add two smaller clumps one on top and one on the bottom. Tie this in approximately ¼-inch behind the hook eye. Tie the first body clumps straight back using several wraps.

**Step 2:** Apply 4-6 strands of Pearl Flashabou to each side on top of the doll hair. Add more thread wraps. Apply Super Glue to hold fibers in place.

**Step 3:** Add two smaller clumps of about half a match stick in width, but tie each forward over the hook eye. One clump on top and one clump under.

**Step 4:** Apply several wraps to each then fold each back over the body to form a more blunt head. A small clothespin will help hold fibers in place until you glue them.

**Step 5:** Build up a dam of thread just behind the hook eye to hold back the fibers.

**Step 6:** Add a drop of your eye-attaching glue (E6000, for example) to the head and attach your eyes so that they are above the hook shank and as far forward as possible.

**Step 7:** Apply UV epoxy to cover the eyes and the fibers in between.

**Step 8:** Option before adding epoxy, you can add 2-3 more strips of Flashabou to the top and/or bottom of the fly

## Bill Scarola: Fishy Puns of the Month



Bill Scarola

Fishing was so bad that even the liars didn't catch anything.

There is no use in walking five miles to fish, when you can depend on being unsuccessful near to home!" – (Mark Twain)

Which American colonists told the most jokes? Answer: the **Punsylvanians**.

Bill: I got a great pizza joke for you, Bob. Oh never mind; it's too *cheesy*.

When is the best time to make a dentist appointment? Answer: **Tooth-hurty**

What kind of tea did the American colonists want? **Liber-Tea**

What's the difference between a duck and George Washington?

Answer: One has a bill on his face and the other has his face on a bill.

What did the colonists wear to the Boston Tea Party? **Tea Shirts**.

What do you call an American revolutionary who draws cartoons? Answer: A **Yankee doodler**

SEE Y'ALL MONDAY NIGHT

*Padump bum ching*

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

I have a Lowrance iFinder H2O 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.

**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.



Want to sell or trade? Need some fly gear? Email [Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin@verizon.net](mailto:Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin@verizon.net)

## Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner



### Are you casting the right line for the weather?

Your fly pattern is very important, but not putting the fly in the proper location is even more necessary for success. If casting with your normal setup is giving you poor results, your fly line is probably the culprit because of much warmer weather and especially very warm water.

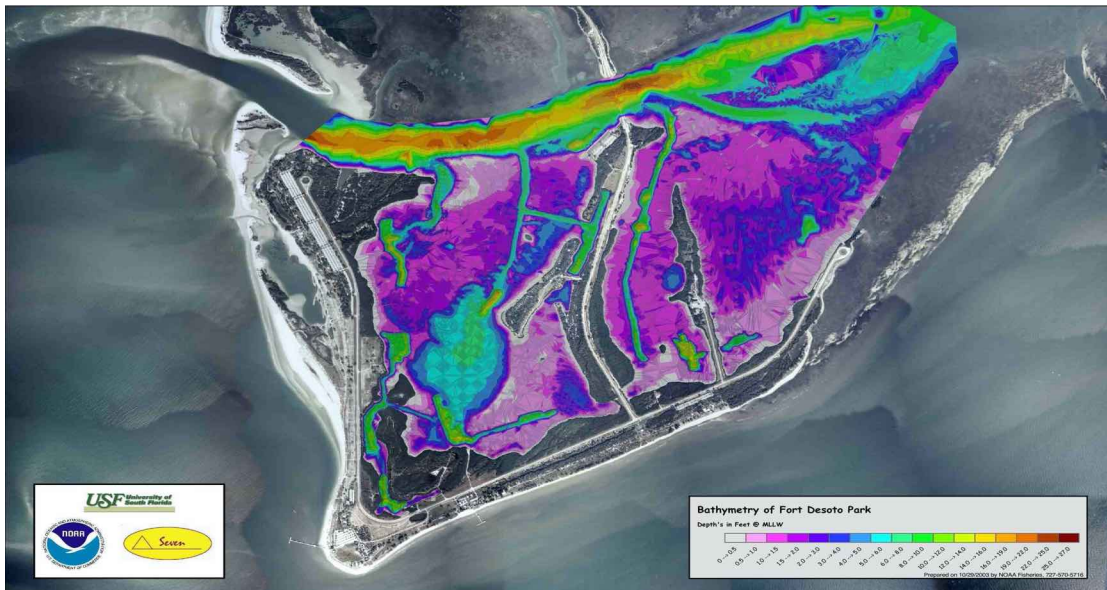
One well-known fly line company makes over 1000 different fly lines for a good reason. In the spring when gulf water temperatures were in the low 60's a line that performed perfectly will not do the same now when the water temperature is above 85.

I see this frequently with clients who come from northern states and find they are trying to cast line that behaves like limp spaghetti. A line that performed perfectly for saltwater species in the northeast this spring will be a disaster now.

Some fly lines will have designations such as tropic or warm weather on the box. Fly fishing guides understand this and will have the proper lines on their reels. When clients are having difficulty with the equipment they brought with them, I frequently will give them a reel to use with a suitable line on the rod that they feel comfortable with. This will restore their confidence and go a long way to eliminate their frustration resulting in a successful day.

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

## Fort De Soto Park: Depth Image



## Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover

*Tips for fly fishing for snook on the beach*



Our July 17 outing at Fort De Soto Park is perfectly timed for fly fishing the beaches for, whatever, but, especially snook.

FDP has two fishy beaches. One is the Gulf's sandy shoreline accessible from North Beach and the Bay grassy shoreline accessible from the East Beach Picnic Area or the Bay Pier parking area.

Here are some solid tips pinched from the Internet.

**Rod, Line, and Leader** -- Let's start with the rod. A fast action 8 or 9 weight outfit is ideal for fly fishing the beach. Both are plenty of rod for the small baitfish flies you'll throw and can handle any decent sized snook or jack you hook into. When there's a stronger breeze, the 9 weight will give you an advantage throwing into the wind or when you know there have been larger snook or tarpon around. Your reel of choice should be loaded with a full intermediate line to cut through the wave crests without slack in your connection to the fly. The intermediate line will also get under any seaweed on the surface when stripped with the rod tip pointed down at the water. As for leaders a 9' 16- or 20-lb class leader is standard. In choppy surf you can cut down the leader length to 6 or 7' to help get the fly down. Attached to that should generally be a 25-30lb fluorocarbon bite tippet. ([Ole Florida Fly Shop](#))

**Mike Conner likes these flies**--Streamer flies imitating bay anchovies, scaled sardines and finger mullet are standards for the surf fly box. All-white patterns or those with a grey or olive back are ideal. I tie a bit of pink flash in mine, to look like the iridescence of real thing. Clouser Minnows in tan-over-white or chartreuse-over-white get the nod when snook are cruising right on the bottom. They are a great imitation for the small whiting that snook relish. Lefty's Deceivers, EP Mullet, and many other baitfish patterns are also great choices for both snook and tarpon. With fussy, smaller snook, I have had success with Gotchas tied on size 2 hooks, a great bonefish fly. I tie them with medium dumbbell lead eyes to make them sink fast and kick up puffs of sand. I suspect the fish take them for small crabs. ([Salt Water Sportsman](#))

**Scan the surf**--Beach snook fishing requires a lot of walking but little wading. Stay on the sand as much as possible. You'll scare fewer fish. Scan the surf. Look where the secondary waves form and break. Fish use the waves for cover, or they merely wait for the wave to break and try to pin the bait — mullet and pinfish — along the trough. Most of the fish will be in mere inches of water — ankle to knee deep. To ensure better visibility, wear a hat with a wide brim with a quality pair of polarized sunglasses. ([TFO Rods](#))

**Worth the watch**—This video is just under five minutes and it's all about fly fishing for beach snook at Fort De Soto Park. The fly angler, videographer, and narrator is one of our club's favorite guides, Steve Gibson of Southern Drawl Fly Fishing. I learned a lot watching this one. From watching the video I also think I know where he saw and caught those snook. No, I ain't telling. ([You Tube](#))

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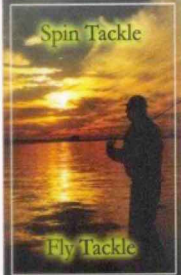
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