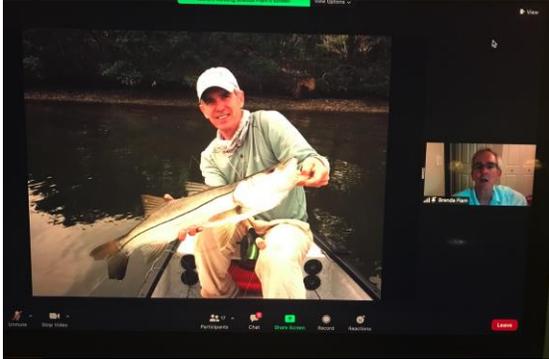


On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg
WooHoo - October 21 meeting is in person

Leigh West Shares Big Fish Secrets...P8



Carl Hanson Outing October 23.... P6



Tim Gibian's Certifiable Tank..P14



Parental discretion advised P18



Troy and BethAnn in NC P15



Sundbergs do Colorado on the Fly P16





Letter From the President October 2021

We are again returning to in-person meetings and events. Our outing this month is the annual Carl Hanson Tournament on the Hillsborough River. This year the event will be hosted by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.

To get everyone ready our member meeting will feature a renowned panel of experts to share their secrets for fishing the river. The meeting will be live and in person. Please join Alan Sewell, Chris O' Byrne, and Robert Fisher for this panel discussion.

The Hillsborough River does offer some fishing opportunities from shore, but it is best fished from a boat. A canoe or kayak is ideal. If you do not have access to a vessel, Alan Sewell has offered to loan several of his spare kayaks for the day. He will set you up with all the required equipment and make sure you can operate the boat safely. Please let him know in advance or talk to him at the member meeting if you would like to borrow a kayak.

It is a real pleasure to be able to get back together in-person. Bruce returned to hosting Monday Night Fly Tying in-person. We are planning to hold our annual Holiday Party in-person. Our December outing will be the Don Coleman Memorial Outing and Chili Cookoff at Ft. DeSoto where we will be joined by TBFFC and the Mangrove Coast club. We can look forward to seeing a lot more of each other unless of course the virus acts up again and sends us back to meeting via handheld instead of hands on.

Stay safe and keep fishing!

Rick

Rick Warfel, SFF President

Meetings Outings and More

LIVE AND IN PERSON

Thursday, October 21-meeting

- That's right. Covid infection rates are way down and the board agrees it's time to have in-person meetings and outings, too.
- Meet up at the Rec Center at Walter Fuller Park in St. Pete before 7 pm.
- Presentation: How to fly fish the Hillsborough River Saturday at the Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament against the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.
- Fishing panel: Chris O'Byrne, Robert Fischer, and Alan Sewell will share secrets and take your questions.

Saturday, October 23 Outing: Carl Hanson Memorial Outing, Hillsborough River

- Rotary Riverfront Park, 8000 E. Fowler Avenue, Temple Terrace.
- Hosted by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.
- Angler who catches the longest fish gets to keep the drawing of Carl Hanson for a year.
- Angler catching the most fish gets their name engraved on the Carl Hanson trophy.
- Come early. Fish until noon then meet up with others to chug and chat. BYO lunch and drinks.

Monday, October 18, Tie flies at Bruce Evensen's garage studio – In person

- Bruce Evensen has recovered from Covid and is feeling great. So, starting Monday, October 18, fly tiers can meet up in person and follow step by step instruction by Bruce and Bill Scarola.
- Meet up at 6 pm at 531 80th Street N in St. Pete. There's room for the first 16 tiers.
- You'll be tying two different flies this time. One is the Pinfish Fly. The other is the Squirrel Tail fly.

Big Gun Shootout Practice Tuesday October 19

- Prep for the Big Gun Shootout November 21 at Tampa's Picnic Island Park. It's an annual competition hosted by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.
- So, practice: Quin Berry is setting up targets for accuracy and distance at Walter Fuller Park.
- Quin will alert participants about future practice days. Call him (870-656-9677) to get on his list.
- Competition stations mimic the challenges like casting under the mangroves, into a cup of water, or through a hoop suspended a few feet off the ground. Come out and give it a try – you'll be hooked!
- Volunteers also are needed to help set up the course and score contestants.
- You can get free tickets on Eventbrite

HELP: Storage needed to store auction items, etc.

- Suncoast Fly Fishers needs a place to store gear
- Can you help? Email Rick Warfel at rh_warfel@yahoo.com

Meetings Outings and More

Looking ahead

- October 21: 6:30 pm. Meet in person at the Rec Center at Walter Fuller Park, St. Pete.
 - October 23: Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament. Rotary Riverfront Park, Temple Terrace.
 - November 5-7: Fly Fishers International Virtual Expo.
 - November 18: Meeting. Speaker, Capt. Ray Markham.
 - November 20: Outing. Boca Ciega Bay. Picnic at Pavilion #4 at Bay Pines War Vets Memorial Park.
 - December 11: SFF Pot Luck Holiday party, Most Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Gulfport
 - December 18: Don Coleman Invitational, Fort De Soto Park. Chili cookoff.
 - January 8: Free casting clinic with Master Casting Instructors Dayle Mazzarella and Capt. Pat Damico
 - January 11: Ritz Carlton Outfitters Day, Orlando.
 - January 20, 2022. Trash 'n' Treasures meeting in person or on Zoom.
 - January 22, 2022: Outing, Weedon Island Preserve.
 - February 19, 2022. Outing, Fort DeSoto Park .
 - March Hog Roast. Date/location to be determined. We need a chairperson to manage this. Anybody?
-

November 5-6-7, Fly Fishers International Virtual Fly Fishing Fair

- Register now as an FFI members for just \$25 and receive exclusive access to over 150 workshops, demonstrations, and presentations.
 - Schedule and registration [here](#).
 - Online and live auctions
 - Film competition. Free to enter. \$2000 cash prize.
 - Congratulations: FFI Awards of Distinction for leadership and service:
 - Gary Borger, Wausau, Wisconsin
 - Tom Logan, Tallahassee.
-

January 8, 2022 Ritz Carlton Outfitters Day (Orlando)

- Free, open-to-the-public event on The Casting Lawn behind The Golf Clubhouse at The Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes.
 - Product and casting demonstrations.
 - Top Gun Trophy for the Long Distance Fly Casters competition.
 - Exhibitors include Cortland Line company, Echo Fly Fishing, G. Loomis, Rio Fly Line, Sage Rods, Waterworks Lamson, Shimano, and many more.
-

Volunteer at the Florida Conservation and Technology Center

- Director Kathryn Guindon has put out a call for volunteers for its docent program in Apollo Beach
 - Volunteers donate four-hours per week to show visitors the Manatee Viewing Center, Cownose Cove Stingray Touch Tank, Clean Energy Center, and Center for Conservation .
 - More information is [online](#).
-

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

[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 140 members including 15 family members and 6 honorary members. Annual dues for fiscal 2021-2022 are payable now. Dues are \$50 (\$40 for seniors). It includes benefits and annual membership in [Fly Fishers International](#) and the [Florida Council](#) of Fly Fishers International.

Welcome new members... Joe McColl, Tierra Verde, Troy Dillman and BethAnn Bologna, Tarpon Springs; and Stephen Seufert, St. Petersburg.

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, 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

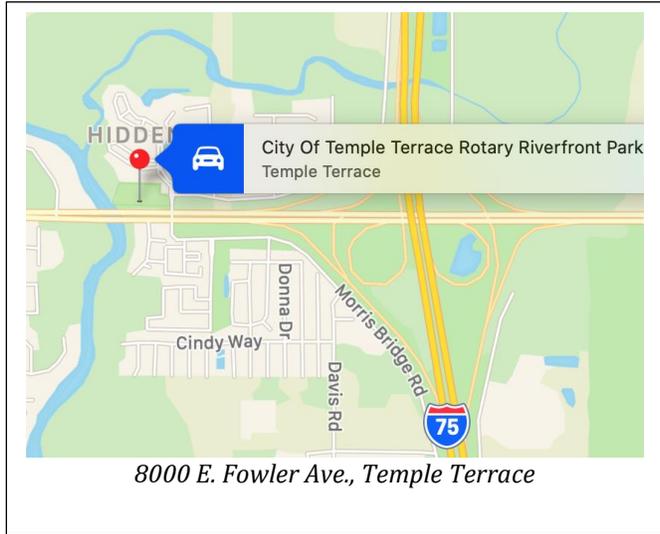
On The Fly

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

Bob Burkard: Saturday, October 23 - Hillsborough River



Well, after a couple of years of Covid concern, the Carl Hanson Memorial Outing on the Hillsborough River is back on the calendar. It's our *almost-annual* fishing event with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.



The fly fisher who catches the longest fish (bass or whatever) gets to keep the portrait of Carl Hanson for a year. The member catching the most fish (bluegills, anyone?) gets their name engraved on the Carl Hanson trophy.

Carl, who died in 1998, belonged to both clubs. He loved fishing fresh water and to honor his memory we have been meeting up and “competing” with TBFFC.

This is TBFFC's year to host the event Here's the plan from TBFFC President Walt Durkin:

- Meet up early at Rotary Riverfront Park in Temple Terrace.
- Best fishing is from a boat, kayak, or canoe but you can also fly fish from shore.
- Come early and fish until noon then meet up for drinks and conversation to remember Carl.

The last time we met here was in 2019. SFF member Mark Hays caught the longest fish, a bass, and took the artwork of Carl Hanson. (And a year before that Mark won the most fish artwork catching 35 bluegills.) Robert Fischer, who belongs to both clubs, caught the most fish – 21 bluegills – and got his name engraved on the trophy. The 2020 tournament was held at Fort DeSoto Park. Robert Mitchell caught the longest fish, a 26-inch snook, and got to keep the Hanson artwork for a year. Once again Robert Fischer won the most fish trophy catching nine saltwater fishes.

Bob

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)

Bob Burkard: September Outing Upper Tampa Bay

A few wade-fishers met in the parking lot at Phillippe Park and posed for the mandatory picture at the top of the Indian mound. Looking down at the water I saw a tailing redfish. Hope springs eternal.

Coincidentally, James Davis, also saw some really nice tailing redfish. He didn't catch one but he did catch the longest fish, two in fact, ladyfish that measured 18.5 inches. "I waded in at the (Safety Harbor) pier and used an olive and orange gold cone-head muddler," said James. He also caught two catfish which he didn't measure. And, to put an exclamation point on it, he added, "I enjoyed fishing in the rain. Haven't done that in a long time."

Chris O'Byrne caught the most ladyfish (alas, no trophy) on a popper that he streak-stripped across the surface. (hmmmm. Maybe this is how we get more hook-sets with these silverados?)

"I chugged my popper fairly hard. And I could see several strikes at it. Maybe that was the difference," said Chris. "I was thinking about that while I enjoyed my lobster cheese sandwich at Barfly. The painful irony is that this was all for some ladyfish."

We had freshwater anglers, too. Rick and Karen Warfel and Alan Sewell fly fished all around Cooper's Bayou Park in Safety Harbor. Rick got a nice 12-inch bass on a white gurgler. Alan caught a smaller one. Rick said there was a lot of fishy activity at first then it shut off.

Phillippe Park wade fishers



Chris O'Byrne, Duane Mertz, Bob Burkard. Back row: Claude Niedlinger, Rudi Thomfohrde, and Bill AuCoin.



Rick Warfel and his 12-inch largemouth bass from the pond at Cooper's Bayou Park in Safety Harbor.



Chris O'Byrne with one of many ladyfish. Yeah, ladies saved the day.

Bill AuCoin: Leigh West, Sight Fishing Success

Want to catch big snook and redfish on the fly? Leigh West knows how. Wade.

Leigh has traveled all around and had some world class fly fishing experiences but he has honed his talent for catching big fish wade-fishing the Tampa Bay flats, often with fellow members of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing club.

And he has the pix to prove it. On our September Zoom meeting Leigh shared his insights and skills like ...

- Cast the right fly. When redfish get super selective, Leigh has had great success using Smitty's variation of Jim Orthwein's Golden Eye Shrimp fly.
- Tide direction isn't as important as moving water coming in or going out.
- Fish from the boat or wade? Well, wade, of course. Walk with the waves and they'll be less likely to be spooked.
- See fish? Get low. Go slow. Let the fish come to you.
- Fish with friends? Yeah, but separate yourself from them.
- Don't waste time throwing to little fish.
- Carry binoculars or monocular but not too powerful.
- Good vision is imperative. Leigh wears polarized sunglasses with progressive correction lenses.
- Eye focus is only 1-2% of your total focus so SCAN



Leigh West, our September meeting speaker,, has a record of catching big reds and snook in Tampa Bay. Judging by the background, this looks like Cypress Point Park in Tampa. Don't tell anybody.

Sight Fishing Forecast

- **September** Ugh. Hot, seaweed die-off. But juvie tarpon good, snook and reds on shorelines. Maybe some evening tailers.
- **Oct/Nov** Getting there. Clearer water. Some larger trout may show up on the flats/edges. More tailers. Temp inversion: Snook go nuts.
- **Dec thru Feb** Clear water, lower tides. Temp/weather-dependent success. Good times!

Wading essentials – Seeing fish (3)

- Against tide, or with tide? (fish flow)
- With waves (reduce wakes)
- Move during sunny/cloudy intervals (adv./disadv.)
- Difficult to see fish in deep vs. shallow water
- Difficult to see fish over grass – set up over mixed-bottom/edges
- Difficult to see fish move if you're moving - BE STILL/stealthy (heron vs. egret)
- May need to stalk fish – get low, go slow!
- Wear sky/neutral colors, use matte finish rod
- Be patient- let situation evolve vs. force it (wait!). Get close, take headshots

Thank you, Leigh!

Tim Elms: The Times They Are A Changin' ([H/T Bob Dylan](#))



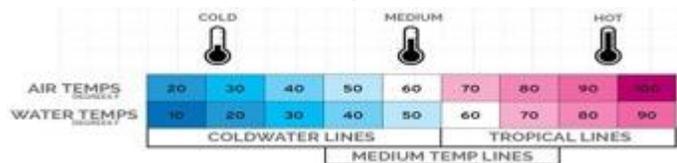
Howdy! As the fishery has started to change to the fall and wintertime seasons, don't forget to change yourself! This month I thought I would talk about fly lines.

I get asked quite a lot about fly lines. As you may know I mainly throw an 8 weight. Day after day after day. This causes me to go through quite a lot of fly line. But I have also had my fair share of lines falling apart or getting destroyed way before their expected life. This could be lots of reasons I'm sure, as I fish a lot of urban spots with bad snags, concrete spots and me just not maintaining or being as careful as I should. But here are my 2 cents on the subject.

Think of your line as tires on a Porsche. Literally if you were to buy 60 dollar tires for your beloved air-cooled masterpiece you can expect to have fun burnouts at stop lights, squirrely days, longer than usual stopping distances, and basically wasting the design of a man named Ferdinand. I am a true believer in line technology and what is out there nowadays. Gone are the days where line manufacturers just made an 8-wt line based solely on beefing up a trout line. Lines today are very complicated with grain weights, slickness, heads, bellies, etc.

If you have a five-year-old line on your Florida rig, you are missing out on what could be a major game change for you and your style of casting. Yes, a fly line can be very expensive. More than an entire spin rig with reel and line! But casting a new line that is tapered to your liking is like putting new Pirellis on the old 911. Pick your favorite company who makes line. I won't say what I use as I believe it's completely up to the caster. Talk to their people about what line they recommend for inshore saltwater fishing.

Make sure the line is made for our tropical climate. That usually means a core made of mono and not braid. This keeps line stiffness when temps are warm, not just HOT. SA says their tropical is literally for any water temps over 60. Keep that in mind. A line with a braided core will feel like a limp noodle no matter what taper it has. And believe me, they feel awful on a hot day.



From Scientific Anglers

Last is taper. This is completely up to you. Here's where it gets hard to decide. Many manufactures claim a certain fish taper...ie; bone, poon, red. This is all just marketing. TRY lines out. Go to a fly shop and ask to try different tapers. Don't be shy. Better yet, ask your buddy what they use and pop it on your rod to try it out! Don't use their rod as it's not the same as yours...even if it's the same model. Mine "feels" different. I have tried many different lines and brands, but I usually lean toward an aggressive front taper with a long running line. For me, I want to shoot 60 feet as fast as I can without any false casts. Have a look at your line and start some research. There are many articles out there with reviews....But, and it's a big BUT, most are written by freshwater trout guys who don't fish more than five days in salt per year.

Until next month! It's getting close to big changes out there.

Strip Strip Strip!!!!—Tim

Jack Collins: Alaska Summer Adventure



My wife and I retired in August of this year. Our reward for this milestone was a trip to Alaska to visit our daughter's family, do a little sightseeing and fishing.

Our first fishing stop was downtown Anchorage to see what was happening on Ship Creek. It's the most popular river in Anchorage due to its abundance of salmon and close proximity to town. You can see the best spots are shoulder to shoulder when the tides are moving.

Our next stop was Homer for some Halibut fishing. The drive from Anchorage to Homer through the Kenai peninsula provided some amazing mountain views mixed with cascading glaciers.



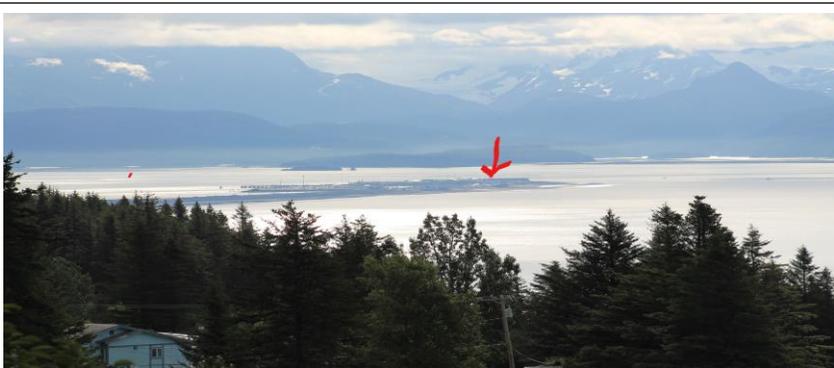
The flowers were in full bloom, especially the fireweed, which seemed to be everywhere.



There are also many lakes around Anchorage that hold some smaller stocked trout. We spotted this Loon while out kayaking for some trout but, no luck on trout.



We saw lots of wildlife. We spotted this bald eagle on the beach scavenging salmon.



We had a front row view from our room at the end of Homer spit which gave us dramatic views of towering mountains separated by massive glaciers across Resurrection Bay



We also passed this young black bear on one of the quiet gravel roads.

Continued on next page

P/2--Jack Collins: Alaska Summer Adventure

It was an early morning with the alarm going off at 5 and we were on the water by 7 heading to our first stop. The boat was comfortable but the 2 ½ hour ride to our first stop was longer than I anticipated. Dramamine and ginger gum kept breakfast down.

Fish on

Once the captain anchored up, my chunk of bait hooked to a 16/0 circle hook with 2 lbs of lead was headed to the bottom. As the rig hit bottom it was *Fish On*.

With the rod butt under my arm, I started to crank until my fish realized he was hooked. In the next second, the rod was pointed straight down, my grip tightened as I held on for all I was worth. The skipper yelled over my shoulder to start reeling as the drag was giving back line. I looked back and quipped back, I AM! After a few minutes of give and take I started to gain ground on the 300 feet of line. After several more minutes, the captain threw another zinger over my shoulder when he asked; are you trying to make a career out of this? Finally, we could see some color and my first fish, which was over 32 inches, was in the boat. Everyone else on board caught their over 32 inch fish. The tide shifted, it was time to move to our next stop for our second fish on the way back to the dock.

Halibut have a limit of two fish per day, one over 32 inches and one under. I had to throw my second fish back because it was over 32. But, my two fish totaled 30 pounds of fillets. After catching my two, I was exhausted. I'm glad mine weren't in the 60 plus pound group. I'm the guy on the far left with thumbs up and big smile. This was a great experience and now with my feet on solid ground, I can cross this off my bucket list while enjoying the bounty back home in Tampa.

Jack



Andy Constantinou: Memories are made of this

My friend Richard caught this lovely brown trout in my fishery in England. Unfortunately I can't be over there due to COVID.

It was full of midge pupa. Most were still alive. If he wanted he could have hatched them.



Richard's hook size 20 flies



Andy's friend Richard with a brown trout he caught on the UK's Latimer Lake.

Anyway, I can't go there, but I can look at pictures from earlier days.



*Cheers,
Andy*



Robert Fischer: Fly-Fishing Tournaments

I don't like them. Then I do



Robert Fisher. Cobia on the Fly

Fishing tournaments have been an important part of the fishing industry for many decades. There are all kinds and sizes; some are multi- month long and involve 20 different species and some are only a few hours and involve one or two species.

I've fished many of them over the past few decades and I don't like them much but sometimes I do. Like any type of competition, it can bring out the best or the worst of people and that's what makes it or breaks it for me. Now I know that exaggeration and stretching the truth is an inherent part of most fish stories and that's OK. I've never been one to let the truth stand in the way of a good story! But in a

tournament stretching the truth (or down right cheating), aggression, and rudeness are not acceptable. And big prizes or big glory seem to push some folks into doing things that they shouldn't. That's the part I don't like.

The part I do like is the getting together with friends, or meeting new people with similar interests and spending a day on the water with them. And there is always the possibility that if you have a really good day, you could win a prize of some type. The Sarasota CCA All Release Tournament and the Tampa Bay Big Gun are like this. They usually have 15 or 20 people in the fly division and the targets are redfish, trout and snook. I've fished this event for many years now and there are some people from that area that I only see once a year. But we remember each other and it's great to get together with them for FRIENDLY competition and a meal. Sometimes they will even share some of their knowledge after the tournament is over, but don't put a lot of store in that (they could be pulling your leg!)

I also do a couple of invitation-only tournaments (Suwannee and Wacasassa) with some guys I've known for

20 years. Those events are nice because there is a lot of trash talking and good natured harassment and lying going on. But we all know each other well, and not much is taken seriously. Plus we each put ten dollars into a pot and it's fun to take their money.



Robert with a bonefish caught on a trip to cuba.

So like most things, it can be good or bad and a lot of it depends on the people involved. I've got to say that the people I've met fly fishing all seem to be of the good variety. So if you get the opportunity to fish some tournaments please do it. It's always another good excuse to get on the water.

Robert

Tim Gibian: Smallmouth bass. Juniata River near Harrisburg

This is a 19" smallmouth bass I caught on a streamer called a shimmering minnow, a design created by our guide, Brian Shumaker of [Susquehanna River Guides](#).

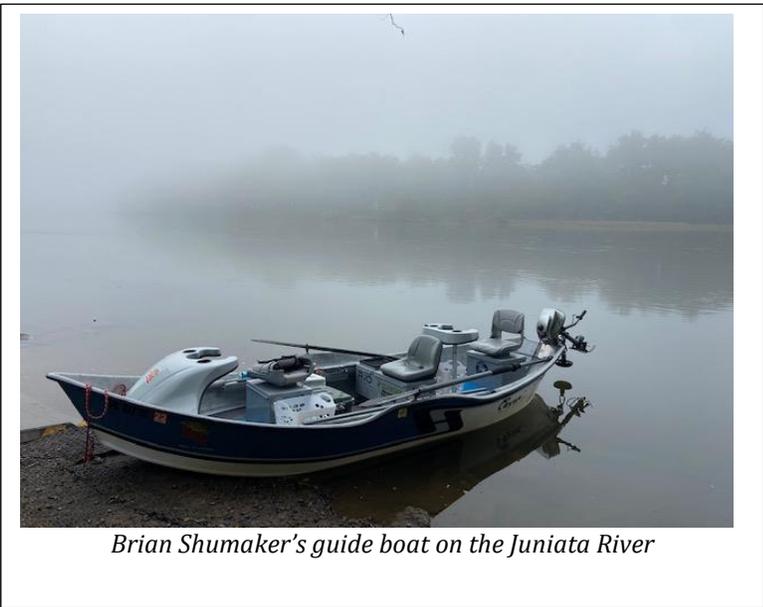
We fished the Juniata River near Harrisburg for two days, all with streamers and some crayfish patterns.

The weather was generally sunny with some fog the second morning. The flows were high from the remnants of Hurricane Ida but very manageable.

Brian is an excellent guide who got us on fish both days. This one was a certifiable tank.



Tim Gibian with a huge smallmouth – “a certifiable tank” -- on a Shumaker Shimmering Minnow fly.



Brian Shumaker's guide boat on the Juniata River



Shumaker's Shimmering Minnow

Tim

Troy Dillman and BethAnn Bologna: Fly Fishing North Carolina



Troy with a rainbow on NC's Upper Nantahala River

We're back from our trip on the Upper Nantahala River in North Carolina. We caught rainbows, browns, and brook trout.



Beautiful North Carolina Brown



Troy and BethAnn take a break from fly fishing the Upper Nantahala



BethAnn with a Nantahala brown

Troy and BethAnn

Gary Sundberg and Son: DIY Fly Fishing in Colorado

My son Andy and I took a short trip to Colorado from August 29 to September 3. We had a wonderful trip. No guide, just a map, and a sense of adventure! We did a loop, flying into Denver fishing Deckers, The Dream Stream, 11 Mile Canyon, and The Frying Pan. All of the water except The Dream Stream was tailwater averaging 40-45 degrees.

Deckers, a small dot of a town, has big fat rainbows that respond to both dry flies and nymphs.



Gary fly fishes Eleven-Mile-Canyon.



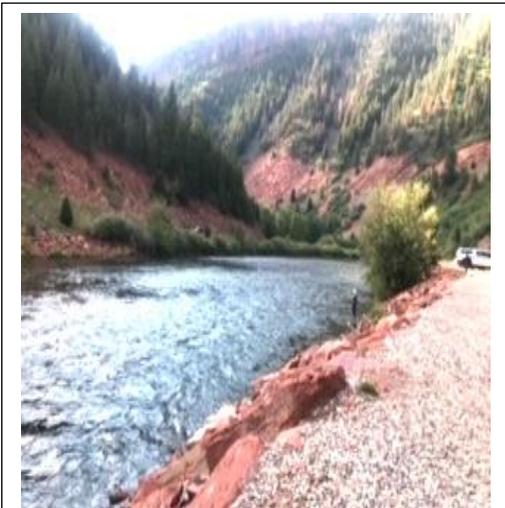
Andy shows off a nice brown trout on Eleven Mile Canyon.

The Dream Stream, technically a tailwater, flows about 2 miles through a huge meadow and sadly warmed from 45 degrees to 68 degrees very quickly and was unfishable. We got a few small browns but the warm water moved us off this fishery.

Eleven Mile Canyon was a beautiful stretch of water where 14"-16" browns and rainbows were abundant. Lots of climbing to get back up to the road from the river. Once in a while we looked up to enjoy the scenery!

The Frying Pan is a wide cold river that starts at Ruedi Reservoir. Very popular and busy even though it was a weekday. Lots of guides with clients from Denver and Aspen that are first timers. Dry Fly fishing is the ticket here. But finding the right fly was daunting. We went through about 16 flies before *YES* occurred. Sadly I had only two of that pattern, a peach and white size 16 dry fly, and after catching about 10 fish the fly was toast. On top of that my wader booties started to leak and after a few hours of 40-degree water my feet were ice blocks. But that didn't stop me from fishing.

We had a great time. It was late in summer so crowds were thin(ner), but the fish were wary and often came up to look before turning away from the fly. Even when they took the fly it was painfully slow



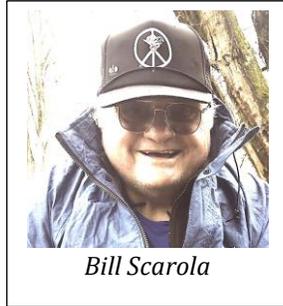
This is "The Flat" at Ruedi Reservoir on the Fryingpan River. It's well known for its red canyon walls



Pretty 20-plus-inch brown. It had a brilliant red adipose fin that is only found on Fryingpan River brown trout.

Gary

Bill Scarola: The Bill & Bruce Squirrel Tail Fly



This is Bruce Evenson's creation but I put a couple of my own twists on it.

Bill



Materials

Hook: Size 4, 6, 8. Fresh water hook or B10 stingers

Tail: Squirrel tail

Body: Peacock herl, palmered. And/or gold braid or gold tinsel

Eyes: Small or medium bead chain

Glue: Super Glue and/or UV epoxy

Thread: Flat waxed, tan or white

Tying Sequence

Step 1: Thread wrap shank from eye to bend

Step 2: Tie in a clump of squirrel tail just in front of the bend. Allow for 2x hook length, be sure to pull the scruff hairs from the bunch before tying in.

Step 3: Attach bead chain eyes just behind hook eye

Step 4: Add 3-4 strands of Peacock herl, start at the hook bend and palmer forward to the bead chain eyes. Be sure to bring thread forward before palmering the herl.

Step 4 alternate body: Wrap gold braid from bend to eyes, then cover with a thin layer of UV epoxy. as shown.

Step 5 Whip finish the hurl and apply a drop or two of head cement (Super Glue, etc.)

Jokes of the day

- Why is it a bad idea to work for elephants?
Answer: They pay peanuts!
- Two Eskimos were fishing on a very cold day. They lit a fire in the bottom of the kayak to warm up, and the fire burned a hole in the kayak and it sank.
The moral of the story is...You can't have your kayak and heat it too!

###

Smitty's Fly Box: Vlady Worm Fly

Vladimer's Worm



Warning:
Some content may not be suitable for all audiences. Viewer discretion advised.

Some years ago at a fly fishing conclave in Louisiana I watched a guy tie this fly. He told me he had been fly fishing in Eastern Europe his guide –



“Vlady” -- told him condoms made great tying material. This is a proven panfish fly, especially when they're hunkered down and won't come to the surface to eat your spider fly.

Smitty

Materials:

Hook: Daiichi 1870 Swimming Larva Size 6

Weight: .025 Round Lead Wire (optional: use small strip of foam for a suspended variation)

Thread: Pink 210 Danville

Ribbing: 4x Monofilament

Flash: Pearl Magic Shrimp Foil

Body: Pink Crown Latex Condom

Tying sequence



Step 1: Place hook into your vice and wrap two layers of lead wire at the back hook bend. (**Optional:** Tie in a thin strip of closed cell foam and wrap around hook to imitate the hump portion to create a suspending version of the Vladi Worm.)



Step 2: Start your thread at the front of the hook and continue to wrap over all the lead wire so that there is a nice thread layer down.

Continued on next page

P/2 Smitty's Fly Box: Vlady Worm Fly



Step 3: Tie in your monofilament, shrimp foil, and latex material. When working with the condom, start with one condom and then cut it in half. Take one of those halves and cut it in half again. You can use one condom to make four Vlady Worms.



Step 4: Take your tying thread to the front of the hook. Begin wrapping your latex up to the front of the hook. When you get there, take two thread wraps around the latex. Then wrap the latex all the way to the back of the hook again.



Step 5: Pull your shrimp foil forward and secure at the front of the hook.



Step 6: Wrap the latex material back to the front of the hook one last time, covering the shrimp foil. Secure latex at the front of the hook. Cut off excess, latex and shrimp foil.



Step 7: Take your monofilament and begin wrapping the ribbing all the way to the front of the hook. Try and pull pretty tight on the mono to create the ribbing effect. Secure at front, clip excess, and take a few whip finishes to finish! Tie up a bunch and go fishing!

Capt. Pat Damico: Captains Corner



Be patient: Watch that great blue heron.

Successful shallow water fly fishing depends on a variety of factors. Find fish, don't spook them, make a good presentation, and use the proper fly would certainly be high on the list.

By changing a few words this can apply to fishing with conventional tackle especially when using artificials. Could you rank them in order of importance? It is obvious that if we can't find fish, our venture will be a failure. A poor presentation may catch a few, making this important.

What fly we use is often the primary interest especially of the inexperienced angler. After listening to you talk about a successful trip, the question is always, "Yes, but what fly were you using?"

In clear shallow water where the fish can often be seen why do they stop feeding and seem indifferent to our attempts to catch them? Is it possible that scaring the fish might be the most important issue? How

many times have you seen feeding snook and redfish in the shallows and never caught one? They will scoot into deeper water to avoid you, or move as you approach, staying outside of casting range. Even if you reach them your attempts will be ignored.

Watch a heron catch his next meal; duplicate his patience and stealth and watch your success improve.

Captain Pat

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

Pat Damico Fly Fishing Lesson

Always let the bear have her way

October 2

I had a slight delay getting to my fishing stream today.

Pat



Fotos, Fillers & Funnies

Carl Hanson: His legacy will go on.

Hanson, St. Petersburg flyf

The Godfather of flyfishing in Tampa Bay is dead. But his legacy will go on.

Carl Hanson passed away last Sunday at his home in St. Petersburg, the same little house where he taught thousands of anglers to fly cast and tie flies over four decades of free Tuesday night seminars.



Frank Sargeant

OUTDOORS

Hanson, who looked like Santa Claus but talked like the tough old ship-fitter he was, was 84. He left behind wife Esther, who plans to carry on the Tuesday night traditions with open houses and free instruction as long as there are interested anglers, and his 13-year-old Pomeranian, Bear, who has been taking his sudden absence rather hard.

Hanson was a messiah of flyfishing

long before it became the yuppie sport it is today. He was initially a freshwater angler, and loved chasing panfish with top-water bugs, though he became a saltwater flyrodder in his later years and devised what is probably the most famous of all flies for Spanish mackerel, the Carl Hanson Glass Minnow.

Donations to help Esther maintain the seminars, or simply to help her over this rough spot, can be sent to 217 54th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33707. The seminars are held at the same location at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

Jig is up: Last weekend's jig fishing tournament title, out of Miller's Marine at Boca Grande, went to Tampa resident **Jack McGaughey** of Jack's Interbay Marine, who admits he was mostly just out to try out his new 21 Maverick. With partners **Hamilton Hunt** and **Bill Beach** of Plant City, he was fortunate enough to bring a 145-pounder to the boat. The anglers won more than \$8,000.

Catch-and-Keep Your Bluegills



Lemon-Fried Bluegill. H/T Layne Smith

1 cup flour, 2 tsp. lemon peel, ½ tsp. salt, ¼ tsp. pepper, 1 cup water, peanut oil (for frying), 1½ lb. bluegill flour (for coating). Blend flour, lemon peel, salt and pepper. Add water. Chill for 30 minutes. Heat 2" of oil in a fryer to 375°. Coat fish in flour. Dip in batter ... Fry for 3 minutes. ffnj.com

Does your skiff need more power?



Your editor at the IbeX trade show in Tampa Mercury showed off its new 600-hp outboard.

Once a fly fisher...



*...always a fly fisher.
(H/T Bob Hood)*

Funnies from... guess who?

- Just remember if at first you don't succeed... skydiving is not for you!!
- Change is inevitable...
....except from a vending machine!!!

Bill Scarola

Bill Aucoin: Flyfisher Flyover

Are you up to date on Florida's freshwater fishing regs? Well, our outing Saturday is on the Hillsborough River so it's a good time to bone up on the rules. And, while you're at it, absorb some interesting factoids about Florida's freshwater fishery. Like, Florida has about three million acres of lakes, ponds and reservoirs... PLUS...12,000 miles of fishable rivers, streams, and canals. ([MYFWC](#))



And are you up to date on Florida's saltwater fishing regs? The FWC commissioners met this month and removed the block on keeping redfish and snook caught in the Tampa Bay area. But it's still catch-and-release only for snook and redfish from State Road 64 in Manatee County to the other side of Gordon Pass south of Naples. ([MYFWC](#))

Chris O'Byrne will be on our October meeting panel. He knows freshwater fly fishing. Here's a recent slice from his website. "The fish responded to a slight cool down, and topwater flies like sprogs or subsurface flies like hares ear nymphs and bead head soft hackles attracted solid strikes." ([Featherwater](#))

Can you cast 100 feet? It's easier than you think, says Louis Cahill. It's a good time for us to work on it. The Big Gun Shootout is November 18 at Picnic Island Park. Until then our club's Quin Berry is setting up accuracy and distance targets Tuesday and Thursday afternoon at Walter Fuller Park. ([Gink and Gasoline](#))

Cortland's All Clear. – I see that Andy Mill likes to fish Cortland's Ghost line for tarpon. Cortland now sells a that is clear 100 feet from one end to the other and available from 8 to 13 weight. I'm rigged and ready on my 8-weight rod to give it a workout on the flats and docklights, too. ([Cortland Line Company](#))

Is the Clouser the best fly in the history of fly fishing? – I don't know but it sure got a swell of credibility and exposure with endorsements by stars like Lefty Kreh and Flip Pallot. But there are those among us – is that you, Tim Elms? – who vigorously disagree. Maybe we need to have a *Clouser-Versus-a Not-a-Clouser Fly* tournament to try to settle this matter once and for all. Just saying. ([Angler's Journal](#))

How to tie the Clouser minnow. Clear, easy-to-follow instructions. I like the comments. Here's one..."I have caught some of my biggest Bonefish on a pink Clouser. My number one searching/deep water pattern on the flats." ([Deneki Outdoors](#))

Fly Girl loves the Clouser. She says that fly fishing purists say they don't like the Clouser but that they probably tie one on from time to time when nobody's looking. ([Women's Outdoor News](#))

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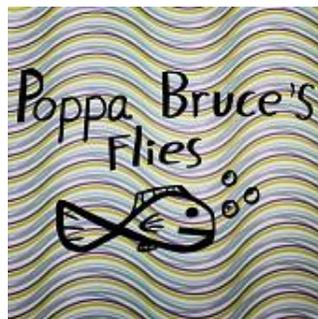


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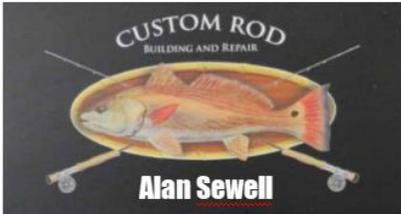


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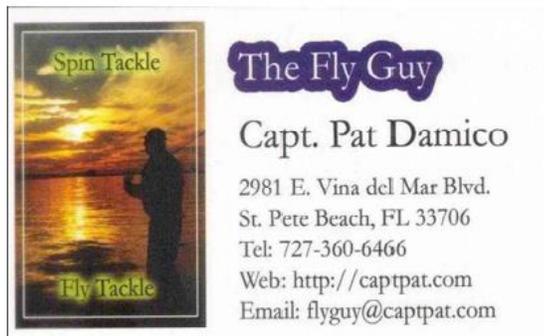
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