

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

Capt. Ray Markham
Nov. 18 Speaker



Carl Hanson Outing P6



Mayfly Project St. Pete P10



Fischer's Bowfin P6



Fly of the Month P12



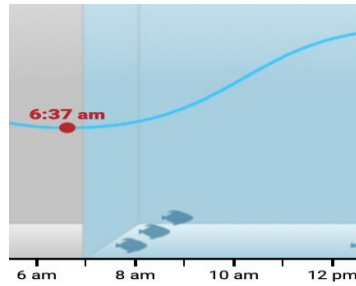
Smitty's Electric Bunny P13



November 20 outing P7
War Vets Memorial
Park



November 20 Tides P7



Ugly Sweater Potluck P4





Letter From the President November 2021

Last month we decided to return to in-person meetings and events. Maybe some of you didn't get the message. **We're Back!**

This month our member meeting is back at Walter Fuller Rec Center. Our featured speaker is Capitan Ray Markham. Ray is one of the area's best guides and longtime member of SFF. Ray and Bill AuCoin are planning to pre-fish the outing location at Boca Ciega Bay and War Veterans Memorial Park. You can expect Ray to share his wealth of knowledge on the local saltwater fly fishing scene and get the inside scoop on fishing the next outing on Saturday. Before the meeting, look forward to meeting old friends, learning new fly-tying secrets and chatting with the areas friendliest fly fishers. Take a chance at our raffle. We are trying something new. It will be a bucket raffle format. You choose the bucket you want to win and drop your lucky ticket. This is also a good opportunity to renew your membership. We take cash, check and credit card. You can even renew online.

November is our last member meeting of the year, but it is not our last event. December 11th is our holiday party. Our inaugural event was two years ago and it was a great time for all. The secret Santa gift exchange and ugly sweater contest provided lots of laughs and the food was outstanding. I hope all our members and guests can join us for this terrific event. December is our Don Coleman memorial outing at Ft. DeSoto. We will be joined by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and the Mangrove Coast Club, for a friendly fishing competition and the perennial favorite chili cookoff.

In January we will host a fly-casting clinic presented by a team of experts. Casting is the essence of fly fishing. Not only is it an essential skill that will help you catch more fish but casting a fly rod brings joy and satisfaction that goes beyond just fishing. January will also bring the return of our popular Trash and Treasure auction. This is always an entertaining event. If you have too much gear and want to get rid of some of it, this is your chance. If you have too much gear and still want more, this is also your chance. Auctioneer Alan Sewel will help their trash become your treasure.

Please join us for all of our upcoming events. If you are new to the club, you will find us to be open and welcoming to new members. If you are a member and haven't been to a meeting for a while, we would like to see you again.

Stay safe and keep fishing!

Rick Warfel
SFF President

Rick

Rick Warfel, SFF President

Meetings, Outings, and More

Thursday, November 18-meeting



Capt. Ray Markham

- Meet up at the Rec Center at Walter Fuller Park in St. Pete before 7.
- Presentation: To help us prep for the November outing, long time member Capt. Ray Markham will share his insights.
- Come a little early for a snack and a cup of coffee.
- The post-meeting raffle table is going to be jammed with goodies.
- This is our last meeting of the year and President Rick Warfel will be covering a lot of details about future club activities. Think holiday party, December outing and chili cookoff at Fort DeSoto Park, January Trash 'n' Treasures meeting, upcoming election for new officers and board, Hog Roast, and more.

Saturday, November 20 Outing: War Veterans Memorial Park on Bay Pines Blvd.

- Noon picnic lunch at Pavilion #4. Coffee will be ready before that.
- Wade fishers are meeting up at Pavilion 4 when the park opens at 7 am. It's a short walk to the water.
- Kayakers can launch at the official kayak launching site or at the beach near Pavilion 4.
- Power boaters can launch at the boat ramp at the entrance to the park.

Monday, November 15 Tie flies at Bruce Evensen's garage studio – In person

- Fly tiers can meet up in person every Monday and follow step by steps by Bruce and Bill Scarola.
- Meet up at 6 pm at 531 80th Avenue N in St. Pete. There's room for the first 16 tiers. Email Bill Scarola if you want to attend. You'll be tying the Red Rouser, fly of the month at the Nov. 15 session.

Big Gun Shootout Practice

- 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. Email him (qberry35@live.com) or 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.

- Our club needs a place to store banners, auction items, etc.. It's going to take an 8 X10-foot space or more. Can you help? Email Rick Warfel at rh_warfel@yahoo.com

Norm Sande has died

- Many Suncoast Fly Fishers remember Norm who was an active member of our club for many years. [Obituary](#)

Meetings, Outings, and More

Looking ahead

- November 18: Meeting. Speaker, Capt. Ray Markham.
- November 20: Outing. Boca Ciega Bay. Picnic at Pavilion #4 at War Vets Memorial Park.
- November 21: Big Gun Shootout at Tampa's Picnic Island Park.
- December 11: SFF Ugly Sweater Pot Luck Holiday party, Most Holy Name of Jesus, 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. It's free for FFI members. You can join or renew your membership at the clinic.
- January 8: Ritz Carlton Outfitters Day, Orlando.
- January 20, 2022. Trash 'n' Treasures meeting in person..
- January 22, 2022: Outing, Weedon Island Preserve.
- February 19, 2022. Outing, Fort DeSoto Park .
- March 19. Hog Roast. Chairperson needed.

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 longest fly cast.
- Exhibitors include Cortland Line company, Echo Fly Fishing, G. Loomis, Rio Fly Line, Sage Rods, Waterworks Lamson, Shimano, and many more.

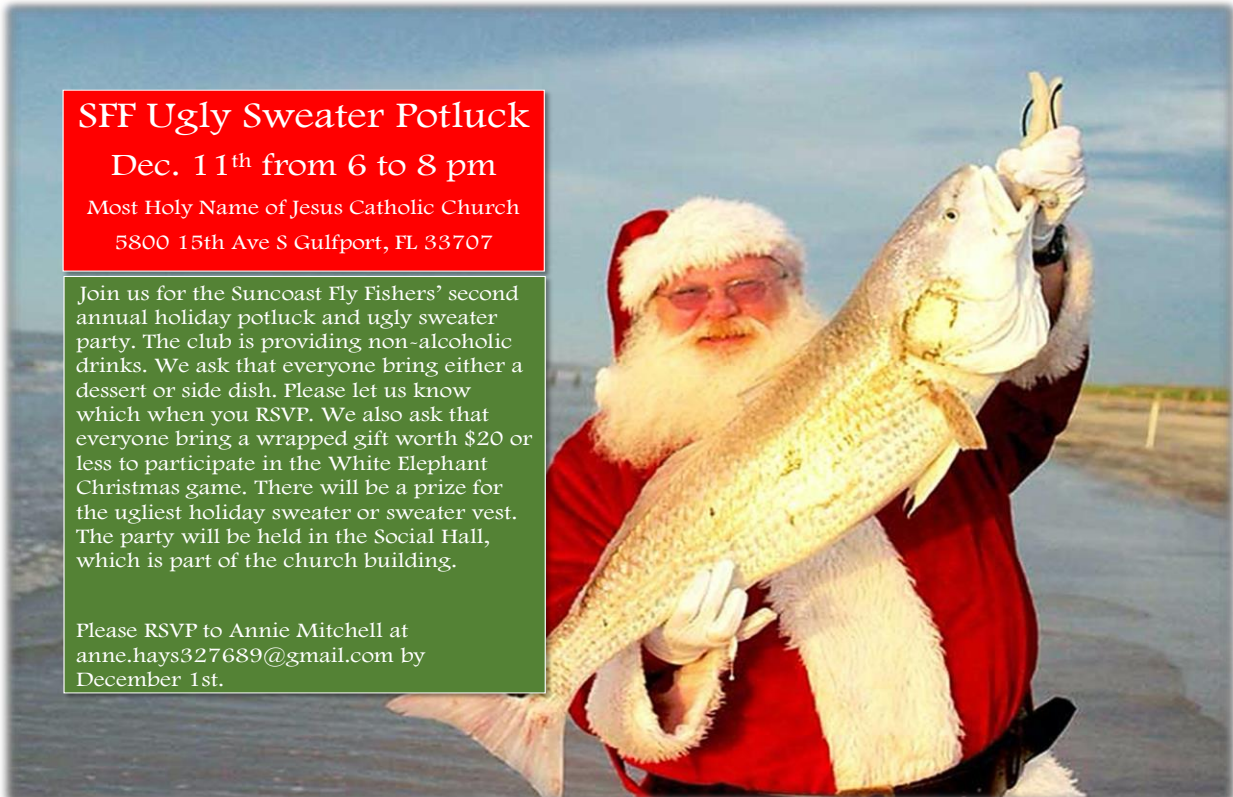
SFF Ugly Sweater Potluck

Dec. 11th from 6 to 8 pm

Most Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church
5800 15th Ave S Gulfport, FL 33707

Join us for the Suncoast Fly Fishers' second annual holiday potluck and ugly sweater party. The club is providing non-alcoholic drinks. We ask that everyone bring either a dessert or side dish. Please let us know which when you RSVP. We also ask that everyone bring a wrapped gift worth \$20 or less to participate in the White Elephant Christmas game. There will be a prize for the ugliest holiday sweater or sweater vest. The party will be held in the Social Hall, which is part of the church building.

Please RSVP to Annie Mitchell at anne.hays327689@gmail.com by December 1st.



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. Dues are due.

Suncoast Fly Fishers now has 144 members including 17 family members and 6 honorary members. Annual dues for fiscal 2021-2022 are payable now. Dues are \$50 (for individuals, \$40 for seniors, and \$60 for families. It includes benefits and annual membership in [Fly Fishers International](#) and the [Florida Council](#) of Fly Fishers International.

Welcome new members... Tom Martin, 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: October 23 – Hillsborough River



There were three winners at this year's Carl Hanson Memorial outing on the Hillsborough River out of Temple Terrace. This is our annual competition between the St. Pete and Tampa fly fishing clubs.

One, Karen Warfel caught 39 panfish (mostly on Smitty's Crystal Beetle) so she gets her name on the trophy. So, officially, the Suncoast Fly Fishers won the annual competition for this category. Second place goes to David Redd who caught 31 bluegills.



*Hillsborough River outing awards.
Chris O'Byrne photo*



Getting ready. Alan Sewell brought four kayaks to help the cause.

Chris O'Byrne photo

Two. Robert Fischer caught a 25-inch bowfin and he gets to keep the Carl Hanson artwork for a year. He belongs to both clubs so both clubs get to share that glow. His one-weight rod was almost overwhelmed. Read all about it below.

And three, Denise Bruner of the Tampa club, the hosting club, won the new award -- *Best Homemade Ginger Cookies in the World*. She brought them to the lunch. Smiles all around.



First in line. That's Wayne Shriver wheeling his tricked-out 'yak into the Hillsborough River.

Editor's note: Catching that bowfin was a big deal. Robert Fischer caught it on a one-weight rod. Here's the story.
Ugly. Spectacular. Memorable



*Robert Fischer and his 25-inch bowfin, the longest fish of the day.
Bill Scarola photo*

Because the fish on the Hillsborough River tend to be small, my one-weight Temple Fork Finesse rod was what was being used. Experimenting with some different flies (Smitty's sponge spider or crystal beetle are the go to flies here) I decided to use the notorious mop fly; notorious because some people don't consider it a fly at all. Don't know why; looks like a caterpillar to me? Anyway it wasn't working very well. The small fish were just biting the tail and the hook was in the front end. Then suddenly a good solid strike and the fish ran like a freight train to the middle of the river dragging my kayak. The poor little one weight fly rod was totally overwhelmed and most of the fight was with the first two feet of rod above the reel or from the reel directly. Bill Scarola was nearby and came over to lend some help. The fish ran back and forth to the bank and the middle of the river. After about ten minutes it tired out and allowed itself to be lifted into the kayak. Man, what an ugly fish it is but it did put up a spectacular fight. Then it went nuts and slimed the whole inside of the boat. Bill took some photos and a measurement and the fish was released. Yep, ugly and spectacular and very memorable.



The Notorious Mop Fly

Robert

Bob Burkard: November 20 Outing—Boca Ciega Bay

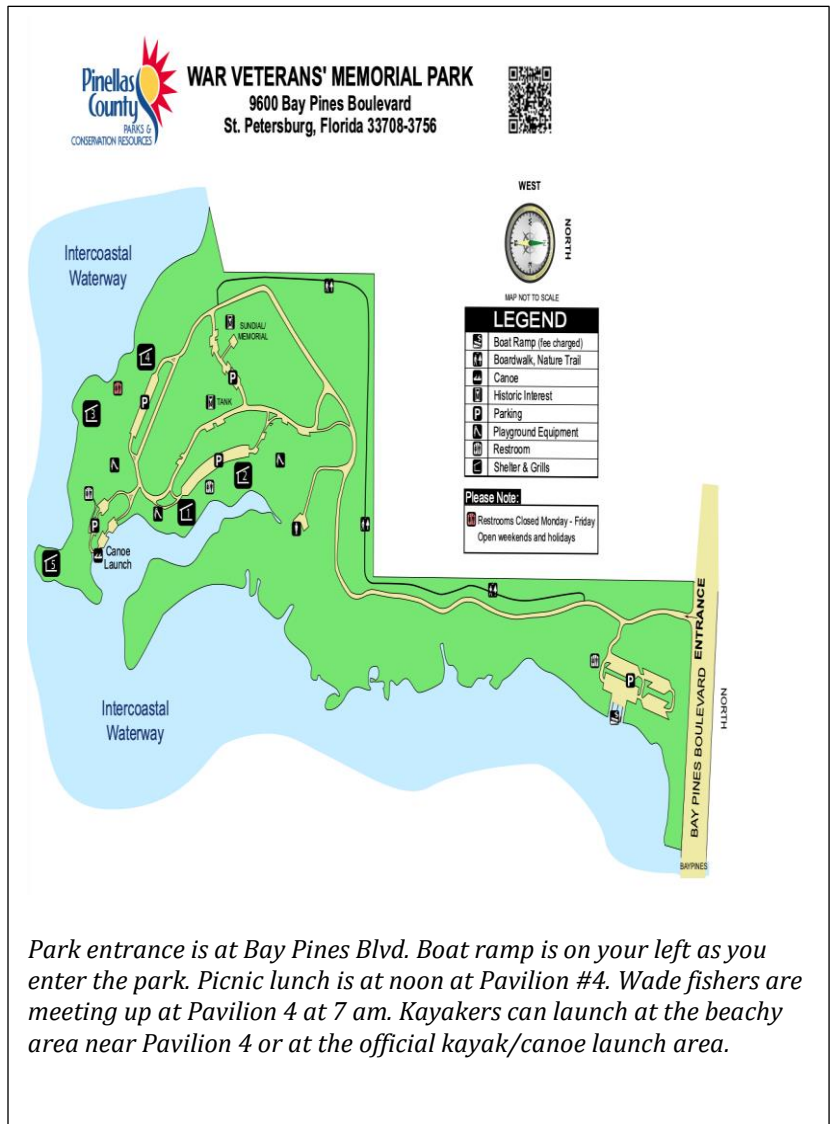
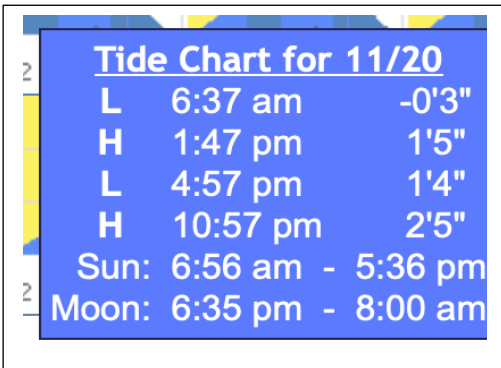
We'll be fly fishing Boca Ciega Bay Saturday, November 20. There's a nice incoming tide that looks favorable for catching, not just fishing.

Fly fish anywhere in Boca Ciega Bay north of Treasure Island Causeway, including Long Bayou and Cross Bayou.

Ten dollar gift certificates to Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure will be awarded to the anglers catching the longest snook and longest ladyfish. Remember: measure your long fish. Take pictures!

Wade fishers can meet up and join me and Bill AuCoin at Pavilion 4 at 7 am.

At noon everybody will meet up for the picnic lunch at Pavilion 4. This will be our first picnic lunch in many months. WooHoo.



Park entrance is at Bay Pines Blvd. Boat ramp is on your left as you enter the park. Picnic lunch is at noon at Pavilion #4. Wade fishers are meeting up at Pavilion 4 at 7 am. Kayakers can launch at the beachy area near Pavilion 4 or at the official kayak/canoe launch area.

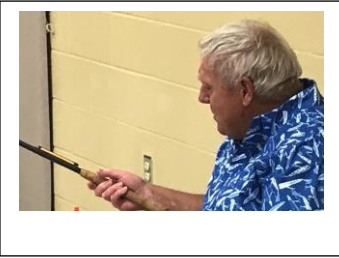
Leaders on the 2021 Outing Tournament Trail

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)

Bill AuCoin: October meeting, Hillsborough River Panel

Finally, after months of Zoom meetings, our club is meeting in person again. Well, yeah. Covid infections are dropping like a heavy Clouser plus it's a lot more fun to meet in person. And, we quickly got down to business. Four of our best freshwater fly fishers shared their secrets for fishing the annual Carl Hanson Outing on the Hillsborough River. Their advice will be good for the next Carl Hanson outing in October 2022 and any time we're fishing the fresh.

Alan Sewell



Alan has 50 fly rods, give or take a few, but for fishing the Hillsborough River he highly recommends one of these three rods for throwing little top-waters, gold spoon, and Smitty's worm toward the bluegills.

1. Tenkara (no reel needed).
2. A supple 6 ½-foot Eagle Claw fiberglass rod. (A bluegill bends it in half.)
3. Six-foot TFO 2-weight rod.

Robert Fischer



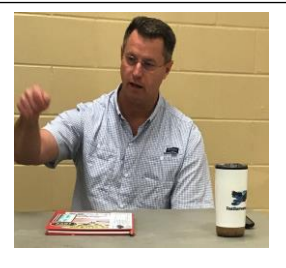
The Hillsborough River outing is the perfect place to use your bamboo rod or an old soft-action rod. 3-weight anyone? Unhook those bluegills quickly so you can get your fly back on the water. You'll hook more bluegills if you throw a dropper fly but – warning – you could get some tangled line.

Cliff Nigh



Mr. Bamboo Rod himself likes a 6-foot 8-inch 3-weight. It'll handle every bluegill fly you've got, including a tandem dropper rig with a caddis and put a nice bend in the rod, too. Cliff had another terrific insight. "Think like a fish. A fish is not going to swim too far and burn more calories than the insect it's eating." Cliff calls himself "the nut" who likes using trout flies on bream. So, drop that olive/tan caddis right where the bream are, like, yeah, that residential dock!

Chris O'Byrne



Chris is a two-fer fly fisher; that is, bring two fly rods. One, an 8-weight, for throwing those big poppers and frogs. Two, his 3-weight Orvis for casting wooly buggers, etc. When you're catching bluegill, stick with the 3 weight. It's awesome. But when you're in bass territory, like a tree knockdown, switch to the 9-foot, 8-weight. It'll handle those hairy, waterlogged frogs. For an extra reward he ties some of his flies with his dog's hair. Well, actually, it's his daughter's dog. Please don't tell anybody.

Tim Elms: It's not all fun and games



Humble Fish Pie

Howdy! About 30 days a year I find my fishing game to go to absolute 0. Sometimes this decline is gradual over a few months but other times it falls face first into the abyss.

I don't know how I do it, but it's a lonely descent with others near you not having the same misfortunes. For example: My cast this month has been complete garbage, Snook have been looking at me like I have no clue what to do. I tend to rush everything and end up breaking things. Especially my fishing ego. After all it's the beginning of pie season!

The time change doesn't help either as I wake up early and realize I'm late to the start of the day.
EEEEEEERRRRRRRR

Just like anything in life. The pendulum swings and when we are down and out it seems like we can't catch a break (or even a Ladyfish). 2020 and 2021 have been a challenge for most of us and of course now we are in the Holiday season with that big one coming up, which reminds us that we need to be thankful for everything and everyone around us. I must remind myself that Fly fishing is no different. I too get frustrated with our idiotic "sport". Its not all fun and games, and it's definitely not all Facebook and Instagrams.

With the lower day time tides, winds out of the north (especially on weekends for some reason) I think I will not make the mistake to go out when I am already frustrated. A happy fisher is a better fisher. Taking the time to appreciate the surroundings usually cools my attitude and just reminds me to slow down and smell the mullet. If that doesn't help; maybe I just need a little break from it. Sometimes just a step to the side and not a step back can clean out the funk. When I am ready I will get back to crushing it. I know those tripletails are coming back in so this funk better not take long! Hahaha.



Just remember, we all go through a funk with fly-fishing. It's not easy. In fact it makes completely no sense most of the time in salt water to fly fish. But what the heck, we still loooooove doing it and it makes that accomplishment even more rewarding when it all comes together.

Strip Strip Strip!!!—Tim

Jack Collins: Mayfly Project Underway in St. Petersburg

Suncoast Fly Fishers was contacted about *The Mayfly Project* before Covid 19 hit the country in 2019. Scott Russell pulled together a group of volunteers from our club to run the program to work with foster kids from homes in the St. Petersburg area. Now that Scott has pulled together the strings we've kicked-off a series of weekend meetings.



The Mission of The Mayfly Project is to support children in foster care through fly fishing and introduce them to their local water ecosystems. The goal is to connect them to a rewarding hobby that lets foster children have fun, build confidence, and develop a meaningful connection with the outdoors.

The Mayfly organization provided the basic equipment, rods, reels with line and a very thorough curriculum. Our first couple meetings were sessions of fly tying, casting practice and relationship building. These meetings let us get comfortable with each other and have some fun before hitting the water.

Mr. Brian led the first casting lesson demonstrating the casting stroke with one of our pool noodles. The kids had fun with the noodles but really embraced the wet paintbrush exercise when they were allowed to get their mentor wet while practicing the casting stroke.

After pool noodles the kids graduated to casting on the lawn with their outfits. Rainbow casts followed by whipping and tangles slowly progressed into modest casts and smiles. Now our students were ready for the water.



The Mayfly Project is a 501(c)(3) national organization that uses fly fishing as a catalyst to mentor and support children in foster care.



Mr. Brian's casting lesson



With some experience under our belts, our second outing was a visit to Fort DeSoto Park for a taste of saltwater. We started with our feet in the water and exciting anticipation. After some fishless casts the group circled up to help pull the seine net through some fishy water.

Continued on next page.

P2/Jack Collins: Mayfly Project St. Petersburg



Wade fishing at Fort De Soto Park

Returning to shore the net was laid out for exploration. Everyone pitched in to gather the sea creatures that had been scooped from the shallows of the marine sanctuary. The squealing kids gathered around the lively net of jumping grass shrimp, scrambling green crabs, and flipping silver-sided juvenile fish. A bucket became a temporary sea-quarium of marine life. After examining the bucket full of life, our temporary collection was set free while we headed for lunch and an end to our salty day.

The third outing was a lake in St. Pete. With rods in hand and mentors

by their sides excitement grew with a chance at their first fish. Mentors provided technical support and encouragement as casting commenced. The sun rose and temperatures warmed quickly causing the fish to seemingly go to sleep and the kids to slow. Our work was rewarded with a delicious barbeque lunch in the shade and a welcome break with cool drinks, sweets, and smiles.

Our final outing was cool and breezy. We did manage to catch a couple of fish thanks to patience and persistence of both mentors and fly fishers in training. We held this one out just long enough to get a closer look.



After lunch Mr. Scott read tips from the Mayfly curriculum on knots, equipment, and fishing etiquette.



The mentor crew: Tim Elms, Jack Collins, Jim Williams, Brian Clark, Scott Russell, James Davis and, not in the picture, Bill Holden. The team also wants to give a big thank you to Christie Russell and the entire Russell family for keeping us fed and organized at each outing. A special thanks, also, to Idlewild Church for loaning us a tram to shuttle us to and fro.

After a chilly morning we returned to our classroom for lunch of pizza and salad which was followed by a graduation cookie cake. The final activity was the award ceremony. Each graduate was recognized for their unique qualities that they demonstrated during our time together.

Jack

Bill Scarola: Red Rouser and Golden Kwan



Bill Scarola

Meet up with other club members and tie two flies with Bill and Bruce Evensen on Monday, November 15. Bruce's fly tying studio is 6 pm at 531 80th Avenue N in St. Pete. Below is the Red Rouser pattern, great fly for reds, trout, snook, ladies, etc. and a good fly to cast at our November outing at War Veterans Memorial Park. You'll also tie the Golden Kwan fly.

Bill



Red Rouser, Fly of the Month

Materials

Hook: Size 1,1/0, 2, or 2/0 B-10 stingers or 3407s
Eyes: Medium bead chain or barbell eyes if you prefer more weight
Tail/body: Orange and/or burnt orange bucktail
Body Front: Medium Estaz or Chenille in orange or root-beer
Thread: Flat waxed, orange or brown
Marker: Black or brown
Flash: Gold Krystal Flash
Legs: Barred orange and brown Silly legs
Glue: Super Glue and/or UV epoxy

Red Rouser Steps

- 1: Wrap hook shank with thread from eye to bend.
- 2: Tie on your bead chain eyes just behind hook eye (Clouser style).
- 3: Add a medium batch of bucktail in front of the bend. Length 1-1/2 X shank .
- 4: Use your marker to put on a 3 or 5 (odd number) of vertical stripes on the bucktail.
- 5: Add two barred orange and two brown Silly legs a head of the bucktail on each side.
(Note: you can use long Silly legs and double them up so there are both colors on each side.)
- 6: Add several strands of gold flash on top of the Silly legs.
- 7: Attach your Estaz or Chenille in front of the bucktail, on top of the Silly legs and flash, and palmer it forward to the eyes then tie it off.
(Note: once you tie in the Chenille or Estaz, bring your thread forward before you palmer it to the hook eye.
- 8: Add a bit of glue or epoxy to secure the thread and eyes.



Golden Kwan

Golden Kwan Materials

Hook- 34007 size 4, or similar
Tail- Extra select craft fur in tan
Body- EP minnow brush, 1.5" (shrimp tail), or tan estaz.
Eyes- Medium brass bead chain
Marker- Brown
Thread- Tan, flat waxed
Glue- super glue

Jokes of the day

- I hear there are some *fish-ous* rumors that these fish puns aren't real! I assure you they are *o-fish-al* !!!
- I've been *herring* rumors that we need *mor-ay* puns.
- I do them just for the *halibut*!
- *Opah-lease*, *cod* I get an amen.

Now stop *flounder-ing* around and go fishing!

###

Smitty's Fly Box: Electric Bunny



I recommend tying this fly in two different color schemes. It's a great fly for "nosey" reds as they try to "sniff out" their prey while tailing. You can crawl it over the bottom or retrieve it with short strips. ... Good Luck !

Smitty



Tie it brown and rusty



Tie it white and chartreuse

Materials:

Hook: Gamakatsu SL12 S #2 to 2/0

Thread: Danville's Flatwaxed Nylon (to match body color)

Eyes: Medium to heavy Stainless Steel bead chain

Tail: Magnum zonker rabbit strip (rust or white) same length as hook shank

Legs: Silicone legs (brown w/ orange glitter or clear pearl w/ silver glitter)

Body: Estaz (root beer or chartreuse)

Finish: Solarez UV Resin

Directions:

1. Start thread just behind hook eye. Build up a bump of thread then build up another bump of thread $\frac{1}{8}$ " farther down the shank. Place bead chain between thread bumps and tie in securely.
2. Wrap thread in open wraps to hook bend. Tie down rabbit strip firmly with touching wraps of thread making sure skin side of strip is facing up.
3. Rotate to invert hook in vise and tie in 2 to 3 lengths of leg material by wrapping them around the standing thread at their mid-point and securing them half each on either side of hook. Trim legs just beyond the end of zonker strip.
4. Advance thread to barbell eyes and tie in Estaz. Wrap Estaz in touching wraps to bend of hook covering zonker tie-in completely then over-wrap back to bead-chain eyes to create a thicker body then tie off and trim excess.
5. With thread, create a smooth head by counter-spinning your thread before making head with touching wraps. Whip finish and trim excess thread.
6. Coat head with UV Resin and cure. Re-coat and cure a second time for a smooth and shiny finish.



Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

Baby Tunny on beaches and in the passes.

A sign of our approaching fall fishing blitz is the large schools of false albacore, or baby tunny, feeding heavily on maturing baitfish, especially in gulf passes. Either a strong incoming or outgoing tide will have these speedy fish chasing baitfish to the surface in areas that will attract terns and gulls, causing chaos. The birds will tell you where to fish. This is ideal fly-rod fare and can be almost too easy by observing a few rules. Running an outboard into the school will ruin your chances for success, so use the wind and tide to position your boat ahead of the surface activity, letting the fish come to you. An electric motor run slowly is a big help to get a good position. Jacks, ladyfish and mackerel will be mixed in with the albies, taking advantage of the easy pickings. The wild surface activity usually contains smaller fish, so getting your fly deeper will result in larger fish. Use a 9-weight fly rod with a full sinking or sink tip fly line; 4 or 5 feet of 25-pound hard monofilament leader will be attached to a size 2 white baitfish pattern made of synthetic materials rather than natural hair for durability. You can't retrieve the fly too fast. Many anglers put the fly rod under their arm and retrieve using both hands in hand-over-hand fashion after making a long cast; 150 yards of 30-pound backing will give you the advantage when the fish make long runs. A good large arbor reel with smooth adjustable drag is necessary.

Captain Pat

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

Bill Scarola: Puns of the month

Before my surgery, the anesthesiologist offered to knock me out with gas or a boat paddle.

It was an *ETHER/OAR* situation!

Astronomers got tired of watching the moon go round the earth for 24 hours.

So they called it a *DAY!*

If you boil a funny bone it becomes a laughing stock. Now that's *HUMMERUS*.

Three Suncoast Fly Fishers were out wade fishing but not catching anything.

The first one says, "Windy, isn't it?"

The second one says, "No, it's Thursday."

The third one says "So am I. Let's go get a beer."

A Suncoast Fly Fisher who shall remain anonymous was telling his neighbor about his new hearing aids.

"I just bought new hearing aids. They cost four-thousand dollars. They're state of the art. They're perfect."

"Wow. What kind are they?," asked his neighbor.

"Oh," said the flyfisher. "It's twelve-thirty."

Did you hear about the coin shortage? Yes, America is running out of common sense!

The daughter said to her dad, I had a dream last night that I was a muffler!

"Wow," said the dad. "You must be exhausted!"

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



#

Those “swirls” are probably redfish. I was wade fishing Weedon Island recently with some other guys. Nobody caught anything but we all noticed big swirls on the surface here and there. Not mullet. Redfish. They didn't like my minnow flies. I should have tied on a shrimp or a crab pattern. That's what this Florida Bay fly fisher does. ([Hunt the flats](#))

My floating fly line sinks. What do I do? Fellow member Tim Elms suggested I dry them out in the bright sun for a couple of days. That really helped. But then I hit on another solution. I spray a little on a paper towel and clean and coat the line with Rain-X Car Wash. I searched the internet and found out that I wasn't the first fly fisher to use Rain-X. ([The Fly Fishing Forum](#))

Fly line is like an aggressive snake. That's a direct quote from a new article by Mike Conner. It's entitled “Beat the Breeze.” Here are his suggestions about how to keep your fly line under control when the wind is blowing. ([Saltwater Sportsman](#))

Winter's coming. Are you ready for cold water? Here's a timely piece by Bob McNally about how to choose waders. Neoprene anyone? ([MSN](#))

High tail it to this site. You don't get the whole magazine but you do get to see some amazing photos of fly fishers and their fish in the recent edition. For the printed version, click on subscribe. ([Tail Magazine](#))

Join the Nurdle Patrol. Here's something we can do even when we're wade fishing the beaches. Yes, look for and collect nurdles. Nurdles are tiny, plastic pellets that fall off of ships and are pushed to shorelines. ([Tampa Bay Estuary Program](#))

Buy this book – At the October meeting Chris O'Byrne had some copies of his new book – [The Beautiful Addiction](#) . I bought one and I'm really enjoying it and learning from it. Actually, I'm learning things that I wish I had learned a long time ago when I first started fly fishing. It'd be a great Christmas gift to a family member or friend who is just getting into fly fishing. It covers subjects like *The Simple Necessities*, *Knots*, *The Basic Fly Cast*, *The Fly Fishing Process*, and *Tactics for the Bass Pond and Beyond*. Here' a link to Chris' website. ([Featherwater](#))

I love to fly fish Fort DeSoto Park. I've linked to this video before. It's Steve Gibson sight casting to snook on the FDP beaches. I've been casting my 8-weight with Cortland's new all-clear Liquid Crystal Series. Tarpon Taper. It's especially good for sight casting. Keep just enough line out of the rod tip for a decent cast. Hold the fly in your fingers. There's enough weight on this front-end loaded line to get you where you want to go. Anyway, I'm anxious to give it a go on the beaches and I'm hopeful the clear line won't be as spooky as colored line. ([You Tube](#))

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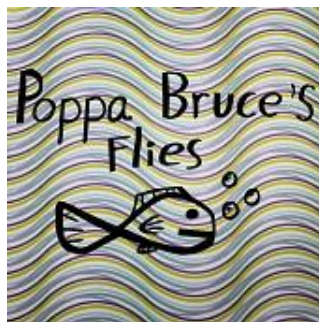
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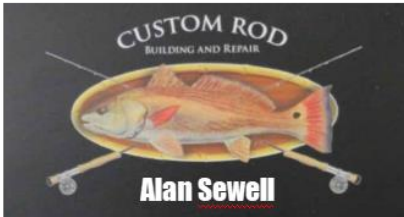


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