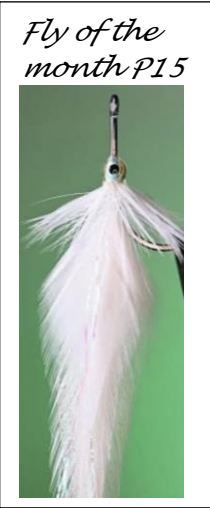
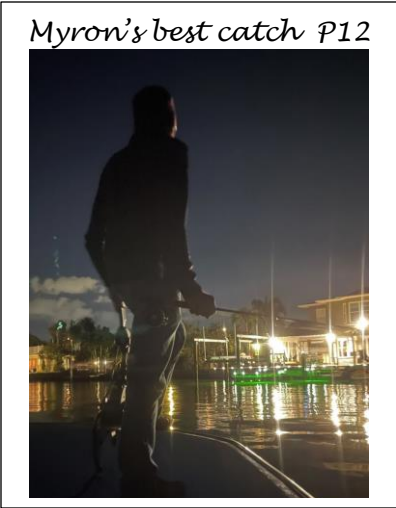
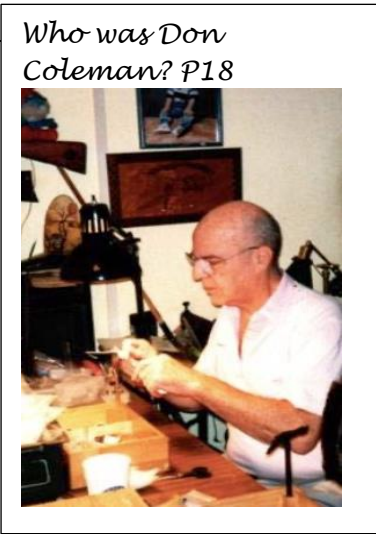
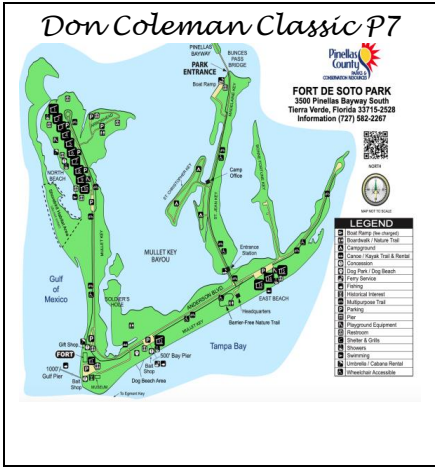


On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg





The President's Letter: December 2021

Give yourself the gift of fly casting this season. I have said many times that casting is the essence of fly fishing. In fact, the reason that I love fly fishing is because I love casting a fly rod. I also like catching fish but there are a lot of ways to catch fish. It just seems better when they are caught on a fly rod. I find it to be more challenging, more satisfying and more fun than any other method.

You don't need to be a great caster to be a great fly fisher, but it can't hurt. Last month the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club held its annual Big Gun Shootout. The BGSO is a skills competition in which any fly fisher can participate. There are a series of challenges that simulate real world fishing situations plus a distance competition for the elite caster that can clear the 100' distance hurdle. It is a lot of fun, and it is a good way for most of us to see how much room there is for improvement.

The two things that are necessary to achieve improvement are competent instruction and practice. Today there are a lot of ways to learn new skills from books and magazines to the internet, but nothing really beats hands on personal instruction.

In January you will have a chance to learn the secrets of becoming a better caster. SFF will host a casting clinic featuring two long time members that are also Master Certified Casting Instructors. Dayle Mazzarella and Pat Damico will lead the clinic which is free to all SFF members and anyone that is a member of Fly Fishers International (FFI). They will be joined by several other Certified Instructors and local experts. This is one of the great benefits of membership. The clinic is for anyone from beginner to expert that wants to improve their casting skills. You will not want to miss this opportunity.

Once you are armed with the knowledge to become a better caster, all you need is practice, so practice, practice, practice and fish, fish, fish.

Stay safe and keep fishing!
Rick Warfel
SFF President

Rick

Rick Warfel, SFF President

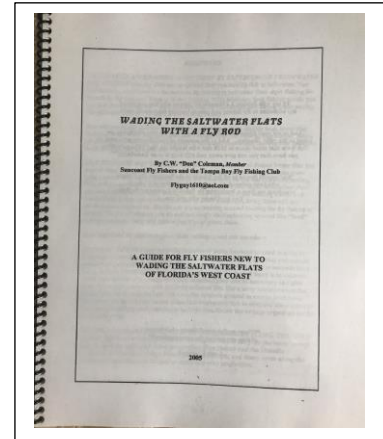
Meetings, Outings, and More

Covid under continuing consideration

- The board is keeping an eye on Covid infections and may or may not decide to cancel in person meetings if cases get worse. Of course, no one should come to the meeting if he or she is uncomfortable.

Saturday, December 18, Outing – Fort DeSoto Park Don Coleman invitational tournament and chili cookoff

- Fish anywhere around Fort DeSoto Park. This is your last chance to win the annual tournament contest. Fort DeSoto Park is ideal for Park and Wade fishing. Remember, there's a \$5 entrance fee. The park opens at 7 am.
- Fish anywhere around or in sight of the park. Meet for lunch at Pavilion #2 at 11:45. Hot, delicious coffee will be ready well before that. The longest fish of any species wins the outing prize. You must shoot a picture of it. Measure. Email your pictures to outings committee chair Bob Burkard at robertburkard9@gmail.com
- This is the last event of the year. Check out the tournament leaders on page 7
- Who was Don Coleman? He was a treasured member of the club who also wrote the booklet that all members receive when they join Suncoast Fly Fishers.: *Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Flyrod.*
- Every year we invite members of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and Sarasota's Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers Club to join us for fly fishing and lunch. Introduce yourself to any fly fisher you don't know. He could be a visitor.
- Are you bringing chili? Let Bob know. robertburkard9@gmail.com



SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

**DON COLEMAN INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT
AND
CHILI COOKOFF
FT. DeSoto PARK**

**Pavilion #2
12-18-2021
Lunch Served at 11:30 A.M.**

"Just one more cast is always a lie"
"Complexity does not mean a more effective fly"
"There are no fly tying police"
"A fly does not have to look like food
It only has to act like food."
Don Coleman

Catch the longest fish / Taste the greatest chili



Meetings, Outings, and More

Thursday, January 20 Trash 'n' Treasures Meeting – Walter Fuller Park

- Bring gear to donate for the auction. Auctioneer is Alan Sewell
- Bring a credit card, checkbook, or cash. You're going to pick up some really good deals. (Oh, if you haven't renewed your membership you can do it at the meeting. See Treasurer Tom Gadacz at the back table.)

As in past years Suncoast Fly Fishers will not meet in December but we will meet in January for the annual *Trash 'n' Treasures Fun Fund Raiser*. Come early. Bring the gear you no longer use and a credit card to buy used gear that you will use.

Bylaws Election Schedule: New Officers and Board of Directors

- January meeting: Announce nominating committee.
 - February Meeting: Committee recommendations plus member nominations from the floor.
 - March Meeting: Membership vote. Officers and board take office immediately.
-

Looking ahead: Club Events

- January 8: Free casting clinic with Master Casting Instructors Dayle Mazzarella and Capt. Pat Damico with support from other certified casting instructors in the Tampa Bay Area. It's free for FFI members. Non-members can join at the clinic.
 - January 20, 2022. Trash 'n' Treasures meeting in person.
 - January 22, 2022: Outing, Weedon Island Preserve.
 - February 17, 2022: Meeting, Walter Fuller Park
 - February 19, 2022. Outing, Fort DeSoto Park .
 - March 26. Hog Roast, St. Jerome Catholic Church, 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo. (Committee 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.
-

Are your dues still due?

- You can pay them online on the [eShop](#) section of the club website.
 - Mail a check to Suncoast Fly fishers, P. O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743.
-

HELP

Storage needed for 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
-

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 147 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: November 20 Outing at War Veterans Park



Outings chair Bob Burkard

It was cold and windy. The tide was lower than low. Fish were in hiding around War Vets Memorial Park. James Davis caught an 18+ inch ladyfish and a 20-inch Spanish mackerel.

Everybody else caught nada and gave up then met up at Pavilion #4 for coffee, sandwiches, cookies, and tall tales. And then, guess who arrived? Mark Hays and his daughter Annie and hubby Robert Mitchell. They were kayak fishing Long Bayou and caught ladyfish, jack crevalle, and a 37-inch snook. Mark is the outing winner.



Jeff Butler, snowbird from Spokane, got a strike. Maybe. Not sure.



That's Mark with his 37-inch snook which won the longest fish prize for the outing and makes him the year's end snook tournament leader, too.

Mark Hays: Good News-Bad News

The good news is that there are still fish in Pinellas waters. The bad news is that you have to work your tail off to find them.

For the November outing, Annie, Robert and I went for an invigorating kayak paddle through Long Bayou. The sun and wind were both in our faces and the tide was low. Believe it or not, we saw plenty of mullet and the head wakes of large fish. What we thought were large fish turned out to be pods of small jacks. Eh, better than no fish I suppose.

After several hours of little tide movement, I noticed wading birds (egrets and herons) along the muddy shores. I remembered what Capt. Paul Hawkins showed me years ago. I poled the kayak closer and staked out. Sure enough, within five minutes a Snook swam by. He passed me before I could cast. Now I was ready.

Another two snook cruised by, and the larger one took my fly. This was in less than one foot of water, so you can imagine I was pretty excited. I had to bail out of the kayak and give chase on foot.

Robert arrived in time to get a photo and witness my best ever on a fly: a 37 inch Snook! I don't mean to brag in this article. This is a great teaching moment: pay attention to what's around you, don't assume that very shallow, muddy water doesn't hold large fish. Never give up, even when tides and weather are not favorable.

For you fly nuts the fly of the day was a Snake Fly #2 in solid white with a 12' leader and 25 lb. Tippet. The longer leader is a must in shallow water.

Mark

Bob Burkard: December 18 Outing—Fort DeSoto Park

This is our annual *Don Coleman Classic*, also known as the Don Coleman Invitational. It's the outing in which we welcome members of the Tampa and Sarasota fly fishing clubs to fish with us and slurp up and vote for the best chili.

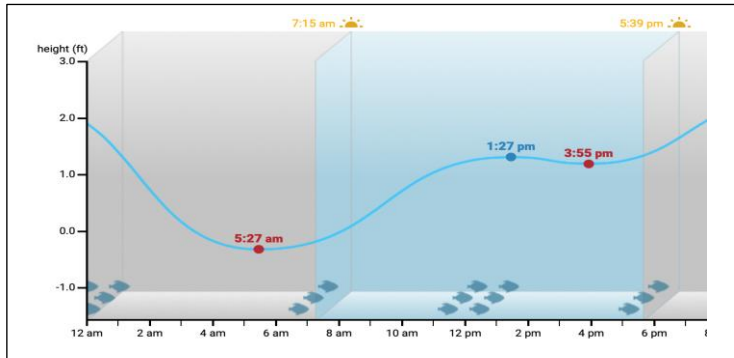
Do you have a chili dish you like to make? Then email outing chair Bob Burkard. His email address is robertburkard9@gmail.com

You can fish anywhere around Fort DeSoto Park – open water or mangrove sheltered water. DeSoto Park is ideal for Park and Wade fishing. There are many places where you can just pull off the pavement and crash through the vegetation to fish. Some members have their own secret spots. (Yeah, we're talking about you, Tim Elms.)



Ten dollar gift certificate to Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure will be awarded to members catching the longest snook, longest redfish, and longest seatrout. Measure. Take a picture. All entries will be final at noon.

The park opens at 7 am. There's a \$5 per auto entrance fee. You can start fishing earlier than that by parking and wading in at the FDP boat ramp. Park in a slot for automobiles without a trailer. Pay up and get a \$5 parking fee receipt at the Pay Station



Meet for lunch at **Pavilion #2** at 11:30. Hot, delicious coffee will be ready well before that. Introduce yourself to visitors from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and Sarasota's Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers Club.

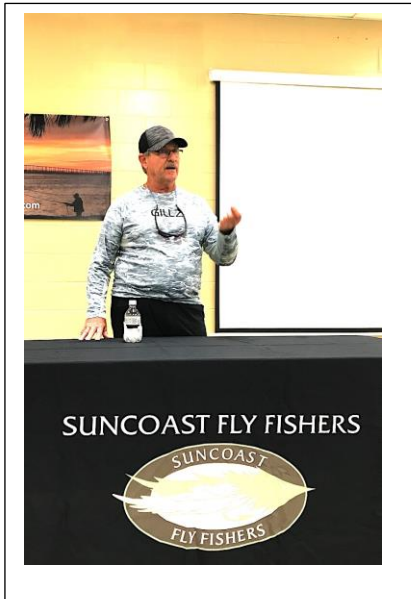
This is your last chance to win any category in our annual tournament. Check out the leaders below.

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	37	Mark Hays	War Vets Park (November)
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: Inshore Insights from Capt. Ray Markham



Capt. Ray Markham was our November meeting speaker and shared what he has learned fishing our Suncoast and Tampa Bay these last few months: Short answer: it's been a tough year. We'll remember Red Tide and Piney Point and not in a good way.

And he has a theory which sounds pretty darn plausible: Our inshore slam -- snook, redfish, and seatrout -- are alive and well. It's just that they've moved north to Tarpon Springs and beyond. Some of the guides that fish up there are sharing photos of huge gamefish. Another option is the north half of Tampa Bay, which didn't get the highest alga concentrations. Think Double Branch Creek and the shoreline near St. Pete-Clearwater airport.

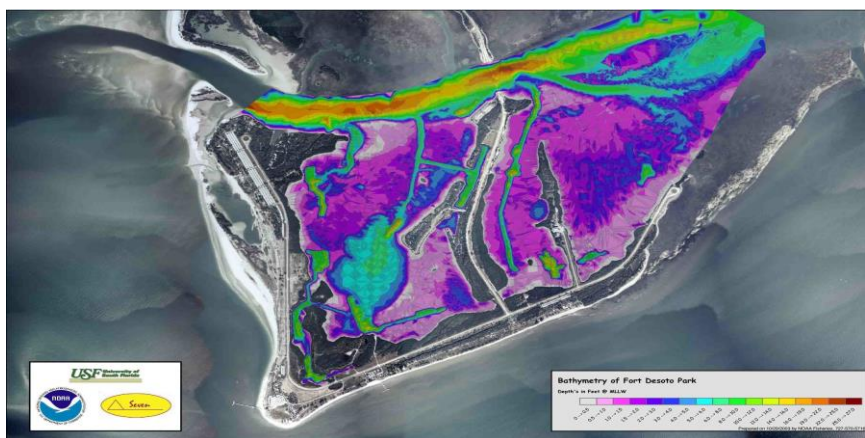
Ray and I fly fished Boca Ciega Bay in advance of the November outing at War Vets Park. Fly

fishing was great. Catching was slow. Ray caught a lizardfish and had a ladyfish on but it threw the hook, of course.

That aside, we're moving into that time of the year when our inshore slam chances are going up. Our December outing at Fort DeSoto Park gives Pinellas fly fishers one of the best inshore slam opportunities. Somebody asked him where he'd fish the December FDP outing. Answer: The water's cold. Fish the deep potholes with warmer water.



Captain Ray slow trolled the drop-off southeast of the War Vets Park. Crystal clear water. He saw one redfish. Lots of mullet.



Looking for warm water potholes at Fort DeSoto Park? Enlarge and study this bathymetry image showing different depths by color. Some are left over from World War II bombing practice.

And the winning fly? Ray challenged us all to invent something that fish haven't seen before. If you're not up for that, his tilt is a fly with a red fox tail. If you see a red fox roadkill, pull off the road and take the tail home. He did that one time and was going to tie some fox tail flies but his cat claimed it as her toy.

[Visit Ray's website](#)

Bill

Anne Mitchell: Christmas Potluck and Ugly Sweater Party

The second annual SFF Christmas Potluck was a success! Food, fun, and merriment were had by all in attendance.

About thirty members and family members made an appearance. Some notable homemade dishes included:

- David Redd's corn pudding
- Smitty's meatballs, banana pudding, and broccoli salad with raspberry dressing
- Marianne Hays's strawberry poppyseed salad
- Bruce Evensen's coleslaw
- Robert Fisher's deviled eggs
- James Davis' baked beans and scalloped potatoes
- Anne Mitchell's pecan sandies.

Apparently my pecan sandies were a hit as I saw one partygoer, who shall remain nameless, eat about six of them over the course of the evening. Thank you to everyone who brought food.

Our White Elephant Christmas gift exchange yielded some excellent presents. Robert Mitchell came home with two Fabrice Santas and two mugs, the Fisher family took home a few pounds worth of Reece's candy, Marianne Hays got two new mugs and a tin of hot chocolate, and multiple people took home bottles of wine.

Cathy Hansen was crowned the winner of the Ugly Sweater contest with her Christmas light necklace and present bow. She was presented with two jars of Florida honey. One was from Bob Burkard's personal hives, and the other was from a beekeeper in central Florida.

On behalf of the Suncoast Fly Fishers, I would like to thank Most Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church for renting us the space for a second year.



Ugly Sweater Contestants – (l-r) Jeff Butler, Layne Smith, Anne Mitchell, Robert Mitchell, Scott Russell, Cathy Hansen (the winner!), Myron Hansen, and Arthur Birnkrant.

Anne

Tim Elms: Another Year to Remember

Howdy! As my “Yips” continue as a fisherman, I must go back and remember the good times I had on the water with my fly rod. This summer season of juvi tarpon was a wild ride and I can’t be grateful enough for it. But! There was one memory this year that stands out the most.

Back in March when I was fishing for bass day in and day out, I had a miraculous “moment” over two days. It was late in the bass tournament and bass were on to all of my tricks so I continued to downsize my flies until they would nip at them again.



This one bass had been sitting on a bed not budging at anything. So with my trusty 5-wt and a 0X tippet I plopped my tiny bonefish bug right in front of his nose. Sure enough he ate it instantly. I did an extra aggressive strip set on this bugger and popped my knot at the fly. Dammit. Man I was really annoyed with myself losing that bug. And that bass. He wasn't very big but I had seen him for the week and he would refuse anything I threw at him.

I continued on fishing that evening and would even go back to the bed to see if he was back with my fly...but no.

The very next day I walked the opposite direction around the pond catching more bass on a different bonefish fly. My size down method had worked for me well and when I got around

to the bed of the thief-- I saw he was back and not thinking about what had happened the day before. Again, I tossed my fly right on his nose and he ate it instantly. This time I set the hook properly and had him in my hands immediately.

When I went to get my fly out I was pleasantly surprised my beloved fly from the day before was still lodged in his mouth. Hallelujah it was a miracle.! The funny thing was, I lost this fly a couple days later in a tree.

Happy Holidays!

Strip Strip Strip!!!!—Tim

Dave Olson wins the Big Gun Shootout Distance Trophy

Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club puts on another winning event at Picnic Island Park

Dave Olson made a 112-foot cast to win the Long Distance trophy at the 2021 Big Gun Shootout at Picnic Island Park on November. Eric Davis won the men's trophy for his combined scores on distance and accuracy contests. Patty Anderson was the women's individual winner.

SFF President Rick Warfel was on the winning team --White's Tackle --with David Olson and Eric Davis



Suncoast Fly Fishers competed in the Big Gun Shootout. From the left James Davis, Tim Elms, Rick Warfel, and Quin Berry.



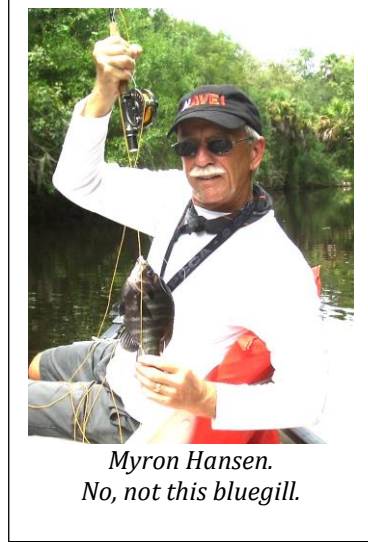
Quin loads up for a long distance cast

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1		2021 TROPHY WINNERS IN GREEN		TBFFC	BIG	GUN	SHOOT-OUT 2021					
2	TEAM											
3	Rank	Competitor	Distance	Accuracy	Hanson	Hoop	V-Fish	Mangrove	Total**	Indiv Rank	Team Name	Shoot-Out Dist
4	1	James Davis	70	80	20	60	60	40	330		Tailing Loops	
5	1	Tim Elms	72	85	0	28	40	40	265		Tailing Loops	
6	1	Quin Berry	71	85	10	60	40	20	286		Tailing Loops	
7	1	TEAM TOTAL							881		Tailing Loops	
8	2	Thanh Le	89	65	0	64	40	40	298		Bushwackers	
9	2	Luis Curiel	86	60	0	48	40	40	274		Bushwackers	
10	2	Anthony Richie	90	60	0	60	40	60	310		Bushwackers	
11	2	TEAM TOTAL							882		Bushwackers	
12	3	Rick Warfel	71	60	10	64	40	40	285		White's Tackle	
13	3	David Olson	100	80	10	100	40	80	410		White's Tackle	Competitor
14	3	Eric Davis	100	100	0	100	80	80	460		White's Tackle	Competitor
15	3	TEAM TOTAL							1155		White's Tackle	
16	4	Denise Bruner	81	25	0	0	40	20	166		Green Flash	
17	4	Patty Anderson	70	65	20	0	40	20	215		Green Flash	
18	4	Jonas Magnusson	82	60	0	80	40	40	302		Green Flash	
19	4	TEAM TOTAL							683		Green Flash	
20	5	Ted Hagaman	79	40	0	32	40	20	211		Long Cast	
21	5	Walt Durkin	80	80	10	32	40	40	282		Long Cast	
22	5	Elie Safair	70	45	10	0	40	20	185		Long Cast	
23	5	TEAM TOTAL							678		Long Cast	
24												
25												
26												
27		TEAM TOTAL							0			
28												
29												
30		Men's Individual Winner: Eric Davis	Total 460									
31		Ladies Ind. Winner: Patty Anderson	Total 215									
32		Team Winner: White's Tackle	Total 1155									
33		Rick Warfel 285										
34		David Olson 410										
35		Eric Davis 460										
36												
37		Long Distance Winner Dave Olson 112 ft.										
38												

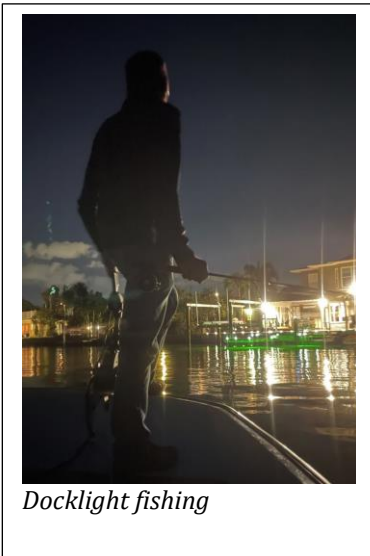
Myron Hansen: My Best Catch

It was about dusk, and my wife and I were at the boat ramp. We had just put the boat in the water and I was getting a parking receipt for the dashboard. My wife was on the dock by the boat when a lone fisherman pulled his boat up to the dock. As he got out of the boat he asked my wife if we were heading out or coming in. My wife told him we were going out to fish the dock lights and that it was our wedding anniversary. He said, "Wow, your husband sure got the right wife." We laughed about it as we headed out on the water.

My wife isn't a fly fisherman, so I had bought her a couple of dozen live shrimp and I was fishing with a fly. It was chilly and choppy, and the fish were not visible or cooperative. She had one good hook-up but the fish got off. I had a couple of bumps, and even tried fishing deep, but no hookups.



*Myron Hansen.
No, not this bluegill.*



Docklight fishing

After a few hours we headed back toward the ramp. Before reaching the ramp, we went by a light that my friend James had shown me. A couple of weeks ago when he and I were out, the light was loaded with tarpon. When my wife and I reached the dock, we were disappointed at seeing no fish. Then as we were about to leave, a large tarpon came up from below and gave us a perfect view of himself.

We didn't catch fish that night but enjoyed the entire outing. Seeing the tarpon was a spectacular finish to our 43rd anniversary evening.

I agree with what the lone fisherman said to my wife before we headed out. His comment reminds me of a photograph I saw recently of a plaque by the front door of a fly fisherman's home.



*43rd Anniversary photo
Myron with his Best Catch.
Cathy.*

The plaque said ...

**"AN OLD FISHERMAN LIVES HERE
WITH HIS BEST CATCH**

Myron



Chris O'Byrne: Jonas Magnuson wakes up sleepy bass

November closed out cold in Polk County. The water cooled to 66 degrees and below. While this is not in itself bad, overcast days kept the conditions consistent, which made for sleepy fish.

Minutes of sun shining through the overcast or even rain made enough of a change to turn on fish. Sometimes.

Jonas Magnuson of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club took this guy on a popper in just such a scenario.

Chris

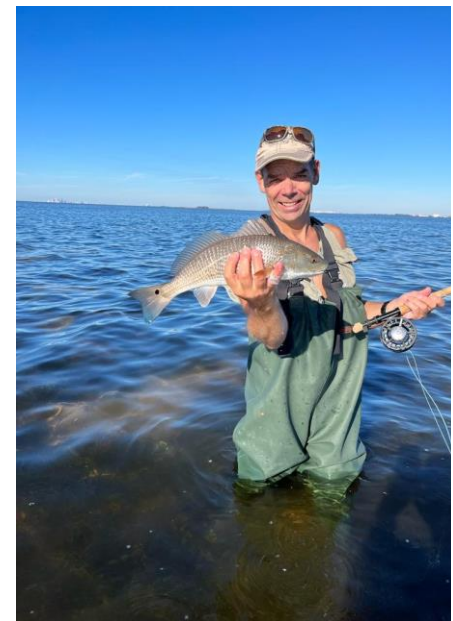


Andy Contantinou and His Friends from Scotland

Two of Andy's friends flew in from Scotland and fly-fished for a week with Andy. They fly fished the eastern shore of Tampa Bay, wading and from the boat. They fished days. They fished nights. And, aye, they did pretty darn good. Here's proof.



Colin McKenzie's big redfish wade fishing E.G. Simmons Park



One of Murray Gordon's red drum on the fly, also from E. G. Simmons Park.



Colin's docklight snook

How to: Release stuck fly rod sections

From the November 2021 Newsletter of the Red Cedar Fly Fishers Club in Okemos, Michigan

12 Don Leydon's "Fisherman's Friend" Tool.....or how to remove stuck rod pieces with duct tape



Step 1: Start with two small dowels that are a bit wider than the duct tape, add about six wraps of duct tape to the dowel.



Step 2: Unwrap a couple of inches of tape and place about an inch from the stuck ferrule. Then wrap the duct tape until the dowel and rod are tight to each other as in the pic below.



Step 3: Now do the same with the other dowel, but going in the opposite direction.



Step 4: Now grab a dowel in each hand and twist/pull each hand opposite of the other. The rod should separate without much effort if done correctly.



Step 5: Unwrap each dowel and store away for the next time.

.....from Deneki Outdoors December 2020

Bill Scarola: DT SPECIAL



Bill Scarola

Meet up with other club members and tie two flies with Bill and Bruce Evensen at 6 pm on Monday, December 13. Bruce's fly tying studio is at 531 80th Avenue N in St. Pete. This is a great fly for catching snook at the beach so give it a workout at the FDP outing on Saturday, Dec. 18. Below is the DT Special pattern in two versions. The one on the top is a slight variation, using crystal flash instead of mylar strips. And note the head is shorter, exposing more of the hook shank. Both versions work well. For both versions take note of the position of the tail hackles and the mylar strip and of the palmered body/wing and also the length of the head.

Bill

Materials

- HOOK- 3407 or C68S or similar, size 1, 1/0
- EYES- Small to Medium stick on eyes, silver/black
- TAIL- Four white deceiver saddle hackles, two per side
- BODY/WING- One white neck saddle hackle, palmered
- HEAD- Thread built up and tapered
- GLUE- UV epoxy, & Sally Hanson type nail finish
- FLASH- 2 strips of silver Mylar strip, or 2-3 Pearl Crystal flash per side.
- THREAD- White, flat waxed



Tying Steps

1. Wrap the entire shaft with a thread base.
2. Add 2 white saddle hackles to each side. Match each pair up and tie in just short of half way up the shank.
3. Add one piece of mylar strip on each side
4. Attach one neck Saddle hackle on top of the tail thread wraps.
5. Palmer the above saddle hackle forward and tie it off. Keep the fibers close together. (NOTE: see the picture above as to spacing,. You want to leave about half the shank open.
6. Build up a tapered head of thread just in front of the palmered hackle to the hook eye. Make it large enough to attach your eyes and tie it off.
7. Put your stick-on eyes, just in front of the palmered neck hackle onto the widest thread wraps.
8. Apply your U V epoxy glue forming a tapered head. Cover the eyes and form a conical head to the hook eye.
9. Cure the epoxy and apply some Sally Hanson topping.



Jokes of the day

- *If the Pilgrims traveled on the Mayflower, what do college students travel on? *Scholarships.*
- *What is a pumpkin's favorite sport? *Squash.*
- *What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter? *Pumpkin Pi.*
- * Why can't you take a turkey to church? *Because they use FOWL language*

Smitty's Fly Box: Don Coleman's "Black Ghost"



This was one of Don Coleman's favorite streamer patterns. It is a classic freshwater trout pattern that Don loved to tie and fish. Created by Herb Welch, the Black Ghost is one of the last remnants of the streamer tradition developed by Maine fly-tiers in the years before and shortly after World War II. Something about the black, yellow, and white color combination in this venerable streamer pattern seems to make trout—especially big browns—want to kill it.

Smitty

Materials:

Hook: Mustad L87-33665a size 4 or Daiichi 2340 7x long

Thread: Black Danville's Flatwaxed Nylon

Tail: Bright yellow hackle feather (from cape)

Rib: Flat silver tinsel

Body: Black silk floss

Throat: Bright yellow cape feather (wide with long barbs)

Wing: 4 White Whiting American neck hackles

Cheeks: Jungle Cock

Cement: CA cement (like Zap A Gap) and Solarez UV Resin

Tying Sequence:

Step 1: Start your thread a heads-width back of the hook eye, wrap rearward to the bend of the hook, and tie in the tail. Choose several fibers of wide neck hackle, align the tips, and tie them in at the bend of the hook. After tying in the tail, return your thread to the original starting point just behind the hook eye.

Step 2: Tie in the flat silver tinsel and wrap your thread rearward to tail to secure in place. Return thread to original tie in point just behind hook eye

Step 3: Tie in black silk floss then wrap your thread all the way back to the tail securing floss to the hook shank, again return thread to original tie in point. Next, wrap floss up the hook shank in touching turns. After reaching the tie in point, wrap floss back to the tail and again wrap forward to tie in point taking touching turns the whole way. This will create bulk and a lifelike taper. Tie off the floss and trim any excess.

-Continued on next page -

P2/Smitty's Fly Box: Don Coleman's "Black Ghost"



Step 4: Next, wrap the tinsel over the floss body to rib the fly. You can do this with your hands or (if you have a rotary vise) spin your vise to rib the fly. Tie off tinsel at original tie in point and trim off any excess.

Step 5: Tie in yellow cape by the tip and secure with a few wraps of thread and a dab of CA cement. Wrap hackle forward in touching wraps, doubling barbs rearward as you go. Five or six wraps should do. Tie off securely and trim away any excess.

Step 6: Thoroughly moisten finger and press down on top of barbs dividing them equally on each side of hook shank so they hang in the throat position. Take a small piece of 2mm scrap foam, fold in half and "tent" barbs using a clip to hold them in place for a couple of minutes till they dry. Once dry, remove foam and back wrap thread a few turns to secure.

Step 7: Pair up feathers into 2 sets of matching tip lengths and then turning them concave to each other (like praying hands), rematch tips. Holding all four feathers together as one measure so they extend about ¼" or so past the tail. Peel away any excess barbs to leave bare stems. With a pair of needle-nose pliers, flatten all stems perpendicular to wing orientation. Holding all feathers tightly close to the stems, lay them down on the hook shank and tie in with a few firm wraps. Make sure the wing is aligned properly atop the hook shank then apply a drop of CA cement to hold in place. Add a few more thread wraps and trim off excess stems.

Step 8: Tie in Jungle Cock on both sides of the hook shank to create eyes for the streamer. Trim excess stems and then tie a neat head and whip finish. Trim off excess thread.

Step 9: Coat head with UV Resin and cure.

Don Coleman: Random Thoughts from the Tying Bench

- Most of the troubles in life are caused by what goes into your mouth or what goes out of your mouth.
- Any fly that you are afraid to throw into heavy cover is only good for an ornament.
- Light reels make a rod tip heavy and cause unnatural stress on casting muscles.
- Pay more attention to what your heart tells you to do than to your mind – go flyfishing.
- Concentrate more on the fun of flyfishing instead of the mechanics.
- *Fishermen are born honest, but they get over it – Ed Zern*
- Do your own thinking. Don't let others do it for you.
- Size and the illusion of life are more important than fly pattern.
- Don't add details to flies that make a fish decide to accept or reject them.
- It's better to give than to retrieve when drifting your flies.
- Vertical casting in shallow water can scare every fish off the flat.
- *Read the morning paper for the "Truth," then go fishing to get the taste of it out of your mouth." Ed Zern*

Tom Gadacz: Don Coleman and the Don Coleman Classic



Don was born in April of 1922 and spent most of his life in New York, mainly in Binghamton. Don retired around 1987 and spent a couple of winters on the east coast of Florida, but then settled on the west coast where he was more familiar, having spent vacations as a youngster.

Don met Suncoast Fly Fisher Paul Sequeira in 1992 at Carl Hanson's house and a great friendship began. Both had a common interest in fly fishing and had fished some of the same streams in New York's Catskill Mountains. They spent many a fishing day together, mainly wading along the coast from Honeymoon Island to Emerson Point. Ft. DeSoto and the Skyway were two favorite spots.

Don was a fly fishing enthusiast and teacher. He read about new techniques and tested them. He tried new fly tying materials and simplified tying techniques and would share them with others. One of his rules included that a fly had to take less than ten minutes to tie. He also read about new casting techniques and he and Paul would put them to the test in the field. Most were rejected but the good ones were passed along.

Don was an amiable person and loved to meet and discuss fly fishing with anyone. He shared his experience and talent with anyone who was interested and many benefited from sitting at Don's table at Carl Hanson's house and at John Homer's shop. His go to favorite flies included the Clouser Deep Minnow, Carl's Bend Back, Lefty's Deceiver, Seaducer and Tabory's Snake Fly.

Don compiled his fishing experience in the booklet entitled "Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod." Don dedicated the publication to his wife Beverly "And to my good friend and fishing partner Paul Sequeira who keeps me going in the right direction...And to the memory of Carl Hanson who went to fish from that other shore in 1988 and who taught me that "The only thing you have that you can give away and still keep is your knowledge."

Don passed away on April 5, 2006 and the Suncoast Fly Fishers Board agreed to name the December outing at Ft. DeSoto Park the "Don Coleman Classic." We celebrate the 16th annual Don Coleman Classic this December, 2021.

Every new member receives a copy of Don's book. If you have not read the book, please do so. It has valuable information about fly fishing and life as a fly fisher. It is the go to source for anyone who fly fishes this area. Would you like to know what rod, reel, line and tippet to use? He gives you the scoop on wading the flats and how to catch fish. Don't wait for a windy or bad weather day to read it. Take a break from winter fly tying. For those of us who did not know Don, read his book and your life will also be richer. For those of you who knew Don, I envy you.

Tom



Don Coleman tying flies at Carl Hanson's house in 1992.



Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

It's time for the inshore slam

Shallow-water fishing for trout, reds, and snook continues to accelerate as water becomes cooler. Frequent late-afternoon thunderstorms are diminishing and evening fishing opportunities will become more attractive. The last couple of hours of sunlight have been productive. As long as the water is moving, fish will be active. To become one of the 10 percent that catches 90 percent of the fish, use a fishing log, where information for each trip is cataloged. I use a composition book. Water temperature and clarity, tide information, wind direction and speed, location of feeding birds, either diving or wading, and successful baits or flies used will give you a good start on choosing your fishing location as well as tactics. Avoid fishing the same spot where you once had a great day. Information collected from previous years for today's conditions will eliminate a lot of guesswork. Mullet schools have been good locators of redfish and large trout. As weeds and grass diminish, topwater lures and poppers for your fly rod have provided explosive strikes. Reds, because of their low-slung mouth, have difficulty eating surface presentations, so delay setting the hook until you feel the fish. This takes concentration and discipline. Keep your rod tip low and close to the water to feel fish hit and to set up your next cast more effectively. Eliminate slack and have a straight line or fly line between you and the fish.

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

Game warden: Hey you need a permit to fish here! *SFF member: "Why? So far I've done well with worms.*

George Washington couldn't ever have been a fisherman. *He never told a lie. (J. Kreismer)*

What part of the fish do most fishermen bring home? *The tale.*

Sportsman #1: "Have you ever hunted bear? *Sportsman #2, "No but I've gone fishing in my shorts.*

How do you stop a bear from charging? *You take away his credit cards.*

Where's the best place to see a man-eating fish? *Answer: a seafood restaurant.*

Flyfisher Flyover: Happy Holidays

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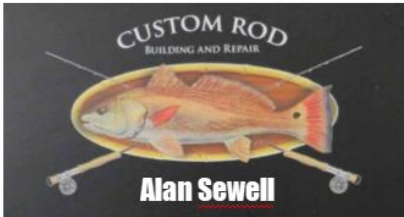


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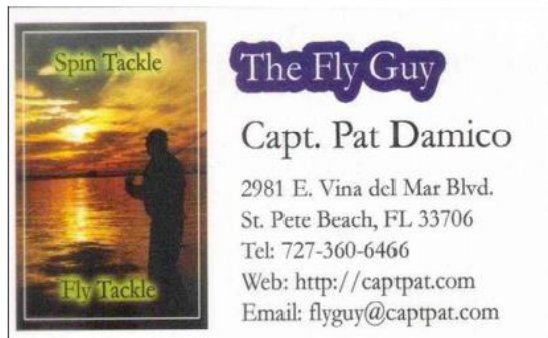
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