



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

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