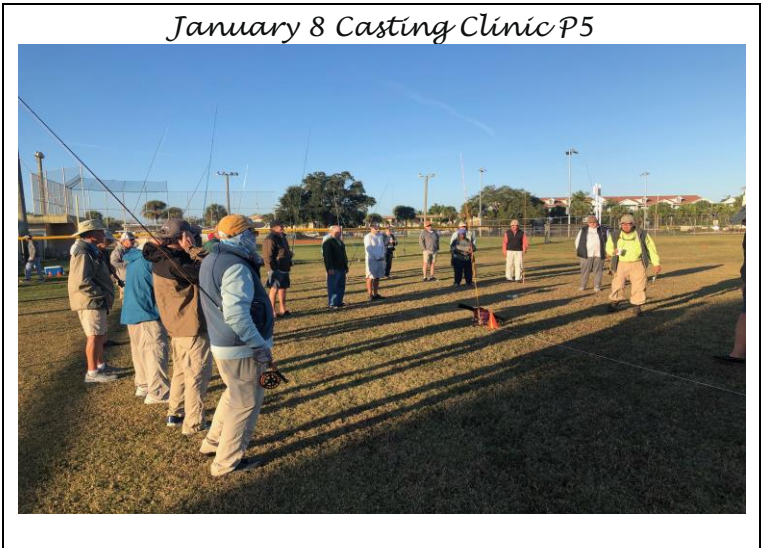


# On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

**Covid Alert: January 20 meeting will be on Zoom.  
January 22 outing is fly-fishing only. No picnic.**



*Three Years of Outing Winners P9*

2019 Outing Tournament Trout Winners			
Species	Length	Winner	Outing (Month)
Longest snook	43.25"	Bob Kautsky	Wrightsville Outing (April)
Longest black drum	32.25"	Steve Hester	Wrightsville Outing (April)
Longest snook	33.5"	Yank Truherford	Duck Light/Beaches Outing (July)
Longest croaker	35.5"	Thomas Morgan	Black Creek Bay Outing (July)
Longest ladyfish	32 1/2"	Bronson Morgan	Weedon Island Preserve (Jan)
Longest seatrout	30"	Mark Hays	Duck Light/Beaches Outing (July)

2021 Outing Tournament Trout Winners			
Species	Length (inches)	Winner	Outing (Month)
Longest black drum	32.25"	Tim Elms	Freshwater (March)
Longest brown	31"	Tim Elms	Freshwater (March)
Longest snook	37"	Mark Hays	Ward Vets Park (November)
Longest croaker	35"	Bob Shepherd	Wrightsville/Beaches (June)
Longest ladyfish	39.5"	Mark Hays	Fort De Soto Park (Feb)
Longest seatrout	30"	Tim Elms	Fort De Soto Park (Feb)

2020 Outing Tournament Trout Winners			
Species	Length	Winner	Outing (Month)
Longest brown	32.25"	Tim Elms	Virtual Outing (May)
Longest snook	34"	Jack Collins	Virtual Outing (May)
Longest croaker	34"	Lance Davis	Fort De Soto Park (October)
Longest ladyfish	35"	Mark Hays	Ward Vets Park (November)
Longest seatrout	30"	Wesley McIlhenny	Weedon Island Preserve (January)
Longest black drum	30"	Wesley McIlhenny	Wrightsville Outing (April)
Longest snook	39"	Robert Steiner	North Tampa Bay Outing (April)





## The President's Letter: January 2022

It has been another interesting year, with the ups and downs of Covid. Although we have made progress, Corona virus is still affecting our lives. We are amid another spike in daily infections which are close to the highest level of infection since the pandemic began. We have decided to reschedule the Trash and Treasure auction to February and hold the January meeting on ZOOM. Our featured speaker will be Captain Ed Walker talking about fly fishing for Grouper. I hope that all of you will join the January meeting online. We expect to be back in-person next month.

This year SFF began to return to a more normal mode of operation. We started out completely online and socially distanced but as the year wore on, we began having more in-person events. We had a highly successful and entertaining Trash and Treasure conducted by auctioneer Alan Sewell in July. We revived many of the traditional outings that had been put on hold the previous year. In October we enjoyed the Carl Hanson outing on the Hillsborough River. In December we held the Don Coleman Classic and chili cookoff at Ft. DeSoto. December also saw the return of our annual holiday party. Over the summer SFF volunteers resumed teaching introductory fly fishing with casting clinics for young enthusiasts at fishing camps organized by the Hillsborough County Parks Department.

In 2021 most of our member meetings were still online but we did meet in-person in July, October and November. We had an excellent group of speakers both in-person and online. We enjoyed scientific and technical presentations on red tide, the health of the bay and the effects that climate change may have on the fish populations in Tampa Bay. We also had entertaining panel discussions and expert presentations by members and local guides.

Bruce Evensen has gone back to teaching in-person fly tying at his studio every Monday night. Special thanks go to Bill AuCoin and all of our contributors for producing the world's best fly fishing newsletter, Tim Elms for his outstanding work on our website, Anne Mitchell for keeping our social media relevant and up to date, and Bob Burkard and the outings committee for keeping our lines in the water each month.

We are looking forward to a great year in 2022. We have already started with a fly casting clinic that featured an outstanding group of casting instructors led by our own Pat Damico. We expect to return to the everglades this spring and hold the Hog Roast in March. Our plan is to do as much as possible in-person but as I have said before, we need to remain flexible.

Stay safe and keep fishing!

*Rick*

Rick Warfel, SFF President

## Meetings, Outings, and More

### Confronting Omicron. January meeting and outing picnic are canceled

Infections are up. Way up. Although this variant is not as virulent, it's more infectious. The board of directors has decided to cancel the January 22 picnic at Weedon Island Preserve. It appears that Omicron Variant cases will produce an "ice pick" graph; that is, a spike up followed by a fast plunge. Well, that's the hope, anyway.

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**Thursday, January 20 Trash 'n' Treasures has been rescheduled to February. But we will meet on Zoom. [Here's the link.](#) Our speaker is Capt. Ed Walker who, after trying lots of flies and hooks and other tactics has been catching gag grouper on the fly. You must attend!!**

- Click on the link before 7 pm.
  - President Rick Warfel will update members on the process for electing new officers and board members.
  - This year's nominating committee is comprised of Quin Berry, James Davis, David Redd and Tony Piazza. Members should contact one of these members if you are interested in serving on the board of directors.
  - The committee will recommend its slate at the February meeting and Members vote at the March meeting. Officers and board members take office immediately.
- 

### Saturday, January 22 Outing, Weedon Island Preserve

#### Fly fishing is ON

- Fish Weedon Island Preserve and surrounding waters. There's no picnic but some members are going to meet up at noon at the parking lot pavilion. BYOLunch..
  - Fish between 7 am and 7 pm. \$10 gift certificates will be awarded to members catching longest snook, the longest redfish, the longest seatrout, and the longest ladyfish. Measure your potential winners. Take pictures. Email your fishing pictures to outings committee chair Bob Burkard at [robertburkard9@gmail.com](mailto:robertburkard9@gmail.com) and to newsletter editor Bill AuCoin at [wmaucoin2@gmail.com](mailto:wmaucoin2@gmail.com).
- 

### Hog Roast and Silent Auction

- March 26. Hog Roast and Silent Auction, St. Jerome Catholic Church, 10895 Hamlin Blvd., Largo.
  - Do you have some gear you can contribute for the auction and bucket raffle please notify Bill AuCoin, [wmaucoin2@gmail.com](mailto:wmaucoin2@gmail.com)
- 



#### Bruce Evensen's 39<sup>th</sup> --+ Birthday

Suncoast fly tiers met at Bruce's studio on Monday Jan. 10th. While we were busy tying flies, a card circulated for all to sign and then we stopped to wish and sing HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Bruce.

We ate cupcakes and mini-assorted chocolate cakes like the one he's holding with the candle.

Oh, yes, This was for his 39<sup>th</sup>+ birthday!

*Bill Scarola*

#### Dues are due

If you haven't renewed your membership you pay online on SFF website ([eShop](#)), or mail a check to Suncoast Fly Fishers, P. O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743.

# We are Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

## Aims and Purposes

The Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. (SFF) is an organization of fishing enthusiasts who love fishing with the fly rod. We welcome all people of all ages with similar interests, regardless of their fly-fishing skill level. We enthusiastically teach those that wish to learn or improve their fly casting, fly tying and related fly-fishing skills. SFF meets monthly where we talk fly fishing, tie flies and most months feature a speaker with a program highlighting local fly-fishing opportunities.

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization. SFF is a charter member of the Fly Fishers International (FFI). SFF is a member of the Florida Council of FFI. SFF supports the conservation of natural resources, boating safety and fishing regulations.

### Monthly Meetings. Guests welcome.

Third Thursday of every month (except December) at St. Pete's Walter Fuller Park Rec Center, 7891 26th Ave. N. 6 to 8:30 pm.

**Directions to our meeting at Walter Fuller Park.** From 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N turn North on 72<sup>nd</sup> St. N. Turn left (West) on 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue N. Then turn right into the rec center parking lot.

### Monthly Outings

Club members meet up every month for a fly-fishing outing and lunch. Usually it is scheduled on the Saturday after the monthly meeting on the third Thursday of every month.

**Contact us by mail:** Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40821, St Petersburg, FL 33743-0821

**Visit our website and Facebook pages, too**

[SuncoastFlyFishers.com](http://SuncoastFlyFishers.com)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

[Facebook.com/scff2020](https://www.facebook.com/scff2020)

**Online Pay Portal: Pay dues, donate, purchase**

<https://suncoastflyfishers.com/eshop/>

### Membership update. 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 member David Ulgenalp, Palm Harbor**  
**Welcome returning member Duane Mertz, St. Petersburg.**

### Suncoast Fly Fishers

P. O. Box 40821  
St Petersburg, FL 33743  
[www.suncoastflyfishers.org](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.org)

### Club Officers

Pres: Rick Warfel  
Vice Pres: Quin Berry  
Secretary: David Redd  
Treasurer: Tom Gadacz

### Board of Directors

Bill Scarola, Bob Burkard, Bruce Evensen, Ryan Sollars, Cliff Nigh, Karen Warfel, 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.



## Pat Damico: January 8 Fly Casting Clinic in St. Pete Beach

*Thanks to photographers Marshall Craig, Wayne Shriver, Leigh West*



*Capt. Pat Damico, FFI Master Casting Instructor and casting clinic leader*

I have received many very positive comments about our Fly Casting/Fishing event at Egan Park, sponsored by Suncoast Fly Fishers. We had over 30 attendees representing the Suncoast Fly Fishers, Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club, and Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers

I must thank everyone in attendance because they all contributed to our success. From the moment people arrived, they pitched in with setting up and didn't leave until the place was spotless after 2 pm.

*Leigh West, Robert Fischer, and Jonas*

*Magnusson from TBFFC and Jim Cannon from Mangrove Coast were indispensable help with casting instruction.*

Early arrival President Rick Warfel set up the table and chairs, club banners, registration, name tag distribution, etc., and was busy during the entire event. James Davis was exceptional in handling much of our preparations, getting Dale's teaching aids from George Haseltine, bringing them to the Park, helping me set up, bringing coffee and donuts as well as lunch and cold drinks, and contributing the whole day to whatever our attendees needed.



*Clinic leader: FFI Master Casting Instructor Pat Damico shows how it's done.*

Tom Gadacz reserved the Park and worked tirelessly helping Jim and me stay on track with the many preparations, also spending time helping during the event. Some of our FFI members have enjoyed this event multiple times in the past and as always, we had some first-timers. The event was most gratifying to me and continues to show how much the sport of fly fishing continues to attract some of the most interesting and appreciative people.

We missed Dayle and Barbara praying that she will have a speedy recovery.

*(Editor's note: Barbara Mazzarella is recovering from surgery after shattering and dislocating her ankle.)*

*Pat*

## Bob Burkard: Don Coleman December Chili Cookoff Classic



Outings chair Bob Burkard

### *Lots of winning*

As always, Fort De Soto Park was beautiful on outing day and gave our fly fishers multiple ways to catch the longest saltwater fish to win the outing prizes, a \$10 gift certificate accompanied by lots of pats on the back.

And it was also our annual opportunity to gobble up bowls of member-made chili. This year our president Rick Warfel and Yours-Truly made chili. Big winners, both, imho.

Some fish were caught, but nothing exceptionally long. Tim Elms led Bill AuCoin through a thick, rattlesnake-infested mangrove swamp to one of his favorite spots on Mullet Bayou. These two wade-fishers caught numerous ladyfish and seatrout. It was looking like Tim's 20-inch ladyfish could take the prize. Then Scott Russell arrived. He had landed a 22-inch snook he caught fishing the north coastline near East Beach.



Scott Russell's 22-incher"

Oh, so Scott was the winner?

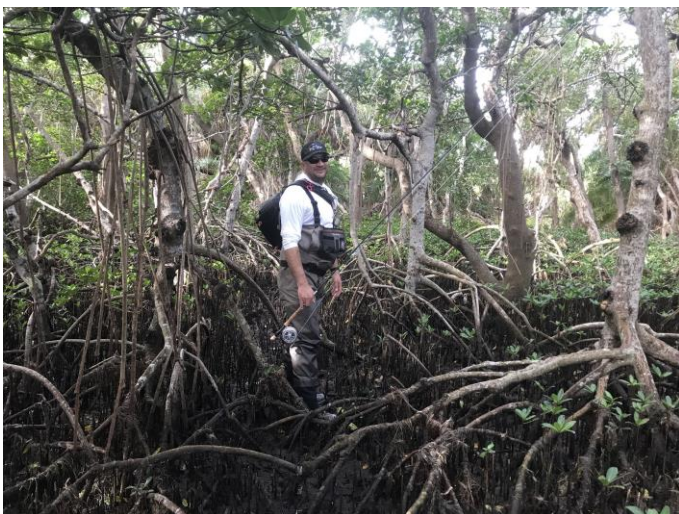
Well, no. Because then James Davis arrived at Pavilion 4 and announced to all the chili gobblers that he had caught a 31-inch snook.

Yes, we have a winner. James Davis

*Bob*



James Davis' 31-inch snook.



Tim Elms navigated a rattlesnake-infested mangrove path to his secret wade in spot.



That's Tim with one of many ladyfish and seatrout he caught wade fishing Mullet Bayou.

NOTE: Tony Piazza fly-fished the December outing from a kayak. Read what happened to him on the next page.



## Tony Piazza: Snook versus Kayak



*Snowbird Tony Piazza, back in God's Country, fly-fishing Cypress Point Park*

I have been back in "God's Country" for several weeks, out on the water in the south bay several times and wondering where in the heck the fish went.

I hadn't caught any seatrout so I gave up and decided to look for snook. I found myself up into Clam Bayou on an incoming tide and an easterly wind with a white DT Special on the important end of the fly line.



*Tony Piazza's 27-inch snook he caught fishing Clam Bayou*

My casting, as it is, found me trying to lose the fly in the mangroves but have been told by more than one fly fisherman that is where you have to be. Much to my surprise I got a good solid strike and a nice snook on the fly. Got him in, a 27 incher. Then two more snook, a 12" and a 15". I called it a happy day.

Now the fun begins. Alan Sewell called and invited me to fish with him at the December outing in one of his paddle kayaks. I am as inexperienced in kayaking as one can be so, of course, I said yes.

We put in at the Ft Desoto boat ramp and worked our way south along the shoreline. Not a sniff of anything so I decided to work some mangrove shoreline around the corner. I had been using some shrimp patterns with 15# tippet and switched to a white deceiver without changing the tippet. You can see where this is heading.

Within 15 minutes I hooked a nice snook. I gave him a good tug to keep him out of the mangroves and the son of a gun towed me and the kayak right into the mangroves. I would have sworn kayaks had brakes and maybe a reverse gear on them. But, noooo. I gave it a good what I thought would be a good tug and turn of his head. But the tippet snapped.

Being a slow learner I tied on another white fly and sure enough the same thing happened: good hook set, good tug to turn his head but instead got a great tow back again into the mangroves followed by a tippet snap. Aaaarrggghhhhhhh times two. I was snookered.

I have no idea the size of the two snook but obviously they were more than enough for me. I ran into Mark Hays on my way back and I told him what happened. He suggested I have a plan of action before the strike.

I am going to have to work on that.

*Tony*

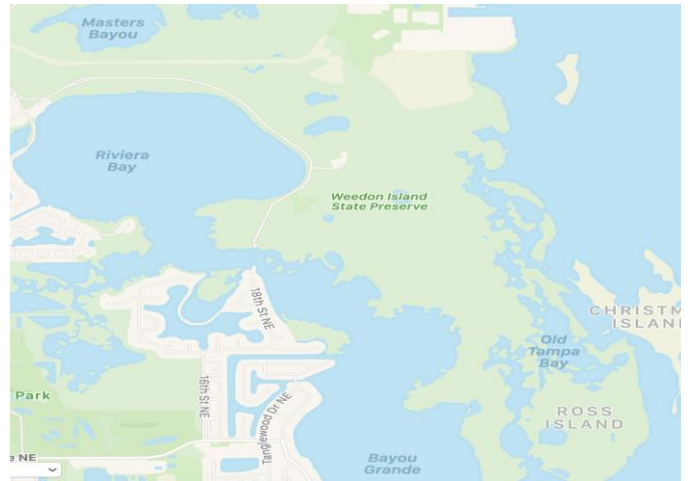
# Bob Burkard: January 22 Outing—Weedon Island Preserve

*Just fishing. No picnic. (Covid, you know)*

We'll start 2022 with one of our favorite outing locations, Weedon Island Preserve. The plan was to have a picnic with our traditional Weedon Island feast, the Low Country Boil. But, but, but something intervened. Covid, maybe? Cases skyrocketing? Oh well, better safe than sorry. All that.

But we can still fish, which is the best part about our outings, at least until we get hungry. Starting time is 7 am. Ending time is 7 pm. \$10 gift certificates go to the members catching the longest redfish, snook, seatrout and ladyfish. Measure and shoot a picture of your candidates and email them to Bob Burkard.

Fly-fish the water surrounding Weedon Island Preserve including the open waters of Tampa Bay,



*Fish anywhere around Weedon Island Preserve including Tampa Bay, Bayou Grande, Riviera Bay, and Masters Bayou (aka Snug Harbor).*

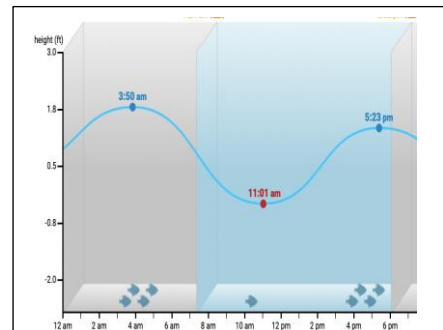


## Wade fishers unite

Wade fishers typically meet up in the main parking lot at 7 am. Some will probably hike to and wade fish the Riviera Bay shoreline. Some like to wade in at the kayak launching area. And some will take the 10-15 minute hike down Lookout Point Trail and wade into Tampa Bay.

or the waters of Riviera Bay and Bayou Grande.

Check out the visitor's map and other details on the [Weedon website](#). There's a kayak launch and many places to wade in and start fishing from the preserve. You can also rent a kayak at the [Sweetwater Kayaks](#) station on Weedon Drive. Master's Bayou/Snug Harbor also is a great spot to fish but you'll need to launch a kayak at one of the access points south of Gandy Boulevard.



**A Real Low Low Tide:** Outgoing to about 11:30 am and dropping to a negative 0.8. Interesting. (Tides4Fishing)



## Bob Burkard: Tournament Trail Winners for 2019-2020-2021

If you are a current member then be sure to attend the March 26 Hog Roast and Silent Auction because you'll hear your name on the loud speakers and lots of applause and you're going to get a special award.

### *2019 Outing Tournament Trail winners*

Species	Length	Winner	Outing (Month)
Longest sunfish	8-1/4"	Bill Scarola	Everglades outing (April)
Longest black bass	13.5"	David Redd	Walsingham Lake (February)
Longest snook	23.5"	Truk Trukenbrod	Dock-light/Beaches Outing (July)
Longest redfish	22.5	Dennis Marquis	Boca Ciega Bay (November)
Longest ladyfish	22 1/2"	Dennis Marquis	Weedon Island Preserve (Jan)
Longest seatrout	20"	Mark Hays	Dock-light/Beaches Outing (July)

### *2020 Outing Tournament Trail Winners*

Species	Length	Winner	Outing (Month)
Longest bream	9.5"	Tim Elms	Virtual outing (May)
Longest black bass	17"	Tim Elms	Virtual outing (May)
Longest snook	34"	Jack Collins	Virtual outing (May)
Longest snook	34"	James Davis	Fort DeSoto Park (October)
Longest redfish	22"	Mark Hays	Docklight Outing (June)
Longest ladyfish	25"	Mandy McGarry	Weedon Island Preserve (January)
Longest seatrout	19"	Mandy McGarry	Docklight Outing (June)
Longest seatrout	19"	Robert Fischer	North Tampa Bay Outing (Sept.)

### *2021 Outing Tournament Trail Winners*

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	20	Tim Elms	Fort De Soto Park (Dec)
Longest seatrout	20	Tim Elms	Fort De Soto Park (Feb)

(Editor's note: The February issue of *On The Fly* will have a list of all of the longest fish winners at each outing. The hope is that we can meet in person and hand out gift certificates to the winners in attendance.)

## Terry Kirkpatrick: My Father and Me

### *I think of my father often when I fish today*

I've always been a fly fisher. I was casting a fly rod long before my cousin took me to Canada where we used level-wind casting reels for those big predators, northern pike and muskies.

My fly fishing got off to a shaky start when my father turned the boat over on our first fishing trip! I didn't know how to swim at the time, so he put me on a rock while he went back for the other member of our party, a young man with braces on his legs. (I believe the young man had polio.) I don't remember much more about that day but I must have caught some fish, because we went again.

We cast terrible flies behind spinners, with pork rind on the bend of the hook. To make sure the fly got down quick, and stayed down we used split shot. I've often said that our fly fishing was done to a three count beat: Backcast, forecast and DUCK!



*Terry Kirkpatrick, long time member of the Suncoast Fly Fishers, military veteran, and master bamboo rod maker: [Fishtested.com](http://Fishtested.com)  
Email: [maker@flytested.com](mailto:maker@flytested.com)*



*Terry's Dad*

I got interested in fly fishing toward the end of my father's life. I'd slowed down a little, was married, had a steady job, and most of my needs were met. The last time my father and I went fishing I was more interested in the fishing than him. That was a big change. Then the next time I came home he was too sick to get in the boat. Catching a good sized smallmouth couldn't overcome the pain he was starting to feel.

On our last fishing trip together we put in at a public access point on the Gasconade River, north of Missouri state route 38. We fished the hole from where we put in to the riffle at its head. When we reached the head of the hole we beached the boat and I wade-fished up to the head of the riffle. Dad surveyed his surroundings -- the woods, the stream, the blue sky, the sound of water over ages-old stone.

"Pretty good way to live," He said.

"Yes," I said. "It is."

*Continued on next page*

We pushed the boat into the current and started back to the access point. As we fished down the river, little bluegills kept hitting my fly. Dad got mad at them for jumping in front of the big bass that he knew were out there. I had to laugh.

Suddenly, just in front of us, a large tree fell into the water. It had been growing on the edge of the river for over 50 years. All that time the river was removing the earth from around its roots. If it had taken two more minutes it would have landed on us, maybe killing us both. If you've never seen a full grown tree fall, it's dramatic. Even more so when it falls into a stream. I've always thought it was a sight. My interest in fishing was going up and my father's was declining. I've marked that instant in time as the point where our interest passed. We never fished together again.

I think of my father often when I fish today. Sometimes I get lucky. Sometimes I get skunked. Sometimes I get real lucky.

I've been able to fish several famous streams: Beaverkill, Esops Creek, AuSable in New York; the North Umpqua in Oregon; the White and North Fork of the White River in Arkansas, Mersaid in California, the Provo in Utah, the Bow in Canada.

In my home state of Missouri I fished Eleven Points, the Current and the Jacks Fork with my father. Today I live close to the Gulf of Mexico with it's beautiful grass flats to be able to chase fish in the salt.



*Pat Damico caught this Pennsylvania brook trout on one of Terry Kirkpatrick's bamboo rods.*

But my mind keeps returning to the streams of my youth with those old limestone bluffs hanging over us in the late afternoon shadows. A light breeze putting "cats paws" on the water. The murmur of a riffle. A warm fall day when large catalpa and maple leaves are so thick on the surface of the water that your line catches on them. Whetstone Creek, Beaver Creek (I'm sure everyone has a Beaver Creek), Bryant's Creek, and of course the Gasconade.

Back cast>Forecast>Duck.

*Terry*

*Life's been good, except for those few bursts of automatic weapons fire.*



## Tim Elms: "Never Let the Old Man in."



Howdy! How does fishing make you feel? I get asked this question from my wife. I have an answer, but I think it's similar for all of us who fish and especially fly fish. I met a man a couple of years ago through this very club and I want to share my friend's way of fishing and I think we should all FEEL the same way by *his* example.

I first fished with him at one of our outings and I was impressed to say the least on how he had the stamina of a 22-year-old. I was pooped tossing at mangroves all day, but my friend just kept casting and casting without mentioning fatigue in any way. His love for fishing reminded me of being a kid. I watch in awe every time we fish together, and

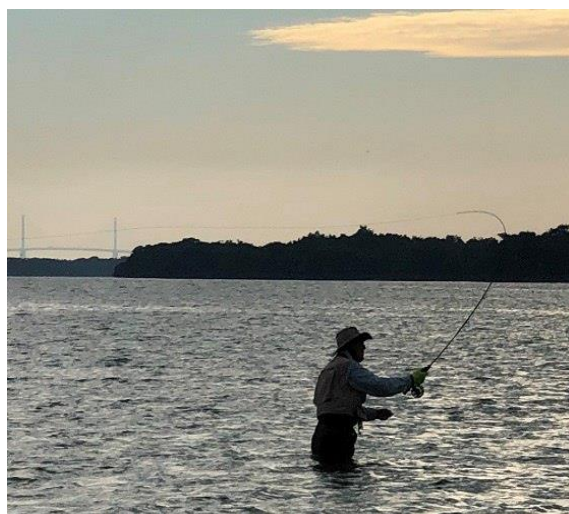
usually we don't catch squat, but he just keeps fishing and smiling. Every time we fished since; he smiles the entire time. And nothing but happy thoughts come out of his mouth. Recently we fished with a mutual friend, and we asked him how old he was. It was completely innocent of us and he kind of shocked us with his age. Then with a big smile he said "I never let the old man in." We all laughed and realized he couldn't have said it any better.

Fast forward another month and he asked me to fish the Ft. DeSoto outing together. He knew I was going off the beaten path for a flat I find especially peaceful and usually fish heavy. We dredged through the mangroves to the "honey", and he was right behind me avoiding any obstacle like a kid with no worries at all. The flat was very calm and looked perfect. As we went our separate ways, I could tell he was ready for bent rods.

Since his senses are a bit patinaed, especially his hearing, I found myself yelling for him to move to my area as I got into a school of speckled trout. Even this reminds me of a kid with selective hearing...hehe It just makes me laugh as I'm waving him over to the found school. He moved in and found them with me. Soon it was one after another. I think at one point we landed 10 in 10 casts. Then it stopped. It always does. So, we split up again and we tied on some topwater as the clouds came in and gave us the shade for top slams. We doubled up on some great ladyfish. Here again I was pooped. Hahah and he was ready for more and kept casting and smiling.

Bill AuCoin, and his Southern personality may be the definition of how fishing makes me feel. You can see it in his face and his body. The minute he gets to the water he's instantly a kid and I can tell it makes him feel like a kid. His effortless cast is always a delight to watch and seeing him strip strike was even more fun. Fishing with Bill takes me right back to being a kid with my brother and just smiling.. Thanks Billy. And thanks for hardboiled eggs and summer sausage.

*Strip Strip Strip!!!!—Tim*



**Thanks, Tim; that is so nice. Yes, I really think fishing keeps us young or, at least, young at heart. I grew up catching croakers and white trout in Mobile Bay and I also caught the lifelong fishing bug. These days the hard boiled eggs, summer sausage, and Zone bars we eat on the boat also keep us healthy. Ditto the cookies and blueberry muffins that I gobble up at Suncoast Fly Fisher picnics. I have loads of fond fishing memories, of course, but what really keeps me keeping on is planning and fishing the next expedition with good friends like you. BillAuCoin**

## Rick Warfel: Elusive Pompano on the Fly



I am lucky to have a property on the water in Apollo Beach and I fish from my dock with a fly rod frequently. I have caught many of the varieties of fish found in the Bay but this is the first time I caught a pompano. The fish was 15 ½" and hit a black over rust Clouser.

*Rick*



### Pompano, Florida ▲ ★ T ■

#### Minimum Size Limits:

- 11" fork length

#### Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

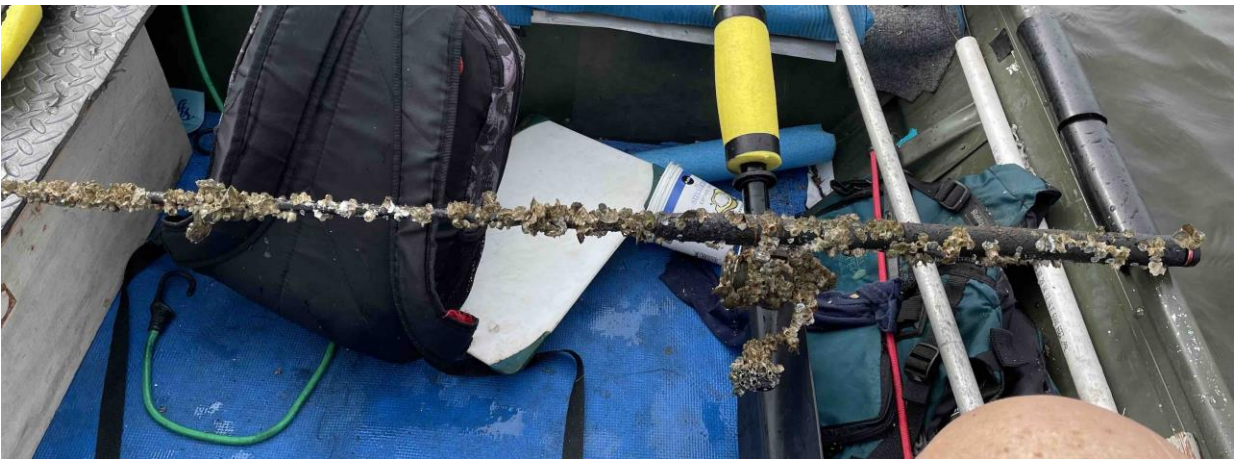
- 6 per harvester

#### Remarks

- Hook and line, cast net and beach or haul seine ONLY.

## Bill Scarola: Cleaning up the water one rod at a time

Jack Collins and I went out fishing off of the Courtney Campbell Bridge Boat Ramp. We didn't catch much but Jack did pull this one in!!!



*Yeah, a barnacle-encrusted rod and reel. When I picked it up the bail broke off immediately.*

Jack tossed it in the trash when we got back to shore! Happy New Year.

*Bill*

## Bill AuCoin: CCA-Florida and Duke Energy release 10,000 juvenile redfish into Middle Tampa Bay

In early January CCA Florida and Duke Energy Mariculture Center released 10,000 hatchery-raised redfish into Tampa Bay. They were released into the shallows at the public beach on the south side of Gandy Boulevard just west of the Gandy Bridge.

Sportfishers hope that the juvenile redfish will find suitable habitat in the seagrass and mangrove backcountry waters of nearby Master's Bayou and Weedon Island Preserve.

CCA-Florida announced that the release was a continuation of CCA Florida and Duke Energy's commitment to rebuilding and maintaining redfish stocks, and marks more than 110,000 redfish released in Florida since 2018.

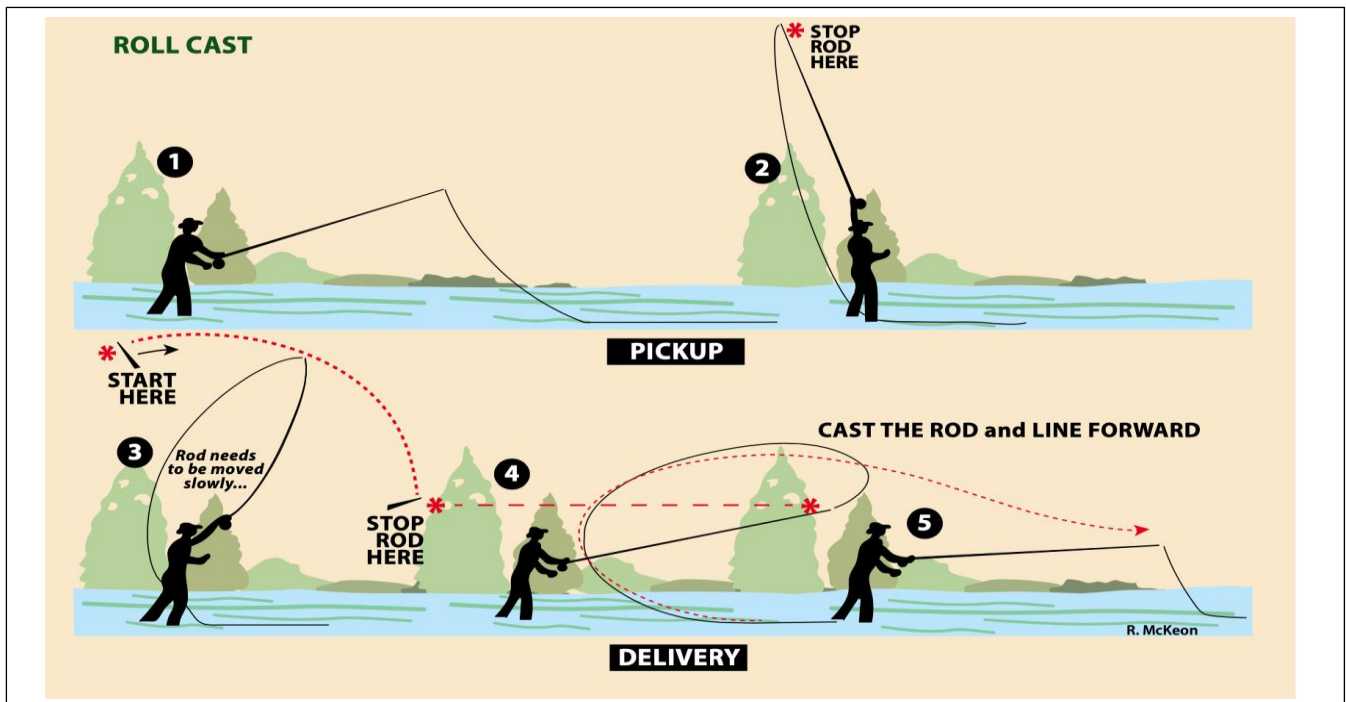
*Bill*



*Volunteers of all ages helped move the little redfish into the bay.*

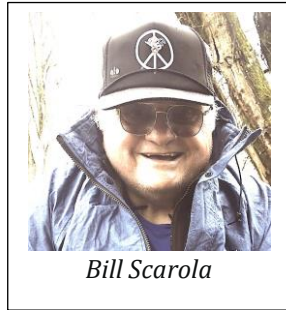
## How to: The Roll Cast

*From the December 2021 DFC Bulletin of [The Desert Fly Casters](#) in Chandler, Arizona  
Courtesy of editor Robert McKeon*





**Bill Scarola: Epoxy Shrimp**



*Bill Scarola*

Meet up with other club members and tie the Epoxy Shrimp with Bill and Bruce Evensen at 6 pm on Monday, January 17. Bruce's fly tying studio is at 531 80th Avenue N in St. Pete.

*Bill*



**Materials**

Note: this pattern can be tied in several colors, so use matching colors for each fly.

HOOK- Gamakatsu SC 15 size 1 or 2, B-10 stingers size 4 or smaller

THREAD- White or Tan flat waxed or mono thread

EYES- Shrimp eyes

FLASH- Pearl Flashabou

BODY- A: Shrimp legs (white, tan or pearl) medium Palmer Chenille or large Estaz

BODY- B: Bucktail.

OVER BODY- Supreme Hair

TENTACLES- Tan, brown or clear barred Sili legs

GLUE- UV Epoxy

**TYING SEQUENCE:**

1. Wrap hook shank w/ thread from hook eye to start of bend.
2. Tie in a strip of the Palmer Chenille or Estaz at hook eye to bend to represent shrimp legs.
3. Add the shrimp eyes so they stick up as shown and keep them apart.
4. Add 3-4 Sili legs, tying in just in front of the hook eye and extend approx. 1" beyond the bend.
5. Add a small clump of bucktail over the chenille or Estaz, and Sily legs, so they're past the bend, 1" or so, but not past the hook eye
6. Add 3-4strips of Flashabou, same length as Sily legs.
7. Add a small clump of Clear or White Supreme Hair so it extends out a 1/4" or so over hook eye to form a tail and extend it 1" or so past the bend.
8. Apply U V epoxy to the top of the Supreme Hair to form the 'shell' and cure with your UV light.

**Jokes of the day**

- + This is a great oppor-TUNA-ty for me to put in some puns!
- + Where's that fish pun site I've been HERRING about?
- + I feel great every day of the week BARRAMUNDI!
- + Then there are those that say" OH for COD'S HAKE" not another fish pun!
- + But any FIN is possible!
- + Next month I'll SCALE back on the fish puns!!
- + Ahh guys and gals you're KRILLING me!!

## Smitty's Fly Box: Whatever-You-Want-Baitfish"



This baitfish pattern can be converted to represent any bait fish you choose, be it saltwater or freshwater, just by changing the colors and amounts of material. It can represent a whitebait or a greenback ... a Tennessee shad or a freshwater minnow! ... It's a very versatile fly



*Smitty*

### Materials

Hook: Black nickel wide gap worm hook size to match your baitfish choice

Thread: Mono Tying thread

Weight: Lead wire (per sink rate) wrapped on belly of hook (optional)

Body: Wrapped diamond braid (silver or pearl) to match your baitfish choice

Wing: Dyed coyote tail to match, over natural gray silver fox tail, over white fox tail

Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash & 2 strands of silver holographic Flashabou ¼" past wing

Cheeks: Fluorescent pink marabou or choice to match pectoral fin

Eyes: 3-D silver/black

Head: Solarez UV Resin

### Tying Instructions

Tied in order that the materials are listed.

1. Put your hook in the vise. Attach thread just behind the eye and wrap down to the belly of the hook. If weight is needed to create desired sink rate, wrap on size and weight of lead wire to the belly of the hook then over-wrap with thread to secure, ending with thread at back end of lead wraps. Tie in diamond braid.
2. If no weight is needed ignore lead wire and just wrap thread back the belly of the hook to just past the halfway point and tie in diamond braid. Advance thread forward to just behind the hook eye. Wrap braid forward in touching wraps to standing thread. Tie off and cut away excess.
3. Tie in a section of white fox tail long enough to reach just past hook bend, then tie in the gray silver fox tail on top to reach back just past the white fox. Lastly tie in the coyote tail to extend back just past the silver fox. You may apply head cement after each wing section to create a more durable fly if you like.
4. Tie in Krystal Flash in on both sides of the fly to spread over the body of the fly and end just short of wing. Tie in two strands of Flashabou along the lateral line on both sides to extend ¼" longer than the wing.
5. Tie in on each side a feather of choice (pink marabou, silver pheasant or your favorite cheek feather).
6. Attach eyes on cheek and touching hook just behind eye and overcoat with UV Resin filling in gap between eyes.



## Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

### Look for Snook and Juvenile Tarpon

A recent cold front produced falling water temperatures, causing snook and baby tarpon to head upriver to winter haunts where both species can adapt to freshwater. Many fish that have been around river mouths, bridges, and near beaches are migrating upriver and making frequent feeding stops. Structure is the key as any diversion from a smooth bank often holds baitfish. Points, sand holes, channels, fallen trees, docks, undercut banks and small mangrove islands must all be explored. Don't spend a lot of time in one spot. Cast accurately with baitfish patterns the size and color of what you see in the water. A cast that lands 3 feet from the structure will not produce as well as one that is within inches or under fish-holding obstacles like docks and overhanging trees. Watch your temperature gauge. Warmer water in small shallow bays can be a hot spot. Fish will often be in groups, so when one or two are caught, fish the area thoroughly. Keep the boat parallel to shore with an electric trolling motor, this will allow two experienced fly casters to use different setups. For example, one with a floating line using a popper or small fly and the other with a sink tip line and a larger fly, both having a 30-pound shock tippet. An outgoing tide will drain small creeks of baitfish and large predators will be in the closest deep hole waiting for an easy meal.

### *Captain Pat*

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

## Gear for Sale or Swap

### Bob Cirulnick needs to sell his new jon boat and trailer

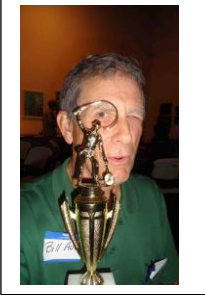
New Alumacraft, 14ft x 40" All welded Jon Boat. New Tohatsu 4-stroke outboard used less than two hours. New MagnaTilt Trailer. Asking \$6,000. Email [bob.cirulnick@gmail.com](mailto:bob.cirulnick@gmail.com)



*Suncoast Fly Fishers – We're back to ads selling/trading used gear in the newsletter. Email me at [wmaucoin2@gmail.com](mailto:wmaucoin2@gmail.com) Bill AuCoin*



## Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



**Analysis, true:** The writer and the club spokesmen really nail the good things about fly fishing and, in this case, the Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers. So much of what they're doing up there is like what we're doing down here. I liked this part of the headline...*outreach extends beyond wetting a line*. And I really liked this line: "Fly-fishing has a reputation for being 'high falutin,' but most of us in the club are middle-class worker bees." ([Northern Kentucky Tribune](#))

**We've lost a true legend:** Captain Billy Knowles, known as the "Mayor" of Islamorada, died January 4. His family homesteaded many parts of the Florida Keys and he became a professional guide who was known for finding many of the best Florida tarpon spots. He logged many tournament wins and guided notables like Ernest Hemingway, President Herbert Hoover, President George H.W. Bush, and Ted Williams. He was inducted into the IGFA Captains and Crew Hall of fame in 2019. Here's Billy Knowles being interviewed by Andy and Nicky Mill. ([Mill House Podcast](#))

**Dolphin downs and ups in Sarasota Bay** -- I hope this applies to Tampa Bay, too. Long story short: Red tide killed many juvenile dolphin. So long red tide. Now more dolphins are being born. And researchers say gamefish populations are coming back. This fly fisher can't confirm that. ([WFLA](#))

**Good!** FWC arrested 10 people from Atlanta who were using a 1,660-foot gill net near the Blackthorn Memorial rest area on the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. I'm just guessing but I'd bet the anonymous tipster was a sport-fisher who knew they were breaking the law. ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

**I'm always learning** --I was browsing (of course) and poking around the FFI website. I kinda knew about the FFI "Learning Center" but I didn't know that it had this pretty thorough, A-to-Z, detailed tutorial on how to fly fish southwest Florida, salt and fresh. It's like an online book and comes courtesy of the Backcountry Fly Fishers Club in Naples. I'm working my way through it. ([Fly Fishers International](#))

**Is fishing in our DNA?** Suncoast Fly Fisher Marshall Craig writes that his love for fishing (since that first tap on the line when he was six) comes from his grandfather. ([Craiglit](#))

**Diagnosis: Stage four cancer:** Becca Powell of Atlanta was diagnosed with stage four cancer. Fly fishing helped her face the unknowns. This short film --"Becca: Water is Life"-- won FFI's competition at the recent Virtual Expo. ([Midcurrent](#))

**44<sup>th</sup> annual St. Pete Boat Show** -- It's downtown at Albert Whitted Park January 20-23. Looking for a flat's boat? A kayak? Gear? You got it. Or, if you prefer, check out one of the 50-footers with four 600-horsepower Mercury outboards on the transom. This is the biggest boat show on Florida's Gulf Coast. ([St. Pete Boat Show](#))

**The water quality is better at this time of the year** -- All testing locations are good right now in Pinellas. And they're all good in Hillsborough County, too, except at the Ben T. Davis Park. I can't find a test for the waters around Weedon Island but I'm guessing they're healthy, too. ([Florida's Healthy Beaches](#))

**Win some swag.** Funniest caption contest. I'm thinking, I'm thinking. ([Deneki Outdoors](#))

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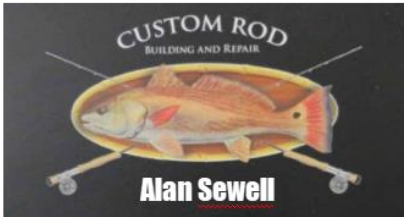


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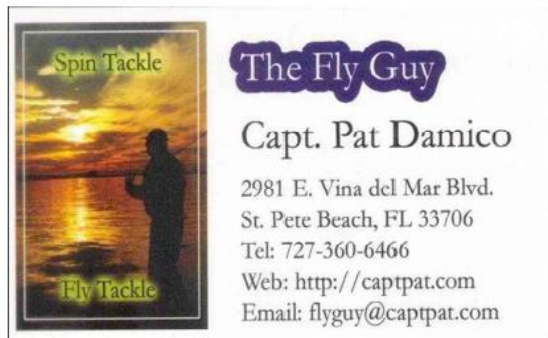
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