



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