

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

March meeting
Capt. Pat Damico P3



FDP: Longest fish? P7



Up Next: Walsingham P6



Joe Mahler Fly Casting P13



Great American
Campout (and fly
tying) P9



Trash n Treasures P8



Bill Scarola's Mop Fly .P14



Smitty's Timberwolf P16



Hog Roast March 26 P3





The President's Message: March 2022

This month marks the return of one of SFF's most iconic events, the annual Hog Roast and silent auction. Nothing says that we are back to normal more than the return of our beloved Hog Roast. The Hog Roast is our premier social event of the year. It is also the main fund-raising event for the club.

The Hog Roast is fun for the whole family. It is our annual awards banquet with a bunch of raffles, drawings and auctions thrown in. There was a time when the club buried a pig in a pit and slow roasted it over smoldering coals. These days we sit down to a delicious BBQ dinner catered by Smokey Bones restaurant. We will be presenting awards for our yearly tournament winners and the President's Vision and Values award for leadership and service to the club. In addition, there are lots and lots of prizes, raffles and auctions. Every member has a chance in the member only raffle for a custom-made graphite rod. There are also bucket raffles, books, member tied flies, guided trips and merchandise that you can bid on in the silent auction. As the saying goes, we have everything from soup to nuts only for us it is everything from flies and fly rods to kitchen gadgets and household appliances.

It has been three long years since SFF had a Hog Roast. We can't wait to see you there. This year the Hog Roast will be Saturday, March 26, 4-8 pm, at St. Jerome Catholic Church, 10895 Hamlin Blvd., Largo, FL 33774. There is plenty of free parking. Please come out for a great evening of food and fun. Mark your calendar for March 26th. Get your tickets now!

Having the Hog Roast again will be to the club like having Tom Brady say to the Buccaneers that he isn't really going to retire!

Stay safe and keep fishing!

Rick

Rick Warfel, SFF President

Meetings, Outings, and More

Thursday, March 17, Walter Fuller Park, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

- Vote for new officers and board members. The slate is same as before Covid struck our shores. Quin Berry, chairman of the elections committee, will discuss the process and call for the vote. The list is on page 5.
- President Rick Warfel will bring members up to date on various issues including the money raised at February's Trash 'n' Treasures meeting. Hint: It was quite good!
- This meeting is our last meeting opportunity to buy tickets for the March 26 hog roast. See Treasurer Tom Gadacz at the meeting. Also, if you have any new gear you can donate for the auction bring it and give it to Rick Warfel.



- Capt. Pat Damico will be our featured speaker. Pat will lead a Q & A session with a focus on whether our fly gear is properly suited for the species of fish we pursue. Pat adds, *Whenever you use your own equipment with a guide, why does he or she check the way you are set up? There are simple, quick, and cost-effective ways to prepare equipment for efficient saltwater fly fishing. Rods, reels, lines, leaders, knots, flies, and casting will be discussed. I will rig one for the shallows, and a second with a clear sink tip with weighted flies for deeper presentations. The basics are simple, why make it complicated? Questions are encouraged.*

Saturday, March 19 Outing and Picnic, Walsingham Lake Park, Largo

- Fish the park waters in the morning. Word is that the shorelines are not clogged with thick vegetation which will help those casting from land.
- Bass and bream are spawning. \$10 gift certificates will be awarded to members catching the longest bass and the longest bream. Measure your longest fish, take pictures.
- Meet up at Pavilion 8 at noon to gobble up picnic fare and tell fishing stories.
- Outings Committee Chair Bob Burkard has more details on page 6.

Saturday, March 26, Hog Roast and Silent Auction, 4-8 pm

St. Jerome Catholic Church, 10895 Hamlin Blvd., Largo, FL 33774

- Members and guests \$20/person. Children twelve and under are free when with a paid adult.
- FREE Members-Only rod raffle with paid Hog Roast ticket.
- Full BBQ Dinner and Beverages with all the fixings by Smokey Bones
- Silent Auction
- Bucket Raffles
- Prizes
- BYOB
- Tickets on sale now. You can buy them [online](#). Or, sign up at a meeting or club event; Contact Karen Warfel by phone 813-505-3162 or email her at kmwarfel@yahoo.com ; or you may mail a check to Suncoast Fly Fishers, P. O. Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743
- SFF is accepting donations of member tied flies and merchandise that would be of interest to both our fishing and non-fishing members and guest. Please contact Rick Warfel by phone 813-523-0692 or email rh_warfel@yahoo.com or bring your donations to the next club meeting or event.



Meetings, Outings, and More

Thursday, April 21, Tie-a-Thon Meeting, Walter Fuller Park, 6:30-8:30

- Bring your vise and materials and do your thing.
 - If you're a newbie take a seat at any of the tables and watch what they do.
 - We'll have one table for tying Clouser minnow flies for the Boy Scouts Fly Fishing Tournament. More information below.
-

Saturday, April 23, Blackthorn Memorial outing

- The Blackthorn Memorial outing is based at the north rest area on The Sunshine Skyway. Twenty-three U.S. Coast Guardsmen died when the USCG Blackthorn collided with 585-foot tanker near the Sunshine Skyway Bridge.
 - It's a terrific wade-in fishing flat. You can wade in on the west side or the east side of I-275.
 - \$10 gift certificates will be awarded for the longest snook, redfish, and seatrout.
 - Meet up at noon for a picnic lunch.
-

April 27-May 1, Everglades Outing

- Alan Sewell is chairing this year's Everglades outing.
 - Call Alan and put your name on the list for a single or double room. 727-470-4570
 - This is officially one of our club's monthly outings.
-

First annual Tampa Bay area Boy Scout Fly Fishing Tournament, May 13-14

Suncoast Fly Fishers club has agreed to put member-tied Clouser minnows in the gift bags.

- The Greater Tampa Bay Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America is holding a fly fishing only tournament in the waters ranging from Anclote Key to the Southern tip of Anna Maria Island and all of the TAMPA BAY Area.
- It's a catch-and-release tournament. First, second, and third places will be for the combined length of any Snook, Redfish, Speckled Trout and Tarpon.
- A rod and reel outfit will also be awarded for the largest Trout caught on a Clouser.
- The tournament will take place on May 13-14 with an anglers' meeting on May 12th.
- The tournament director is Juan Vega. Juan is an avid fly fisherman and is working hard to make this inaugural tournament a success.
- For more information on the tournament please visit the tournament website: [Greater Tampa Bay Area Council \(mobilecause.com\)](http://GreaterTampaBayAreaCouncil.org)

We need lots of Clouser flies

Note from President Rick Warfel:

Suncoast Fly Fishers is going to donate Clouser flies tied by our members for the gift bag that will be presented to each angler at the GTBAC Tournament. We are going to need lots of Clousers. If you would like to help with this project please contact Bruce Evensen, 727-403-9010 or bring your Clousers to the next meeting or club event.



Clouser Minnow (Deneki Outdoors)

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 111 members including 13 family members and 6 honorary members. Annual dues for fiscal 2021-2022 are past due. 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.

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

Editor Bill AuCoin, Anne Mitchell, Bob Hood, Tim Elms, Marshall Craig, Kevin Kelly

Bob Burkard: March 19 Outing—Walsingham Lake Park



Bob Burkard,
Chairman of the
Outings Committee

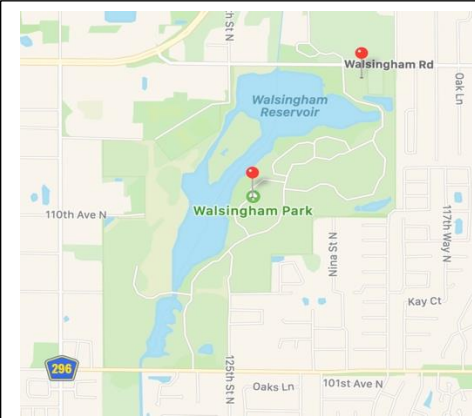
Fish in the morning. Meet up at noon at Pavilion #8 for a picnic lunch

We're going back to Walsingham Lake, one of only two freshwater outings we have each year. The other one is October's Carl Hanson outing on the Hillsborough River

Walsingham Lake has all of the amenities we need – a boat ramp, convenient access, good shoreline fishing spots, picnic pavilions with grills. Oh, and I can't leave this out -- restrooms.

You can launch your motorboat but you can't use the internal combustion engine.

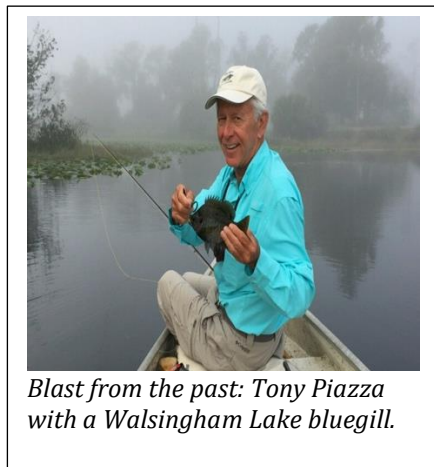
Outing prizes will go to the members catching the longest bass and the longest panfish including crappie, bluegill, redear, and sunshine bass. Measure your longest fish. Take a picture. You know the thing.



Open 7 am to sunset



Blast from the past: Mark Hays:
Walsingham crappie



Blast from the past: Tony Piazza
with a Walsingham Lake bluegill.

Legend:

- Open (Green circle)
- Reserved (Red circle)
- First Come-First Served (Blue circle with 'F')
- Boat Ramp
- Dog Park
- Fishing
- Multi-Purpose Trail
- Parking
- Pier
- Playground Equipment
- Restroom
- Shelter & Grills
- Wheelchair Accessible

Please Note:

- Restrooms Closed Monday - Friday
- Open Weekends and Holidays

Meet up for lunch at Shelter #8 at 11:30. Coffee will be ready earlier.

Bob Burkard: February 19 Outing—Fort DeSoto Park

Stingrays are fish, too.

Well, this is an interesting twist to our February outing's longest fish contest. When it was decided that the member catching the longest fish would win a \$10 gift certificate I was thinking it would probably be a snook, a redfish, a seatrout, or a ladyfish.. Rick Warfel caught a ladyfish. He dutifully measured it and took a picture of it. All that. And we thought we had a winner. Well, interestingly, our outing results turned into contest between two family members.



That's Rick and his ladyfish

Rick actually did catch a ladyfish. However, rules are rules and on outing day Karen, wife and fishing partner, caught a fish that was longer than his ladyfish. Her fish didn't get mentioned right away because, well, it wasn't one of those fish we think of catching. It was a stingray. Yes, a stingray is a fish. Look it up. (Actually she caught three stingray; well, actually,, two but one had a newborn ray clinging to it.)

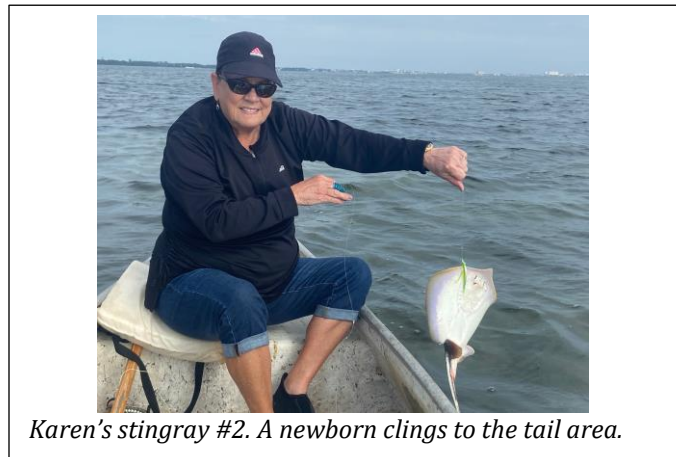
Fun fact: Stingrays, with their wide, flat bodies, may not look like fish, but they are. They are related to sharks, and like their shark cousins, they do not have bones. Instead, their bodies are supported by cartilage—the same material that you feel inside the tip of your nose.

Here's the rest of the story from Rick...

Here are the photos from the February Outing. I caught a marginal ladyfish and Karen caught a stingray. I think Karen's stingray was longer than my ladyfish. Do you measure a stingray with a pinched tail? Wait there's more. She actually caught two stingrays. When we looked at the photo of the bottom view of the "fish", we found a newborn ray was clinging to the ventral side of the one on the line. Who would have thought!



Karen's stingray #1, dorsal view



Karen's stingray #2. A newborn clings to the tail area.

So, do we have a winner? The outings committee has voted to give the \$10 gift certificate to Karen Warfel for her stingray. Longest fish it is.

Bob

Bill AuCoin: February Trash 'n' Treasures

February's Trash 'n' Treasures meeting was a big success, adding almost \$1000 to our bank account and sending many members home with big smiles. Members brought in lots of worthy items – waders, fly reels, boots, flies, fly tying materials, lures, books, landing nets, vises, life jackets, tackle boxes, a wading staff. There were a few non-fishing things, too, like a table-top pool set. Wayne Shriver brought a wall clock and several Viva tumblers to which he had affixed the Suncoast Fly Fishers logo. Bidding was big for those. Thanks also to all the bidders and, once again, let's give a huge thanks to our talented auctioneer, Alan Sewell, who kept the bids and laughs coming. It was a fun time.



David Redd with everything a fly fisher could want – waders, fly tying materials, and a Viva Tumbler with the SFF logo created by member Wayne Shriver.



Auctioneer Alan Sewell made sure to get big bids on this one of a kind SFF clock made by Wayne Shriver.



Tampa club member Ted Hagaman shows off his new waders.



Auctioneer Alan points to Kevin Kelly whose winning bid scored these Simms wading boots.



Summer is coming. President Rick Warfel took a liking to this hands-free umbrella.

Tom Gadacz: Hillsborough County Spree for All



Suncoast Fly Fishers participated in the Hillsborough County event on February 12, 2022 at All People's Life Center in Tampa. It was a beautiful sunny morning and we had a fly fishing program from 9:00 to noon.

We had adults and several children who expressed an interest in fly fishing. We talked about how fly

fishing was different than spin casting and gave lessons on fly casting and demonstration of fly tying. President Rick Warfel demonstrated fly tying and board members David Redd, Bill Scarola and Tom Gadacz talked about how to cast a fly rod.

We had a very enthusiastic group of participants from kids to seasoned spin casters. Several of the women remarked that it was easier than spin casting and the fly fishing line on the reel did not create a bird's nest tangle like spin casting. Several of the kids were amazing!



Suncoast Fly Fishers (L-R) Rick Warfel, Tom Gadacz, Chris O'Byrne, David Redd, Bill Scarola

We had an enjoyable time and wish to thank Brad Lympny and his staff for the invitation and their support.

We had a similar program at the *Great American Backyard Campout* at Carrollwood Village Park on February 26. This event is a regular outdoor gathering of families pitching a tent and enjoy each other's company with several events and outdoor activities.

The program included bush crafts, tent seminars, backyard games, fishing (this year fly fishing), campfire lighting, camp cooking in cast iron kettles, and star gazing. Many of the participants regularly assemble each year and come from several parts of the states. This gathering has a 20 year history.



*Daughter-Daddy fly tying at the Great American Backyard Campout.
Chris O'Byrne photo*

We had a great time watching them putting up tents and starting camp fires. Some of the campers now have grandchildren involved in the camp outs. There were campers from several states and their last event was in January when the temperature was 20 degrees. They are a hardy group.

We had delightful weather and a great group of both parents and kids who were interested in learning about fly fishing and had the opportunity to do some fly casting and watch fly tying.

Club President Rick Warfel along with David Redd, Bill Scarola, Chris O'Byrne, and Tom Gadacz were the SFF members who had an enjoyable time. Maybe next year we will bring a tent!

Tom

Annie Mitchell: How to Impress the Campground



My dad (Mark Hays), my husband (Robert Mitchell), and I went camping on the shore of Lake Eaton in the Ocala National Forest for the annual Traditional Bow Hunters of Florida Spring Shoot. None of us did very well in the tournament, but we decisively caught more fish than any of the other campers who brought bait and lures to the lake.

Robert and I each caught a few speckled perch in the 11 to 14 inch range, and Robert caught a nine inch bluegill. Most of the fish were caught on a #6 chartreuse over white bead eye Clouser. I caught one perch on a Myakka Minnow.

The wind was gusting most of the weekend so we had to make short, decisive casts off the dock and abandoned boat ramp. At one point, some people were watching Robert cast with the wind. To impress them, he started casting directly into the wind. They were astounded and agreed they needed to take up fly fishing.



*Lake Eaton crappie on a Clouser.
Myakka Minnow also worked.*

One of the other campers did get a large bass on a worm, but no one matched us in quantity of fish.



Robert's Lake Eaton bluegill.

The side of Lake Eaton we fished on is at a summer camp that is not open to the public, but on the other side of the lake there is a primitive camp ground with a fishing pier and boat ramp. I wouldn't want to camp there without an RV as the bathroom consists of a hut with a hole in the ground, but a more daring person may want to get in touch with his/ her natural side over a weekend there.

Annie

Bill AuCoin: Cichlid, Oscars, Peacock Bass on the C-4 Canal



That's me with a Mayan cichlid caught on Smitty's Golden Eye Shrimp



On our way back from a fishing expedition in the Florida Keys my nephews and I fished the C-4 Canal at several pull-off-the-road spots on the Tamiami Trail. These spots were mostly between the two Loop Road intersections.

I tied on Smitty's Golden Eye Shrimp and caught a Mayan cichlid and three oscars then I handed the five-weight over to nephew Mike who promptly caught three more oscars on Smitty's shrimp.

Bill

Andy Constantinou: Followers but Few Takers

I shared a day with Ken Moser on a guide day with Captain Ken Tuturo. Fish were very shy. I had many follows but few takes. Nevertheless it was a splendid day and I'm now looking forward to another day with both Kens later in the year.

Cheers

Andy



Barbara Mazzarella: Thanks for your get well messages



Barbara and Dayle Mazzarella

(Editor's note: Just before Christmas long time member Barbara Mazzarella shattered and dislocated her ankle. After surgery and with continuing physical therapy she is recovering and very grateful for all the support she has received from fellow members.

February 25, 2022

I have started to walk with a boot, and I've started with physical therapy, so I think I'll be improving quickly. I am attaching a note of thanks to the wonderful SFF members for the amazing get-well card and notes.

Barbara

Dear Fellow SFF Anglers and Tyers,

You have touched my heart with such kindness with the fun and uplifting cards and your thoughtful notes. There are no words to let you know how much you have lifted my spirits. I have finally started to walk with a boot, and I've started with physical therapy, so I'll start be improving soon. We look forward to seeing you all later this year!

Dayle and I send you all lots of wishes for good health and happiness.

Many, many thanks,

Barbara Mazzarella

Bill AuCoin: Joe Mahler's Fly Casting Insights



Instructor Joe Mahler shows how casting from a kneeling position helps us learn the basics of the cast including level forward strokes.

Six fly fishers met up February 12th at Meadowlawn Park for a morning group lesson by one of the best. [Joe Mahler of Ft. Myers](#). Tim Elms organized the event after Tim and Joe have worked together on casting several times over the past years.

Joe is known for his unique and stress free fly casting techniques. Watching Joe cast is like watching Michelangelo paint the Sistine Chapel.

Joe doesn't just demonstrate correct casting; he gives you a mental picture of what you're trying to do. For example, to prevent tailing loops you want to keep rod moving horizontally toward the target. So, imagine that you're throwing darts.

Mahler is also a well-known fly tier, author, magazine contributor, and an amazing illustrator. In fact, the logo of Captains for Clean Water was created by Joe.

Joe asked each of us to think of things that we specifically would like to improve. Generally, we all had similar challenges we wanted to address, and Joe had many great tips for correcting them.

I asked him how I can make longer fly casts when I'm wade fishing.

Here's Joe's answer:

Make a false cast and on the retrieve put four loops on your four fingers starting with the pinkie finger. That keeps the line off of the water. Then, when you make the real cast, let the momentum of the line take the dry loops from your fingers.

Oh yeah!

Bill



Joe shows the proper form for long casting.



Joe and his assistant, Jackson Elms. Jackson is Tim's nephew

To see some of Joe's fishing illustrations, take a look at these important knots he did in [Fly Fisherman](#) magazine. H/T Pat Damico

Cliff Nigh: Our Club's new Marine Science Scholar is Jill Thompson-Grim



Cliff Nigh, chair of the Suncoast Fly Fishers' Conservation Committee

I'm sure most of you recall that way back in 2019 we established the Suncoast Fly Fishers Educational Grant Program in concert with USF's College of Marine Science to enhance the club's efforts in Conservation issues. While USF selects the deserving graduate student that will receive our grant, SCF made the stipulation that any such research was to deal with Florida fishery water.

Christina Welsh was the graduate student recipient of our \$500 grant in 2020 and provided a presentation of her research efforts to our club. Christina's presentation was enthusiastically received by our membership and the decision to continue our financial support of the school was approved. It should be noted that Christina was also the recipient of FFI's educational grant that same year.

With COVID and personnel changes at USF, the status of our grant program went dark for a while. After several calls, we established a new relationship with Howard Rutherford, Senior Director of Development, at USF. Mr. Rutherford will now be overseeing our grant efforts.

Now that the school is back in full swing, **Jill Thompson-Grim has been selected as the most recent Suncoast Fly Fishers Scholar.** (That's USF's title, not mine, but it does have a nice ring to it). Her research involves Florida's Panhandle area and she is happy to make a presentation of her research at a future club meeting. Jill has also applied for FFI's grant and is waiting for the results of her application.

I'm sure we'll be letting you know when Jill will be making her presentation at an upcoming SFF Meeting.

A tour of one of USF's Research Vessels for club members is also on the horizon again following the delay created by COVID. We'll let you know when this is scheduled.

All of you should be proud to belong to an organization that recognizes and supports conservation and the educational efforts that go into helping preserve our fragile resources. It's nice knowing that we are able to play a part in that.

On a side note, USF is pursuing an interdisciplinary Center of Excellence in Environmental and Oceanographic Sciences on the St. Petersburg campus. This center will harness the collective power of colleges and departments throughout the university to address the need to build resiliency in the face of climate-related challenges, including sea level rise, high tide flooding events and other coastal hazards. It will foster the development of new undergraduate and graduate programs and is envisioned as a national destination for students and researchers studying issues related to the environment, oceanography, sustainability, and the blue-green economy. We'll undoubtedly keep you posted on that.

Tight Lines,

Cliff

Bill Scarola: Mop Fly

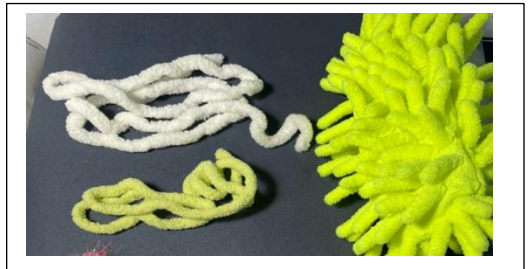


Bill Scarola

This month's outing is at Walsingham Lake Park, on Saturday, March 19. We're looking to catch bass, brim, aka sunnies, etc. The pattern is the "MOP FLY". This can be tied in a variety of colors and sizes. I prefer jig hooks for this fly. For best results, these flies are fished below the surface, at or near lily pads or grass reeds, or in visible grass

that's underwater.

Meet up with other club members and tie the Mop Fly with Bill and Bruce Evensen at 6 pm on Monday, March 14. Bruce's fly-tying studio is at 531 80th Avenue N in St. Pete. These "MOPS" are the type you might use to wash your car! Cut a few pieces off and tie them up. Bill and Bruce will have some extra materials if you need them but bring your own hooks.



Materials:

HOOK: Jig hooks sizes, 8, 10, up to 6. Option is pre-leaded jig heads from 1/8oz. - 1/16 oz - 1/32- or 1/64oz. Standard fresh water "J" hooks can also be used in 8,10, and 12 sizes. NOTE: to add weight to J hooks add a small split shot at the hook eye up to about 6" above the hook eye. Or, add a lead wrap to the shank first.

BODY: Mop pieces in assorted colors. 3/4'-1" or longer. Or pieces of the mop type yarn. See picture. NOTE: if you're using mop-type yarn you can make your flies longer as in 2,3,4,5 or 6-inches. Your choice.

HEAD: Estaz in assorted colors. Use contrasting colors to the mop body; for example, chartreuse mop and white or pink estaz.

Have fun mixing up the color combos. See pic above.

THREAD: Match colors to materials used. Use a bright RED or Mono thread.

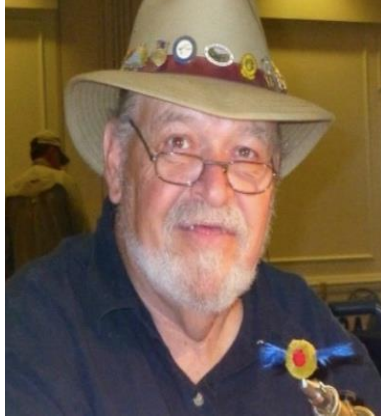
GLUE: Super glue, aka head cement,

Tying Sequence

- 1: Wrap hook from eye to point.
- 2: Tie on a bit of Estaz, 2 to 3 wraps, just behind the hook eye or jig head.
- 3: Tie in a piece of mop material just behind the Estaz. Attach only the front end of the mop with a few wraps and tie it off. The rest of the mop length should extend past the bend!
- 4: Add a dab of glue to all thread wraps.

Bill

Smitty's Fly Box: Timberwolf



This is a suspending fly that hangs just under the surface ... dry it out with a couple of false casts before you lay it down in a new spot !

Smitty



Materials:

Hook: Mustad 3366A size 8

Thread: Danville's Flatwaxed Nylon Red or Black

Abdomen: Medium Chenille color of choice (original was Peacock Herl)

Body: Danville Flatwaxed Nylon (of chosen color)

Collar: Neck or Saddle Hackle. (NOTE: I prefer to use a saddle hackle because when preened it has a full feather of barbs that are the same height and allows me to tie a lot of flies with a single feather.

Cement: SHHAN

Tying instructions:

1. Place the hook in the vise and lay down a base wrap to the bend the hook.
2. Attach the chenille to create a ball at the bend with 3 wraps of material; first wrap at tie in point, second wrap right next to the first and third wrap on top and between the first two. Tie off and remove excess chenille.
3. Use thread to create a nice tapered body ending $\frac{1}{8}$ " behind the hook eye.
4. Take hackle feather, hold by tip and preen back barbs so they are perpendicular to the stem and snip off about half that tip, leaving you enough to attach to hook.
5. After attaching, make 3 or 4 hackle wraps trying not to advance the hackle forward. Tie off using a half-hitch tool to place 2 thread wraps tightly against the now erect hackle. Repeat 2-turn half-hitch, locking everything in place. Cut thread and cement.

Notes:

1. For a hardier fly, coat the thread wraps with SHHAN before you attach hackle.
2. Use different abdomen/body color combinations for this fly; i.e. yellow/black. (Think bumble bee), chartreuse/red, white/red, purple/black, or the original - Peacock Herl abdomen, red body with grizzly hackle. If you use Peacock, make sure to tie about 4 or 5 herls in by the tips then dub them by twirling them around the thread creating a herl rope. This makes the herl stronger. Tie in creating the ball for the abdomen.

Smitty's Crystal Beetle

The Crystal Beetle is a classic freshwater fly tied by Smitty that will score panfish at March's Walsingham Lake outing and on other freshwater lakes and rivers. The instructions below appeared in the June 2016 issue of *On The Fly*.

The Tying Bench

Smitty's Crystal Beetle

By Layne Smith
Contributing Writer

The Suncoast Fly Fishers have three freshwater outings in a row on the schedule. Get ready to fish Lake Maggorie, the Chassawitzka River, and the Hillsborough River.

I originally started this fly pattern tied with deer hair and peacock herl. When I got a job working for a printing company that had sheets of disposable closed cell foam that came to them as protective packing material for their printing plates, a lightbulb went on and I replaced the deer hair with strips of this foam and soon after replaced the peacock herl with Estaz to make a sturdier-built fly. And the rest, as they say, is history!

This floating "Bluegill Bug" is a highly effective terrestrial imitation. This fly is best used as a seeker pattern for surface feeding bluegill. Simply let it set for a few moments, then give it a slight motion to imitate life. The rubber legs wiggle seductively. It is best fished along the shoreline, over beds, under over-hanging branches or any transition area such as reeds going into rip rap, bushes going into lily pads or even sandy area going into cattails.

This fly has also caught bass, trout (maybe they thought it was a corn kernel) and many other species. A friend of mine told me he even caught a nice redfish on this fly. He was fishing it to imitate a ghost crab.

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 3366A #8
(Bend down barb and be sure hook point is sharp.)
Thread: White or Chartreuse Flat Waxed Nylon (Finer threads may cut foam.)

Shell: 1/8" Thick White, Closed Cell Foam, 5/16" wide by 1-1/4" long

Body: Chartreuse or Pearl Estaz

Legs: Medium, White Rubber Legs

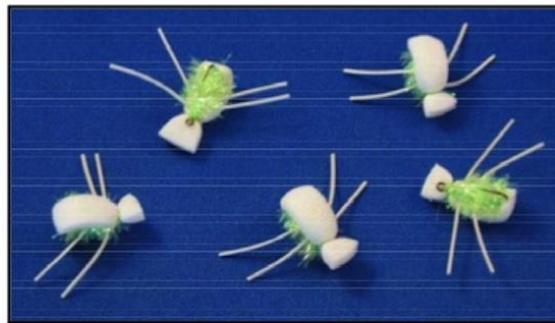
Tying Sequence:

Step 1: Attach tying thread behind hook eye and wind a thread base back to the hook bend.

Step 2: Cut a blunt point at one end of the foam strip and tie the point in at the hook bend, leaving the foam extending past the bend. Wrap the foam down a short distance around the bend.

Step 3: Tie in the Estaz body and wrap up the bend and along the hook shank to a little beyond the mid-point of the hook shank and tie off. Do not cut off the Estaz or tying thread.

Step 4: Fold a 3" length



Don't leave home for a freshwater fishing expedition without these flies.

of rubber leg material in half and tie in the doubled rubber leg on top of the hook shank at its mid-point where the Estaz body was left. Cut the loop in the doubled rubber leg, producing four legs. Pull legs into position – two on each side of the body. Pack the body and legs back with a thumb nail or Brassie hair packer.

Step 5: Continue wrapping the Estaz body by taking one turn over where the legs are tied in, then wrap forward to the hook eye ahead of the legs. Tie off the Estaz and pack the body back with a thumb nail or Brassie hair packer.

Step 6: Pull the Foam shell taut over the top of the body and legs and tie down behind the hook eye. Hold the end of the foam up and form a thread head and whip

finish immediately behind the hook eye and cut off the tying thread.

Step 7: While pulling the end of the foam taut, cut off the foam leaving a lip of approximately 3/16". By pulling the foam taut while cutting off, the lip will automatically be slightly rounded. Using head cement on the head is optional.

Some bluegill fishers claim that the odor of head cement turns off the fish.

Step 8: Trim all legs to the same length.

Color options:

Alternative color combinations include Root Beer Estaz and black foam for dark days. Tie with green foam and with yellow or white chenille body and chartreuse legs to imitate baby frogs.



Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

Fly fishing fun in local ponds

Conditions are perfect for family fun and the opportunity to relive fun fishing as a youth. Small freshwater lakes and ponds are everywhere and almost all have panfish and bass. Developments and golf courses are good examples. Make sure fishing is permitted. Summer weeds that foul hooks are absent and fish are always hungry. Freshwater trout equipment sitting in the garage will be perfect. A 3 to 5-weight fly rod with floating weight forward line and a 6-foot leader tapered to 6-pound test will launch simple, small flies, size 6-10, that imitate ants, beetles, crickets, and minnows. White, black and chartreuse are good colors. Docks, bridges, lily pads, weed beds, overhanging trees, and stumps offer structures that harbor food for these scrappy game fish. Cast around these fish magnets and work floating and submerged offerings. Work sinking flies slowly and set the hook if hesitation is felt. Crimp barbs on hooks for safety and easy fish release.

Captain Pat

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

Bill Scarola: Puns of the Day

When you said life would get back to normal after June.... JULYED!

Lego store reopens after lockdown! Folks lined up for ...BLOCKS!

The girl in the middle of the tennis court is ...ANNETTE!

A student tells his counselor he wants to study Burrowing Rodents, the counselor said ...GOPHER it!

A man is reading a book called "Quick Money for Dummies" by ... ROBIN BANKS!

Gear for Sale or Swap



Robert Fischer is selling his trolling motor

Motor Guide W75 Remote Control Trolling Motor; 24 volt, 48" shaft; very good condition. \$350. Call Robert at 813-495-5685.

Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



Bonefish on drugs? – Yes. They analyzed tissue from bonefish from Biscayne Bay to Key West and every single one tested positive. One tested positive for 17 different prescription drugs like antidepressants, antibiotics, pain relievers, and (wait for it) prostate medications. ([Hatch magazine](#))

Does your skin color attract mosquitos? – Well, female mosquitos (the ones that bite) are attracted to long wavelength colors like red, black and orange. (Isn't orange a skin color?) Ergo, when you're fly fishing at dusk, be sure to wear short wavelength colored garments such as blue, green, purple or white. And cover up your orange skin! ([SCI-NEWS](#))

Goliath grouper on the table? -- Catching and keeping one is going to be legal in 2023. However, to keep one you'll have to pay \$10 to enter the new Florida lottery. Then you'll have to win the lottery. Just 200 will be lottery-lucky. And if you win the lottery, you'll still have to pay another \$150 to keep one. (\$500 if you're not a Florida resident.) Then you'll have to catch one in the slot between 24 and 36 inches. Okay, go 'em tiger. ([Outdoor Life](#))

Stung by a stingray? – Those stingray pictures from the FDP outing prompted me to look up what to do if we're stung by a stingray. Long story short: Pull out the barb. Soak that spot in the water to help remove the venom. Pour a bottle of water on the wound and, if you can, also soak it spot in a bucket of warm water. If you get an allergic reaction, go to the ER. I've also read that back in the boat take a bottom of bottled water and pour it on the wound. ([Healthline](#))

Watch it live or watch the recording later. -- FFI's weekly International Fly Tying Workshops are very popular. Pro fly-tyers from around the world demonstrate their special flies. When you go to the website you'll also notice you can click on a link and watch Zoom recordings of previous episodes. We're still waiting for saltwater flies, though. ([FFI Online](#))

Are you fishing the Eglades outing? –Here's a helpful article on how and where to fish the lower Tamiami Trail as it crosses the state. It has a lot of fish, a lot of species, and they're not real smart, either. Go for it. ([Ole Florida Fly Shop](#))

'Tis a puzzlement – After years of tremendous increases, seagrass acreage in Tampa Bay has declined but they don't know why because stormwater runoff into the bay has decreased. ([Bay Soundings](#))

Peak mating season for horseshoe crabs. -- It's okay to watch. Fly fishers near low-energy shorelines are likely to see them this time of the year. If you do, FWC biologists want you to go online and record where and when you spotted them. ([MyFWC](#))



*If you see something...
say something*

Bill

Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers



<mailto:mtexfakner@ymail.com>

ORVIS®

www.orvis.com/



www.billjacksons.com/



www.plantationoncrystalriver.com/



FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

www.flyfishersinternational.org/



www.carbonmarine.com/



www.stpetefishingoutfitters.com



www.flyfishingwesternwyoming.com/

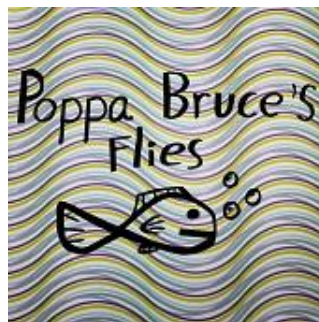


Captain Shawn McCole

www.captainshawnmccole.com



www.thomasbruce.com/

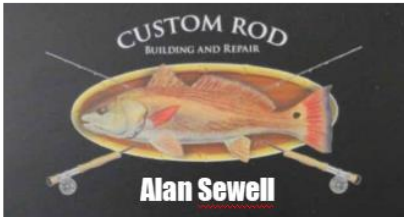


www.etsy.com/shop/PoppaBrucesFlies



www.beehavenfl.com/

Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers



<mailto:sewellalan@yahoo.com>



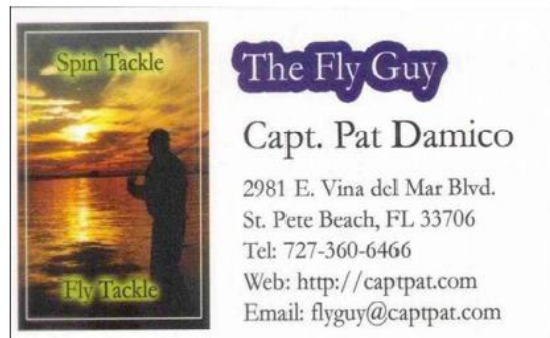
www.tampabayonthefly.com/



www.west-coast-kayaks.com/



www.nighflyrods.com/



www.captpatdamico.com/



www.bobleestire.com/



Jim Swann's Fly Fishing Outfitters

www.facebook.com/SwannFlyfishing/



www.andythornal.com/



www.mtlfab.com/