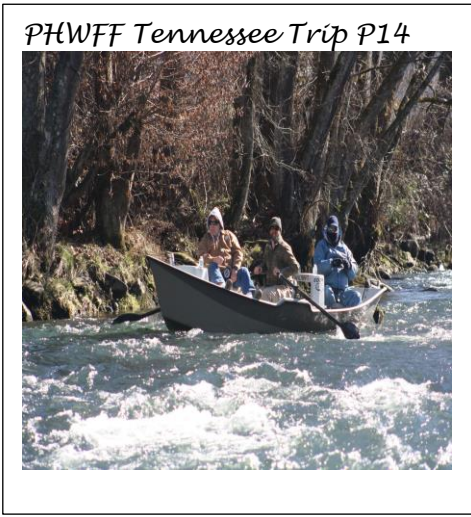
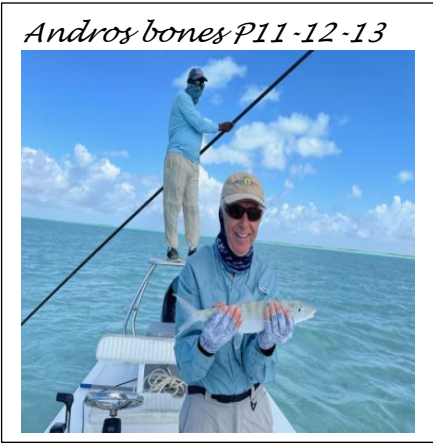


On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg



Thursday's Tie-a-thon
and Free Pizza Meeting

Walter Fuller Park
recreation center
7 pm

Bring your vise and
materials. Or, just pick a
table and watch
members tie their
favorite flies.



The President's Message: April 2022

There are lots of reasons to join a fly fishing club, but it really comes down to the three F's. Good friends, good fishing, and good food.

First and foremost, SFF is a social club. I started fly fishing as a teenager and for most of the last 58 years I was the only one in my group fishing with a fly rod. I think that fly fishing is the most challenging and the most enjoyable way to fish and I like being around other like-minded individuals. The best part of every event is the comradery we enjoy as a group. It was never more evident than at the Hog Roast this year. I wish all of you could have

been there.

April is the month when all the fish in the bay start getting active again. Snook and redfish are on the move. Spanish mackerel are starting to show up and there have even been some reports that trout fishing is starting to recover. The area for our outing includes any water within sight of the Skyway so you should be able to find a place with good fishing.

The meeting this month checks all the boxes. We are going to have a Tie-A-Thon. You can master the basics of tying flies or learn to tie something new. Even if you don't tie at the event, it is a great chance to socialize. Don't forget the food. What could be better than fur, feathers, friends, and pizza!

Stay safe and keep fishing!

Rick

Rick Warfel, SFF President

Meetings, Outings, and More

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

- The meeting starts at 7 but come early to get your share of free pizza.
- President Rick Warfel will update members on club events then we tie flies.
- Bring your vise and materials and do your thing. Learn a new fly or tie your own.
- If you're a newbie pick a table and watch members tie their favorite flies.
- One table is the *Clouser* fly table with Bill Scarola and James Davis. (Your club needs Clousers by the way. Read about the Greater Tampa Bay Scout Fly Fishing Tournament on the next page.)
- At another table Cliff Nigh will tie Norm Ziegler's *Schminnow*.
- Layne (Smitty) Smith will tie a fly. You'll have to be there to find out.
- Tony Piazza will tie his bendback.



Members are encouraged to tie Clousers for the Scouts fly fishing tournament in May. (photo: Deneki Outdoors)

Saturday, April 23, Outing, Sunshine I-275 Skyway North Rest Area

- Picnic at noon at one or both pavilions near the Blackthorn Memorial.
- This is a terrific wade-in and kayak fishing flat. You can fish the west side or the east side of I-275.
- \$10 gift certificates will be awarded for the longest snook, redfish, and speckled trout.
- Take a picture of your longest fish and arrive at the picnic pavilion by 12:30 pm to enter your catch.

April 27-May 1, Everglades Outing

- Want to catch 50+ fish a day? Bass, bream, snook, and exotics like peacock bass and Mayan cichlids? Then you want to go on this outing, one of our club's official outings.
- Alan Sewell and Bruce Evensen are co-chairing this year's Everglades outing. Each will lead his group to their favorite canals.
- Some anglers launch their boats. Some launch kayaks. Some fish from shore.
- Alan is leading those who want to stay near Fort Lauderdale. Phone him at 727-470-4570.
- Bruce is leading those who want to stay in Clewiston. Phone him at 727-403-9010.



Arthur Birnkrant with a Mayan cichlid he caught in 2019.

Friday, April 29, 2022 Fly-Fishing Film Tour in Sarasota

- Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers is sponsoring the 2022 Fly Fishing Film Tour on April 29, 2022.
- The Fly Fishing Film Tour is a traveling roadshow of the best fly fishing films in the world.
- It starts at 7 pm. Admission is free. Donations appreciated.
- Location: Compound Boardshop, 3604 South Osprey Ave., Sarasota, FL 34239.
- There's also going to be a big raffle. Proceeds will go to Suncoast Waterkeepers.

Meetings, Outings, and More

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

Suncoast Fly Fishers is donating Clousers for up to 450 entry 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 .
- Suncoast Fly Fishers is donating up to 150 logo fly boxes each containing three Clousers for the entrant gift bags.
- Therefore, we need Clousers. Tie 'em up. Bring them to the meeting and to the outing.
- 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 seatrout 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 info please visit the tournament website: [Greater Tampa Bay Area Council \(mobilecause.com\)](http://GreaterTampaBayAreaCouncil.org)

Thursday, May 19, Health of the Bay meeting, Walter Fuller Park, 7:00-8:30

- Out speaker is Maya Burke, Assistant Director, Tampa Bay Estuary Program. TBEP's mission is to inform and bring together public and private entities to restore and protect the Bay.
- President Rick Warfel will start the meeting at 7, update members on news and events, then introduce the speaker. Burke will update members on the health of the bay and future challenges to the bay's health.
- Burke spoke to our club on the August Zoom meeting, describing the red tide invasion of the bay last summer.

2022 outings at a glance

- April 23: North Skyway Rest Area, I-275 (Longest snook, redfish, speckled trout)
- April 27-May 1 Everglades Canals (Bass, bream, snook, peacock bass, Mayan cichlids, and more)
- May 21: Cypress Point Park (Longest speckled trout)
- June 17-18: Docklight outing (Longest snook)
- July 23: South Sunshine Skyway (I-275) Rest Area (Longest fish of any species)
- August 20: Urban Outing, Bay Vista Park, St. Petersburg (Longest snook, redfish, speckled trout)
- September 17: Fort De Soto Park (Longest fish of any kind)
- October 22: Carl Hanson Memorial, Hillsborough River. (Longest bass and the most bluegills)
- November 19: Weedon Island Preserve (Longest ladyfish)
- December 17: Don Coleman Invitational, Fort De Soto Park (Longest fish)

Got videos? Post them on the [SFF Facebook site](#)

The SFF Facebook page needs more quick videos. More videos will drive more traffic to our site. There may be a prize for the best. Email your videos to Anne Hays Mitchell -- anne.hays327689@gmail.com

Have you been going to meetings and outings?

- The number of members attending meetings and outings is not as high as it used to be.
- Have you been going to meetings and outings? If not, why not?
- Email your answers to President 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

Suncoast Fly Fishers now has 111 members including 13 family members and 6 honorary members. 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

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

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.

Bob Burkard: March 19 Outing—Walsingham Lake in Largo

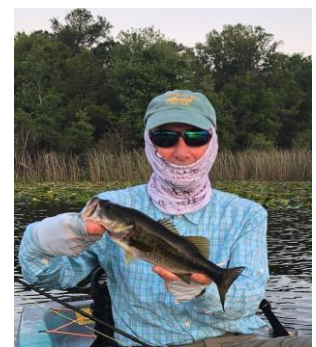


Bob Burkard,
Chairman of the
Outings Committee

This was one of our two freshwater outings of the year and our salty fly fishers did their best but, generally speaking, the fish won. There was some additional excitement: a medical emergency of sorts that, as Annie Mitchell puts it, “punctuated, or rather punctured” the event.

The longest bass caught on the fly was 12 inches long. Can you guess who caught it? Here’s a clue. He wins it every year. Yep. Mark Hays. Attaboy.

The longest bream was palm sized, 8-inches caught by Annie Mitchell. You’re right. She’s got the same fishing DNA as her dad.



Mark Hays, 12” bass

Chris O’Byrne found a cache and caught five bluegills. He didn’t think any of them were as long as Annie’s.

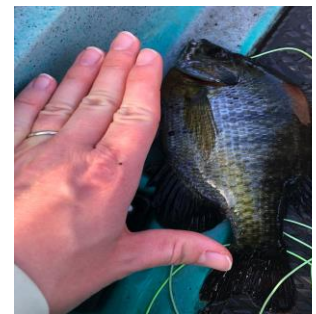
Here’s Annie, word for word:



Annie Mitchell shows Bob the picture of her palm-sized bream.

This definitely wasn't our best outing at Walsingham Lake. Dad was very hopeful because he took the day before off work and found all the best bass spots.

During the outing, Dad's bass was caught on a muddler minnow, and my bluegill was caught on a #2 snakefly. Dad caught the bass right after we started fishing, and I caught the bluegill right before we went to lunch.



Annie's palm-sized bluegill

Oh, about that medical issue, here’s Annie:

That lull in the excitement was only punctuated, or rather punctured, by Alan Sewell getting a hook stuck through his hand. Dad had to perform field surgery and cut one end of the hook off, then pull the rest out. It was pretty gnarly, but Alan managed to keep fishing the rest of the morning. Certainly the Everglades will be better for all of us.



Suncoast Fly Fishers at Walsingham Lake.
Chris O’Byrne photo

Her mention of the Everglades refers to the club’s annual Everglades canal outing in late April when members typically catch 50-plus fish a day. Then, in October, we fish the Carl Hanson Memorial on the Hillsborough River. We’ll catch more bass and bream there. And maybe we’ll beat the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club, too.

Bob

Bob Burkard: April 23 Outing—Sunshine Skyway North Rest Area

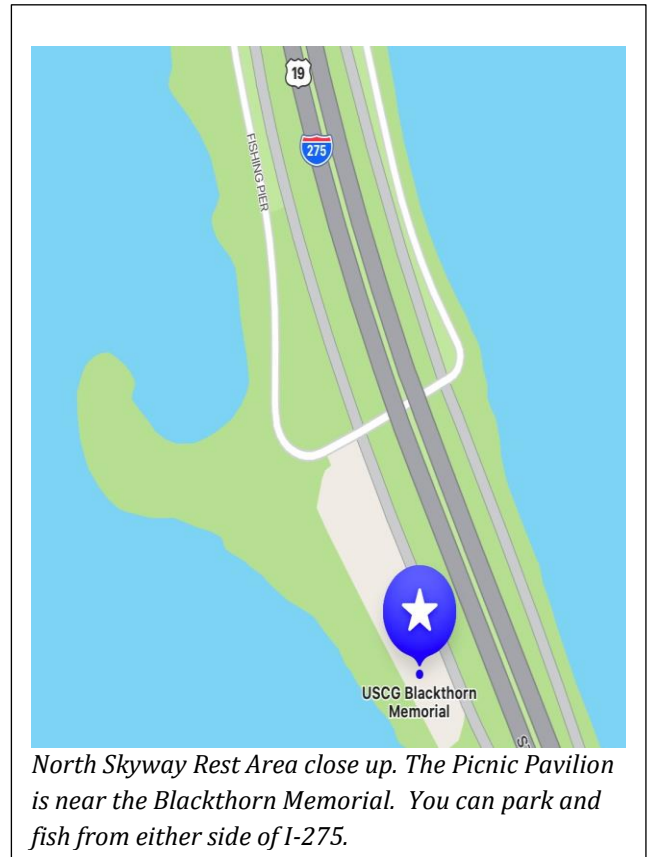
Fly fish in the morning. Catch your longest fish before noon. Meet up at noon for a picnic lunch.

Our April outing is Saturday April 23 at the Sunshine Skyway North Rest Area. It is also known as the Blackthorn Memorial Rest Area, and it gives us one of our best shots of the year for catching the famous big three – snook, redfish, and spotted seatrout. Yeah, that’s the inshore slam.

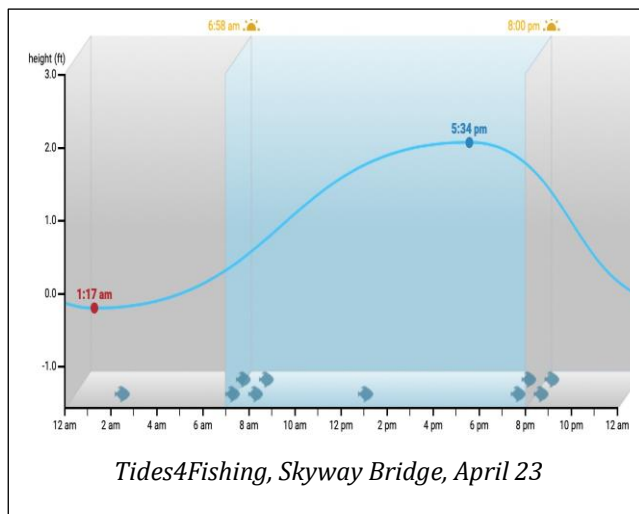
Fish anywhere in Lower Tampa Bay in sight of the Sunshine Skyway. You can wade in or launch your kayak at the rest area. Or you can circle under the bridge and wade fish or kayak fish the other side of the Interstate. Nearby boat launch locations include Fort DeSoto Park, Maximo Marina, or Bay Vista Park.

The longest of each species caught by members earns them a \$10 gift certificate at our local fly fishing stores.

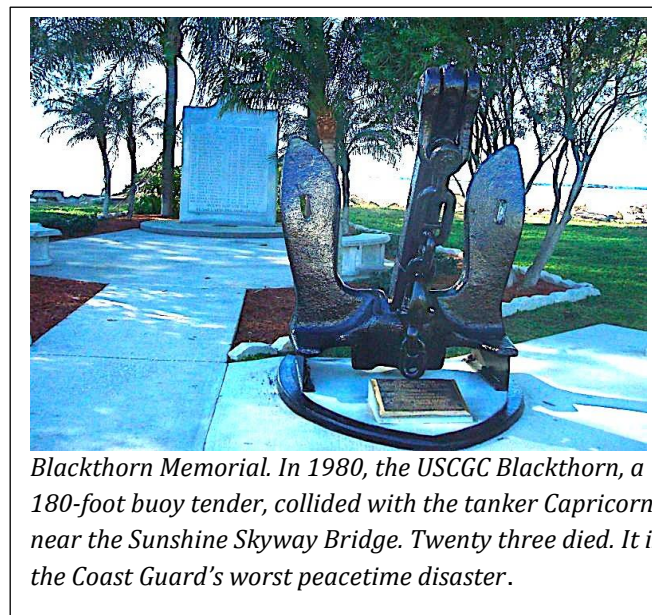
You can fish as early or as late as you want but the longest fish entered in the tournament must be caught before noon. Measure. Take pictures. Arrive at the picnic by 12:30 to officially announce your catch. You know the thing.



North Skyway Rest Area close up. The Picnic Pavilion is near the Blackthorn Memorial. You can park and fish from either side of I-275.



Bob



Blackthorn Memorial. In 1980, the USCGC Blackthorn, a 180-foot buoy tender, collided with the tanker Capricorn near the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. Twenty three died. It is the Coast Guard’s worst peacetime disaster.

Bill AuCoin: Hog Roast and Silent Auction

For the past to years our club took a lickin' from Covid. We couldn't have in-person meetings. Outdoor picnics were squashed. And we couldn't meet up for the biggest, bestest, funnest club event of the year, the annual Hog Roast and Silent Auction.

But this year we made it happen. The 2022 Hog Roast and Silent Auction was held Saturday, March 26, in the parish hall at St. Jerome's Catholic Church in Largo. Member Bill Scarola got it all arranged, including the bbq feast of ribs, pulled pork, chicken, etc. catered by Smokey Bones.



Bill Scarola (l) was one of three presented with the President's Vision and Values Award for his boundless enthusiasm and willingness to help whatever the task. Bill supports Monday night fly tying, participates in our summer youth outreach activities and played an important role in making this year's Hog Roast a huge success.



Bruce Evensen (right) accepting the President's Vision and Values Award for hosting weekly fly tying sessions and providing instruction to all skill levels. He even turned part of his home into a fly tying studio and also continued sessions on zoom during the pandemic.



Tim Elms and wife Christina. Tim won four longest fish outing trophies and the President's Vision and Values Award for creating and managing the website, for his contributions to the newsletter and just because he loves fishing as much as he does!

Outings chairman Bob Burkard handed out trophies to the members who caught the longest fish of the year. The winners were: James Davis for the longest snook, Mark Hays for the longest ladyfish, and Tim Elms, Tim Elms, Tim Elms, and Tim Elms for the longest bass, longest bream, longest Mayan cichlid, and longest seatrout.



Karen Warfel won the TFO fly rod, reel, line outfit

Our club netted approximately \$3,500 from the sale of entry tickets, raffle tickets, and the highest silent auction bids for fly rods, reels, line, fly tying materials, gear, fly fishing books, flies, fly tying trays, and so much more.

Bill

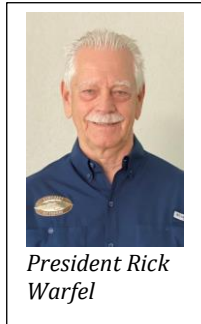


Member Troy Dillman held the winning ticket for this custom fly rod outfit crafted by Alan Sewell.

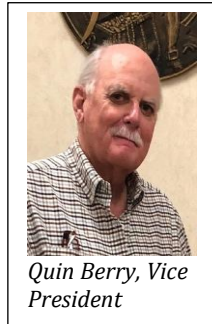
Bill AuCoin: March Meeting --Business and Pleasure

First, we had to take care of business. This was the March meeting so everybody had to vote on the nominations for the 2022-2023 officers and board. Since our in person meetings have been whacked back by the Covid virus, the nominating committee asked our current officers if they could continue managing club affairs for another 12 months. They agreed. Members did, too. Unanimously.

Our 2022-2023 officers are:
 President Rick Warfel. VP Quin Berry. Secretary David Redd.
 Treasurer Tom Gadacz. Board members: Bill



President Rick Warfel



Quin Berry, Vice President

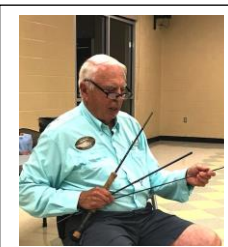


David Redd, Secretary



Tom Gadacz, Treasurer

Scarola, Bob Burkard, Bruce Evensen, Ryan Sollars, Cliff Nigh, Karen Warfel, James Davis. Thanks, all.



Capt. Pat Damico. How to remove and assemble rod sections.

Then, fly fishing. It has become a tradition for our long time member Capt. Pat Damico to conduct a little how-to session at our March meeting. This year he told us how and showed us how he cares for his fly reels, how he builds his leaders (line, knots, etc.), how he likes to assemble his four-piece rod, how he cleans his line so it keeps floating (yeah, Ivory soap,) reel, and rod; and how he secures the fly to the rod. There was more. Much more, actually. Thanks, Pat. (And, Pat, don't worry. We won't tell your wife how you like to stretch the fly line from the living room all the way down to the other end of the hall to make sure it is stretched and cleaned effectively.)



How to secure the fly to the rod.



Ron Kelley, signals he has another winning number.

Oh. And the raffle was back on, too. Quin Berry took charge, filling eight big jars full of furs, feathers, flash, foam, etc. Pony up: \$1 for one ticket. \$5 for 6 tickets.

Ron Kelley went for the quantity discount and damn if he didn't win four out of the eight pots of gold. That'll motivate him to get back on the vise. By the way, Ron ties some really good flies including the Gartside gurgler.

Bill



Layne (Smitty) Smith tied. Bruce Evensen, also a pro, watched Smitty tie his Crystal Beetle. Smitty filled a jar with Crystal Beetle's for the Hog Roast and Silent Auction.

Tim Elms: Everyone's in bed!



Howdy! The good times are here! I mean fishing times. The past month has seen the changes to warmer waters and made things much better around town. If you haven't gone out, now is the time to start. The March winds stayed true to form and made lots of difficult days. Also mixed in was a couple of large fronts. This bass spawn was a tough one. I believe the spawn was earlier than anticipated and the bigger bass were bedding deeper. Many other anglers in the area said the same things and people mentioned several reasons. A fisherman told me that he thinks the nonnative blue tilapia are starting to overtake the shallows in large numbers. I'm curious about this one and will investigate some more. I usually find that the bass will bed before the tilapia and then the tilapia move into a spent bass bed and dig it into their typical crater.

On a good note, the bluegill/ bream seem to have had a great spawn as I ran into many bedding bluegill that were unbelievably aggressive and happy to eat anything from ants to poppers to even four-inch crease flies! That made for some very fun days the last couple of weeks.

Here are my tips on catching bluegill from the shore during their spawn:

Typically, there are two different types (variations) -- the Copper nose and the standard. Copper nose usually look much darker than the standard and their bright gold forehead is a dead giveaway. Watch for the golden crown to come up for a fly slowly stripped back to you.

Standard bluegill typically are a sandy color and are more difficult to spot but look for subtle stripes and a light-colored outline of the tail. When either of these variations get big, their tail turns to a slight reddish hue. Male breeders will have a red or orange belly.



Both variations bed the same, in multiple beds bunched together like a honeycomb or the surface of the moon. Look for light sand with indents all throughout. Then focus on what's going on. The males chase each other around like maniacs on a great day. Black bass generally hang on the edge of the bed clusters waiting for an opportunity.

Bluegill on beds I find are easier to catch in high sun and around a big moon event. But, if you know they are turned on the evening sunset bite makes for very fun topwater blind casting.

Go out and have fun!

Strip Strip Strip!!!!—Tim

Marshall Craig: Blown Away on Andros Island in Bahamas

On March 21, Steve Seufert and I, Suncoast Fly Club members, and four other pals flew to Mangrove Cay, Andros, Bahamas to fish from the Swain's Cay Lodge. From the lodge, you can fish all three bights cutting across the waist of Andros.

I was pumped, having fished there with my favorite guides, Captain Marvin Miller, "Shine" (also proprietor of "Shine's Conch Shack"), and "Patterson" more than a few times before. We arrived to find 14 other fishermen from a fly fish club in New Jersey on their annual trip to [Swain's](#).

Two good things: 1) there are enough capable guides in the area to handle that number of fishermen and 2) there is so much shoreline and so many inlets created by the bights that you rarely see another boat.



Steve Seufert. Another bonefish on the fly

Not so good was the weather. The wind blew from the east at 20 knots and continued to do so for all three days of fishing. Add clouds that continuously scudded across the sky like coal cars on a freight train and you've got bone fishing misery.

If you could find them, you had the hell of a time casting to them with 8-weights. Management of line on deck became a major task, your boat companion working to keep stripped loops contained in the well of the Hells Bay or Maverick.

And then came what are called *Doctor Flies*. They bite. Ouch. Steve's bare feet on the casting deck looked like pepperoni pizza after an hour, and I was concerned he might need a whole blood transfusion.

Did I mention we had fun? In fact, we did.

We all caught bones, primarily on #4 "Gotcha" flies. In retrospect, #9 line and #2 size Gotchas might have been preferable, wind and visibility considered.

A North Carolina trout fisherman in our group, Chip S, did himself proud on his first bonefish trip, catching the most bones, and one of our pals, Steve R, had a big permit take a heart-stopping look at his crab fly then say, "nah."

Am I going back again? You bet.

Marshall

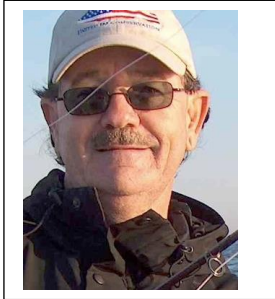


Marshall Craig with one of his Andros Island bonefish.



Swain's Cay Lodge

Robert Fischer: Bonefishing Andros Island with Tony Piazza



Tony Piazza and I met up with two members of the Mangrove Coast Fly Club, Rusty Chinnis and Andy Grosso, and flew to Andros Island on March 23 for a week of bonefishing. Although the weather was windy and cloudy for three days we did manage to catch about a dozen bonefish each.

Tony had two goals, 1. to catch a bonefish and 2. to see a bonefish before the guide did. Tony was successful on both counts.

We had several days of good weather and the fishing was classic Bahamas --clear water, clear skies, clear bottom, light wind, and willing fish.

The guides, lodge, food and companionship were all very good and we all are willing to do it again.



This photo is of Tony Piazza and his first bonefish ever.



Robert Fischer with one of his bonefish fishing the Andros Island flats in late March.

Robert



Anna Maria Island Sun Report on Andros Bonefishing

Rusty Chinnis, the outdoor columnist for the Anna Maria Island Sun, was on this trip with Tony and Robert, and wrote about their experience bonefishing middle Andros. Yeah, it looks like Rusty and others will be going there again in November. The comments below, about the bonefishing lodge – Frankie’s Two Boys Inn - is pinched from [Rusty’s article](#).

I was so impressed with the experience as a whole and accounts of fishing there in the late spring and fall that I booked space for six anglers this coming November. Frankie Neymour and his wife, Melinda, run a tight ship and the locals were friendly and accommodating. I highly recommend this reasonably-priced experience that is sure to please even the most discriminating angler as well as anyone new to or wanting to experience bonefishing.

Tony Piazza: Bonefishing Andros with Robert Fischer



Robert Fischer invited me to join him and two others from Sarasota's Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers Club for seven days of bone fishing in Andros Islands, Bahamas. It was a first for me but one of many for Robert.

We boarded three airplanes and the trip took seven hours for us to go 250 miles as the crow flies.

We stayed at [Frankies Two Boys Inn](#) in Behring Point in Middle Andros Island starting March 23 and returning March 30.

The first day greeted us with an overcast sky and 20 to 25 mph winds. Robert took the first shot with me hoping I could learn something. The guide had a hard time spotting fish but Robert got a few shots and then it was my turn.

Bonefish 35 feet at 12 o'clock! Dead into the wind I flailed away not getting even close.

My next lesson was about paying attention. Bonefish 40 feet at 9 o'clock hold, strip, strip, stop, strip, strip, stop. It reminded me of learning how to drive a stick shift at age 15.

Eventually it came together and I had my first bonefish on the line. What a thrill to feel a 16-inch fish tearing line off your reel and revealing backing I knew was there but couldn't remember the last time I saw it.

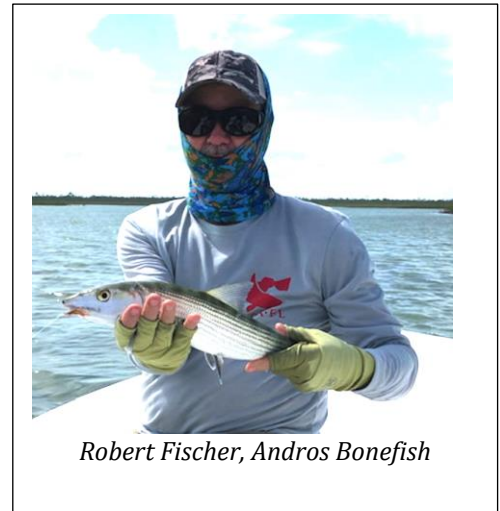
We fished two days with clouds and when the sun broke out the fishing improved dramatically.

How to say NO to Lemon Sharks

It stayed windy most of the time but we were able to catch fish in the 16" to 18" range.

Robert tied into a 21" bone at the same time two lemon sharks appeared. He let the fish run away with his line and most of his backing, then brought the bone back in again while the guide beat the water to distract the sharks until Robert could land and release that trophy bonefish.

It was a great trip, one to remember and also one to repeat.



Robert Fischer, Andros Bonefish

Tony

Warren Shane: Project Healing Waters Vets in Tennessee



As fortune would have it, this last February I ended up on the South Holston River in Bristol, Tennessee chasing some winter trout in drift boats. Project Healing Waters sponsored a five day trip at the beautiful South Holston River Lodge.

The temperatures were in the range of 25-50 degrees during the day, which made the home cooked dinners taste all that much better at dinner time. We had access to South Holston River and Watauga River. It made for interesting fishing because the spots we fished and when we fished them had a lot to do with the schedule of dam water releases each day.

We worked some nymphs, eggs, and local wet flies that were in season for that area of the river. We were on the water for eight hours a day and every moment was wonderful. A good amount of fish was pulled out of the rivers as a group and the half dozen guides we had were very good and Tennessee polite.

We hooked up with few of the Johnson City, Tennessee Project Healing Waters Group and a great time was had by all.

The hills of Tennessee are more remarkable than any song has ever described them. It was truly fly fishing heaven.



A glimpse of the Orvis-endorsed [South Holston River Lodge](#) and the beautiful South Holston River.



Fish on. Here's Warren engaged in one of his many trout battles. Lefty Kreh once said this area "has perhaps the best trout fishing in the east."



Shooting the South Holston River rapids.



The river runs deep and cold, especially when it comes right out of the dam. It's a honey hole.

(Editor's note: Here's [a link](#) to more information and photos about the Tennessee fly fishing expedition arranged by Project Healing Waters.)

Warren

Cliff Nigh: Suncoast Fly Fishers go trout fishing in North Georgia



St Pete Fishing Outfitters (SPFO) sponsored its second annual fly fishing trip to show its appreciation for the support received from our customers.

Our 2022 trip was to the Epworth/Blue Ridge Georgia area and Suncoast Fly Fishers was well represented.

Suncoast Fly Fishers participating in the trip were Rick and Karen Warfel, David Redd, Bill Scarola, Jack Collins,

and Arthur Birnkrant. Joining Arthur was his son Michael from New York.



I'm SPFO's fly shop manager so I was the trip's "concierge," so to speak, with help from "Cor" from St. Pete Fishing Outfitters and Josh from Tarpon Fishing Outfitters north of Tarpon Springs to ensure that our guests not only had a great fishing experience but were comfortable and well fed.



Karen Warfel's trophy

SPFO partnered with Cohutta Fishing Company in Blue Ridge to arrange for guided wade trips on Cohutta's private waters. Additionally, some explored local public waters and others used Cohutta's Float Trip services.

Without the support of our local fly fishing community, our fly shop would not be growing the way it has been. It is our aim to continue to grow the shop and to provide additional trip opportunities in the future.

Those who attended would attest to the fact that the trip provided good eats, comfort, time to relax and socialize.... not to mention some great fishing opportunities. Everyone took fish! For some, it was their first ever Rainbow, Brown or Brook Trout!



After a long day of fly fishing, everybody relaxed and relived their time on the water.

Next year's trip? Who knows? We have indeed started talking about it, though. While it'll be a challenge to top this year's trip, destinations from North Carolina, the Florida Keys, Montana and various points in-between have all come up. We'll be sure to keep you posted.

Cliff

Bill Scarola shares his Blue Ridge fly fishing experience on the next page.

Bill Scarola: Blue Ridge Rainbow on “The Tick”

I was on that trip in late March to Blue Ridge, Georgia coordinated by Cliff Nigh at St. Pete Fishing Outfitters. I fished with the guides from Cohutta Outfitters who took us to the Tickanetley Creek, locally known as “The Tick.”

We fished a private stretch owned and managed by Cohutta.

I caught this 16-inch rainbow trout on a Green Squirmy Wormy in the morning session. Six of us fished The Tick Thursday because the heavy rains on Tuesday night swelled most of the rivers and creeks on Wednesday morning.

The Tick was somewhat stained and higher than normal. I believe I was the only one to catch a large trout during the morning session. Lunch is included in the trip, so by afternoon the Tick had gone down and cleared a bit and everyone wound up getting some nice trout!!



Bill Scarola with a nice rainbow trout caught on “The Tick”



Bill's guide got a nice jumping shot of one of Bill's rainbow trout.

I did catch one more 'BOW,' an 18-incher that weighed close to three pounds. But after measuring it in the net I tried to pick it up for a picture but it wiggled out of my hand back into the net but slipped right through a gaping hole in the guide's net. So we didn't get a picture of that one.

But it was a great memory and a good time was had by all.

Bill

Dayle and Barbara Mazzarella: “An exciting four months”

(It sort of depends on your definition of exciting.)



Barbara and Dayle Mazzarella

Just before Christmas long time member Barbara Mazzarella shattered and dislocated her ankle at their Wyoming home. Now, we have learned that Dayle recently suffered a serious shoulder injury while rock climbing.

Here’s a recent recap from Dayle on all that has happened.

We appreciate your interest so here is the short version. On the day before Christmas Barbara passed out as a result of food poisoning. She collapsed straight down on her ankle dislocating it and breaking it in three places. She has had surgery, rehab etc. and is walking a couple miles a day.

In the middle of March I was climbing in the desert and slipped which yanked my shoulder resulting in complete tears of the bicep tendon and multiple tendons that attach muscles supporting the rotator cuff. Surgery is scheduled for April 19. The outlook is positive but will entail a minimum of 4-5 months of rehab.

All in all an exciting 4 months but all looks good for returning to normal by the fall!! Life could be a lot worse. All the best to everyone. Enjoy each day and go fishing.

Dayle

(Editor’s note: Dayle’s accident happened just a couple of days after the Hog Roast and Silent Auction. SFF member Bill Scarola outbid everybody else to win a guided day of fly fishing with Dayle. That will be his second guided expedition with Dayle. He was with them in September of 2019. But this time Bill said he is “perfectly willing to wait till next year! But if Dayle does recover by Fall I could get out there then too! So we’ll have to wait and see.”

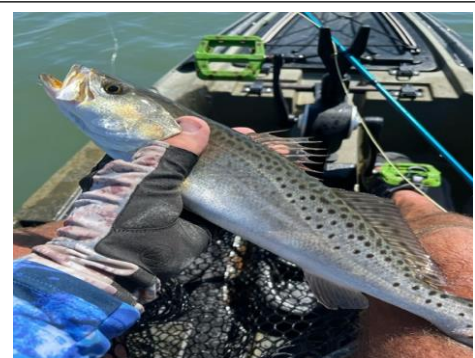
Gary Sundberg: Some days you just take what you can get



Some days, pinfish really love Clousers

“Some days you’re happy that anything bites off the Dunedin Causeway.”

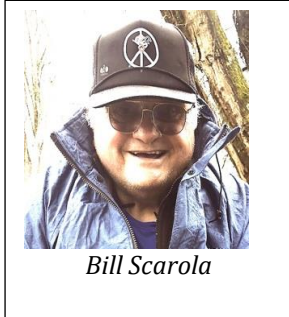
Gary



A respectably-sized speckled trout loves the Clouser fly.

Bill Scarola: Greenback Minnow

Join fellow members to tie our club's fly of the month at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio at 6 pm Monday night (4/18/22). Bruce's fly- tying studio is at 531 80th Avenue N in St. Pete.



Bill Scarola

This month's outing on April 23 is at the Blackthorn Memorial (North) Rest Area on the Sunshine Skyway. This Greenback Minnow fly is a good fly to entice snook, redfish, seatrout and other gamefish.

Materials:

Body top- extra select fur, in

olive green

Body belly- white extra select fur

Beard/gill orange E. S. fur

Eyes- 5 mm silver / black

Hook- # 2 live bait type or circle hook

Thread- olive flat waxed

Glue- e6000 - or similar to attach eyes, UV epoxy

Lead wrap- optional, if you want to weight your fly materials:



Tying Sequence:

1. Wrap hook shank. If using lead wrap, add now.
2. Add a small bit of orange E S craft fur as a beard, just in front of the bend
3. Add E. S. craft fur in white as a belly. Place it halfway down the shank. Tie it straight back.
4. Add the olive E S craft fur behind hook eye and over the white E S fur. This should be slightly longer than the white fur. Tie the olive fur straight back also. Keep the materials tapered to form a fish type body.
5. Whip finish the materials.
6. Add a drop of your eye glue on each side and attach the eyes. Be sure to keep them on the darker fur, above the hook point.
7. Add UV epoxy curing over the eyes and thread wraps,.

Puns of the Day

+What do fish take to stay healthy? Answer: Vitamin sea!!!

+What do you get if you cross a fly rod with a gym sock? ANSWER: Hook, line and stinker.

+Why do so many fish live in salt water? ANSWER: Because pepper water makes them sneeze..

+How is that despite being in schools fish only get *sea pluses* on tests?

+Ever wonder why oysters love going to the gym? ANSWER: It's good for their MUSSELS.

+What kind of seafood is served in saunas? ANSWER: Steamed mussels, of course. Duh!!!

Bill

Smitty's Fly Box: Lefty's Bonefish Fly



Tied in larger sizes Lefty's bonefish fly is also great for catching redfish and snook.

Smitty



Materials:

Hook: Mustad 34007 size #2 to #6 (Daiichi 2546 or Tiemco 811S)

Thread: Danville's Flatwaxed Nylon Tan (and Pink for "nose")

Weight: Barbell eyes size small to mini (use according to hook size)

Tail: Badger hair *See **NOTE**

Body: Badger hair *See **NOTE**

Flash: Tiewell Sparkle Flash Metallic Rainbow

Wing: Badger hair *See **NOTE**

Cement: SHHAN (Sally Hansen Hard as Nails) or your favorite head cement

Overcoat: Solarez UV Resin

NOTES:

All badger hair should be sized appropriate to the size of the hook.

Tying Sequence:

1. Attach barbell eyes at one third mark behind hook eye and secure with a series of figure of eight wraps. Cement in place with SHHAN.

2. Trim three small bunches of badger hair from skin and thin out most of the underfur. Add a drop of SHHAN to the cut end of each bunch. Set two of the bunches aside. Take the third bunch measure to ½" behind hook bend and attach butt ends in front of the barbell eyes, secure with six or seven thread wraps in front of eyes and two wraps directly behind the eyes. Return thread to in front of the eyes and rotate fly 180 degrees (for rotary vise) or re-adjust fly if you have a standard vise.

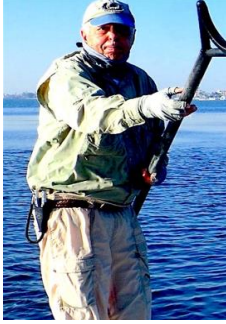
3. Attach a second bunch of badger to hook shank in front of barbell eyes. (Be sure to measure, trim and re-cement so this piece of badger is the same length as the first.)

4. Wrap a half a dozen strands of flash material around your standing thread and tie in on top of the badger hair. Trim flash to ½" longer than badger hair on larger flies or ⅜" on smaller flies.

5. Measure, trim and cement the third piece of badger hair and tie it in front of barbell eyes as you did on the second piece. Whip finish and trim excess thread.

6. Attach Pink flatwaxed nylon. Wrap a smooth head, whip finish and trim excess thread.

7. Coat "Pink" thread wraps with UV Resin and cure with UV light.



Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

Golden Rule on the water

Warmer weather and improved inshore fishing conditions will have more people on the water, especially on weekends. This can adversely affect shallow-water fly fishers. Trout, snook, and redfish present more challenges as well as rewards when they can be sight fished. Nothing is more exciting than having a visible fish in shallow water take a well-presented fly or small artificial bait after a careful stalk. For this to happen, the fish has to be happy or free of stress. To be successful, the fish's resistance to finding plentiful food in clear, shallow water must be overcome.

Predators, winged and swimming, are constant issues, but careless other fishermen and boaters become an increasing problem because of our large population that is attracted to the water. If you see a shallow watercraft or waders fishing in skinny water, it is best to keep your distance. They often have spent considerable time and effort getting to this spot and a visitor on a personal watercraft or other watercraft will disrupt their effort. Practice the golden rule, especially in the shallows.

Captain Pat

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

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 Scarola: Puns of the Day

Why do fish swim in schools? *Because they don't have FISH COLLEGES ? duh!!*

Where do fish go to borrow money? *The LOAN SHARK, of course.*

Where do bass go to wash up? *-RIVER BASIN*

How do young fish get to school? *On the OCTOBUS*

If an oyster meets with accident how will you take him to the hospital? *In a CLAMBULANCE*

What would you call a fish wearing a tie? *SOFISHTICATED.*

What was the result when the scientist crossed a fish and an elephant? *SWIMMING TRUNKS*

Why did the shark say after eating the clown fish? *"It tastes a big FUNNY"*

Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



New IGFA fly rod records. There's a 19-pound largemouth bass, cero mackerel, seabass, peacock bass, and, yes, Ed Walker's record gag grouper. Captain Ed gave us all the details on our January Zoom meeting. Check it out. ([Outdoor Life](#))

Check the bacteria where you wade-fish. Tampa Bay Waterkeeper regularly reports bacteria levels in various spots along the Pinellas/Hillsborough coastlines. It combines testing results from various resources. Also, there's an app for that. ([Tampa Bay Waterkeepers](#))

Big redfish die off in Mobile Bay--Charter boat captain Blake Michaleski recorded a video of the dead redfish and posted it on Facebook. "More than a thousand bull reds are dead. That's the estimate. ([Field & Stream](#))

Is this good news or bad news? –Florida keeps proving that it is the boating capital of the world. Florida Fish and Wildlife recently announced there are now more than a million registered vessels in the Sunshine State. (It doesn't include kayaks.) The counties with the most registrations are "Miami-Dade (74,622), Pinellas (53,867), Lee (50,304), Broward (47,741) and Hillsborough (41,495). ([MyFWC](#))

So, how do we get more kids involved in fishing? This article is about how kids are more involved in computer gaming than getting outside. This column is for boating dealers, but fly fishing retailers and brands are dealing with the same problem. ([Trade Only Today](#))

It's tarpon time in Marco Island. And the 'poons will be arriving soon. ([On The Fly South](#))

Should Tampa Bay wade fishers be using wading staffs? Sometimes the bottom can get pretty mucky, you know. H/T Pat Damico. ([Troutbitten](#))

Here's how you kill your outboard motor. Well, corn farmers will be happy. But corn on the cob and corn in the can are going to cost us a whole lot more. Can you say "E-15?" ([Soundings Trade Only](#))

Attendance at the 2022 IFTD fly fishing trade show was way down. The editor of this fly fishing trade magazine is asking some tough questions. Is Covid to blame? If not, then, what? One is left to wonder, is the fly fishing industry in some kind of slump. Or worse? ([Angling Trade](#))

My back hurts reading about this. Hell's Bay Boats won the Skiff Challenge this year but all four of the skiffs and their teams are winners for racing non-stop 1,300 miles around the entire Florida coastline from Alabama to Key West to Georgia. ([Angler's Journal](#))

Whatabout feeding wild animals? Manatees in the Indian River Lagoon are dying. They're not getting enough to eat. So, we're feeding them lettuce. They love it. Manatees consumed 200-thousand-plus pounds of lettuce in the first three months of this year. They like romaine lettuce, it seems. So far as we know, none have requested kale. ([cruisingodyssey.com](#))

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/

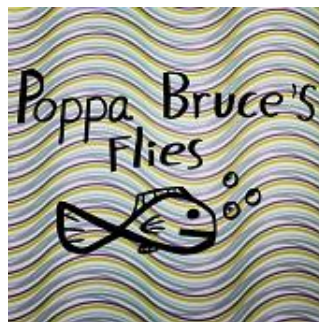


Captain Shawn McCole

www.captainshawnmccole.com



www.thomasbruce.com/

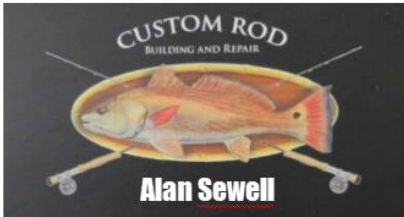


www.etsy.com/shop/PoppaBrucesFlies



www.beehavenfl.com/

Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers



<mailto:sewellalan@yahoo.com>



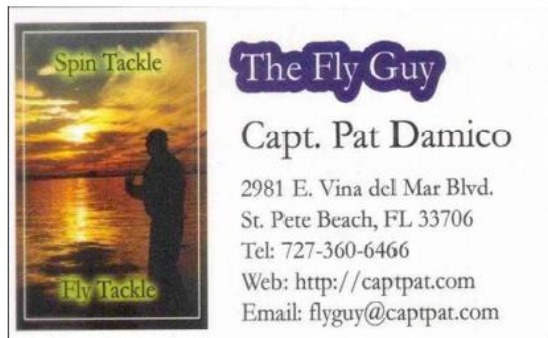
www.tampabayonthefly.com/



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/