

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

February 19 Fort DeSoto Park P5



White Pelicans Liked Our January Outing. P6



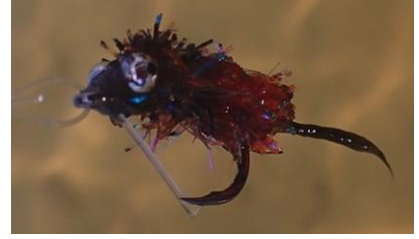
Bill Scarola's
Sand Flea P13



Smitty's
Pompano Rocket P14



Eight Top Redfish Flies P11



IGFA Record: Grouper on the fly. Yeah. P8



Help. A Redfish stole my rod. P10





The President's Letter: February 2022

The time has come for us to enjoy a few of our favorite things. Our member meeting this month will feature another edition of Trash and Treasures, one of our favorite SFF events. The outing will be at Ft. DeSoto, one of our favorite fishing locations. The luncheon at the outing will be a Low Country Boil, one of our favorite meals. On March 26th, we will put on the first Hog Roast in 3 years, one of the most exciting and most favorite social events of the year.

The Trash and Treasure auction is always a good time. Members are asked to donate some of the gear that we all have too much of. Alan Sewell will be able to make your little used item sound like the one and only thing that the rest of the members cannot do without. Our goal is to prove that one fisherman's trash is another fisherman's treasure. If you do wind up with buyer's remorse, do not worry. You can always bring it back next year and we will do it all over again.

Ft. DeSoto is always the highest ranked venue for SFF club outings. It really has everything you could ask for. The facilities are outstanding. It has pavilions that can accommodate a large group, plenty of parking, trails to access various fishing locations, boat ramp, kayak launches, beaches and great fishing. You can fish from a boat, wade or fish from shore. Our outing will be Saturday February 19th. Even if you don't fish, you should plan to join us for lunch. Bob Burkard will be putting on one of our signature meals. I know everyone will enjoy the Low Country Boil full of corn, potatoes, shrimp and sausage. It is especially good coming off a cold day on the water.

I can't believe it has been three years since we had a Hog Roast. For those of you that have not been or don't remember, the Hog Roast is our annual banquet and fund-raising event. This is always an entertaining evening. This is your chance to enjoy a night with friends and family, share a great meal and score some fantastic merchandise. The food will be catered by Smokey Bones BBQ. We will have a wide variety of fishing and non-fishing related goods available in our silent auction, bucket raffle, featured ticket raffle and member only give away. Mark your calendar for March 26th. Get your tickets now!

On these cold and dreary days take a cue from Julie Andrews, "**I Simply Remember My Favorite Things And Then I Don't Feel So Bad .**"

Stay safe and keep fishing!

Rick

Rick Warfel, SFF President

Meetings, Outings, and More

Thursday, February 17, Trash 'n' Treasures meeting, Walter Fuller Park

- Arrive about 6 to put your gear on the tables and to research the items you want to bid on.
 - The auction starts about 7:15. Auctioneer is Alan Sewell.
 - Bring a credit card, checkbook, or cash. You're going to pick up some really good deals.
 - The nominating committee will announce its recommendations for new officers and board members. Nominations from the floor will be open to all members in good standing. Nominations will be closed at the conclusion of the meeting.
 - Members vote at the March meeting. Officers and board members take office immediately.
-

Saturday, February 19 Outing, Picnic pavilion #4, Fort DeSoto Park. Low country boil

- Fish the park waters in the morning. \$10 gift certificates will be awarded to members catching the longest snook, redfish, and seatrout. Measure your longest fish, take pictures.
 - Meet at Pavilion 4 on north beach at noon to enjoy a Low Country Boil by chef Bob Burkard.
-

Saturday, February 26, Spree for All

- Suncoast Fly Fishers will demonstrating fly casting at the "Spree for all," an outreach program in Tampa for youth with special needs.
 - This is #2. Tom assembled SFF volunteers for the first *Spree for all* on Saturday, Feb. 12. Volunteers may be needed for this one. Contact Tom Gadacz if you can help. thomasgadacz@yahoo.com
-

Thursday, March 17, Annual business meeting and club elections

- Capt. Pat Damico is our featured speaker.
 - Members vote at the March. Officers and board members take office immediately.
-

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

Saturday, March 26, Hog Roast and Silent Auction

- March 26. Hog Roast and Silent Auction, St. Jerome Catholic Church, 10895 Hamlin Blvd., Largo.
 - If you have some gear you can contribute for the auction and bucket raffle please notify Bill AuCoin, at wmaucoin@verizon.net
 - Hog Roast tickets will be on sale at the February member meeting and at lunchtime at the Fort DeSoto outing - \$20 per person, children 12 and under free. Any questions call or email Karen Warfel at 813-505-3162 or kmwarfel@yahoo.com
-

Thursday April 21 meeting. Tie-a-thon and free pizza. And a Boy Scout Clouser Station.

- A special feature for this event will be a Clouser Station where members will tie flies that will be donated to the Greater Tampa Bay Area (Boy Scout) Council for its fly fishing tournament May 12-14.
- Here is a link to the [GTBAC website](#).
- The SFF board has agreed to support this event through social media and the newsletter. Suncoast Fly Fishers will also be providing fly boxes and Clouser Minnow flies to be distributed to everyone entering the tournament. Please contact Bruce Evensen if you would like to help tie flies for this project. His phone number is 727-403-9010.

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 141 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.

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

Bill AuCoin, editor; Anne Mitchell, Bob Hood, Tim Elms, Marshall Craig.

Bob Burkard: February 19 Outing—Fort DeSoto Park



Bob Burkard, Chairman of the Outings Committee

Fish in the morning. Meet up at noon at Pavilion #4 on North Beach for a Low Country Boil picnic.

We didn't have a club picnic at the January outing so, Covid willing, we'll meet up in person at the February outing at Fort DeSoto Park.

Fish any of the water in or around FDP. Ten dollar gift certificates will go to members catching the longest redfish, longest snook, and longest seatrout. Measure your longest fish

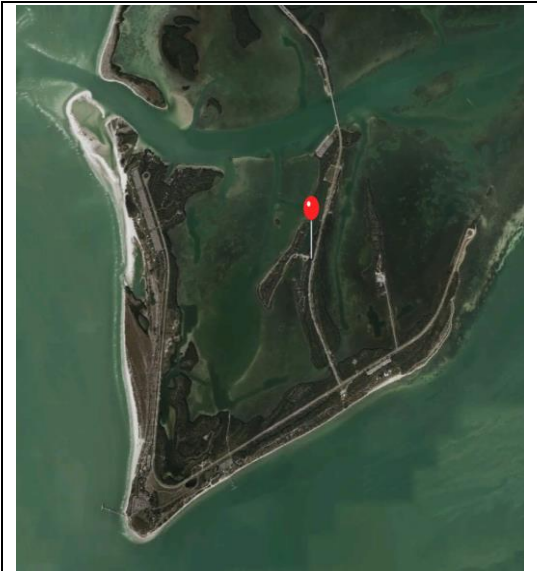
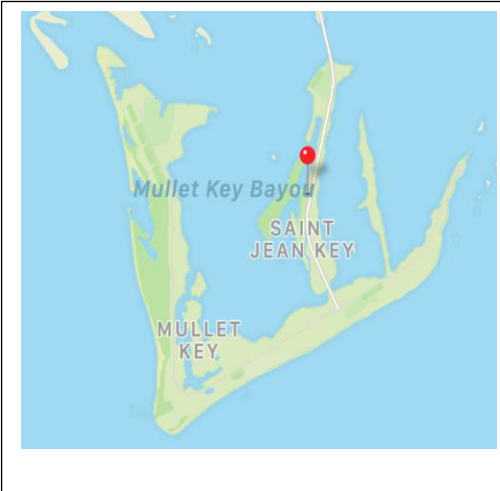
and take pictures. Email them to me (Robertburkard9@gmail.com) You know the thing.

If you want your longest fish to be entered into the contest be sure to meet up at Pavilion #4 by noon. That's when the longest fish winners are determined.

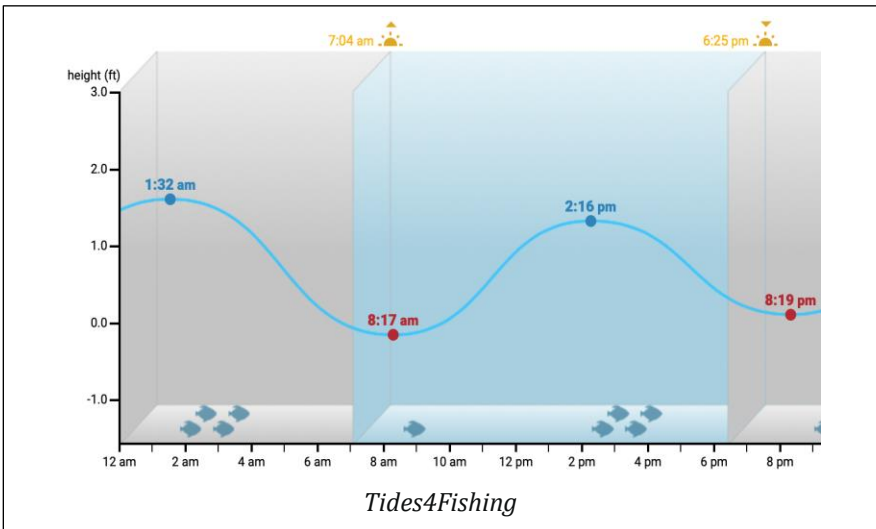
Low country boil, you ask?.

Gobble up shrimp and sausage and sweet corn on the cob. Yeah, the low country boil. It's a terrific tradition started by the Craig family and we can't let it go.

The park opens at 7 am. There's a \$5 entrance fee per vehicle. Park diagram and other info is on the [FDP website](#)..



Where will you fish? *The Gulf shoreline is on the left. The Tampa Bay shoreline is to the right. Bunces pass is along the top. Some like to crash through mangrove shorelines and fly fish the warmer backcountry water, too. Some waders like to park at the boat ramp and wade west into Mullet Bayou. You can start fishing there before the park opens.*



Bob

Bob Burkard: January 22 Outing—Weedon Island Preserve

Well, after all, it is winter in Florida. So, on the day of our January outing, right on schedule, a brutal cold front arrived. Five bundled up members met at Weedon, posed for the mandatory photo, then waded into waded-whipped Riviera Bay. Oh, it was raining, off and on. And, yeah, we even had to wear waders. Life is so hard.

I thought I'd win the \$10 gift certificate for catching the longest ladyfish. I saw a dolphin feeding on the drop-off. Good sign! But that north wind was so fierce I couldn't cast to the drop-off. I gave up. I left Rick Warfel and Bob Hood fishing Riviera Bay and followed David Redd and Bill AuCoin to the wind-sheltered side of Weedon Island. That didn't help. No hits. No runs.

Before lunch time, to be good citizens, David and I started pulling tangled fishing line from the branches of the shoreline mangroves near the pier.



Into the wild—Bob Hood, Bob Burkard, Bill AuCoin, David Redd, and Rick Warfel. (Kevin Kelly Photo)



That's Bob on the left and David on the right pulling down yards and yards of braided fishing line from mangrove branches.



LONGEST LADY -- Rick Warfel's 20-1/4-inch ladyfish caught on a Clouser.

Eventually, everybody except one

gave up and met to eat their brown bag lunches at the Weedon pavilion. Rick didn't give up. He kept fishing in the rain and the wind and he was there when the bite turned on. He caught six ladyfish, including the award-winner, a 20-1/4 incher.



Good citizens. Bob Burkard and David Redd disposing of 100+ feet of braided fishing line pulled from the mangroves near the fishing pier.

Bob Burkard: Monthly Outing Winners earn \$10 Gift Certificates

Congratulations: If you see your name below come to the February meeting so you can collect your \$10 gift certificates. Some are redeemable at Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure and some at St. Petersburg Fishing Outfitters. If you won the yearly tournament for any species, your rewards comes later. Think Hog Roast.

2019	Winner	Target Fish	Longest fish (inches)	Outing Location
March	Gary Sundberg	Jack crevalle	22	So. Skyway Rest Area
October	Mark Hays	Bass	13	Hillsborough River
December	Arise Caissie	Snook	22	Fort DeSoto Park
2020	Winner	Target Fish	Longest Fish	Outing Location
August	Bob Burkard	Snook	20	Urban outing
October	James Davis	Snook	34	Fort DeSoto Park
October	Robert Mitchell	Snook	20	Fort DeSoto Park
2021	Winner	Target Fish	Longest fish	Outing Location
April	Karen Warfel	Bass	13.5	Safety Harbor fresh or salt
May	Rick Warfel	seatrout	14	Cypress Point Park
June	Mark Hays	Snook	28	Docklight
September	Rick Warfel	Bass	12	Upper Tampa Bay
October	Robert Fischer	Bowfin	25	Hillsborough River
October	Karen Warfel	Most Bream	39	Hillsborough River
December	James Davis	Snook	31	Fort DeSoto Park
2022	Winner	Target Fish	Longest fish	Outing Location
January	Rick Warfel	Ladyfish	20.25	Weedon Island Preserve

Bill AuCoin: January Zoom Man, Capt. Ed Walker



World record 15.4-pound Gag Grouper on the Fly for Capt. Ed Walker

Capt. Ed Walker of Tarpon Springs has been trending on social media recently. He has set a new IGFA record for gag grouper. Yes: On. The. Fly. It's pending but look for his name next to the 15.4 pound gag he turned and landed on the fly with a 20-pound tippet about 60 miles out in the gulf. And this is just the latest in a long line of trophy-catches for Ed for just about every major Gulf species, including, of course, tarpon.

Landing that big Gag wasn't easy but he was motivated by the new IGFA world record longest fish category that let's anglers catch, weigh, measure, photograph, AND RELEASE fish. You also have to send in the fly and entire leader so they can make sure that was legal. Amberjack may be his next target.

Ed told us his interesting story at our January meeting on Zoom and has also shared his social media post that got it buzzing.

"After a couple months of running trips for gag grouper, I had an idea that we might be able to

catch one on a fly rod. I spent a lot of nights on the vise experimenting with different hooks and fly patterns.

"I recruited [Peter Katsarelis](#), [Cj Peppe](#) and [Alexandra Spring](#). We ran 60 miles north with (just) fly rods. Full commitment. We found a spot with what I hoped were the right features and set up. We patiently worked them up until we could see bodies moving around behind the boat.

"First cast get eaten on the surface but runs against the drag all the way back down and into the ledge. Unstoppable. Here we go again I thought. Made some adjustments to our position and fired 'em back up again. Soon we had a gag frenzy going like I have never seen before. Big gags were boiling and jumping out of the water four at a time. Almost every cast was a hook-up. When the dust had settled on day two we had broken 6 IGFA world records for gag grouper on fly. (Pending approval)

"Alex was a true rock star and set records for the 12,16, and 20-lb tippet categories for women. Perhaps the most impressive was her 11.2 pound gag on 1- lb tippet. Amazing. I got a 30 incher for the fly rod length record, which Pete topped on the very next cast. And then, after getting it handed to me over and over until we were almost out of flies, I managed to turn a 15.4 pounder on 20-lb tippet, which if approved, will top the current record of 13 lbs.

"Thank you to my favorite fish monger [Amy Wirtz](#) at Pelican Point Seafood for giving us your time with the certified weighing."

And, you may ask, what was Ed's magic fly? He tied heavy wire-wrapped flies on 6/0 hooks with long Dragon Tails. Yeah, It's not your typical fly. But, then, this was not your typical catch on a fly rod. Thanks, Ed!

Contact Capt. Ed Walker, telephone 727-421-0346

- info@lighttacklecharters.com
- <https://www.facebook.com/edwalker.sportfishingcharters>

Ed also discovered a Gulf location holding lots of gag groupers and they were NOT associated with a reef. That's a good thing because otherwise they can dive down to the reef and break off.

Cliff Nigh: Up for a North Georgia Trout Expedition?

St Pete Fishing Outfitters to Host Their Second Annual Cold Water Trout Trip



Cliff Nigh

Following 2021's Covid induced hiatus, St. Pete Fishing Outfitters will be hosting another trip to the Blue Ridge, Georgia area in pursuit of Rainbow Trout.

The trip will begin with your arrival on Sunday, March 20, 2022. Laughing Bear Lodge in Epworth, Georgia will be your base of operations. Laughing Bear Lodge is about 15 -20 minutes or so from downtown Blue Ridge and is anything but your typical fish camp! For those who have never been to Blue Ridge, it is a quaint and eclectic town that offers unique shopping opportunities, several very nice restaurants, a full Fly Shop and numerous other activities.

Blue Ridge and Laughing Bear Lodge are easily found on Google. We think you'll be quite impressed with our accommodations.

Once again, we'll be working with Cohutta Fishing Company in Blue Ridge this year. Cohutta has hosted our group on their private waters and everyone had the opportunity to catch their personal best Rainbow. For some, it was their first ever Rainbow. Many fish in the 19" to 21" class were landed, with the best fish of the trip measuring in 23.5"!

The trip includes five (5) nights at Laughing Bear Lodge (check-in on 3/20 and check-out on 3/25^h); one full day guided fishing on Cohutta's private waters; full access to Laughing Bear's water on Fightingtown Creek for the full trip (one of the area's better known trout streams); access to numerous nearby public waters including the Toccoa River. Breakfast and Dinner are included and those who went on the last trip (most are going again) will attest that we don't live on hot dogs! No one goes away hungry! We'll also have snacks available throughout the day.

Participants are responsible for their own transportation. They will also need to bring their own rods, reels, and tackle. Other than that, they need only bring their Georgia Fishing License (available at gdnr.com). You will not need a license when fishing the Lodge property. Participants may also bring their own alcoholic beverages (kegs are not permitted).



The trip is limited to 24 people at a cost of \$1,000 each. We're filling up and only have eight (8) spots left.

Interested? Call the store at 727 317 4949 to make your reservation and deposit.

Cliff

Andy Constantinou: The Rod That Got Away

Feb. 1: My Scottish mate Murray who is here for 10 days sent me this today. Andy

Andy, I hooked this fish at the flat outside Simmons Park; 32 inches . It took 17 minutes to land and it had me down to the backing three times. At one stage it had 30 yards of backing out. It was the biggest redfish I have ever caught .



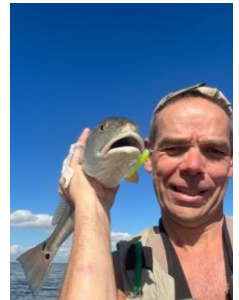
If you see a fish attached to a fly rod...

I was on my own so wanted a selfie picture of it so I put the fish back in the water still with the fly in its mouth and laid the rod in the water. Whilst I adjusted my phone into selfie mode, I looked down to lift the fish for the selfie photo and both it and the rod were gone.

I searched for an hour with no luck. I did get a picture of it before it escaped.

So if anyone finds a Loomis blank fly rod with a Sage reel with a big redfish attached to it feel free to keep the fish but I would like my old rod back.

Murray



Andy's Scottish friend Murray.

Tim Elms: Yep, they are out there



Tim's juvie tarponie selfie with his first winter tarpon.

I finally found my little tarpon in the winter. .

For four years I have been chasing baby tarponies. Its literally my quest. 2022 has already started out great with exploring special waters.

Keep your eyes peeled on tiny creeks that connect to salt. Try to go at high tide, either right before or right after the peak.

Watch for little rolls on tiny bait. Try not to blind cast much as usually the snook will snatch it up.

Be prepared to toss a fly into trees and then they will shut off extremely fast.

Size 4 and 6 Minnow flies in bright colors work pretty well stripped at various speeds. Go get em!

Strip Strip Strip!!!!—Tim

Walt Durkin: Seeking the perfect redfish fly

Keep looking for the magic fly



Walt Durkin is president of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. He wrote this for the TBFFC's February newsletter.

I like to tie and am always looking for a new, more effective fly; or, that mystical magic fly that the fish love and hit almost every time. While that is fun and keeps me busy, experience has shown I likely will never identify the "magic" fly.

Along those lines, my fishing buddy Ted showed me a new variation of a fly while we were walking off the Cypress flat one morning. The fly was a Seaducer pattern developed many years ago to imitate a shrimp or minnow. Tied with splayed tail feathers and a palmered head, it has held up well over the years. Ted simply replaced feathers with a craft fur tail and added black markings. This produced a very light fly with great motion in the water. Tied with a mono weed guard, you can easily fish it shallow over grass; and, like the Seaducer, tied in various colors it resembles a shrimp or minnow.



Seaducer



Leigh West Green/Gold Bendback

I tied one in brown and one in tan and tried one the first week of January at the MacDill flat. The weather, tides and fish cooperated and over three days I caught 9 reds on the brown color of the new fly. Could this be the magic pattern for reds? While I caught 9 reds, I probably had 90 good shots and showed the fly to happy fish. Thus, only one in ten reds jumped on the fly. I was happy it worked, but refusals and no takes far outnumbered the strikes. Nonetheless, I will keep this neat fly in my box and fish it again.

The fish on the MacDill flat were tailing and bottom oriented as they often are in winter. Additionally, we often see big, single reds moving slowly along the sandy bottom at Cypress. These fish are staring at the bottom and will tail every few minutes when they find something. I have no idea what they are feeding on as you certainly can't see anything edible. Perhaps a small worm or crab, I don't know. If you patiently show these fish a well-presented small crab or shrimp you will get the one-in-ten fish to eat. Not great odds, but not hopeless either. If you see enough fish you can score two or three for a good day.



Smitty's Gangster Gurgler

Reds are easier to catch under these conditions: Look for a school of fish that are ideally coming right at you. These fish may be tailing or mostly just moving slowly. Get your fly out in front, on the bottom and bump it a little as the fish approach. Maybe they feel safer in a school and a little more competitive, but you often get more strikes in this situation. Also, reds will sometimes key on and look for bait when it is around the same as jacks do. These are the easiest fish to target and will often hit a minnow pattern the same size as the bait. One morning at Cypress two years ago, I found jacks chasing and scattering bait all over the flat. Reds soon showed up and joined the action. A small bend-back minnow was all you needed and every red hit the fly when I was able to show it to them.

Continued on next page

P2/Walt Durkin: Seeking the perfect redfish fly

While we continue to look for the holy grail of redfish flies, what should we have in our box? I try to get by with about six patterns I have faith in and tie them in two or three colors and weights. They will represent shrimp, crabs or minnows. Also, remember that while a good fly is important, presentation is even more important. In the winter, use a good leader of 12 feet down to 12 pound test fluoro. Practice casting for an accurate presentation from 20 to 50 feet. Long casts are not usually required for sight fishing on the flat.

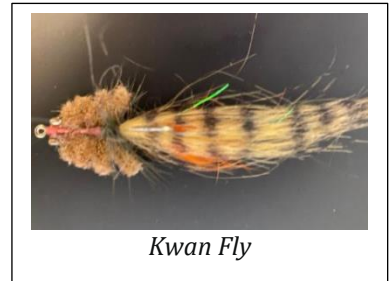
Finally, find two or three small shrimp and crab patterns you like. Have some with bead chain eyes (light) and some with lead eyes to get down a little quicker. These should be your go to flies in winter while sight fishing .

Some examples below include the micro flexo crab, Kwan fly and rat fly. The rat fly is a good generic bug tied with a Puglisi brush head, lead eyes, an orange hot spot and two small zonker stripes on each side.

Please keep in mind these suggestions are for difficult to catch Tampa Bay redfish. I read an article recently of guys fishing for reds in Texas and they caught lots of reds and switched flies after each fish. Additionally, those big reds in Louisiana readily take many different flies from what I read. I did not mention the Clouser minnow, which is a very useful fly in the saltwater.



Micro Flexo Crab



Kwan Fly



Walt's Rat Fly



Spoon Flies

Small versions can be fished in winter with good results. Finally, carrying a few spoon flies is a good idea and can be effective at times. While I have focused on redfish, all the flies mentioned will work just fine on snook, trout and other game fish.

I hope these suggestions help and are based on my experience over the last ten years and countless trips. However, each trip is a new adventure and a chance to watch, learn and experiment. Look for good sight fishing opportunities in the winter and watch how the fish react to your fly.

Try new patterns and see how they work.

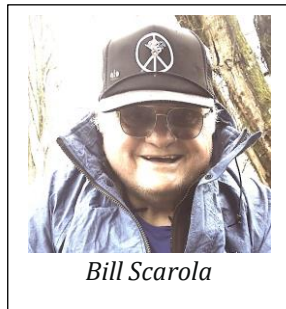
If you find that magic fly let me know. Meanwhile, get out there and take advantage of our beautiful local waters.



Smitty's Clouser Minnow

Walt

Bill Scarola: Sand Flea Fly for Fort DeSoto Park Beaches



Bill Scarola

Meet up with other club members and tie this Sand Flea Fly with Bill and Bruce Evensen at 6 pm on Monday, February 14. Bruce's fly-tying studio is at 531 80th Avenue N in St. Pete. Bill and Bruce will have some extra materials if you need them.

Bill

Materials

- Hook: # 2- 3407, b10 stinger
- Weight/Eyes: Small barbell eyes, brass or silver
- Egg Sac: Red laser dubbing or red craft fur or red glo-yarn. I will also have craft fur and red glo yarn.
- Legs: Fine GOLD chenille. Glue or burn ends to prevent fraying.
- Body: White glo-yarn or white dubbing
- Tentacles: Gold or yellow crazy legs/black flake
- Shell: Dark mallard feather
- Glue UV Epoxy
- Thread White flat wax

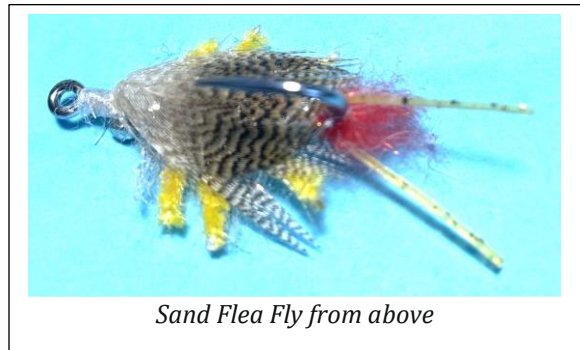
Tying Sequence

- 1-Wrap thread from hook eye to bend.
 - 2-Add egg sac material, tie it in a small ball, w/ short tail at the bend
 - 3-Tie in barbel eyes about 1/4" behind the hook eye as in Clouser style.
 - 4-Rotate your vise, hook point up. Add 3 legs approximately 3/4" long spaced out about an 1/8th inch apart. These can be trimmed later.
 - 5-Add white dubbing to form an oval shaped body, over and under and between the legs. Less is more.
 - 6-Tie in one yellow/black flake crazy leg, double it up so it extends out past the bend approximately 1" or so. Be sure to keep the legs separate, one on each side of the hook bend.
 - 7-Select one mallard feather the size of the fly's body. Add UV epoxy to the top of the feather and cure it.
- Note: keep the hook point up, then tie it in on over the body. The curved side goes down. Tie it over the barbell eyes only and finish tying it off. This forms a hard shell. The shell feather should cover the legs and under body from the barbell eyes to the bend of the hook and the chenille legs should stick out slightly to the side of the body!

###

Puns of the day

- A sign in the front of a shoe store: *We will heel you, we will save your sole, we will even dye for you.*
- A sign in the front of a window blinds and curtain truck: *Blind man driving*
- A sign on a plumber's truck: *We repair what your husband fixed.*
- A sign on a septic tank truck: *Caution: this truck is full of political promises!*
- A sign in the front of a tire shop: *Invite us to your next blowout.*
- A sign in the front of a funeral Home: *Drive carefully. We'll wait.*



Sand Flea Fly from above



Sand Flea Fly from below

Smitty's Fly Box: Pompano Rocket



This one was designed for pompano in the surf, but it has caught several different fish (redfish, trout, mackerel, and in freshwater bluegill, crappie and smallies) on it, tied in different sizes. Hope you like it. Feather-Craft sells them if you don't tie.

Smitty



Materials

Hook: Your favorite 2x short shank saltwater hook size 4 to 6

Thread: Florescent orange flat waxed nylon

Eyes: Painted dumbbell eyes

Body/Wing: Orange Bucktail under Yellow Bucktail

Collar: Gold Mylar tubing in medium or large

Head: Fluorescent orange flat waxed nylon

Tying Instructions

Step 1: Tie dumbbell eyes on top of the hook shank

Step 2: Tie in a clump of orange bucktail behind the eyes. Top with a clump of yellow.

Step 3: Take a piece of gold Mylar tubing and push the eye of the hook through the side of the tube.

Step 4: Pull half the Mylar tube over the top of the hook shank, and tie down, fold the bottom part of the tube on the bottom of the hook shank and tie down. Advance thread forward and build up the head. Whip finish, cut thread. Cut the tube so the same length is on the top and bottom. Unravel tubing.



Step 1



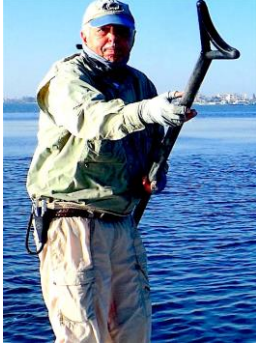
Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

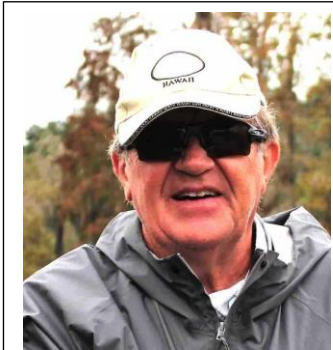
Cold water and fish that prefer warm conditions are a tough combination for fly fishers. Small baitfish, primarily glass minnows, will be in canals and well-protected areas, especially where the sun can warm the darker bottom. This means that an early start, even with a moving tide, usually will not be very productive. Seawalls, wooden structures such as docks, and boats with large wood hulls absorb heat, inviting fish to stay close. A water thermometer is a necessity. If your boat is not equipped with one, get an inexpensive pool thermometer. A few degrees make a big difference. Seek the warmest places. Cold-blooded fish will be lethargic and not eager to chase a fly. On shallow grass flats, fish will be in sand holes, improving sight-fishing opportunities.

These will show as a light-colored bottom devoid of grass. Probe these with well-placed casts allowing your fly to sink to the bottom before starting a slow retrieve. A large sand hole should be fished carefully, especially if few fish are present. A smooth surface with no wind might help fly casting, but larger fish will spook easier. A ripple on the surface will get you closer to fish. Fish on the windward side rather than in the lee because the wind pushes plankton close to shore and available baitfish will be there feeding. Schools of mullet are always a guide to where trout and reds feel more comfortable, relaxing their guard.

Captain Pat

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

Jonas Magnuson: The Carry!



*Jonas Magnuson,
FFI Certified Fly
Casting Instructor, is a
member of the Tampa Bay
Fly Fishing Club.*

The Suncoast Fly Fishers club hosted a casting clinic Jan. 8th. I helped there and noticed one particular error several intermediate casters made. They were making nice false casts and then suddenly they lost control before shooting the line. I have suffered from the same malaise. All casters have a certain length of line they can comfortably carry in the air false casting. Beginners can't carry much line but little by little they are able to carry more line. We refer to that length as their carry. Distance casters can and must carry say 100-feet of line to be able to reach 120'. So, the carry length is highly individual. As we practice, we can carry more line.

Back to our intermediate casters – it turned out they were slipping line (releasing a bit of line on the back cast and/or front cast). Thus, they were increasing their carry, and some didn't even realize it, and in the end, they had moved past their carry limit. What happens then is that the line can't be kept straight neither in front nor in the back and control over the line is lost.

Consequently, they were introducing slack into their cast with the known outcome. The remedy is to teach a caster where his/her carry limit is. That task turns out to be very easy. So, now we have established the individual's carry limit. Then we just have some line at the ready to be shot on delivery. When our casters observed their carry limit and then shot the line, they suddenly were able to get more distance than previously.

Jonas

Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



Are you strong enough to land a 140-pound tarpon? -- It takes more than physical strength. It takes mental, and emotional strength, too. Just ask Gold Cup champion Andy Mill. ([Tail Fly Fishing Magazine](#))

Is this where the redfish have gone? -- It starts with a "Y". Tampa Captain Nick Angelo filmed Sarasota writer Rusty Chinnis sight casting and catching redfish on the flats. It's really good. And where were they fishing? Not too, too far from St. Petersburg, actually. The town starts with the letter Y. If you figure it out, don't tell anybody.

([YouTube](#))

Good location for a club outing? -- Maybe. Thirty pounders on the fly. Or, maybe not.

This fish has jaws and teeth that can bite your finger off. ([Angler's Journal](#))

Here's another sightfishing "catch" -- But you'll need a spear, not a fly rod. ([WTAQ](#))

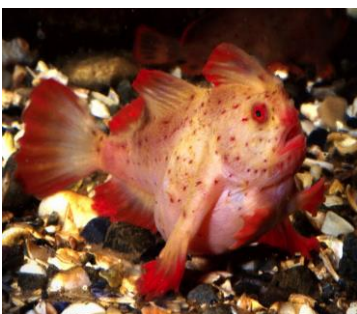
Huge catch in Polk County -- Angler reels in a person. A body, that is. ([Fox 13](#))

I thought snook were faster than alligators. -- Not in Myakka River State Park, apparently. Birds gotta fly. Fish gotta swim. Gators gotta eat. ([WFLA](#))

Well, after all, they were in the marlin's territory. -- Four Englishmen were rowing across the Atlantic Ocean. They were competitors in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge. A huge marlin rammed and poked a hole in their boat. The rowers were not injured but the marlin speared their supply of ~~whiskey~~ food.

([Cruising Odyssey](#))

Do some people get seasick in a boat? Well, duh. -- This article got me thinking. Maybe our fly club should apply for grants to research answers to important questions like, say, *Can a kayak tip over?* Or, maybe, *Do some saltwater wade fishers get stuck in the muck?* ([Passagemaker](#))



Some fishes have evolved into walking fish. But why? -- Experts knew about this walking fish but they had not seen it in many years. Recently the pink walking fish was spotted and photographed in deep water in a Tasmanian marine park. ([ABC.net.au](#))

Bill

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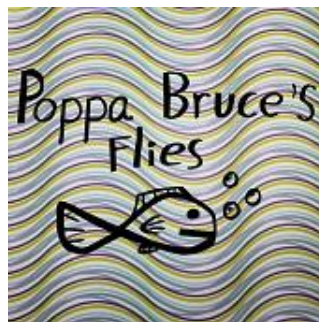
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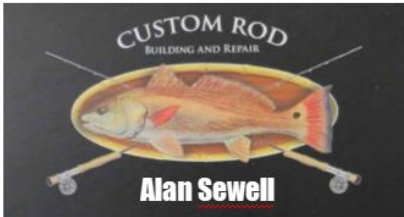


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