

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

Yes, it's a big deal -- August 20 outing -- P3, P9

Pinellas County
COMMISSIONER OF TOURISM
FORT DE SOTO PARK
3500 Pinellas Bayway South
Terra Verde, Florida 33715-2528
Information (727) 882-2267

LEGEND

- 1 Boat Ferry (fee charged)
- 2 Boardwalk / Nature Trail
- 3 Campground
- 4 Canoe / kayak, Trail & Rental
- 5 Concession
- 6 Dog Park / Dog Beach
- 7 Ferry Service
- 8 Fishing
- 9 Historical Interest
- 10 Multipurpose Trail
- 11 Parking
- 12 Pier
- 13 Playground Equipment
- 14 Restroom
- 15 Shelter & Girts
- 16 Showers
- 17 Swimming
- 18 Umbrella / Cabana Rental
- 19 Wheelchair Accessible

I'll take baby tarpon, Alex - P6

Item	Unit	Price	Unit	Price	Unit	Price
Boat Ferry	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
Boardwalk / Nature Trail	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
Campground	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
Canoe / kayak, Trail & Rental	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
Concession	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
Dog Park / Dog Beach	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000





The President's Message: August 2022

Thirteen months ago, we were planning to have a celebration to commemorate SFF's return to in-person meetings and in-person outings.

We had just had our first live meeting since the Corona Virus shut everything down and we were looking forward to having a blowout BBQ at Ft. DeSoto. It turns out our plans were premature as infections rates again spiked and it became clear that the pandemic was not yet over.

Our plans were canceled, and we continued to be affected by this incredible public health emergency for another semester. Fast forward a year. We are meeting, fishing and eating together again. Covid may not be over, but it has become manageable. We have resumed in-person events and it is time to have that long awaited BBQ! Join us for Brisket in the Bay on Saturday August 20th.

We are fishing one of our favorite venues, Ft. DeSoto, which is a great place for fly fishing. It is situated on the Gulf of Mexico between the main shipping channel and Bunces Pass. Everything that goes in and out of Tampa Bay swims by here. There are places to wade, beach fishing, backwater fishing, kayak fishing and a place to launch your boat .

Get more information on fishing Ft. DeSoto at the member meeting on Thursday August 17th. Bob Burkard will update you on the outing. Our featured speaker will be long time member Jim Swann.

Even if you don't fish, you can join us for a meal of smoked brisket and all the fixings. Look for some fun events, a great meal and a chance to win a surprise give away. I can't wait to see each and every one of you at our next meeting and at the BBQ next Saturday.

Stay safe and keep fishing!

Rick

Rick Warfel

Meetings, Outings, and More

Meeting, Thursday, August 18, Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, 6:30-8:30

- The meeting starts at 7 but come early for snacks, coffee, raffle tickets, and chatting up friends.
 - Florida Freshwater fly fishing expert Jim Swann is our speaker. He'll tell us what we need to know to fly-fish the October freshwater outing on the Hillsborough River.
 - Jim is proprietor of Swann's Fly Fishing Outfitters store in Dade City.
-

Best Brisket in the Bay Outing, Saturday, August 20,

Fly fish then picnic at noon at Pavilion #3 on North Beach on Fort DeSoto Park (FDP opens at 7 am)

- Celebrate the things that make our club great: Food. Fun. Families. Friends. And fly-fishing.
 - All are welcome: your spouse, children, grandchildren, and fishing friends, too.
 - Fish in the morning then meet up at Pavilion 3 for lunch. President Rick Warfel and Outings Chairman Bob Burkard will be slow cooking and smoking big beef briskets on grills all night long.
 - Everybody will get a free raffle ticket for a drawing for fun door prizes..
 - Fish the waters in and around Fort DeSoto Park. \$10 gift certificates will be awarded to the members catching the longest snook, longest redfish, and longest seatrout. Measure them. Take pictures. Arrive at Pavilion 3 by noon and show them to an Outings Committee member
-

Restart: In-person fly tying at Bruce Evensen's home studio

- 6 pm, August 22, at 531 80th Street N. St. Pete
 - Get real-time lessons from the pros, Bruce and Bill Scarola
-

IMPORTANT UPDATES: 2022 OUTINGS

Catch the longest fish and win a \$10 gift certificate to a local fly shop

- August 20: Best Brisket in the Bay, Fort DeSoto Park, (Longest snook, redfish, and seatrout)
 - September 17: Urban Outing, Bay Vista Park, St. Petersburg. (Longest fish of any species)
 - October 22: Carl Hanson Memorial, Hillsborough River. (Longest fish and the most bluegill)
 - November 19: Weedon Island Preserve (Longest ladyfish)
 - December 17: Don Coleman Invitational, Fort De Soto Park (Longest fish of any species)
-

2022 MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS. AND A PARTY, TOO

- August 18: Jim Swann, Swann Fly Fishing Outfitters
 - September 17: To be determined.
 - October 20: Gina Russo, fisheries biologist, FWC stock enhancement research
 - November 17: SFF Open House. This is our last meeting of the year.
 - December 9: Holiday party. Stay tuned for details.
-

Davis Family Go Fund Me Update:

- Member James Davis' wife Lisa had a massive stroke.
- Member Tim Elms and Christina Elms have set up a "Go fund me" site.
- Members are asked to donate even if only \$5.
- Go to gofund.me/b2561bfd

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 116 members including 15 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

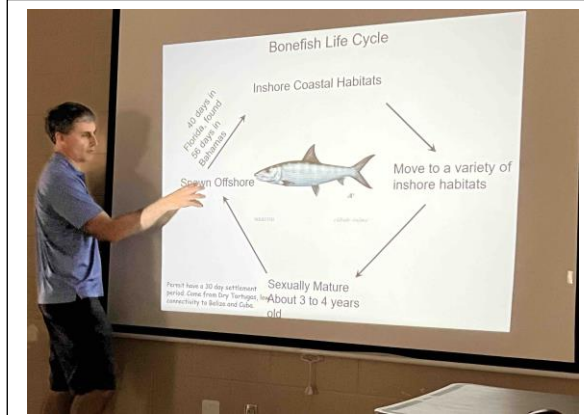
Editor Bill AuCoin, Anne Mitchell, Bob Hood, Tim Elms, Marshall Craig, Kevin Kelly

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.

Mike Larkin: Doctor Bonefish

(Editor's note: At the July meeting we had two speakers, both members, Mike Larkin and Tim Elms. This is Mike's page. A recap of Tim's talk is on the next page.)

Mike Larkin, Ph.D, is a fisheries biologist with NOAA Fisheries in St. Petersburg. Mike has been studying the



Member Mike Larkin shared some of the takeaways from his latest research on bonefish, one of Florida's most celebrated gamefish.

biology of bonefish and learning some things that will help fly fishers score the next time they pursue this speedy South Florida gamefish.

Its mouth is small. So you need to tie and cast a shrimp or a crab fly tied with a small hook. The bonefish sucks it in and crushes it with teeth on its tongue and teeth on the roof of its mouth.

And be ready for a fast getaway. 30 mph? Maybe. That rocket speed is a defense mechanism. So Mister Fly Fisher, don't let your fly line get tangled up. Or else, be ready to apologize to your guide.

Another built-in bonefish defense mechanism is eyesight. A bonefish sees forward and backward in the

first year of life, then after that its vision is in front and down. Bonefish see UV light which we don't see. Think of UV light as a deep purple. In contrast to tarpon, bonefish have poor night vision. .

Mike has extracted some bonefish movements from the results of a study of over 8,000 tagged bonefish and over 300 recaptured bonefish.

- 40% of the recaptures were at the exact same place they were tagged. And 50% of the recaptures were within two miles of the tag location.
- But some bonefish like to move. A long way. Two recaptured bonefish left the Florida Keys and swam more than 180 miles to Andros Island in the Bahamas.
- Bonefish have a huge home range. They frequent the same feeding areas, but they move around a lot. More studies are needed to learn about this.

Bonefish populations have been stressed over the years because of cold snaps and overfishing. But things are looking up. The Florida Keys haven't had any serious cold fronts in a long while. Stiff regulations are helping, too. Also, today, recreational anglers are pretty much all catch-and-release anglers. That has made a big, positive difference.

Mike drilled down on the results of several bonefish tournaments and learned the most important factors for a successful trip. Number one is fish with bait. (Well, that's a no-no.) Number two is fish with an experienced guide. Number three is fish the new moon. And number four is the more bonefish angling experience you have the better you'll be.

Tim Elms: I'll take Baby Tarpon for \$1,000, Alex



That's Tim Elms with one of the juvenile tarpon he caught in the Tampa Bay area.

Baby tarpon love to hide out in Tampa Bay and some of its hidden creeks and salt ponds. Catching Juvi Poons – Tim Elms' nickname for the little silver kings -- is one of his specialties. This year he has caught more than 40 from 5 to 40 pounds in and around St. Pete. He has caught a baby tarpon or more in every month this year except February. And he shared a lot of the when-where-what-how with members at the July meeting.

Tim's tutorial was done in a wonderfully fun way, kind of like the TV show Jeopardy, by letting members raise their hands and place big buck bets (not really) to get Tim's answers to *where, what, how, when, and why.*

So, for example, "I'll take "when" for \$1000, Alex." May to September are best. Fish

summer's big moons. The best times of the day are early morning and late evening. And the very best time is after a good rain. The bite often coincides with low, dark clouds.

Or, take "where" for \$1000. They are in skinny salt creeks shaded by overgrown vegetation. On one creek, at one thickly-branched area Tim said he lost 18 flies. And they're in back country areas where water spills from a culvert into deeper water. Sometimes they're up at a canal or creek that dead-ends.

Hot water is good juvenile habitat because it has less oxygen so low-oxygen water is less likely to host sharks and other predators. Meanwhile, baby tarpon can roll and gulp air.

Blind casting is a no-no. False casting, too. Tim watches for rolls, swirls, flashes. Sometimes he hears a slurp. Sometimes he sees bubbles. "Those are big 'poons," he said.

How big are these juveniles? They're 20 to 40 pounds usually. Tim fishes 6, 7 and 8 weight rods. His leader tippet is 16 to 25-pound fluorocarbon line. His fly matches the hatch, a 2-3 inch minnow usually. His hook is a super sharp Gamakatsu short shank and he keeps the barb on.

He said make sure your line won't get caught on anything if you get a hook-up. Tim likes to drop the fly right on the nose of a rolling tarpon. The drag is set at 3 pounds. When he gets a hookup and there's open water he lets the tarpon run and jump and exhaust itself. When the fish lands upside down, that's his signal to pump and reel, pump and reel.



Tim Elms shared all he has learned about how and where to catch baby tarpon in the Tampa Bay area.

Bob Burkard: July 23 Blackthorn Memorial Outing



*Bob Burkard,
Chairman of the
Outings
Committee*

Hey, the tide is turning. I mean the club participation tide, not the water tide. Covid fears are lessening? Maybe so.

Anyway, we had 21 members at the July outing. Most of them fly-fished plus we had one attendee we hadn't seen in a long time. That would be George Haseltine who was our president until Rick Warfel took over two-plus years ago. Because of Covid (and maybe he's been working too hard) George hasn't been attending meetings and outings. Until now. And he brought and presented a special

gavel to Rick. It's the Suncoast Fly Fishers gavel made by Alan Sewell. From now on, outgoing presidents will give to incoming presidents. (Thanks, Alan!)



Rick Warfel tied on an olive over yellow #2 Clouser and ground it out until time for lunch. He landed five trout including this 13-inch trophy.



Rick Warfel caught a golf ball. Alas, we don't award a \$10 gift certificate for the longest golf ball.

The July outing at the North Skyway rest area was a good challenge. The weather was pleasant with moderate ranging to breezy conditions. The area is great for wading with a good bottom and a short walk to deeper water where it drops off to a featureless grass flat.

President Rick Warfel was our \$10 gift certificate winner. He waded out to deep chest-high water and caught five seatrout on a Clouser. The longest was measured at 13 inches, good for a \$10 gift certificate for catching the longest seatrout, even a little one. "It was a basic blind casting situation," said Rick "Find your depth, make a cast, and take a step parallel to the shore. Then repeat. Cover the water in a fan pattern."

Rick also caught a golf ball. This one he didn't measure.



That's Bob Burkard wade fishing the shoreline near the Blackthorn Memorial rest area on the Sunshine Skyway.



*Do you see a face on that tree or is that an elephant's leg?
(Wayne Shriver photo)*

George Haseltine: Who says you can't go home again?



Thank you, Bill AuCoin, for the production and editing of our **"On the Fly"** newsletter for all these years. It has kept me aware of what's going on.

Saturday's outing was my first in a long time. Two and a half years ago I was called away on business and lost touch with fly fishing and Suncoast Fly Fishers.

Annie and Robert were the first to greet me. Their welcome was sincere, warm, and very much appreciated. Annie had encouraged me to attend. Robert led the way as we waded out into the water.

I did a lot of "casting practice," but I came away with the best catch of all: a renewed fellowship with the greatest people on earth.

I fished and had lunch with friends as we recalled the great memories from our years together. Allen Sewell reminded me of the best watermelon we ever had at a boat ramp in the Everglades and the literally hundreds of fish we caught.

I had the chance to finally pass the Presidents' Gavel to Rick Warfel and congratulate and thank him for seeing the club through the pandemic, to express an appreciation to Bob Burkhart for planning the outings and continuing to provide the generous, delicious meals, and applaud the general membership present for their steadfastness during it all.



Outgoing President George Haseltine at the February 2020 meeting.



Former President George Haseltine (l) passes the president's gavel to President Rick Warfel.

If you have been away and got out of the habit, come on home. Suncoast Fly Fishers is still the friendliest club. Let us prove it to you.

George

As a P.S., not only did I come away with a renewed vision of all that fly fishing means as well as the friendships it generates, but I also found that wading in that waist deep water helped overcome a balance issue I have been dealing with as I grow older.

I will look for you at the next meeting.

Bob Burkard: August 20 Outing Come-One, Come-All



Bob Burkard,
Chairman of the
Outings Committee

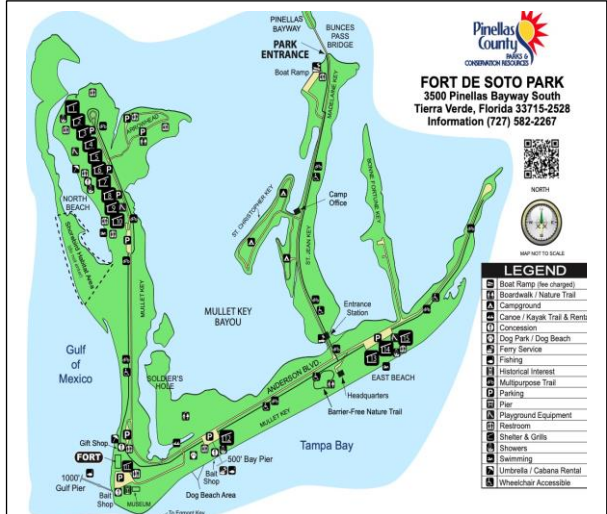
Yes, this is a big deal, a special outing at Fort DeSoto Park for members, spouses, kids, grandkids, and fishing friends. Come one, come all and celebrate all the things that have made our club great: Food. Fun. Families. Friends. And fly-fishing.

This outing is also becoming known as the *Best Brisket in the Bay* outing. President Rick Warfel and yours truly will be slow-cooking and smoking big beef briskets on our grills all night long.

Alan Sewell is making his special corn bread.

The waters in and around Fort DeSoto Park give fly fishers lots of places to fish.

- Some like to wade fish the grassy-shoreline near the East Beach Parking Lot.
- Others love to wade-fish the sandy surf along North Beach.
- The backcountry mangrove waters on either side of the maintenance road can be very productive.
- Some launch their boats and kayaks at the boat ramp at the entrance. You can wade-fish from there, too. Put in or wade in at the boat ramp and you can get an early start because you don't have to wait for the park gates to open at 7 am. (And there's always a long line of cars waiting to get in, too.)



Fly-fish the waters in and around Fort DeSoto Park. \$10 gift certificates will be awarded to the members catching the longest snook, longest redfish, and longest seatrout. We'll have a nice outgoing tide.

Everybody, meet up at noon at Pavilion/Shelter #3 near the top of North Beach parking lot. You'll get a raffle ticket for your chance to win some free gear and other fun prizes.

Leaders on the 2022 Outing Tournament Trail

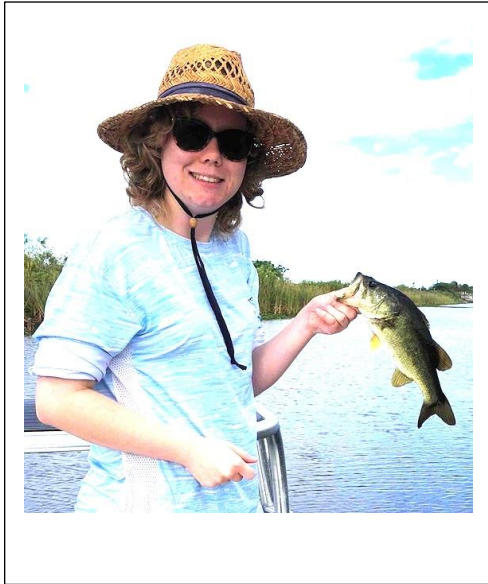
Species	Winner	Length (inches)	Outing (Month)
Longest bream	Anne Mitchell	9	Walsingham Park (March)
Longest black bass	Mark Hays	12	Walsingham Park (March)
Longest snook	Tim Elms	20	Docklight/Beaches (June)
Longest redfish	Robert Mitchell	26	Docklight/Beaches (June)
Longest ladyfish	Rick Warfel	20-1/4	Weedon Island Preserve (January)
Longest seatrout	Rick Warfel	15	Cypress Point Park (May)

Did you know this?

The Fort DeSoto Park property was first purchased from the federal government in 1938 for \$12,500. In 1941 the property was sold back to the federal government for \$18,404 to be used as a gunnery and bombing range during World War II. The property was repurchased from the United States in 1948 for \$26,500.

Bob

Anne Hays: Docklight fishing with a Labrador Retriever



My parents went dock-light fishing for their 43rd anniversary last Wednesday and they took their black lab, Mabel. They launched at Jungle Prada Park and fished the docks around Treasure Island. They hadn't been fishing since both of them came down with Covid last month, so this was a long needed fishing expedition.

Mabel hadn't been in the boat before. She put her paw on the boat at the ramp and when the boat moved she tried to run back to the truck. Mom got her in the boat, but while dad got the engine started Mabel jumped out and ran back to the truck. Mom ran after her, grabbed her collar, and got her back in the boat.

Mom had to fish the whole night with the leash around her wrist as Mabel is scared of fish, and they didn't want her to jump out of the boat and swim to shore as she does in the kayaks. Because my parents didn't make a big deal about catching fish, Mabel didn't make an escape.



Mabel the black lab enjoyed the gravy on Robert's shirt.

Mabel was still exhausted the next night when Robert and I had to puppy-sit her while my parents went to dinner, but she perked up when Robert got gravy all over his shirt and we let her clean it for him.



Dad managed to catch this 30-inch monster redfish on a white DT Special). Of course he'll never reveal which dock we prefer in that area, but there is one dock that gets a lot of redfish on a consistent basis.

Annie

Tim Gibian: Trout fishing in Montana



Tim caught this large cutbow on the Bitterroot River in Montana in late June. A cutbow is a hybrid, a cross between a cutthroat trout and a rainbow trout.

Here are some photos from my trip to Montana in late June. I fished with guide Phil Dedman of Blackfoot River Outfitters in Missoula. Two days of floating because wading was dangerous due to the really high and fast waters from a significant snowpack melt and the wettest June in Montana recorded history.

The first day, on Rock Creek, was extremely productive and I landed browns, cutthroats, cutbows, and whitefish. The brownie in the photo is from the first day.

The next day, on the Bitterroot River, was slower but we were targeting much larger fish. I landed five large trout, including the cutbow in

the photo. My guide later told me that no one else in the other boats he surveyed caught more than two that day. (Bragging rights!)



Montana's salmon fly hatch is famous.

Although salmon flies were really hatching the fish weren't taking them off the surface at all! Their reputation is well-deserved though as you can see from the size of the fly on my guide's hand.

All in all I'd definitely recommend [Blackfoot River Outfitters](#) and Phil Dedman in particular if you are in the Missoula area.



Tim landed this brown trout drift fishing Montana's Rock Creek.

Tim

Chris O'Byrne: Summer bass and bluegill patterns



Chris O'Byrne: bluegill are chasing bait and crustaceans.

It is HOT inland. The lakes have begun to turn.

Afternoon thunderstorms are loud, and heavy, and last all night.

The water is up and breaking up cattails on shorelines. This is allowing bluegill to grow big chasing baitfish and crustaceans where the birds used to walk. They can be had with slowly sinking baitfish flies.

The bass are 5-10 feet deep around drop-offs, but no particular spots. The angler chasing them needs sinking outfits, and patience.

Chris



David Redd and a little Florida bass he caught fly-fishing with Chris on Lake Teneroc in Lakeland. They caught many more, and bigger ones, too.

About the Teneroc Fish Management Area near Lakeland

Tenoroc is nationally noted for largemouth bass and provides excellent fishing for bluegill, redear sunfish, black crappie and several varieties of catfish. With 29 lakes ranging in size from five to 242 acres, Teneroc provides quality public fishing. Special opportunities are available for children and physically-challenged anglers. Bank fishing access as well as fishing piers, platforms and boardwalks are provided on many lakes.

All visitors, including anglers, must check in and out at the Teneroc Fish Management Area headquarters. Anglers must deposit their valid fishing license with the custodian unless otherwise instructed. Quotas have been established for each lake, and fishing is permitted in designated lakes only. Unless otherwise specified, largemouth bass must be released immediately.

More info at myfwc.com

Robert Fischer: Bass and bluegills on a Georgia Farm Pond

I caught several nice bass and a dozen big bluegills on a Georgia farm pond last month.



Smitty's glass minnows

They liked Smitty's glass minnow and this white cork popper.

Lots of fun.

Robert

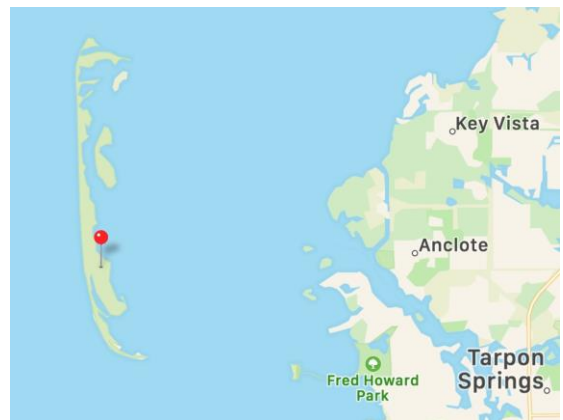


Robert Fisher and a Georgia farm pond bass.

Robert Fischer: Anclote Flats Seatrout



Brown and gold Clouser. That's the ticket.



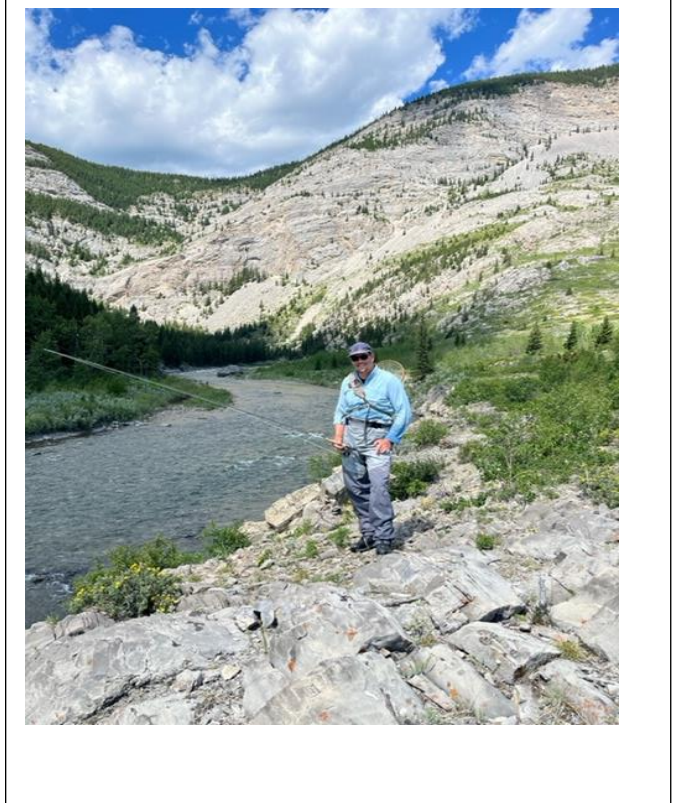
Anclote Key flats are between Anclote Key on the left and Tarpon Springs on the right. (Apple Maps)

I found about a dozen nice trout in the deep flats near Anclote Key. They were about 5 to 6 feet deep so a sink tip line was required. Most liked a brown and gold fly but this 18-incher liked a chartreuse and gold Clouser.

Robert

Gary Sundberg:: Alberta Fly Fishing with his son Andy

We are up north until October. My son and I went to Alberta. We did catch some fish.



Gary Sundberg: Fly Fishing Vermont



August 3:

I know it's sweltering in Florida. Hopefully, you're keeping cool!. It's in the high 80's and low 90's here in Vermont. I had to hike up a hillside brook to find cool water but I managed to coax a few trout out on a size 18 elk hair caddis dry fly. It was pleasant to wet wade. Come October, I'll be seeing you again.

Be well. Be safe. All my best,

Gary



Bill Scarola: The White Baitfish

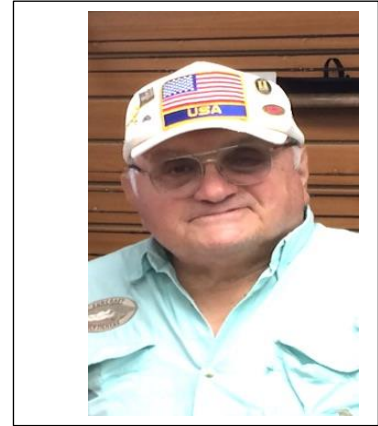


This white fly with big eyes is just right for beach fishing. It looks like the minnows our fish feed on. It also looks and acts a lot like a sand flea in the surf.

WE WILL START A TYING SESSION ON AUGUST 22nd, a week from this Monday!

So look for another email later this coming week for a pattern to tie on the 22nd.

We will still be at his home studio at 531 80th St. No, at 6 pm.



Bill

Materials

Body: Top and bottom, white Steve Farrar

Eyes: Red hologram stick-ons, size 4, 5, 6

Hook: 3407, sizes 2, 1, and small. It can also be tied on a bend back hook. Bend the shaft 10-15 degrees approximately 3/8 inch behind hook eye.

Thread: White flat waxed. (Optional: use lead wrap for weight)

Glue: UV epoxy, e6000 ,or fletching glue

Tying Sequence

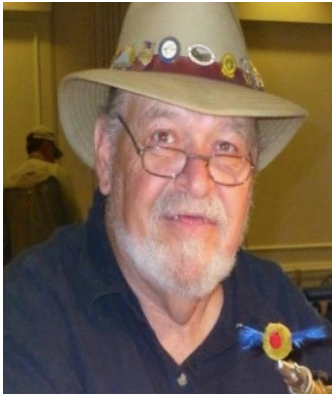
1. Wrap hook shank with several lead wraps if desired then with thread from hook eye to half-way down shaft. If you're using a bend-back hook, wrap the thread only on the straight part.
2. Place a small matchstick bit of white material just behind the hook eye and spin it around the shank.
3. Add another batch of white Steve Farrar material to the top then whip finish the material to the hook. (NOTE: On a bend back only add one larger clump of Steve Farrar material to the top of the shank so that the material covers the hook point. This creates a hook guard!
4. Attach eyes with your glue of choice, e6000 or fletching glue
5. Cover eyes and thread wraps with UV epoxy.

Jokes of the Day

- A game warden approached a boy fishing in a lake "Didn't you see the sign ? it says "NO FISHING ALLOWED!"
"Sir, I am fishing very quietly," said the boy.
- Have you heard of the new clear bottomed kayaks?
Now the fish can brag about how big the guy was they got away from!

###

Smitty's Fly Box: Sand Flea



Fish this sand crab (sand flea) in the surf casting into the waves casting parallel to the beach. Also, work the fly through troughs and holes, Keep a tight line.

Smitty



Smitty's Sand Flea

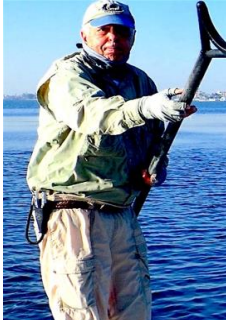
Materials:

Hook: Mustad 3407 2-8 (2 & 4 Most Popular Sizes)
Thread: Danville Flat Wax Nylon -- Olive
Shell Back: Natural Deer Hair (Needs to be at least 2" long)
Egg Sack: Hot Orange Chenille, medium
Legs: Sili-legs Marked Grizzly
Body: Gray chenille, medium
Beard: Root beer/Brown Sparkle Krystal Flash
Shellback Coat: UV Resin

Tying Sequence

- Step 1:** Stack deer hair in stacker (tips first) and then trim butt ends even.
- Step 2:** Tie in deer hair by the butt ends (tips should be extending to the rear).
- Step 3:** Tie in orange chenille and cover tied in portion of deer hair with three wraps of chenille. Cut off excess.
- Step 4:** Tie in a pair of legs with figure-eight wraps so they extend to either side. Trim off in proportion to hook size (should extend past hook bend about 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch). Over-wrap legs to make them extend backwards past hook bend.
- Step 5:** Tie in grey chenille and wrap to just behind hook eye (leave sufficient gap to tie a neat head). Cut off excess chenille.
- Step 6:** Tie in Krystal Flash in beard position and trim to half body length.
- Step 7:** Fold deer hair over body to create a tightly formed shellback. Tie off firmly and trim.
- Step 8:** Form a neat head with thread wraps. Trim thread and overcoat head and shellback with UV resin. Harden with UV light or set out in sunlight for 20 or 30 minutes till hardened.

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Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

The Advantages of Fly Fishing

One of the many advantages to fly fishing is when the bite is on, a lot of fish can be caught. We don't have to fool around with weights, swivels, snaps, and finicky braided line, but especially bait. Procuring live baits and keeping them healthy, the time needed to rebait and release smaller or nontargeted fish, and the chance of frequently harming them is greatly minimized. Cut bait is not always readily available.

Once the proper fly is selected to "match the hatch," a single fly can last a long time, especially when constructed with synthetic materials. Since most of our flies that imitate shrimp, crabs, and baitfish have a single hook, catch and release or catch and keep is simple once the fish is on. Filing or crimping the barb will not hamper your catch rate as long as adequate pressure is kept on the fish. Many hooks are available that are barbless.

Use adequate leader strength and nonabrasive tippets that are strong enough for the fish you seek. When fighting fish, keep your rod tip low and close to the water, always maintaining a soft bend. A mechanical gripping device and a de-hooker similar to the ones used to quickly remove bait from a Sabiki rig minimize or eliminate the need to handle fish while keeping them in the water.

When taking a picture, lift the fish horizontally from the water with wet hands and never hold it out of the water longer than you can hold your breath.

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 Fisher 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.

TBFFC's Walt Durkin Wins Tail Magazine Trophy



Congratulations to Walt Durkin of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club who caught five permit and was crowned El Palomero champion by Tail Fly Fishing magazine. This event was May 12-14 on Ascension Bay out of Punta Allen, Mexico, known as the permit capital of the world.

Details are in the July/August issue.

Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



Capt. Paul Hawkins RIP – Captain Paul “flats Guy” Hawkins of St. Petersburg has died. He was an inshore slam fly fishing pioneer in Tampa Bay after going to school, so to speak, with the fly fishing stars of the Florida Keys. He was a friend of Suncoast Fly Fishers and last spoke to our club at the June 17, 2010 meeting. Here’s the newsletter writeup on that. Scroll down to page 5. ([On The Fly](#))

Beach Fishing – We’re fishing the waters in and around Fort DeSoto Park Saturday. I think I’m going to fish a sand flea which is Smitty’s Fly of the Month. Here’s a tutorial on how to fish the sand flea. ([Surf Casting Republic](#))

Life cycle of tarpon – Tim’s talk on baby tarpon got me thinking about this. This is a very thorough explanation of how and where tarpon spawn (yeah, way offshore) and then how the tiny tarpon minnows are translucent so predators can’t see them, and then how they sneak into estuaries and find their way to waters with low oxygen content, which is also a defense tactic. ([Bonefish and Tarpon Trust](#))

Let’s hear it for our vets –We know about the good work of Project Healing Waters. There’s another organization helping combat vets transition into civilian life, helping them find peace and purpose in their lives. ([Warriors & Quiet Waters](#))

And we have a winner – The Abel Rove series of fresh and saltwater fly reels won Best of Show at the recent Consumer’s Choice Awards. There were 32 category winners including Fenwick’s new saltwater combo, called Nighthawk X, Scientific Angler’s new saltwater line, Amplitude Smooth Grand Slam, and Temple Fork Outfitters new saltwater rod called Mangrove Coast. Check ‘em out. ([Fly Fusion Magazine](#))

ICAST has a fly fishing winner, too. --- ICAST is the big summer trade show in Tampa and they have two fly fishing categories selected by the media. The winners are Hardy’s Fortuna reel and the Bull Bay Banshee Fly Rod. Bull Bay Tackle is a Lakeland, Florida firm so it’s good to see them getting into fly fishing. Another Bull Bay fly rod is the *Sniper F1*. I love that name. ([Sportfishing](#))



Snot-grass on the fly

Snotgrass anyone? If you’ve been fishing the Tampa Bay area you’ve probably noticed the floating seaweed. It’s not uncommon for this time of the year. But this summer the algae mats seem worse than usual. And the experts don’t know why. The word is that a lot is around FDP. So be prepared when you fish the August 20 outing. The algae, aka snotgrass, will find your hook. You’ll feel the drag. Bring it in quickly, yank it off, and then get back to work. ([Coastal News Today](#))

Bill

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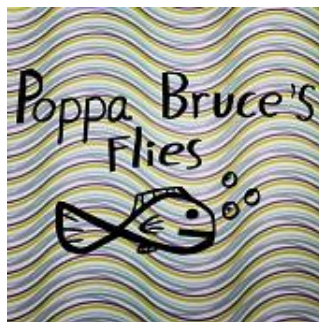
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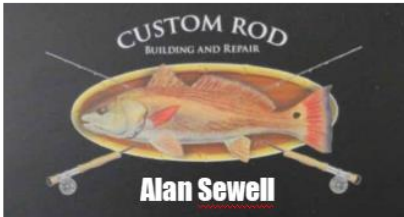


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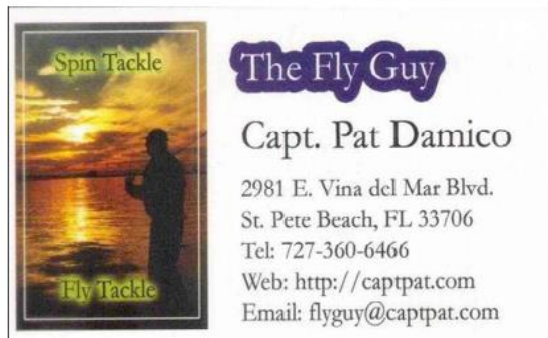
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