



## President's Message: September 2022

It is that time of year again. The days are getting shorter, the weather will soon start getting cooler, the fish are getting ready for our Florida "winter" and everywhere you go there is pumpkin spiced something or other.

This can only mean one thing. It is time to join the club or renew your Suncoast Fly Fishers membership. Our membership drive starts in September and runs through the end of the year.

Membership is important. It binds us together with a group of individuals that all have a common interest. Each of those individuals has a unique personality and the group itself has a personality of its own. For SFF, we want to be among the friendliest clubs around. We encourage you to bring guests to our meetings and events so they can learn about the club and see if it is a good fit for them. There are many benefits for members to enjoy. Camaraderie and getting together with friends are among the most important.

We have monthly meetings and outings as well as many special events. At each meeting we feature an interesting and informative guest speaker and there is almost always something to eat. This month our special guest speaker is Jill Thompson-Grim. Jill is a graduate student at USF's College of Marine Science. She will discuss some of her research and how it may affect your fishing future. Learn more about Jill and her special relationship with the club on Page 3.

We have several special events in the next few months. January will be our annual Trash and Treasures auction featuring a variety of new and used items to bid on. In December SFF will host other local fly clubs for the Don Coleman Invitational Tournament and Chili Fest at Ft. DeSoto as well as our annual holiday party. Our November meeting will be our end of the year Open House (no meeting in December). October will find us along the banks of the Hillsborough River for our once-a-year competition with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club for trophies and bragging rights.

I encourage our members to fish together. One of the most gratifying things for me is to find members that get together and fish outside of our regularly scheduled events. To that end I am going to try and lead by example. From time to time, I am going to offer an opportunity to go Fishing with the Prez. In October I plan to pre-fish the Hillsborough River for the Carl Hanson Memorial. If you would like to join me, just put your name in the hat at our next member meeting. A winner will be drawn at the meeting.

The next time you drive by a pumpkin lot or bump into someone sipping on that pumpkin spice latte while eating a pumpkin spice oatmeal, the first thing that should come to mind is, it's time to join the club or to renew my Suncoast Fly Fishers membership.

Stay safe and keep fishing!

*Rick*

Rick Warfel