

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

Open House meeting this Thursday. Pp 3, 5



SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS logo on the left and FFi logo on the right. The background shows a fly fishing reel on a wooden surface.

Suncoast Fly Fishers
Open House
November 17, 2022

Come Learn to Fly Fish with SFF

- Tonight's Presentation – All About Albies
- Free Pizza
- Time – 7:00 p.m.
- Location – Walter Fuller Recreation Center
 - 7891 26th Ave., St. Petersburg, FL 33710
- Call for more information 813-523-0692

FWC: More Redfish for Tampa Bay. P7



Hillsborough River Outing. P9



Weedon Island November Outing. P10



Fly Fishing Honeymoon on Tybee Island. Pp 12-13



Troy-BethAnn do NC. P15



James Davis Docklighting .P8





President's Message: November 2022

November is a special month for Suncoast Fly Fishers because it is the month that we hold our annual **OPEN HOUSE!** Some of you may not know that SFF holds an annual open house because the tradition has gotten off to a bit of a rocky start.

Our first open house was in November of 2020. Our featured guest was Andy Mill. All local fly-fishing clubs and members of the public were invited to attend. It was a terrific event and Andy did a fantastic presentation.

That meeting however, like most others that year, was held online via ZOOM. Even the food was virtual. Last year we decided not to hold our open house because covid was still ebbing and flowing. This year will be our first opportunity to hold a real open house. We will have a fantastic presentation, great food and a warm welcome for all of the members and guests that will be in attendance.

We be joined by two members of the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers to talk about fly fishing for false albacore. This is an exciting fish to catch on the fly. They move into our area seasonally and Jay Tinsky and Ethan Massa will tell us everything we need to know to have a chance catching one. I will be leading a group of intrepid anglers to put these lessons learned to the test while "*FISHING WITH THE PREZ*".

Don't forget the free food and warm welcome. There will be free pizza for everyone that attends. If you know of anyone that might be interested in learning more about fly fishing or joining a group with like-minded interests, please invite them to join us for the open house

And, if you see someone at the meeting that you don't recognize, please make sure to give them a SFF hello to let them know we are happy that they came to find out what our club is all about.

Stay safe and keep fishing!

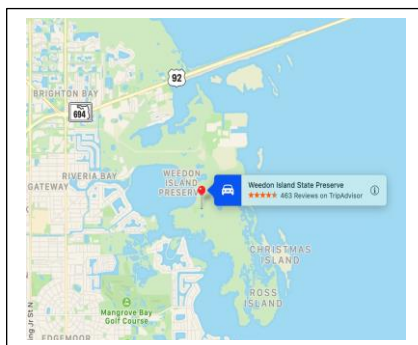
Rick

Rick Warfel

Meetings, Outings, and More

November 17 Open House Meeting, Walter Fuller Park, 7891 26th Avenue N., St. Petersburg, 6:30-8:30

- This is an Open House meeting so bring family and friends. The tables will be set with lots of pizza. Enjoy.
- Our speakers are Jay Tinsky and Ethan Massa from the Mangrove Coast Fly Club in Sarasota. The topic is "All about Albies." Albies, you ask? Well, come to the meeting and you'll get an answer.
- This is our last meeting of the year.

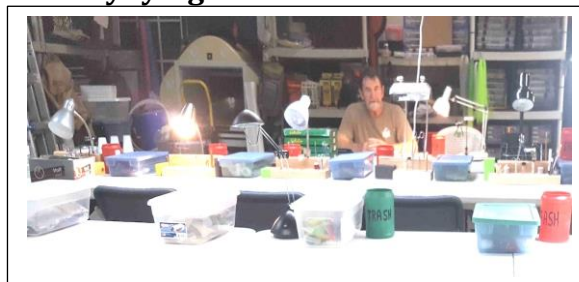


November outing, Saturday, November 19, Weedon Island Preserve, St. Petersburg

- Fish the waters around Weedon Island Preserve. Stay south of Gandy Boulevard and north of Venetian Isles.
- There are lots of places to wade in and fish. There's a kayak-launch. And there are skiff launching ramps not too far away.
- The member catching the longest ladyfish will win a \$10 gift certificate and lots of pats on the back.
- Meet up at Weedon Island Preserve pavilion at 11:30 for a delicious picnic served by your outings committee. The pavilion is on the north side of the main parking lot.

Tie-One-On Tuesday, November 15, at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio

- Fly tyers are now meeting on Tuesdays instead of Mondays
- Meet at 6 pm at Bruce Evensen's Fly Tying Studio, 531 80th Avenue N. St. Pete.
- Members tie the fly of the month on Tuesdays the same week as the outing.
- Get real-time step-by-steps from our fly tying pros, Bruce and Bill Scarola
- Tie *Gibby's DT Special* on Tuesday, November 15.



Meetings, Outings, and More

Sunday, November 20, Big Gun Shoot-out, Picnic Island Park

- It starts at 9 am. No entry fee and contestants get a free lunch.
 - More details on page 11.
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Our next three meetings:

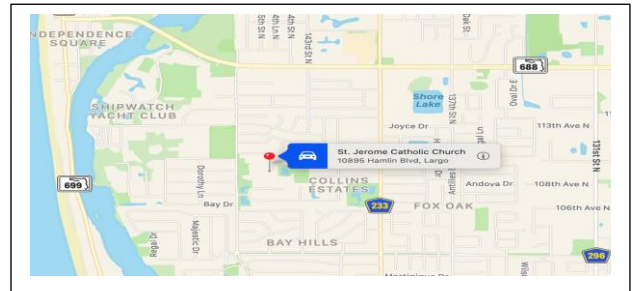
- January 19: Trash 'n' Treasures with auctioneer Alan Sewell. The nominating committee will be announced.
- February 16: Subject: Catching redfish on February's negative low tides. Nominating committee unveils its recommended club officers. Nominations are invited from the floor.
- March 16: Members vote. New officers and board take office immediately.

Our next three outings

- December 17: Don Coleman Invitational, Fort De Soto Park, Pavilion #4.
 - January 21: Weedon Island Preserve, St. Petersburg
 - February 18: Cypress Point Park, Tampa
-

Friday, December 9 Holiday Pot Luck Party, St. Jerome Catholic Church, 10895 Hamlin Boulevard, Largo

- David Redd is cooking a huge juicy ham or three. Quin Berry is bringing dessert.
 - It's a potluck so bring food to share.
 - Also, bring a holiday gift for somebody else. There will be a drawing pairing gifters and giftees (Secret Santa.)
-



Saturday, January 14, Free Fly-Fishing Clinic Egan Park Ball Field, 9101 Blind Pass Road, St. Pete Beach

- Up your game at our club's annual free casting clinic with instructions by club members Dayle Mazzarella and Pat Damico, both FFI Master Casting Instructors, with support by other FFI certified casting instructors from SFF and the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.
 - This one will be similar in format to the very successful event last January where we had around 30 participants including all fly casters from beginners to very advanced.
 - It's free for members of Fly Fishers International which includes Suncoast Fly Fishers. If you're not a member or FFI member you can join at the fly fishing clinic.
-

Saturday March 25, Hog Roast Party St. Jerome Catholic Church, 10895 Hamlin Blvd., Largo

- Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and members will join us this year adding to the product donations and bidding for gear and trips.
 - Stay tuned to learn who the speaker will be.
-

Davis Family Go Fund Me Update:

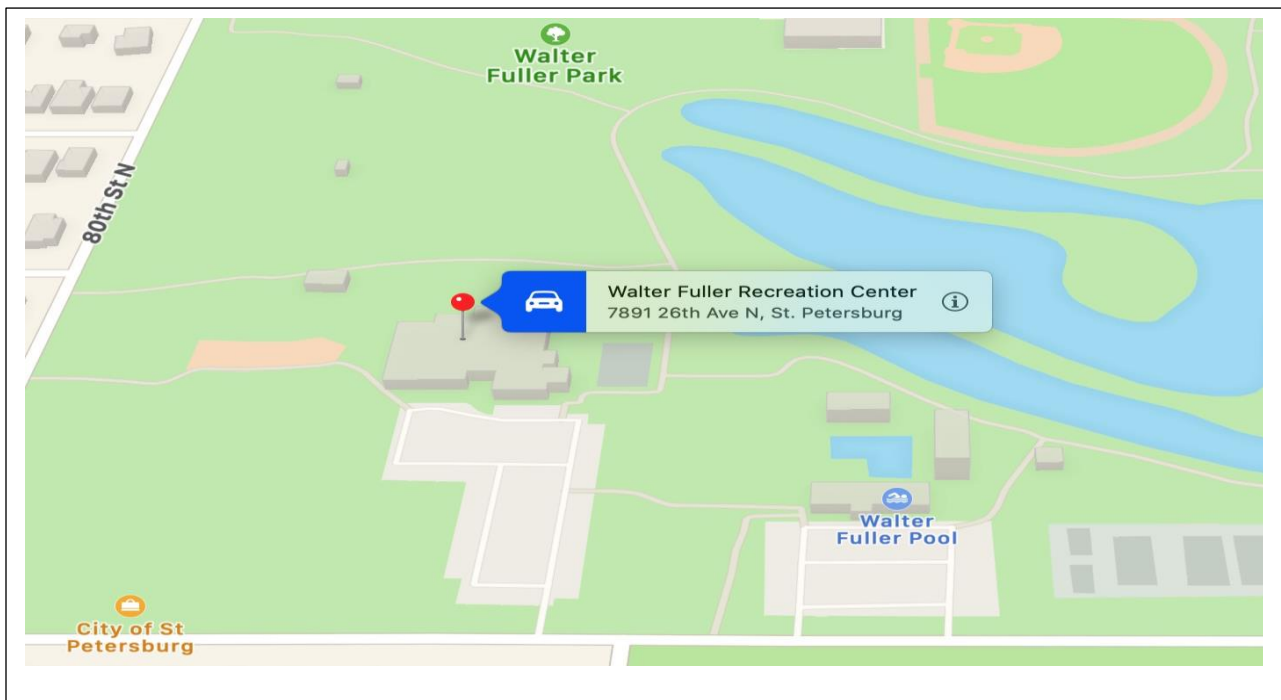
- Member James Davis' wife Lisa had a massive stroke. She's home now and requires all-day care.
 - Go to gofund.me/b2561bfd
-



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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 124 members including 16 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.

Welcome new member:

- Gene Berger, St. Petersburg

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.

FWC's Gina Russo: More Redfish for Tampa Bay



Gina Russo, biological scientist and outreach coordinator for the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission.

By Annie Mitchell

Gina Russo from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) spoke to Suncoast Fly Fishers at the October meeting and gave us an update on the new Apollo Beach Marine Hatchery. Gina has been with the FWC for 20 years working in Fisheries Outreach and Education.

The redfish hatchery used to be in Port Manatee. It opened in 1985 and released its first redfish in 1988. At first they had an extensive pond system, but later they redid the hatchery to use massive tanks to grow fish. This allowed them to reduce their water use, take up less space, and the hatchlings were protected from predators and disease.

FWC is in the process of relocating the hatchery in Apollo Beach. It will be opening in spring 2024. The new building is currently under construction, but they are able to grow larvae fish. When the project is done, they will grow Fingerling Sea Trout and Redfish. The new hatchery and conservation park will also focus on coral growing and sea turtle rehabilitation. The 22 acres in Port Manatee is going to be consumed by expansion of the Port Manatee facility.

The state also has two fresh water hatcheries, one in Sumter County and one in Blackwater. The Apollo beach hatchery is the only salt water hatchery in the state. There had been plans to build one in the panhandle, but those fell through several years ago.

It's crucial to diversify the breed stock of the hatchery by collecting fish. Each tank can hold 30 mating pairs. The fish are released in areas

where they are needed, but fish from the west coast of Florida cannot be released on the east coast as they are too dissimilar genetically to adapt to the east coast's conditions.

Florida is the fishing capital of the world with 4 million anglers and 1 million vessels. We have the highest fish population and many places to catch them. Stocking fish is meant to supplement the fish anglers kill. The FWC's goal is for 1% of a fishery to be stocked fish. Tampa Bay has roughly 7% stocked fish due to heavy fishing, red tide, etc.

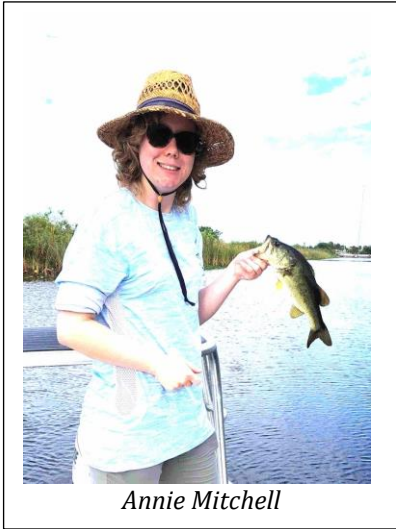
The Federal Fish and Wildlife Service, USFWS, is funded by an excise tax on fishing and hunting equipment and motorboat oil sales. The federal government matches .25 to .75 cents on the dollar from each state. Florida Fish and Wildlife Services are funded with this match and the sales of fishing and hunting licenses. This money funds artificial reefs, research, sampling, angler outreach, aquatic education, boat ramp improvements, and publications.

Gina stressed the importance of knowing what species you are catching and the regulations for each species. Some are very similar but have very different rules about size and bag limits. Also, though no one in our fly fishing club would EVER fish with a spinning rod or go trolling offshore (wink wink), she emphasized using circle hooks, de-barbing hooks, and removing excess hooks on multi-hooked lures. For our fly fishers, she reminded everyone to wet their hands before handling a fish, keep the fish horizontal while handling it, always use a rubber net, and resuscitate a fish before releasing it to make sure it starts breathing normally.

Gina has been a great friend to the club for many years, and we thank her for another wonderful and informative presentation.

Annie

Annie Mitchell: Lucky/Crazy Fishing Garb



Annie Mitchell

As my dad and I were driving into the parking lot for the October meeting we noticed an odd character walking towards the community center.

Where had I seen that iconic hat and flowing black mane before? It was Slash from Guns N Roses!

No, actually it was Gary Sundberg, all dressed up, so to speak, and later he was officially declared the winner of our lucky fishing hat contest.

Annie

[Editor's note: Okay, Gary, will you be wearing this lucky outfit when you fish the Weedon Island outing on November 17?]



Gary Sundberg won the lucky (crazy?) fishing hat contest at the October meeting.

James Davis: Snook and Black Bass



James Davis' 20-inch bass

I caught the snook while docklight fishing with SFF member Myron Hansen. It hit a chartreuse Game Changer fly.

I caught the 20 inch bass fishing John Taylor Lake. It bit a foam Tarpon Bunny topwater fly.

James

Bob Burkard: Carl Hanson Memorial on Hillsborough River



*Bob Burkard,
Chairman of the
Outings
Committee*

Well, once again, Suncoast Fly Fishers won the Carl Hanson Outing in competition with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers on the Hillsborough River

Yep, our fly fishers won the trophy for the most fish caught and we got to keep the Carl Hanson drawing for catching the longest fish of the day.

Yours truly caught the most fish—eight beautiful bluegills – and George Haseltine caught the longest fish, also a bluegill. It was “huge.” Eight inches.

Turnout was low for both clubs. Nobody from the Tampa Club fished. And all we had to do was catch something, even just one fish. We did better than that. We had some accomplished fly fishers on our side. Our anglers also included David Redd and Mark Hays. President Rick Warfel and Bill and Ann AuCoin came for the picnic and the presentation of the Carl Hanson trophy and drawing..

Now, TBFFC wasn't a complete no-show. TBFFC's Leigh West and Brenda Flam came for the picnic and to share Carl Hanson stories. Carl Hanson, you ask? Carl was a member of both clubs . Carl, aka Lord of the Flies, taught fly tying at his home every week and at Bill Jackson's. Carl was known nationally as the inventor of the bendback glass minnow fly. In fact, George Haseltine alleged that he owns the last fly that Carl ever tied. Hmmmmm.

Mark Hays said Carl made him a fiberglass fly rod and that was “really, really good.”



*Carl Hanson, Lord of the
Flies*

Leigh remembered something Carl told him. “He used to say keep your hands low when you're fly fishing so you don't spook the fish.”

So, who was Carl Hanson? Carl was a fly fisher and fly tier and, more importantly, a fly fishing teacher. On Tuesday nights he taught fly casting in his backyard. Come one, come all. Somebody gave him the nickname Lord of the Flies and it stuck. Carl died in 1998 and he will long be remembered, especially by old timers at his two fly clubs, Suncoast Fly Fishers and Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.

Bob



George Haseltine (l) caught the longest fish so he gets to safeguard this Carl Hanson drawing for a year. Bob Burkard caught the most fish and gets his name on the Carl Hanson trophy.



Mark Hays (l) and Leigh West worked together to retrieve abandoned fishing line hanging from shoreline trees.

Bob Burkard: Fly-Fishing Weedon Island Preserve



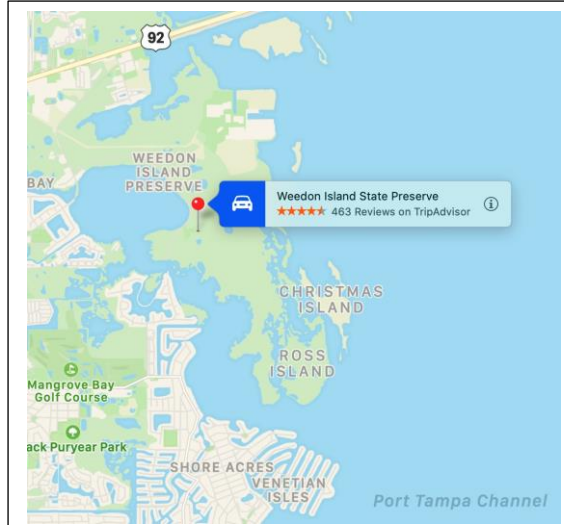
Bob Burkard,
Chairman of the
Outings Committee

Our November 19th outing and picnic is at Weedon Island Preserve, one of our club's favorite outing locations.

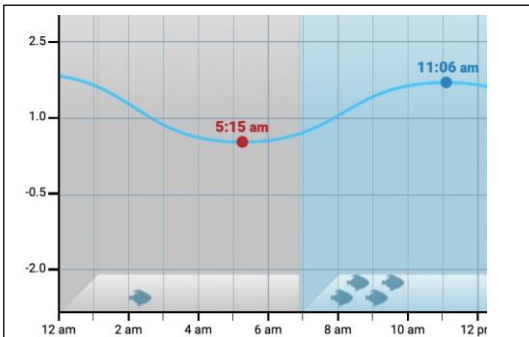
You can wade fish from multiple wade-in locations. It has a kayak launch and it's easy to reach from different boat ramps.

Wade fishers will meet up in the main parking lot at 7:30 am. Some will wade fish Riviera Bay. Some will wade in at the kayak launch area and fly fish the

spoiled island backcountry water. Some will hike the [Lookout Point Trail](#) and wade-fish the open water flats.



Fish all around Weedon Island Preserve but stay south of Gandy Boulevard (92) and north of Venetian Isles.



We'll have a nice incoming tide

The member who catches the longest ladyfish wins a \$10 gift certificate. Measure your fish. Take a picture. If you catch a redfish, a seatrout, or a snook that appears longer than anything on the 2022 Outing Tournament list (see below) then be sure to measure and take a picture of those fish, too.

We'll all meet up for a picnic lunch at 11:30 at the Weedon Island Picnic Pavilion which is on the north side of the main parking lot. Your outings committee is bringing food. Come hungry.

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)

Bob

Quin Berry: Ready, Set, Go to Sunday's Big Gun Shoot-Out



That's Quin launching a long one at last year's Big Gun Shoot Out.

The Big Gun Shoot-Out is Sunday, November 20 at Picnic Island Park. It's an open-to-all annual accuracy and distance fly casting competition put on by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.

It's a great opportunity for our club members to measure their fly casting skills

against the very best fly casters in the Tampa Bay area. There are prizes for team and individual winners as well as a prize for the person who makes the longest cast. (All bets are usually on David Olsen who typically lays one out at 130+ feet.

Last year SFF President Rick Warfel teamed up with Olsen and Eric Davis on *Team White's Tackle* to win the team championship.

Practice with us

Some of our most avid fly casters have met up to practice for a couple of weeks and we'll be practicing Thursday afternoon before the meeting. Join us starting at 4:30 pm. We'll be practicing on the west side of the park near 80th Street N.

Here are the casting competitions:

THE CARL HANSON CUP

Place the fly in the cup from 30 feet

Through the hoop cast

Longest cast but it has to go through the hoop at 40 feet.

V-Fish

Cast the fly between the V but keep the leader in the V.

Under the "Mangrove"

Cast the fly under the mangrove at 40 feet then repeat at 50 feet, 60 feet, 70-feet and so on.

Accuracy Competition

Cast your fly into the outer or, even better, the inner ring. Start at 40 feet, go to 50, 60 feet.

Distance competition

Three casts with outfit supplied. The longest cast is scored.

Quin

IT'S SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, AT 9 A.M.

The BIG GUN SHOOT-OUT

Sunday, November 21 at 9:00 a.m.
Picnic Island Park, Tampa (Shelter #611)

Experts and beginners alike are invited to test their fly casting skills at the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club's annual "Big Gun Shoot-Out" casting competition!

Individuals and teams of 3 are welcome!
Plaques will be awarded for highest scoring individual, highest scoring teams, and the "Big Gun," the overall distance casting champion.

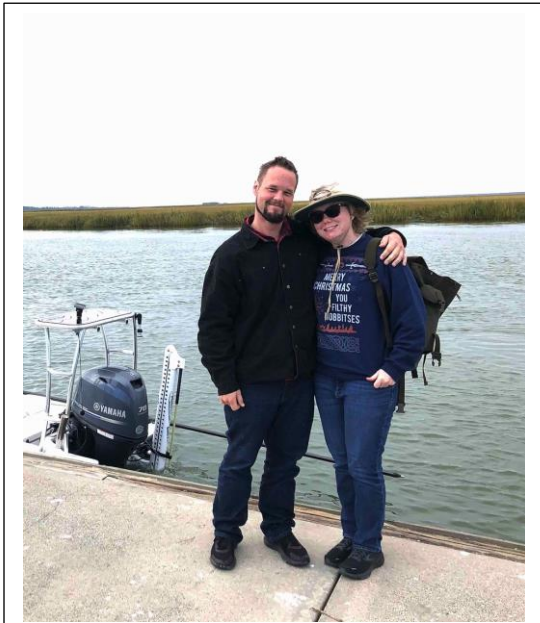
Contestants will participate in competition stations that mimic the challenges of fly fishing, such as casting under the mangroves, into a cup of water, or through a hoop suspended a few feet off the ground. Come out and give it a try – you'll be hooked!

The competition will run from 9 am - 12 pm. There is NO entry fee, and lunch will be provided to all contestants. You may use your own rod for all competition. Final Big Gun cast is with an 8 weight and standard line. Volunteers also are needed to help set up the course and score contestants.

You can get free tickets on Eventbrite to help us track attendees. Come a little early if you want to help set up. Thanks, //Walt

Annie Mitchell: Fly Fishers Honeymoon on Tybee Island

"This is not a very fishing-heavy article because we didn't get to do much fishing." -- Annie



Robert and Annie on their belated honeymoon trip to Savannah.

Robert and I went to Savannah, Georgia from October 23rd- 30th. We stayed in a cabin at Rivers End Campground on Tybee Island, which is the last inhabited barrier island outside of Savannah. This trip was a late honeymoon as we only got to take a short four day trip after our wedding last year. It was definitely worth the wait though.

For anyone who has not been to Savannah, you are absolutely missing out. This city has a hard earned reputation for being the most beautiful in the South, and it deserves that title. In talking to our fishing guide, Chad, he said that Savannah has always been a blue collar tourist destination. The locals who don't work in the tourism industry are either blue collar themselves as it is a port city, or they are artists who work in and around the Savannah College of Art and Design art scene. The ritzier travelers have priced many people out of Charleston. I say let them have their overpriced cocktails and steaks, but keep Savannah weird and reasonably priced for the rest of us.

Admittedly, this will not be a very fishing heavy article. This is because we didn't get to do much fishing. Savannah is surrounded by salt marshes and barrier islands that protect it from the Atlantic. It is the westernmost point of the Atlantic Ocean, so like Tampa Bay it's geography has protected it well from hurricanes and other natural issues like erosion. This is important because the heart of the Colonial District of Savannah is River Street, which, as you may have guessed, is on the mouth of the Savannah River. Massive cargo ships sail in and out of the port all day and night, and as we all learned in the last two years if anything should disturb the flow of ships, we may not get our bathroom sinks or tank tops or Pelotons for an extra three months.

What does this have to do with our lack of fishing? Well, the River is unfishable as it is a port and has been dredged to welcome those massive ships. Every time I looked into the water it was full of sediment. When the salt marshes have water, the mud is black and resembles something out of an Indiana Jones quicksand scene. I say WHEN the marshes have water because the tides are not like our wimpy Tampa Bay tides. The day we fished with our guide, the tide was 8 feet different between high and low. This was demonstrated to us when we first arrived on Tybee. The tide was dead low and the marshes near the highway were empty. The floating portions of docks sink into the quagmire until they are lifted again hours later. The beaches that do border the ocean are, well, on the ocean so the waves are huge by Tampa Bay standards and frankly, we've never fished an area like that before.

Continued on next page

P2/Annie Mitchell: Fly Fishers Honeymoon on Tybee Island

Thus, our one chance to catch fish was with our wonderful guide, Chad Dubose from [Tall Tides Charters](#). Chad also runs the only fly fishing shop in Savannah, [Rivers and Glen Outfitting](#). Robert and I stopped by the shop before we left, and it was a lovely shop in the heart of downtown Savannah. We met Chad early on the morning of October 26th at the Lazaretto Creek Boat Ramp on Tybee Island. He had a Hell's Bay Skiff which he drove full speed for half an hour through the salt marsh. He really wanted us to experience just how the skiff could turn on a dime at 60 mph through the winding Spartina grass. Admittedly, it was pretty darn fun.

We reached essentially a wider, rushing creek near the end of the marsh. The water was ripping into the marsh from the Atlantic as fast as the Gallatin River when I fished it in June during the snow melt. Chad had Robert practice casting before we beached on the edge of a marsh flat. As the water filled the flat, which we could literally watch it moved so fast, Chad used the push pole to move us into the flat. Robert's job was to cast the weedless Shrimp Slurpee fly into the grass if he saw any movement.

We were in luck. We found a handful of tailing redfish on the flat, but sadly none were interested in the fly. It was there that our luck ran out. We tried for another hour or two to find fish, but we saw maybe one more redfish and that was it. I had noticed the shelf clouds building, and Chad explained that Redfish are extremely sensitive to changes in barometric pressure. Places that he had seen and he and his clients had caught fish just a day or two before were barren. A cold front was on the way, and the reds were not having it. He called it a day and motored back to shore as fast as the little boat could take us.

However, it wasn't a complete waste. We saw two other boats the whole morning which is utterly unheard of here at home even during a hurricane, and we got to fish in one of the most beautiful places I have ever been in. The marsh south of Tybee that we fished is formally called Little Tybee. It is surrounded by a thin, uninhabited barrier island that is covered in trees and bushes. The vegetation and dunes prevent you from seeing the Atlantic, but you can hear the waves crashing. Also, this was the first time I've ever been able to fish for tailing reds. The thrill of seeing a tail poke up and flop around is exhilarating.

Chad says there are three main times to go fishing in Savannah. In spring they get cobia, in summer they get tarpon, and in fall they get redfish. The redfish are more active between mid-September to early October, so unfortunately because I wanted to ensure the weather wasn't too hot I booked the vacation too late.

However, despite the lackluster fishing, we had a wonderful time sightseeing nonetheless. Our highlights were touring the Mercer house of "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" fame, going to mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, climbing seven flights of stairs to the top of the Tybee Island Lighthouse, Robert getting to see the Atlantic Ocean for the first time, having a cocktail at the Prohibition Museum, and walking through Bonaventure Cemetery on a cold, foggy morning.



Lighthouse and homes on Tybee Island

Everyone who visits Savannah has a favorite restaurant, and ours is the Sixpence Pub. It's the oldest pub in Savannah, and we can't wait to go back and have another pint and another crack at those tailing redfish.

Annie

Chuck Hall: This oldie but goodie is a real goodie!



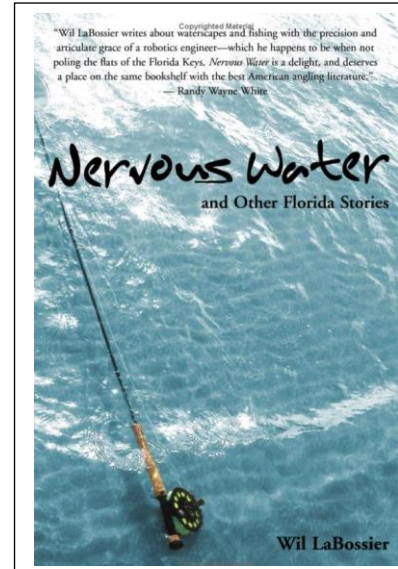
Chuck Hall

Here is a short review of an older book I thought might be of interest to some of our club members.

Nervous Water and Other Florida Stories

If you are like me, when you are not fishing, you are thinking about or reading about fishing. That is why I recommend an older book Nervous Water and Other

Florida Stories, by Wil LaBossier. Written in 2005, this book of less than 150 pages, is available on Amazon and eBay. It is well worth the \$3.00 I paid for my copy.



There are literally 100s of “How To” books on everything from catching specific species of fish to trying all the knots one could ever need to fly fish. This is not one of those. There are many books of the “Been There, Caught That” category. Again, this book is different.

Mr. LaBossier has penned a series of short stories about a wide variety of interesting fishing-related stories. From creating the “perfect” permit fly, which forces the reader to ponder the meaning of perfection, to discussing why families can heal while on fishing trips, the author explores a number of thought provoking issues.

Being one who hates reviews filled with spoilers, I will just tell you that there are stories about heroes, guides, and even vacations. All are to some degree presented within the framework of fishing, but fishing is generally the glue that hold the thoughts together. Trust me, they are all written in a manner that is both interesting and unexpected.

Once I started, I could not stop. I am certain you will find it well worth your purchase price and time.

Chuck

[Editor's note: Readers please let us know what you're reading and watching. Email wmaucoin@verizon.net]

Troy Dillman and Bethann Bologna: Beautiful NC Fly Fishing Rivers



Troy and Bethann all geared up

We spent a week fishing in Western North Carolina based in a cabin in Black Mountain at 3200-ft.

We spent time on the Nantahala River, South Toe River, South Mills Creek, and Davidson River. What a beautiful area for fly fishing at various elevations for brown, rainbow, and my favorite, wild brook trout above 3500-ft.

The weather was gorgeous the entire week with beautiful fall colors. Success was found in the mornings when euro nymphing. Interestingly, I had success during the afternoons when the sun was out and hatches emerged. I switched to dry flies such as a BWO and Elk Hair Caddis. Nothing beats the solitude on a mountain stream.

Must stop [Davidson River Outfitters](#)

FYI: Couple of books I highly recommend:

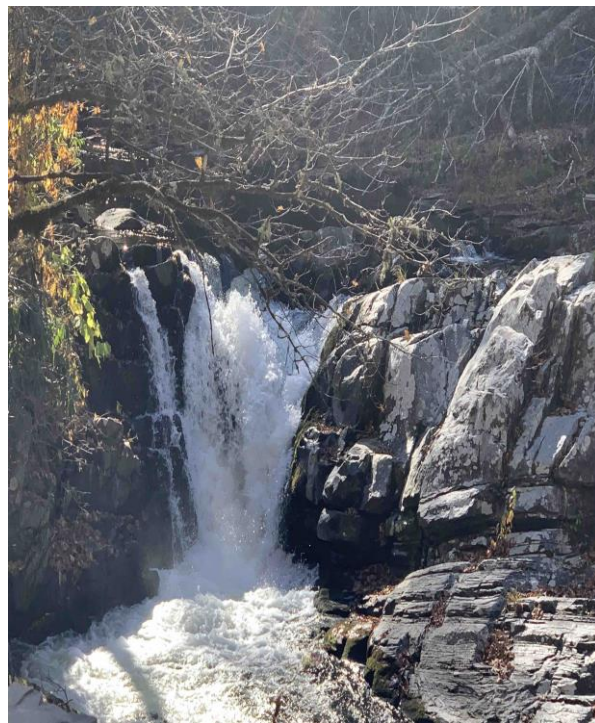
- [The History of Fly Fishing in 50 Flies](#) by Ian Whitelaw
- [The Feather Thief](#). This is an exceptional read based around Victorian

salmon fly-tiers who stole rare birds to use for fly tying.

Troy



I caught this and several little rainbows on South Mills Creek.



Gorgeous waterfall on South Mills Creek

Tie the Rusty Baitfish Fly with Bill Scarola and Bruce Evensen



Fly of the month: Tie the Rusty Baitfish Fly. This one is tied in rust-colored, brushed-out macramé rope. But it can be tied in any other color like green, white, white/grey etc.



Bruce Evensen and Bill Scarola on the job

In case you missed it we're tying flies in person on TUESDAYS at Bruce's studio at 531 80 Ave, North in St. Pete.

Materials

HOOK- Short shank 1/0 or circle hook.

EYES- 4-5 MM stick ons, silver/black.

BODY- Rust colored Macrame rope fibers, or similar, (ex. E P.) Use pieces approximately 5-6 inches long.

THREAD- Brown or rust flat waxed. Or Monofilament.

MARKER- Black marker.

GLUE- Eye glue and U V Epoxy.

Tying Sequence

1. Strip macramé rope fibers and brush out until smooth. Cut
2. Cut in lengths of 4-5 inches.
3. Wrap hook shank from eye to bend.
4. Add a piece of fiber approximately half a match stick in thickness, place fiber around thread, pull backward and tie it in front of the bend, leaving part above the hook shank.
5. Add your 1st three bundles working forward on top of the shank then add two more pulling them under the hook shank. Add one or two more rope bundles as above until material is just behind the hook eye. Do not make the bundles too thick. Material should be thinned so it's almost transparent.
6. Tie off rope material and brush the material flat.
7. Using scissors, trim the material into a fish body shape as shown above.
8. Attach your eyes with your favorite eye glue.
9. Epoxy glue the thread wraps and eyes..
10. Place seven stripes, evenly spaced, on the top half of the fish body.

###

Smitty's Fly Box: Chris Kincaid Snook Fly



Layne (Smitty) Smith

Chris presented this fly to me at one of the sport shows at the Fairgrounds years ago (I think it was one of the Frank Sargent shows) and I've tied and kept a few in my fly boxes ever since ... it's that good of a fly!!!

Smitty



Chris Kincaid's Snook Fly

Materials:

Hook: Mustad C47SD "Shrimp" Hook #1

Thread: Danville Flat Waxed Nylon White

Tail: Craft Fur tapered

Collar: Arctic Fox Body Fur (placed in dubbing loop and palmered)

Head: UV Pearl ICE dub (tied in then folded back over body)

Eyes: Any 3-D molded eye to size

Finish: Your favorite UV Resin (to build head and coat eyes)

Tying Sequence:

Step 1: Right above hook point tie in craft fur tail one and a half to twice hook shank length.

Step 2: Advance thread slightly and create a dubbing loop; insert arctic fox and twirl creating a brush.

Step 3: Palmer the brush forward at the same time stroking back the arctic fox fibers to create a body.

Step 4: Finish palmering just short of hook eye then tie in a small bunch of UV Pearl Ice Dub. (Make sure to tie the dubbing at its midpoint and that it encircles hook shank).

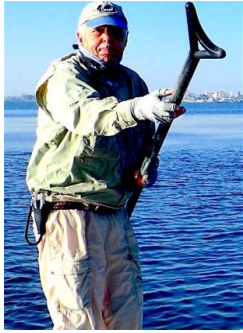
Step 5: Whip finish and cut thread, and then fold back the dubbing that is extending past the hook eye. (Make sure that your dubbing radiates out from the hook eye as you fold it back so you are covering the whole head of the fly, not just folding it back on top).

Step 6: Place 3-D eyes on fly and then coat with UV Resin creating a head. (If you like you can use epoxy instead or one of the new clear "fish heads"

Smitty

Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

We get better as we age



Fish feeding activity will improve as shallow water cools. This can mean good fishing any time of day, but consulting tide charts is always the first step to focus on moving water. It will bring food to lazy fish, but also helps determine their location. As water leaves a shallow flat the fish will follow, frequently hanging around in the closest deeper water. Low tide is now late morning. This gives you two great times to fish. When the tide begins to come in, they will ease up on the flat to resume feeding on shrimp, crabs, and baitfish. Reds, trout, and snook will all follow a similar pattern. Good polarized glasses are necessary to see where the darker grass flat transitions into a lighter grayish color showing the increase in water depth. Grass flats with the most irregular edges are always the better producers. Offsets and changes are high percentage places for fish to wait in ambush for their prey. Casting accuracy is imperative as some of these areas will have a small target where fish will be waiting. It is also necessary to have your fly or small jig land with minimal disturbance as you are still casting to relatively shallow water. Since we use flies, they should have little or no weight. Keep your rod tip low and close to the water after each cast to allow better line control and an easy quick recast if needed. If your cast is less than perfect, continue fishing it rather than try a quick recast ripping the water and scaring fish in the process. Many nice fish have been caught with casts that have been less than perfect.

Captain Pat

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



Bill Scarola

Bill Scarola's Fishy Puns of the Month

It was a terrible summer for humpty dumpty, but he had a great *fall*.

If a cow doesn't produce milk, is it a *Milk Dud* or an *udder* failure?

If a drummer comes out of retirement, will there be repercussions?

Are you sweating whilst putting petrol in your car? Feeling sick when you pay for it? Then you have got the *carownervirus!!!!*

This one's got me *floundering*. If it weren't for this group it would be a *crappie* day. If you do too, let *minnow!*

Sometimes I see no *porpoise* anymore.

I must search for the *Cod of Ethics*. Maybe it's in the *Divinci Cod*.

I think I need time to *mullet* it over. I can't seem to *reel* one up.

Bill

Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



Got a 9 weight rod? -- Here's Capt. Rick Grasset's forecast for fishing the nearshore Suncoast Gulf of Mexico in November. Long story short: False albacore. Spanish and king mackerel. Bluefish. Tripletail. Cobia. Small white flies do the trick. There's much more from one of the top saltwater fly guides in Florida. ([Snookfin-addict.com](#))

Got a 6 weigh rod? – Here's Chico – *yeah, that Chico* – writing about how over the years his go-to rod has gone from an 8 weight to a 7 weight and then to a 6-weight. He uses longer leaders, too, and is getting more hook ups. ([Tail Fly Fishing](#))

Our November outing location. When you look at a satellite image of Pinellas County you see that just about everything square foot is occupied by homes, buildings, roads. But there is one area that is not developed. Yeah, that's Weedon Island, 3000-plus acres. Read all about it. ([Weedon Island Preserve](#))

Can you a cast a fly 138 feet?: Me neither. The Tampa club's *Big Gun Shoot-Out* is Sunday, November 20 at Picnic Island Park in Tampa. There are several videos from previous years showing what the competitions look like. One of them shows Dave Olsen making a 138-foot cast. Can you say *double-haul*? ([YouTube](#))

I'm starting to like my old fly rods. The writer noticed something at a fly casting tournament. The competitors were using old fly rods. "It immediately struck me that nobody at a fly casting competition is going to choose a rod because of marketing hype, or looks, or reputation. Not in a million years. They're going to be laser-focused on whichever rod will give them the best chance to win the competition." ([Midcurrent](#))

Here's hoping: Hurricane Ian and Nicole got our attention, and then some. But there's good news to share. NOAA has some super computers that will give us much more accurate hurricane forecasts. Just a few miles makes a big difference. ([Soundings](#))

Red tide update. So far, so good in Pinellas County. However, south of St. Pete, the red tide organism, *Karenia brevis*, was observed in 94 samples. Bloom concentrations (>100,000 cells/liter) were present in 40 samples: two in Manatee County, 26 in Sarasota County, 11 in Charlotte County, and one in Lee County. Keep checking this site. ([MYEWC](#))

Good advice for newbies. This is a good primer on how to choose a fly rod and reel for saltwater fishing. ([Coastal Angler](#))

I'm agnostic. Recycling is not making much sense, it seems. Well, I will continue to retrieve the plastic water bottles and other crap that washes up into the mangroves. That makes me feel better. Then I throw 'em into the recycle bin. Out of sight; out of mind. ([City Journal](#))

Bill

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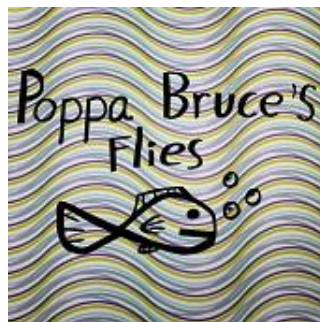
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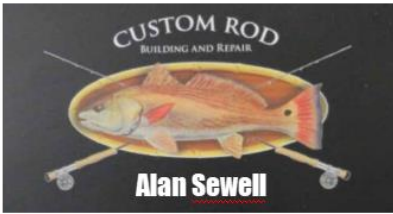


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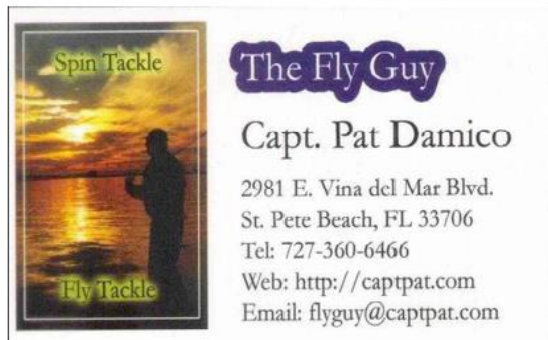
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