

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

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President's Message: December 2022

Two Thousand and Twenty-Two came in with a whimper but it is going to go out with a bang!

Our first meeting of the year was supposed to be Trash & Treasures, but Covid made a last-ditch spike in infection rates, and we were forced to revert to an online meeting. T&T was moved to February, and it was an outstanding success. Alan Sewel again made us believe that one man's junk is another man's treasure. He will do it again next month when T&T returns live and in-person to its traditional January time slot.

We had our annual casting clinic in January featuring FFI certified casting instructors. Master Certified Instructor Pat Damico led the clinic which was enjoyed by members of the public and all the local fly fishing clubs. Sadly, it was the start of some bad luck for Dayle Mazzarella and family. Wife Barbara shattered her ankle, and they could not travel to our area for the clinic. Later in the year, Dayle had shoulder surgery which put a damper on his summer guide season out West. Look for Dayle to join Pat and a highly qualified cadre of instructors for another clinic on January 14th, 2023.

Our member meetings featured some terrific speakers starting with Capt. Ed Walker chasing fly rod records for gag grouper and ending with Jay Tinsky teaching us the fine art of catching false albacore on the fly. Members Pat Damico, Mike Larkin, Tim Elms and Jim Swann entertained and informed us about tips and techniques, bonefish, tarpon and "sweet water" sunfish, respectively. Tampa Bay Estuary's Maya Burke, FWC's Gina Russo and SFF scholarship winner Jill Thompson Grim kept us up to date on the health of the bay and the fish that are in it.

Bruce Evensen and Bill Scarola have worked together to organize weekly fly tying classes for any of our member that want to learn and Smitty is always present at our meetings to demonstrate fly tying and share his special knowledge about the art of tying flies.

SFF participates in many special events and community outreach programs. This year David Redd organized a dedicated group of members to give several groups of young boys and girls an introduction to fly fishing and casting instruction. Bruce Evensen and Claude Neidlinger represented the club at the Florida Folk Festival at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park in White Springs. Members tied hundreds of Clouser minnows that we donated to the Greater Tampa Bay Area Counsel of the Boy Scouts for their first fly-fishing only event.

Did I mention the food? The club provided free pizza for our Tie-A-Thon last April and our highly successful Open House just last month. We had gourmet smoked BBQ at our *Brisket by the Bay* outing last August. Our holiday party featured an array of goodies brought by members for the potluck dinner and coming up for the last outing of the year we can look forward to our Chili Luncheon Extravaganza at the Don Coleman outing on December 17th at Ft. DeSoto. I hope to see all of you there.

Happy Holidays and we look forward to another great year in 2023. Stay safe and keep fishing!

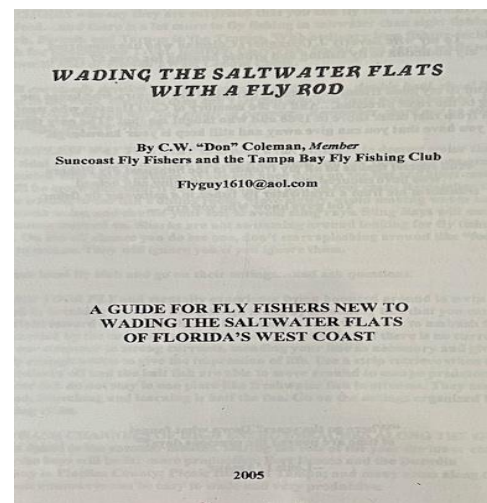
Rick

Rick Warfel

Meetings, Outings, and More

Saturday, December 17 – Fort DeSoto Park Don Coleman Invitational and Chili luncheon

- Fish anywhere around Fort DeSoto Park. This is your last chance to win the annual tournament contest. Fort DeSoto Park is ideal for kayak, boat, and wade fishing. The park opens at 7 am.
- Fish anywhere around or in sight of the park. Meet for lunch at Pavilion #4 at 11:30 .Hot, delicious coffee will be ready well before that. Pavilion #4 is located next to the North Beach parking lot. You'll see the SFF sign.
- The longest fish of any species (not sting rays) wins the outing prize. You must shoot a picture of it. Measure. Email your pictures to outings committee chair Bob Burkard at robertburkard9@gmail.com
- This is the last outing of the year. Check out the tournament leaders on page 10
- Each year we invite members of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and Sarasota's Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers Club to join us for fly fishing and lunch. Introduce yourself to any fly fishers you don't know. They could be a visitors.
- Are you bringing chili? Email Bob and let him know. robertburkard9@gmail.com



This is the Don Coleman booklet—Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod. All members receive it when they join the Suncoast Fly Fishers.

January 19 Meeting -- Trash 'n' Treasures Auction Walter Fuller Park Recreation Center 7891 26th Avenue N.

- Come early and bring the gear you no longer use to donate for the auction. Our auctioneer is long time member Alan Sewell.
- Bring a credit card, checkbook, or cash. You're going to pick up some really good deals.

Coming soon: New Officers and Board of Directors

- January meeting: Announce nominating committee.
- February Meeting: Committee recommendations plus member nominations from the floor.
- March Meeting: Membership vote. Officers and board take office immediately.



Alan Sewell, our treasured member and entertaining auctioneer

Meetings, Outings, and More

Saturday, January 14, Free Fly-Casting and Fly Fishing Clinic

**Egan Park, 9101 Blind Pass Road,
St. Pete Beach, 8 am to 3 pm**



- **WHAT:** Come join us for a fun day of friendship and instruction! Members from all clubs are welcome as well as the general public. All levels of expertise, or lack thereof, will be accommodated and welcomed. Bring whatever equipment you have; leaders and practice flies will be provided. We also have some club rods. We will be using a different format! We'll keep working on fundamental skills but will make the drills much more like real fishing conditions.
- **HOW:** Sign-up: If you haven't signed up already then reserve your spot by calling Pat Damico (727-504-9649), Tom Gadacz (706-726-7899), or Jonas Magnusson (361-903-2846).
- **WHO:** Master Certified Fly Casting Instructors Dayle Mazzarella and Pat Damico, certified instructors Jonas Magnusson, Chris O'Byrne, and more. They will assist you in developing the skills needed to catch more fish.
- **COST:** Free to FFI members, others can join FFI for a year \$25 for Seniors and Veterans, and \$35 for Regular.
- **FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH** will be served courtesy of the Suncoast Fly Fishers. Members from all clubs are welcome as well as the general public.

Tie-One-On Tuesdays at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio

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

Our next three meetings at Walter Fuller Park

- January 19: Trash 'n' Treasures auction. The 2023-elections nominating committee announced.
- February 16: Our speaker is Walt Durkin and the topic is how to catch redfish on February's negative low tides. Walt is president of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing club. Also, the nominating committee will announce its recommended club officers. Nominations are invited from the floor.
- March 16: Members vote. New officers and board take office immediately. This is our annual business meeting. Speaker, to be announced.

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

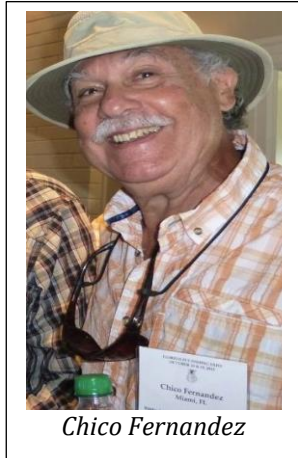
Meetings, Outings, and More

Saturday March 25, Hog Roast and Silent Auction

Featured speaker: Fly fishing legend Chico Fernandez

St. Jerome Catholic Church, 10895 Hamlin Blvd., Largo

- This year members of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club will join members of the Suncoast Fly Fishers adding to the product donations and bidding for gear and trips.
- Our speaker is fly fishing legend Chico Fernandez of Miami. He was our popular speaker at the 2017 Hog Roast.
- This is our premier club event of the year. It is our principal fund raiser and a must-attend event for every SFF member and guests interested in fly fishing or fun night out!



Welcome new members:

- Mark Foster, St. Petersburg
- Jeff Robison, Gulfport
- Chuck White, Pearl River, NY
- Your Suncoast Fly Fishers club now has 128 members including 17 family and six honorary memberships.

Invitation to Fly Fish Yucatan's Backcountry

- Member Chris Sprowl is inviting Suncoast Fly Fishers to join him on a fly fishing expedition to the Yucatan. The dates are February 26-March 5.
- The trip is managed by [Motiv Fishing](#), an adventure fishing firm started by Brian Jill, a popular Pinellas County fly guide. Brian Jill is with the [Lost Coast Anglers](#).
- Interested? Email Chris at cdsprowl20@gmail.com

Congratulations, James Davis.

You, too, Myron Hansen

- James placed fourth in CCA's Fly Fishing tournament for 2022. His winning fish was the 31-inch snook he caught dock light fishing with Myron Hansen.
- That earned him a \$200 gift card at West Marine. The first place winner, Derek Ball of Parrish won a Skanu Water Craft worth \$2,500.



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 128 members including 17 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.

Bill AuCoin: Everything Albies with Jay Tinsky



Jay Tinsky

Yay, albies. Albies is short for albacore. Actually, it's short for false albacore. These are not the delicious albacore tuna you eat raw. These are imitation tunas that gobble your gear.

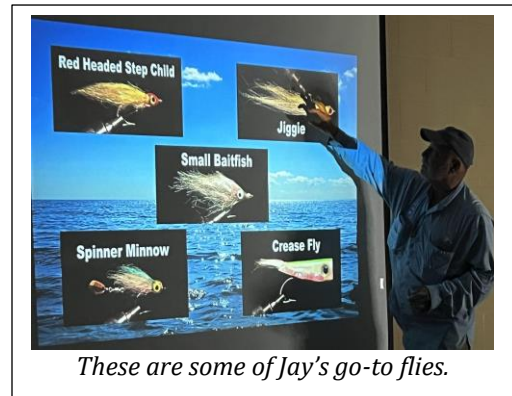
Ask Jay Tinsky. He's an albie freak. A member of Sarasota's Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers, Jay is out there fighting these fierce and feisty gamefishes in the nearshore Gulf. At the Suncoast Fly Fishers November meeting he shared the what, where, when, why, and how plus the good and the bad.

It's good fun, of course. It's great, actually, when one of these 6- to 10-pounders sucks in your little white fly and races toward Pensacola. It can also break bad, even ugly, like when you finally get your line back on the reel and the albie dives under the boat and breaks your fly rod.

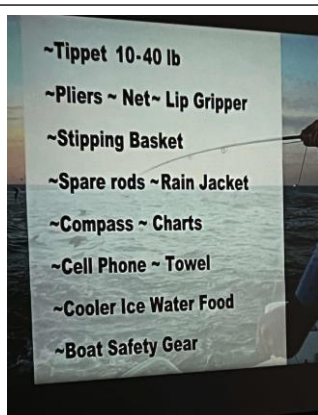
Now is the time for all good fly fishers to catch one of these problematic pelagics. They've been working their way up the Southwest Florida coastline. They get to decide prime time. The starting gun fires when the water temperature drops to the mid 60s to upper 70s, often in November. That brings the bait out of the Bays and into the Gulf. Then the water temperature falls below 60 degrees, baitfish depart. So do the albies. So, you gotta go where and when the gettin' is good. And the albies get to decide exactly where and when that is.

Sometimes they're two miles out where the depth drops off to about 23 feet. Sometimes they're close to shore. They like sandbars, jetties, passes, reefs, and points. If you're near a crab trap float, be careful. They'll circle around the trap line. Loosen the drag or they'll break you off.

Those diving terns you see are diving on baitfish. Seagulls are picking up leftovers. And, just below the surface is a school of albies that are eating on-the-go, racing here and there. Where'd they go? They went over there. Follow the terns.



These are some of Jay's go-to flies.



Jay's boat gear checklist

Scan the surface with binoculars. Look for birds. Get ready. Clear the decks. Make sure your excess fly line is in a stripping basket, not on the deck.

There's a lot more to it, of course. Jay shared some of the things he has learned. He likes to fish with 8 to 10 weight rods and he always has a backup rod and reel in case something gets broken. He's usually casting an intermediate line but he'll switch to floating line if the fish are on the surface. East wind is best. Moving tides, too; the faster the better.

And bring a towel. You might catch a tern and have to immobilize it while you free your fly.

Bill

Holiday Potluck, Gift Swap, and Ugly Sweater Contest

Suncoast Fly Fishers partied December 9 at our annual holiday party. It was a blast. Thirty-seven members and spouses met up at St. Jerome's in Largo on the evening of December 9.

Everybody brought a potluck dish to share and the food was great. David Redd donated a delicious ham.

We held the annual Ugly Sweater contest. We raffled a fly rod and reel plus flies. Anne and Robert Mitchell emceed the hilarious White Elephant gift stealing.



Bob Burkard (r) won the raffle, a 5-weight rod crafted by Alan Sewell (l) plus reel, line, and flies.



Popular item: Mark Hays selected the Jack Daniel's sampler only to have it stolen by Bruce Evensen. Then David Redd stole it from Bruce.



Tom Gadacz unwrapped a very popular gift, two new fly lines, only to have them stolen by Bob Burkard who had to turn them over to Ron Kelley.



Our ugly sweater contest winner was Bill Scarola.



Holiday buffet is almost ready. That's Anne and Robert Mitchell in the back and Quin Berry on the right.

Left, Gayle and Jack Collins got Santa, the Fly Fisher doll.

Bob Burkard: Weedon Island Outing November 19



*Bob Burkard,
Chairman of the
Outings
Committee*

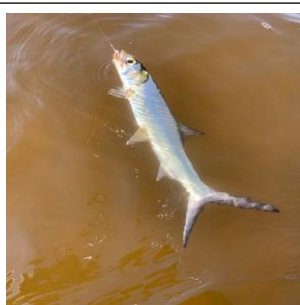
You can always count on Riviera Bay for ladyfish. And this protected area on the west side of Weedon Island Preserve delivered again at our November outing.

Member Greg Clark caught a 19-inch ladyfish fishing with Rick Warfel and new member Chuck White. There will be a \$10 gift certificate awarded to Greg at the January meeting.

Rick Warfel also found ladyfish but his longest was 17 inches.

But, all on all, fishing was slow. Actually, even slower than slow. Tony Piazza bravely admitted that he caught a puffer. These are familiar waters to kayaker Bruce Evensen but he said he didn't get a bite. Ditto Kevin Kelly.

Bob



Riviera Bay ladyfish



Greg Clark caught the longest ladyfish, a 19-incher, fishing Riviera Bay with Rick Warfel.



November outing picnic –(l to r): Chuck White, Greg Clark, Tony Piazza, Jack Collins, Kevin Kelly, Brian Henderson, Bruce Evenson, Karen Warfel, Rick Warfel, and Pat Damico.



Rick Warfel caught a few ladyfish. His longest was 17-inches.

Bob Burkard: December Don Coleman Classic at FDP

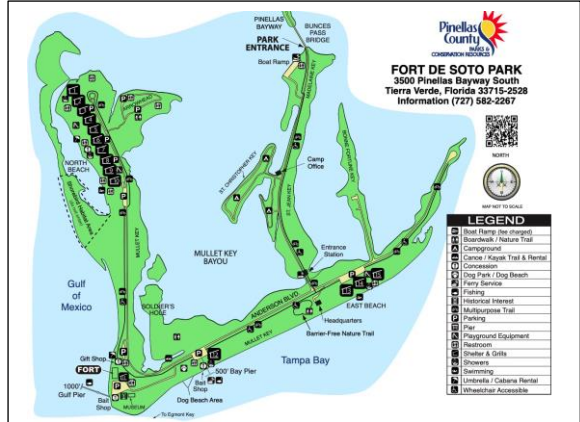


Bob Burkard,
Chairman of the
Outings Committee

The last outing of the year is our annual *Don Coleman Classic*. This is the outing in which we welcome members of the Tampa and Sarasota fly fishing clubs to fish with us and gobble up chili. And you are encouraged to cook and bring your chili dish, too.

Can you bring a chili dish to the luncheon? Let me know. My email address is robertburkard9@gmail.com

You can fish anywhere around Fort DeSoto Park, open Gulf and Bay water, mangrove sheltered water, or Bunces Pass. Fort DeSoto Park is ideal for park-and-wade fishing. There are many places where you can just pull off the pavement and crash through the mangrove shorelines to fish. Some members have their own secret spots.



Fish all around Fort DeSoto Park -- Gulf, Bay, Backcountry, and Bunces Pass. Before noon, meet up at Pavilion #4 on North Beach for the annual Chili Cookoff. Welcome Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers and Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club members.

A \$10 gift certificate will be awarded to the member catching the longest fish of any species, except sting rays. Measure. Take a picture. All entries will be final at noon.

The park opens at 7 am. There's a \$5 per auto entrance fee. You can start fishing earlier than that by parking and wading in at the FDP boat ramp. Park in a slot for automobiles without a trailer. Pay up and get a \$5 parking fee receipt at the Pay Station. Meet for lunch at **Pavilion #4** at 11:30. Hot, delicious coffee will be ready well before that. Introduce yourself to visitors from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and Sarasota's Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers Club.

This is your last chance to win any category in our annual tournament. Check out the leaders below.

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: 2022 Big Gun Shoot-Out at Picnic Island



This story begins with "It was a cold and rainy day".

Yep, it was a cold and rainy day for the 2022 Big Gun Shootout put on by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. This is one of my favorite ways to spend a day. It's fly fishing related. It's free. I get to be with people I like. Lunch is free. I laugh a lot and

leave with a gift. Can you top that?

The Tampa club describes it this way, "A friendly annual competition. Teams of three rotate through a series of competition stations that mimic the challenges of fly fishing". I think that describes the contest itself but it doesn't mention, seeing in person, the skills of these fisher people. Yep, ladies too.

On that cold and rainy morning Suncoast Fly Fishers had seven competition-ready members. Other competing club members were Rick Warfel, Tim Elms, Barry Salzman, Claude Neidlinger, David Redd, James Davis, and me, Quin Berry.

For me, competing in this event is both fun and frustrating at the same time. The guys are very enthusiastic and congratulatory when you do well and empathetic when you don't. Overall everyone has fun which is the bottom line for me.

All accolades go to first place winners Anthony Ritchie and Patty Anderson, first place winners on a cold and rainy day. Did I mention it was windy, too?

Quin

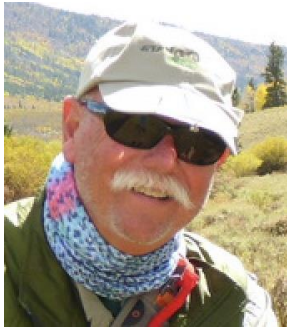


Once again Dave Olson (l) won the longest cast contest. This year, 118-feet.



Winning team, Hot Mess: l-r: Walt Hooper, Eric Davis, Dave Olson. Walt Durkin, on the right, presented the awards.

Woody Miller: First, Make Your Bed



*Suncoast Fly Fisher
Woody Miller*

The weather forecast is not sounding good, so as I sit here reading some book about fishing my mind drifts off to that place many fisherman have, that compartment in our memory where we store past experiences of fishing trips.

Night time trips around the dock lights, long days on the flats looking for that spot where the trout have schooled up, that perfect oyster bed where the reds are feeding. Or is it that small pond with bluegill that seem to be everywhere or that lily pad covered lake where the largemouth make sounds like a bowling ball being dropped from 10 feet as they slam some unsuspecting prey.

All fishing trips have many of the same feelings but the one thing that separates each and every one is who we are fishing with on that trip. Something that was said at the last meeting was we all belong to this club because of the need to feel a part of something that we all have in common. To that end, it's the times we fish with friends, to share the experiences both good and bad.

If I went fishing to just catch fish then I would have quit fishing years ago, to me the act of fishing is secondary to the friendship, the banter and lies that develop from a day on the water. Seeing the smile of a fishing partner as the rod bends under the weight of a good fish or the exasperation when the once in a life time fish comes unbuttoned at the boat, that's what makes a good day to me. Each and every person that I have fished with over the years brings a very different feeling to the day.

There is the friend who hooks a fish and never says a word until you hear the sound of the fish splashing next to the boat. Then there is the one who has a running commentary like you're listening to the play by play of a football game on the radio. Have you ever fished with someone who when the fishing from your end of the boat gets hot becomes attached at your hip trying to get in on the action all the while slowly starts pushing you off the front deck. Oh well I just go to the back and start catching them from there laughing all the while.

I have learned so much from the person who I have shared the boat with that may or may not have anything to do with fishing. Fishing is a lot like life, we get up early with anticipation of a great day every time and some days are good, some are better and some just really suck, but we continue to do it the same every day because we know that if we keep at it the end will justify the effort whether it is on the boat, at work or at home.

In May of 2014, Admiral McRaven* spoke at the University of Texas commencement and the main point was that to accomplish our daily jobs requires us to accomplish one task after another. Start by making your bed, and that one simple task gets us on the way to completing the next task and then another. This simple task leads us to become a part of a larger thing whether it's the job, fishing, life or our involvement in this club. Come to a meeting, make a new friend, fish with friends, get involved with an event, such as the annual hog roast, or the Christmas party or just tying flies during our fly tying evening.

See, this club is not just a club, but a way of life where each of us make a difference in those who share the same joys. A day on the water can help make bad times seem not so bad, just remember before you leave the house, **Make Your Bed**

Woody

Chuck Hall: Windy Charleston Marshes in November *And just before Hurricane Nicole landed!*

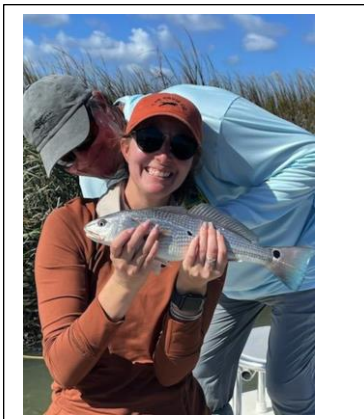
When we booked our trip to Charleston, South Carolina, it was supposed to be a relaxed daddy-daughter trip. We made arrangements with an Orvis guide, Cleve Hancock, to fish the Charleston marshes on the king tides which would allow us to cast to tailers in the marsh grass flats as well as to fish at oyster bars in the numerous creeks. As the dates approached, it became clear that we would face high winds as a tropical storm was moving toward the east coast. Captain Hancock told us that there would be no worries because he would keep us out of the strongest winds. But, when we arrived and it was blowing a steady 25 knots, I had my doubts.

My daughter opted for a spinning rod she knew she could cast in big breeze. I was stubborn taking two nine weight rods and my trusted Billy Pate reels. We met the captain at the dock in the dark and there were whitecaps on the bay. But, off we went. By sunrise we were positioned behind a wooded island in 18 inches of water. While it was windy, it felt like I could cast, at least down or across the wind. My daughter, Corey, was first up and so began the pattern of the trip. First cast and she was hooked up. When the redfish got to the boat, it measured slightly over 24 inches. A couple of photos and off it went. My turn. The short story is that I could get the fly into the same time-zone as the fish, but because they were rooting around on the bottom, that was not close enough. We changed spots and Corey caught redfish 2, 3, and 4. By lunch I was still on zero.



Team effort. Chuck Hall and daughter Corey.

After lunch of pimento cheese sandwiches (It was Charleston after all), we staked out a small creek. Because there was a six foot drop in the tide, the grass was now over our heads. I missed more fish. Corey caught several more. I was frustrated. The wind was up to 30 knots and the weather report said that the storm now had a name-Nicole. Corey made another nice cast, but her phone rang. It was her boss so she handed me the rod and took the call. Of course, you know what happened. A fish, a big fish, hit her line. I tried to hand her the rod, but she waved me off. There I was holding a spinning rod-hooked up. So, begrudgingly I reeled it in. The fish measured well over 30 inches. There were photos, but I successfully hid the rod and reel from the camera. It didn't matter that later I caught two smaller fish on the fly. I caught my first fish and the trip's largest redfish, on my daughter's spinning rod, after she made a cast. Of course, that was what she laughingly told my wife when we called home, just beating the hurricane to our house.



All humor aside, fishing the Charleston marsh was great fun. The area is breathtaking and the fish plentiful. It will be a regular for my family in the years to come. If you are interested in a trip contact Captain Cleve Hancock at [Brown Dog Sportfishing](#).

Chuck

Truk Trukenbrod: Yampa and Elk Rivers in Colorado



Truk and his 23-inch rainbow from the Elk River in Colorado.



That's Ryan on the left and Geoff on the right. A good time was had by all.

October 15 and 16 I fished the Yampa and Elk rivers on the ranches outside of Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

The 23 inch rainbow was from the Elk. I was with my son Geoff and my niece's husband Ryan. It was 28 degrees in the morning but rose to about 60 degrees by noon.

We caught bunches of fish. A great time.



Truk



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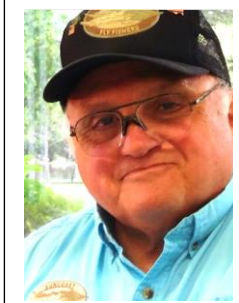
Bruce Evensen & Bill Scarola tie the Blondie Fly



Bruce

The Blondie fly is a minnow imitation that seduces fresh and saltwater game fish year-around, and this is our recommended fly to entice the most strikes at December's Fort DeSoto Park outing.

You should see lots of nervous water indicating schools of baitfish that are pushed to the surface by predators just below.



Bill

Materials

- Body: White bucktail only or, alternately, chartreuse and pearl Flashabou with peacock herl and silver tinsel
- Hook: #2 -3407 or # 2 stingers
- Glue: UV Epoxy and Super Glue.
- Eyes: Black marker or small stick ons
- Thread: White flat waxed and/or Uni Mono

Tying sequence

1. Wrap hook from eye to bend
2. Add white bucktail for the tail. Tie up to and just in front of the bend. Tail length should be 1-1/2 times hook shank length.
3. Add tinsel from 3/8" behind hook eye building up a thick body in the middle of the shank. Be sure to extend it beyond the bucktail fibers.
4. Tie in 6-8 strands of pearl flash in front of the tinsel so that it stays on top of the shank.
5. For the top of the fly tie in bucktail in front of the tinsel. If using peacock herl, tie it in above the top bucktail.
6. Whip finish a small head to secure bucktail, tinsel, and Flashabou.
7. Use black marker to dot the eyes or add the stick ones
8. Cover the head area with UV epoxy and cure. Alternatively, secure the head area with Super Glue.



Top: Blondie with bucktail, Flashabou, peacock herl, and silver tinsel.

Bottom: Blondie with bucktail only.

Smitty's Fly Box: Silverside/glass minnow



Layne (Smitty) Smith

Silverside minnows are also known as glass minnows which are also known as anchovies. They are one of Tampa Bay's most prolific baitfishes along with sardines and threadfin herring. This is an imitation anchovie so please don't put it on your Caesar salad.



Silverside Glass Minnow

Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu SC15 #1/0 or Daiichi 2546 #4

Thread: Fine monofilament thread

Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash

Body wrap: Pearl braid

Body: Pearl flash dubbing

Gills: Red braid

Overwing: Holographic silver flash dubbing

Eyes: 3/32" Silver eyes

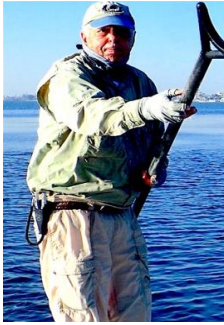
Epoxy: Solarez thick formula

Overcoat: Solarez "Bone Dry"

Tying Sequence:

1. Attach thread ¼" behind hook eye and wrap back to mid hook shank. Fold Krystal Flash around the standing thread then tie down to hook bend. With staggered snips, cut flash to size you want minnow to be.
2. Tie in pearl braid and advance thread to halfway point of shank. Wrap pearl braid forward to standing thread and tie off and trim.
3. Tie in red braid then advance thread to original tie in position. Wrap red braid forward to standing thread and tie off and trim.
4. Measure pearl dubbing for length, tie off and fold excess to back and tie down. Repeat the same process with holographic dubbing.
5. Apply eyes to either side of fly at original tie in point making sure they are even. Add a drop of resin on top between eyes and cure.
6. Apply resin to the body of the fly back to hook bend and allow to totally saturate the body material (make sure to stretch body material backwards as you do the curing process).
7. Overcoat resin with "Bone Dry" making sure to apply over eyes as well.
8. Trim body material to desired minnow shape. Go fishing!!!

Smitty



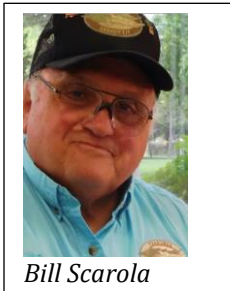
Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

When the bite is on

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 are greatly minimized. Cut bait is not a great resource either. 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 types of barbless hooks for flies are readily available. Use adequate leader strength and nonabrasive tippets that are strong enough for fish we 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 dehooker 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



Bill Scarola

Bill Scarola's Fishy Puns of the Month

- A pirate walked into a pub with a paper towel on his head. The barkeep asked him why he was wearing the paper towel.

Aaarrggghhhh, the pirate said, "Thar be a bounty on me edd."

- A sweater I bought was picking up static electricity, so I returned it to the store.

They gave me another one FREE OF CHARGE!

- Elevators terrify me.

I'm taking STEPS now to avoid them!

Bill

Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



Fish this fly at Fort DeSoto Park Saturday. Our club fly tying guru Layne (Smitty) Smith told me the Mickey Finn fly is one of Don Coleman's four favorite flies. Saturday's outing, as you know, is the Don Coleman Classic at Fort De Soto Park.

([Midcurrent](#))



Mickey Finn Fly

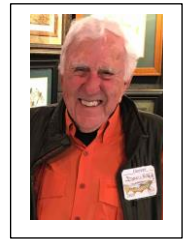
Sili legs, Marabou, Flashabou and more – Ten flies we should have to fly fish the salt. Appropriately, this is the tenth anniversary of the fly fishing magazine that talks just to us, not those fly fishers on cold rivers in Michigan and Montana. ([Tail Fly Fishing](#))

Well, this has been on my mind. Should wade fishers use longer rods? Yes. No.

Maybe. Not sure. Here's the long and short of it. The conversation started with a 2014 John Frazier article in Saltwater Sportsman. Here are some "comments and musings" about that subject, including why waders and surf fishers like longer rods. I'm gonna wade fish with my 9.5-foot rod at the Don Coleman Classic. ([FlyLife](#))

And on that same subject: Here are some tips and a video on how to shoot line for more distance. ([Orvis](#))

Dave Whitlock has died. I fished with him for a couple of mornings on the White River in Arkansas many years ago. Terrific guy, not to mention a skilled artist, fly-tier, and fly-tackle problem-solver. I caught up with him a couple of years ago at the Denver Fly Fishing Show and took a picture of him with my grandson, a next-generation fly fisher. Well, I hope so. ([Fly Fisherman](#))



Here's a peak behind the sportfishing industry curtain – The American Sportfishing Association (ASA) has a big show (ICAST) every July for retailers and distributors, not customers. ICAST used to have a fly fishing section but a few years ago AFFTA (American Fly Fishing Tackle Association) pulled out to have its own flyfishing-only show. Now ICAST has announced it is going to bring back the fly fishing companies, but AFFTA will not be involved. We'll see what happens. I'm glad ASA is recognizing the importance of fly fishing to the sportfishing industry. ([Hatch Magazine](#))

Fly fishing tournaments? Well, actually, I think it would be very interesting and bring in lots of new fly anglers. It'd be great for the tackle and boat companies, just like professional BASS tournaments. And gear would get better and better and better. That said, most of the fly fishers in this poll didn't like the idea. Whatcha think? ([Hatch Magazine](#))

Cattle versus the Little Manatee River – This land would become another section of an environmental corridor to help protect the river from, well, you know. ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

If you smell something, say something – I don't think the red tide will be an issue at our Fort DeSoto Park outing on Saturday. Still, you should know that low concentrations of red tide algae have been detected in Pinellas. It gets worse the farther south you go. Hurricane Ian played a big role in this, of course. ([MYFWC](#))

Bill

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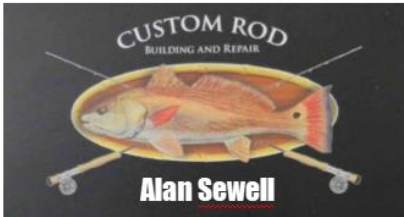


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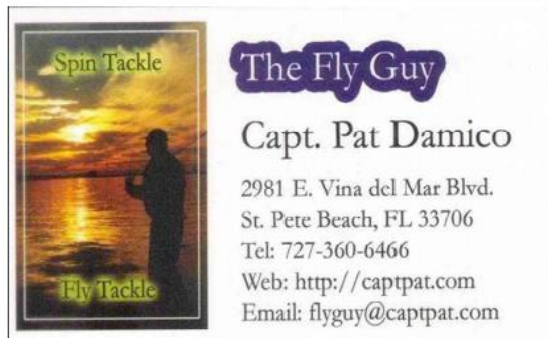
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