

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg



Congratulations: 2022 Outing Tournament Trail Champions

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)

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President's Message: January 2023

Happy New Year!

SFF is starting a new year and the first quarter of the year is our season to raise most of the money the club needs to operate throughout the year. Our two most important fund-raising activities are Trash & Treasure and the Hog Roast. It is a happy coincidence that these are also two of the most entertaining events of the year. Get ready for the first of these events this month. It is time for Trash and Treasure.

We have a fair number of new members that may not have experienced T&T before. T&T is when you bring in the stuff you don't want any more so you can buy stuff that someone else doesn't want anymore. Members donate things that are fly fishing related and other things that our members might just find interesting. Auctioneer Alan Sewell will try to find a new home for each item. This is always a fun event and a great place to find a bargain.

The Hog Roast is just a couple of months away. This year we are combining our annual banquet with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. The meal will be our traditional BBQ buffet and our special guest speaker will be Chico Fernandez. We will have a terrific array of silent auction and raffle items for members and guests of both clubs to bid on or to take a chance on a winning raffle ticket. The Hog Roast is our biggest social event of the year and our most important fund-raising event for the club. Tickets are on sale now. Get them online or at any club event. See Tom Gadacz or Karen Warfel.

The club raises money so that we can give back to members and to support the community with things like our scholarship program. You can help us by spending generously at Trash and Treasure and the Hog Roast. You can also help by buying bucket raffle tickets at most of our member meetings. The money from our monthly raffle helps pay the rent on our meeting space.

We appreciate the items donated by our members and our corporate sponsors for all our fund-raising events. Member tied flies and guided trips are always popular auction items. If you are an artist or a craftsman, we would love to feature an example of your work in one of our raffles or auctions. If you know of a business that might be interested in supporting the club by donating merchandise or becoming a corporate sponsor, please contact the Hog Roast Committee.

Thanks. Stay safe and keep fishing!

Rick

Rick Warfel

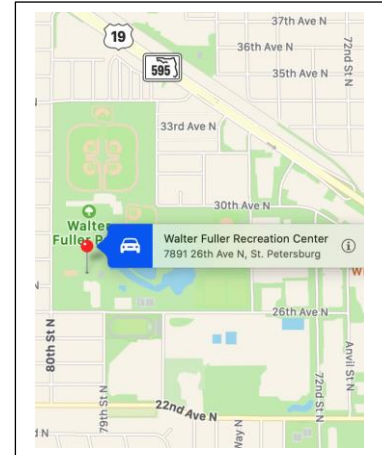
Meetings, Outings, and More

January 19 Meeting --Trash 'n' Treasures Auction

Walter Fuller Park Recreation Center

7891 26th Avenue N., St. Petersburg

- Come at 6:30 pm 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, and/or cash. You're going to get some really good deals.
- VP Quin Berry will lead the meeting while President Rick Warfel is away. He'll cover details about the March 25 Hog Roast and ask for members to approve a \$5,000 budget plus \$1,500 to rent the rooms at St. Jerome's Church in Largo.
- Quin will introduce members of the nominating committee whose job it is to recommend candidates for officer and board positions.



January 21 Outing - Weedon Island Preserve

- Fly fish open water, backcountry, or bayou waters in and around the preserve. Stay south of Gandy Boulevard and north of Venetian Isles.
- Meet up at noon for fat, juicy burgers and hot dogs will be served up at the pavilion on the north side of the main parking lot.
- The member catching the longest spotted seatrout wins a \$10 gift certificate. Before releasing your longest fish take a picture and measure it. Announce your catch at the picnic lunch.

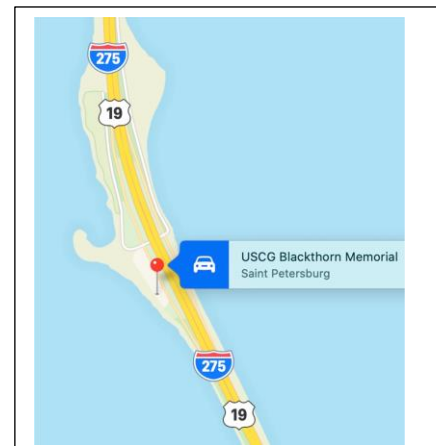


February 16 Meeting - Walter Fuller Park

- Our speakers are Walt Durkin and Leigh West who will share their secrets for catching redfish during winter's negative low tides. And, not coincidentally, their tips apply to our February 18 outing at Tampa's Cypress Point Park. Walt and Leigh are members of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.
- The nominating committee will reveal its recommended candidates for new officers and board positions. Nominations are welcome from members. Members vote at the March meeting.

February 18 Outing - Cypress Point Park, Tampa

- Fly-fish the eastern shore of Tampa Bay north of the Howard Frankland Bridge and south of the Courtney-Campbell causeway.
- A \$10 gift certificate goes to the member catching the longest redfish. Measure. Get a picture.
- Meet up at noon for the outing picnic. You'll see the SFF signs.



Meetings, Outings, and More

March 16 Meeting – Walter Fuller Park

- Members vote for new officers and board members, who take office immediately.
 - This is our annual business meeting.
 - Our speaker is Rick Redd, first president of the Suncoast Fly Fishers.
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March 18 Outing, Fort DeSoto Park

- This is the Don Coleman Invitational and Chili Cook-Off, rescheduled from December
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Tie-One-On Tuesdays at Bruce Evensen’s fly tying studio

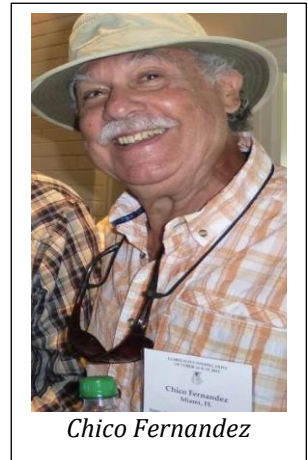
- Fly tyers are now meeting on Tuesdays instead of Mondays, the week of the outing.
 - Meet at 6 pm at Bruce Evensen’s Fly Tying Studio, 531 80th Avenue N., St. Pete.
 - Get real-time step-by-steps from our fly tying pros, Bruce and Bill Scarola.
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Saturday 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!
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Chico Fernandez

Members are invited to go on exciting fly fishing expeditions

- Member Cliff Nigh with St. Pete Fishing Outfitters has organized a February 19-24 trip to North Georgia to catch rainbow trout. Details on page 9.- Cliff’s email is cliff.nigh@gmail.com.
 - 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](#). Email Chris at cdsprowl20@gmail.com
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Welcome new members

- Robert DeAngelis, Tampa
 - Dana Sullivan, Clearwater
 - Jill Thompson-Grim, St. Petersburg
 - Randall Leland, Indian Rocks Beach
 - And welcome back Richard Bimeal, Mars, PA
 - Your Suncoast Fly Fishers club has 132 members including 17 family and six honorary members.
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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 132 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.

Bob Burkard: January 21 Outing – Weedon Island Preserve



Bob Burkard,
Chairman of the
Outings
Committee

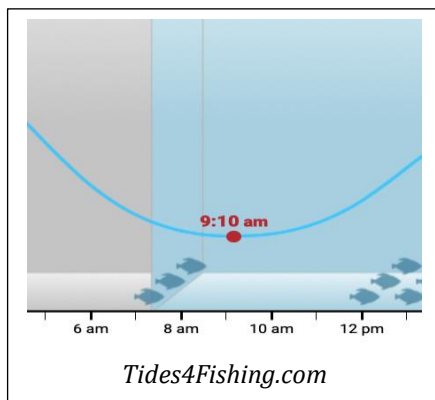
Weedon Island Preserve is one of our club's favorite outing locations so it's back on the schedule for January. It's a good month for Weedon. Big spotted seatrout are on the flats and they are hungry.

The Suncoast Fly Fisher catching the longest speckled trout will earn a \$10 gift certificate to a local fly shop. Measure it. Take a picture of it. Show it to one of the outing

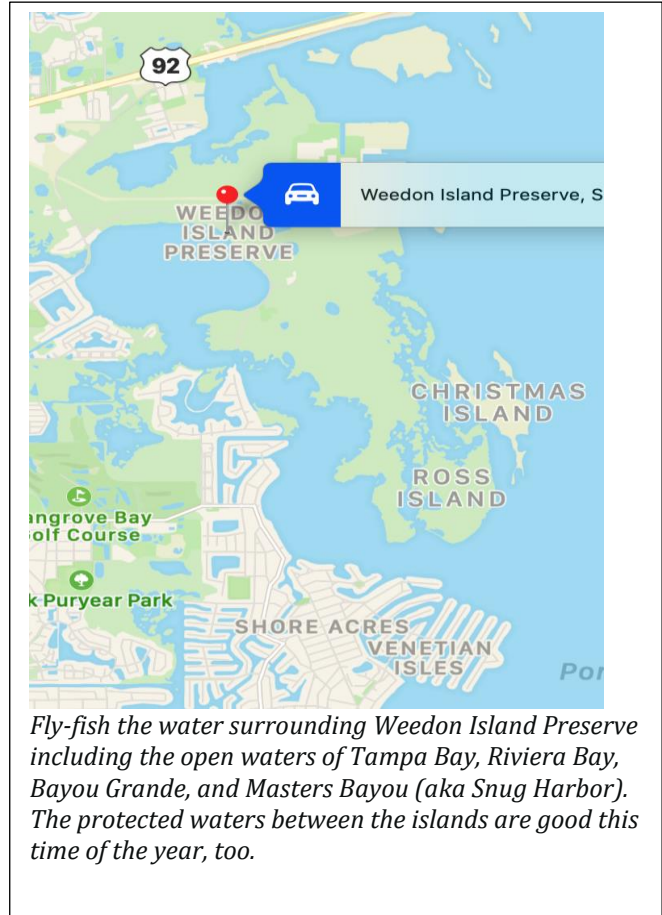
committee members at the picnic. The picnic is at the pavilion (the only one) on the north side of the main parking lot. Fat juicy burgers and hot dogs are on the menu. Hot coffee, too. And chips. And cookies. You know the thing.

Check out the visitor's map and other details on the [Weedon website](#). There's a kayak launch and many places to wade in and start fishing from the preserve. Wade fishers often meet up in the main parking lot at 7 to 7:30 am. Some will probably hike to and wade fish the Riviera Bay shoreline. Some like to wade in at the kayak launching area. And some will take the 10-15 minute hike down Lookout Point Trail and wade into Tampa Bay.

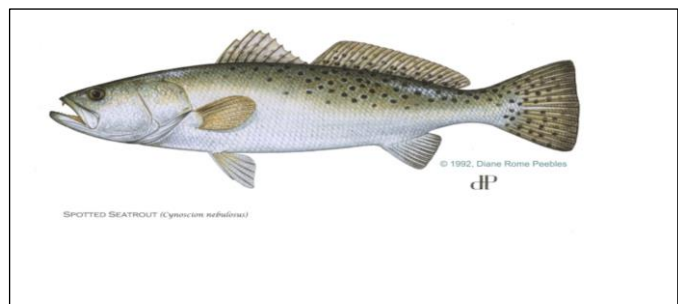
You can also rent a kayak at the [Sweetwater Kayaks](#) station on Weedon Drive. Master's Bayou (Snug Harbor) also is a great spot to fish but you'll need to launch a kayak at one of the access points on the south side of Gandy Boulevard.



It's a negative low tide day. The tide bottoms out about 9:15 then starts to come in fast. Low tides like that force spotted seatrout into deeper holes.



Fly-fish the water surrounding Weedon Island Preserve including the open waters of Tampa Bay, Riviera Bay, Bayou Grande, and Masters Bayou (aka Snug Harbor). The protected waters between the islands are good this time of the year, too.



Bob

Fly Fishers International Fly Casting Clinic in St. Pete Beach
More than 35 fly casters came to the free all-day clinic at Egan Park Saturday, January 14.



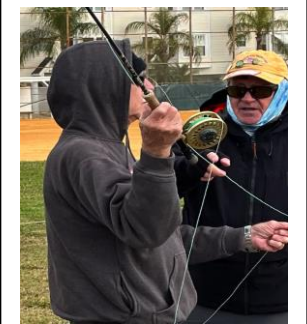
Suncoast Fly Fisher Pat Damico, an FFI Master Casting Instructor, organized and managed the successful clinic with support and attendance by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers Club. (Ginny Fischer photo)



FFI Casting Instructor Chris O'Byrne demonstrated how to connect the reel and rod and fly line and explained and demonstrated all of the other basics about fly casting to beginners.



FFI Casting clinic instructors, from left to right, Robert DeAngelis, Pat Damico, Chris O'Byrne, Dayle Mazzarella, Jonus Magnusson, and Leigh West. (Tom Gadacz photo)



One on one instruction with Jonus Magnusson.



Bob Burkard untangling.



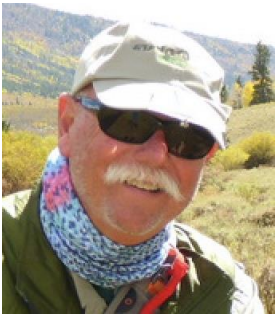
Ginny Fischer (l) logged in attendees, signed up new FFI members, and helped fly casters with free coffee and pastries and the picnic lunch. This was on one of the coldest, windiest days of the year in St. Pete. One fly caster said the "wind was our friend because we had to make successful casts with the wind at our back, from the side, and in our face."



After a hearty picnic lunch, fly casters went back to class.. The closing bell rang at 3 pm

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Woody Miller: The reason I fish from a kayak



Woody Miller
Suncoast Fly Fishers

I believe and this is only my view, that a kayak and fly fishing were made for each other. If we stop and really think about where we fish with a fly rod, it's shallow bays, oyster encrusted mangrove shorelines and pock marked flats. Or it is that small pond with no ramp, lakes filled with downed trees and other structures, locations where a boat and motor is not convenient.

You may counter with the fact that wading is the better way to fly fish and I can readily agree if the area supports the firm bottom necessary to walk which limits you to where you can fish.

We live in the areas where lakes and ponds are inhabited by largemouth bass and other freshwater species. We must also realize that these waters are the homes of alligators and deadly snakes, mucky bottoms that will suck the shoes off your feet and holes that will float your hat when these dark bodies of water hide the bottom. Saltwater wading offers its own group of circumstances that can ruin a good day of fishing. Oyster beds that will destroy a good pair of wading boots and waders, soft sucking mud that can hold tight to legs, stingrays that will harpoon you. Wading is limited for the waters we wish to fish.



Now those that have the availability of a skiff to fish from do have their advantages. First and foremost is the ability to get to many locations over the period of a day of fishing. Second is the ability to carry more gear, be it rods, numerous boxes of flies, a change of clothing if the weather changes during the day or being able to outrun a storm that pops up during those hot summer days.

What I find to be advantages for fishing from a kayak for me are that I can load my kayak in the back of my truck, put a couple of rods in the back seat with a box of flies and a paddle and I can fish anywhere, no launch ramp, no trailer, no gas, I'm quiet to the point of stealthy. If the bottom is firm I can stake out, step out and hunt on foot.

Be prepared

Now there are some considerations that must be taken into account. The two most important are to wear your life jacket and always be aware of the weather and tide. You cannot out-paddle a storm. Wind and waves can develop into being unmanageable if unprepared. Even after 50+ years of paddling canoes and kayaks I do not get far from shore if the forecast is not within my ability to return safely and for that fact, who wants to fish in conditions where just casting becomes a chore. Dress for the weather, but carry a jacket just in case. Always carry enough water. The one thing that will keep you safe is common sense.

Woody

Cliff Nigh: North Georgia Rainbow Trout in February

If we sign up 16 anglers the cost is \$1200 per person.



St. Pete Fishing Outfitters will be hosting our third annual Rainbow Trout trip to the north Georgia area. This year's dates are February 19 (check in) to February 24 (check out).

This year, we'll be staying at the [Lantern Lodge](#) in Blairsville about 20 or 30 minutes from Blue Ridge and about an

hour on country roads from where we'll be fishing. The drive is a very relaxing and scenic route. You can find the lodge on VRBO or do a google search to see pictures of where we'll be staying. This is probably the nicest place we've stayed, which is saying a lot! The food is delicious and all meals are included.

We'll fish the private waters of Fern Valley near Clarksville and the famous Soque River for our group. Each angler gets a full day guided trip and lunch on the Soque! You can check out their website at www.fernvalleytrout.com.

The guides will also lead us on well-known public waters including Smith's Creek, Duke's Creek or the Chattahoochee (aka the "Hootch") in Helen.

To reserve your spot on this trip, we are now accepting a deposit of \$500. This will hold your reservation and will give us a solid count of those participating. Deposits can be made at the store or online. To make your deposit online, go to ffishingoutfitters.com. Click on the Fly Fishing tab and click on the SPFO Fly Fishing Trip Deposit item.



Linda Nigh with a Soque River rainbow. That's Cliff on the right and Luca the guide. Linda out-fished Cliff that day.



This is a typical Soque River catch.

Our guide service is being headed up by Luca Fiore. Sound familiar? It should! Luca was a SPFO employee and is now working as a full-time guide in that area and is very familiar with the local waters, including the Soque.

Over the course of the next several weeks, we'll be sharing information on "what to do and where to go" in the area. We'll also be providing a gear list, flies to tie for the trip, and other information to make your fishing trip a memorable one that you'll be talking about for years to come.

Cliff

[Interested? Email Cliff and he'll answer all of your questions. Cliff.nigh@gmail.com]

James Davis: Santa was good to me



James Davis
Suncoast Fly Fishers

Happy New Year.

Santa Claus brought me some serious fly gear.

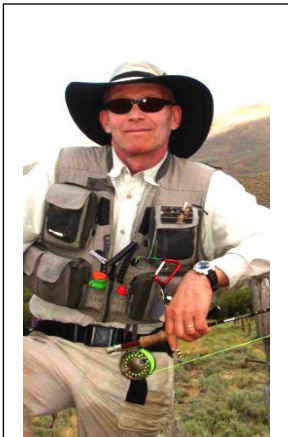
- Cortland Tropic Redfish salt series 8-weight floating fly line.
- Cortland Ghost Tip 9 tropic -plus series, 7-weight floating fly line.
- Fly line cleaner, lubricant, and pads.
- Cortland spliceable hollow core, super braid fly line backing.
- Cortland Hoodie.
- Santa also brought me a couple of spiral spook topwater flies that walk the dog like Zara Spook lures.
- I got an tee shirt that says "I'm So Fly." I love it.
- And last, but not least, Santa brought me Smith Optics Guide Series sunglasses for sight-fishing the flats.



James Davis' new tee shirt

James

Dayle Mazzarella: Got Questions about Fly-Fishing in Wyoming?



Dayle Mazzarella

Barbara and I hope all you Florida folks had a great holiday season and we wish everyone a Happy New Year with lots of fish and good times with family and friends.

This summer we will be hosting our 12th season guiding on the Hams Fork, Green, and New Fork Rivers in western Wyoming. Many Suncoast anglers have joined us over the years and we'd love for more of you to join us!

Even if you don't want a guide let us know if you are going to be in that part of the country and we'll be glad to answer any of you questions.

Dayle and Barbara Mazzarella

flyfishingwesternwyoming.com

760-703-0118

Bruce Evensen & Bill Scarola tie Bruce's brush crab fly



Bruce

The brush crab fly is our choice fly of the month for fishing mangrove shorelines because this is habitat for all those little tree crabs. And those mangrove tree crabs are breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the big three inshore gamefish – seatrout, redfish, snook.

The brush crab fly is productive away from the shoreline, too, because all gamefish are opportunistic feeders. You can crawl it across the bottom, jig it up and down, or retrieve it slowly just under the surface.



Bill

Materials

- Hook: 3407 size 4 or 2
- Eyes: Crab shrimp eyes, in orange or red epoxy.
- Legs: Brown/black rubber silly legs
- Head: Brown bucktail
- Body: E P crab body brush
- NOTE: See picture. The body material is multi-colored or tan-colored. Use magic markers to adjust the colors as necessary.
- Weight: Medium barbell eyes. Or, alternately, wrap the hook with lead wire.
- Thread: Brown, flat waxed.

Tying sequence

- 1: Wrap hook, from eye to bend.
- 2: Add brown bucktail over eyes so it goes past the bend about 1 inch.
- 3: Add shrimp eyes, about half way on shaft, so eyes jut out past the bend about half an inch, as shown.
- 4: Add Sili Legs, two each side. Keep them longer than the shrimp eyes.
- 5: Attach a medium barbell eyes just behind the hook eye. or wrap several lead wraps on the shank just behind the hook eye.
- 6: Add the brush material behind the hook to the bend and whip finish the material. Add a drop of glue on the thread.
- 7: Trim with scissors to flatten the top and bottom of brush material and to form it into a crab shaped body.



Bruce's Brush Crab

Smitty's Fly Box: Split Tail Clouser



Layne (Smitty) Smith

This is a good redfish version of the Clouser.

I like to tie it all white for docklight or beach fishing for snook.

You may substitute Finn Raccoon for the Arctic Fox wing as well.



Split Tail Clouser

Smitty

Materials

Hook: Saltwater streamer hook size 8 - 6
Thread: Flat waxed nylon (choice of color to match)
Eyes: Lead barbell (size your choice, I use small, or medium for deep or fast current)
Tail : Red or Orange Arctic Fox hair and Red or Orange Badger neck hackle
Body: SLF Dave Whitlock Minnow Belly Dubbing (or favorite dubbing with flash)
Wing: Red or Orange Arctic Fox hair
Flash: Krystal Flash
Finish: Solarez UV Resin



The more the merrier

Tying Sequence

- 1: Lay down thread base to cover hook finish at one third shank position.
- 2: Tie in lead barbell eyes securely.
- 3: Tie in a small amount of Arctic Fox Hair.
- 4: Tie in a pair of Badger neck hackle, make sure they splay outwards.
- 5: Prepare a dubbing loop and dub in the SLF Minnow Belly dubbing.
- 6: Spin in the dubbing to create a belly.
- 7: Brush the dubbing.
- 8: Tie in the Krystal Flash at the side.
- 9: Tie in another bunch of Arctic Fox Hair as wing, trim the extra.
- 10: Tie in some Krystal Flash on top of the Arctic Fox Hair
- 11: Whip finish and apply the UV Resin to coat thread head wraps.

Layne Smith's Fried Grouper Recipe

This recipe serves 8 but it can easily be adjusted for more or less.

Ingredients

8 (6 oz) grouper fillets
2 large eggs
½ tsp salt
¼ tsp cayenne pepper
1 cup all-purpose flour, seasoned with salt and pepper to taste
Cornmeal/Panko mix for dredging the fish
Vegetable oil for deep-frying the fish
1 red onion, sliced very thin
leafy butter lettuce
2 tomatoes, sliced thin
8 soft sandwich rolls, split



Directions:

Beat together eggs, salt and cayenne in a shallow dish.

Place flour mixture and cornmeal/Panko mix in separate shallow dishes.

Dredge each fillet in flour mixture and dip in egg wash.

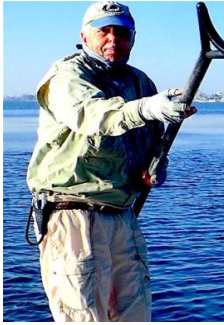
Dredge fillets in cornmeal/Panko mix last.

In a deep fry pan, heat 1-inch of the oil to 375° F. Fry the fillets in batches for 2 to 4 minutes on each side, or until browned and cooked through.

Transfer fillets to paper towels to drain.

Layer the red onion, lettuce, tomatoes, and fillets on the sandwich rolls, accompany with thick cut or waffle fries.

Smitty



Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

Make the wind your fly casting friend

"I'm going to use my spinning rod today. It's too windy to fly fish."

This is a statement I frequently hear this time of the year because of windy conditions. The clear water flats are free of floating grass and make sight fishing for trout, reds, sheepshead, and occasionally snook a perfect venue.

Wind can be a help or hindrance. Perfect calm makes it easier to see fish, but they are very spooky, making long casts necessary. A little ripple on the surface from the wind hinders our ability to see fish, but they are more relaxed, meaning we can get closer. A nine-foot fly rod, the ideal length for most of our fishing should keep the fly, and hook, at least that far away from you.

If the wind is blowing into your non-casting side, there is usually only a problem with casting accuracy. Wind into your casting side can be a problem easily corrected by casting horizontally and close to the water, giving the wind little chance to affect it. A very tight loop in your line created by having the rod tip travel in a straight line path will be almost unaffected by the wind. A large loop will be a disaster especially if thrown high.

A strong wind into your casting side can be problematic, easily corrected by casting on your line-hand side using either a cast with your arm across your body, or tilting your body away from the wind and, "brushing your hair," with your casting hand as you have the rod tip travel on your leeward side. Learning to cast with both hands is an ideal solution.

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

Which is faster, Hot or Cold?

Hot, because you can always catch a COLD!

Last night I went on a date with a girl from the zoo.

It was great. She's a KEEPER!

I accidently drank a bottle of invisible ink last night.

I'm in the hospital now, waiting to be SEEN!

Knock, knock ! Who's there? *Abby, Abby who? ABBY NEW YEAR!!!!*

Bill

Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



Sometimes “negative” is a good thing. Walt Durkin pretty much has those winter redfish figured out. He loves the negative low tides we have in the winter. And when the tide starts to come back in on the flats, so do the redfish. And, you know what, Walt is there, rigged and ready to sight-cast to the redfish. Walt, who is president of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club, has written about how he wade fishes winter and summer, where he goes, and the flies he throws. Btw, Walt is our February meeting speaker. Here’s Walt’s article. Bookmark it. ([Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club](#))

Remember Tim Elms’ interview with Andy Mill? Early last year fly fishing champion Andy Mill (yeah, the downhill skier) gave a generous interview to our club’s website manager Tim Elms. Recently, some of the things Andy shared with Tim went viral, as they say. This link includes another link to Tim’s interview with Andy. Name drops: President Herbert Walker Bush. Chris Evert. ([Essentially Sports](#))

Gamefish populations are down. Yeah, way down. Member Robert Fischer was up in Ozello recently, having lunch, and he noticed lots of dead, floating fish. The server told him that that extremely cold weather in late December had killed hundreds of snook; redfish, too. Good news for vultures. Bad news for fly fishers. The last few years nasty forces like red tide and the Piney Point spill have taken an awful toll on the populations of our inshore stars -- snook, redfish and seatrout. And red tide keeps coming. Aaarrggghhh. ([MyFWC](#))

A legendary Old Florida institution. - Robert Fisher shared another bit of news from his recent trip up to the Nature Coast. “The Gulf Hammock Fishing Club burned to the ground over Christmas. The Old Florida-style log building was totally destroyed but the concrete motel rooms were spared. The boat ramp was also undamaged. The owners will rebuild.” If you’re curious about this club, as was I, here’s the link to the club’s website. ([Gulf Hammock Fishing Club](#))

Top Ten Saltwater Flies. *Tail Fly Fishing Magazine* is celebrating its tenth anniversary so Publisher Joseph Ballarini has listed his top ten flies based on his successful fishing and input from professional guides, avid readers, fly fishing lodge guides, and others. I like Chico’s Marabou Madness. ([Tail Fly Fishing](#))

It’s okay to look back. Satchel Paige, the legendary baseball pitcher, said, “Don’t look back. Something might be gaining on you.” Well, that’s bad advice if you’re a fly caster. Your back-cast pretty much dictates what your forward cast will look like. What are you doing wrong? Here’s the tutorial written some time ago by Joan Salvato Wulff of the Wulff School of Fly Fishing. She once cast a fly 161 feet. I think I remember reading that before she was a fly fisher she was a ballet dancer. ([Fly Fisherman](#))



What caused that little hole? This has nothing to do with fly fishing except the next time you’re fly fishing Gulf beaches watch for a shell with a hole in it. How did it get that perfectly round hole? Somebody told me that a univalve mollusk has a tongue (radula) that turns into a drill that turns into a straw that sucks the slushy protein from the bivalve. It’s a shell-eat-shell world.

Bill

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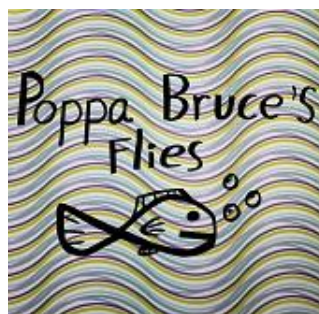
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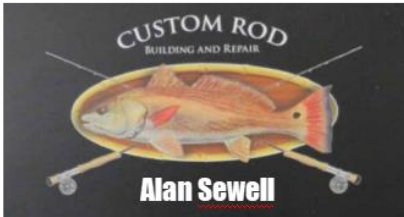


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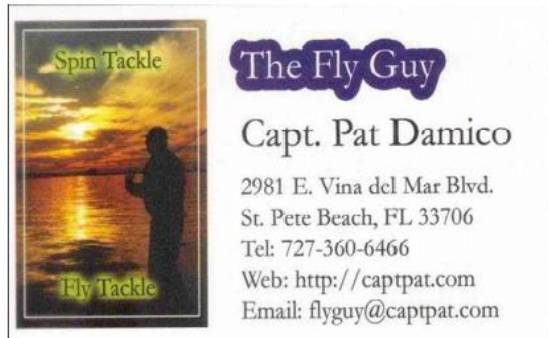
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