

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

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President's Message: February 2023

Our outing this month is at Cypress Point Park and our speaker at the monthly meeting is an expert at fishing this location.

The best time to find redfish is when there is a negative low tide. This forces the fish into a predictable pattern that should help us find those sometimes elusive fish. Saturday looks to be a perfect time to fish Cypress Point and our meeting on Thursday will be a perfect time to learn how to catch them. Welcome Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club President Walt Durkin as our featured speaker.

Our membership drive is in full swing. Many of you have renewed your membership but a few are still outstanding. You can renew at any of our events, online or over the phone. Contact Karen Warfel or Tom Gadacz if you need to renew. Over the last year we have attracted a lot of new members. If you see someone at one of our events that you don't recognize, be sure to say hello and give them a SFF welcome!

Our annual Don Colman Invitational Tournament has been rescheduled from December to March because of the red tide event that occurred around the end of the year. Spring fishing should be on the upswing. Look forward to a special chili luncheon and a friendly competition with members of TBFFC and Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers as they join us for this event.

Don't forget the Hog Roast coming up on March 25th. This year it will be a combined banquet with the Tampa club. Our featured speaker will be world-famous fly-fishing pioneer Chico Fernandez. I guarantee you will enjoy meeting him and hearing him speak.

Come to the outing this Saturday and catch the biggest redfish. Bring your best chili to the March outing at Ft. DeSoto. Renew your membership. Buy your Hog Roast tickets at any club event or get them online. I would say that the year is getting off to a great start.

Thanks. Stay safe and keep fishing!

Rick

Rick Warfel
SFF President

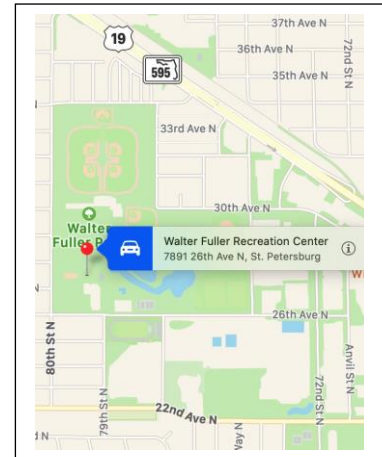
Meetings, Outings, and More

Thursday, February 16 Meeting Walter Fuller Park Recreation Center 7891 26th Avenue N., St. Petersburg

Speaker: Walt Durkin

Topic: Sight casting to redfish on negative low tides

- Our speaker is Walt Durkin of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. He will talk about how he sight-casts to big redfish on negative low tides.
- This is timely info because our February 18 outing has us fishing a negative low tide at Cypress Point Park in Tampa.
- Also at this meeting, members of the nominating committee will recommend officer and board candidates. Members in attendance can also recommend candidates. Members in attendance vote at the March meeting.



February 18 – Cypress Point Park, Tampa

- Fly-fish open water, backcountry, or bayou waters in and around the preserve. Fish north of the Howard Frankland Bridge (I-275).
- Wade fishers are meeting up in the park at 7 am to discuss the best where-how strategies and to make sure fly fishers are paired up for the sake of safety.
 - Be back by noon at one of the pavilions for a hearty picnic lunch. You'll see the SFF sign.
 - The member catching the longest redfish wins a \$10 gift certificate. Before releasing your longest fish take pictures and measure them. Show off your pictures at the picnic lunch.
 - Cypress Point Park is on the Tampa side of the Bay on the north side of the Howard Frankland Bridge. If you've never been there check directions first. The address is 5620 W. Cypress Street.

March 16 Meeting – Walter Fuller Park (Annual Business Meeting)

- Members vote for new officers and board members, who take office immediately.
- Our speaker is Rick Redd, first president of the Suncoast Fly Fishers.

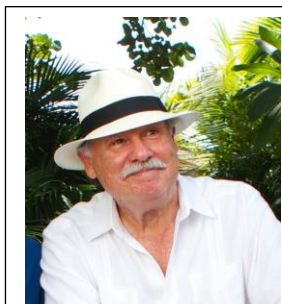
March 18 Outing, Fort DeSoto Park

- This is the Don Coleman Invitational and Chili Cook-Off, rescheduled from December.
- Members of the Tampa and Sarasota fly clubs are invited to join us. Don was a member of Suncoast Fly Fishers and the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.
- Don Coleman wrote, "Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod" which every member receives when he or she joins Suncoast Fly Fishers.
- Go to the SFF website and search for "Popovics Jiggy." It was one of Coleman's favorite flies.

This fly-fishing tournament is for a good cause: April 28-29

- Greater Tampa Bay Area Council's 2nd annual fly -fishing tournament.
- Proceeds go to area youth and helps them become part of the scouting program.
- To learn more and to register go to this site: fundraise.givesmarty.com

Meetings, Outings, and More



Chico Fernandez

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 fundraiser and a must-attend event for every SFF member and guests interested in fly -fishing or a fun night out! Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the next two member

meetings. They can also be purchased online at the SFF website at the following link:

<https://suncoastflyfishers.com/product/hog-roast-tickets/> Or contact Karen Warfel at 813-505-3162 to purchase tickets over the phone with a credit card.

- There is a lot of work to do. Volunteer at the meeting. Also donate your best flies. Bruce Evensen will be collecting member-tied flies for the Hog Roast.

Welcome new members

- Patti Nasrallah, Tampa
- James Cass, High Point, NC
- Jack Bailey, St. Petersburg
- Frank Moss, Seminole, Florida
- Joe Tyrrell, St. Petersburg

Bill Scarola: Ray Smith has died

Ray was a personal friend to me and many SFF Club members and a good fishing buddy.



Ray Smith, RIP

He loved fishing and fly tying. Ray loved fishing in his kayak and his 14-foot Aluminum outboard-powered boat. Some of his favorite fishing spots were the Everglades canals, Tampa Bay backcountry areas like Snug Harbor, Weedon Island Preserve, Fourth Street N., several salt and

freshwater spots in Rhode Island and in New York State.

I first met Ray ten years ago at Bill Jackson's at Bruce Evensen's fly tying classes.

Bill



Ray Smith and a Rhode Island Striper

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 135 members including 18 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 Outing – Weedon Island Preserve



Bob Burkard,
Chairman of the
Outings
Committee

We had a darn good turnout at January's outing at Weedon Island Preserve and we got real lucky, too.

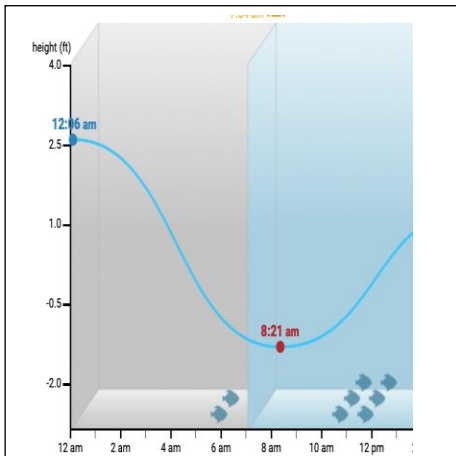
Lucky? Yes, we were able to finish frying up all the hamburgers and hot dogs on our propane-fired club grill before the powers-that-be arrived and gave us an order:

You can't use a gas grill because it might cause a fire.

Oh my. I'm thinking are no-gas-grills now going to be the law at all the parks and preserves? We could use an electric grill but the question will always be: Is there an electrical outlet?

Anyway, everybody had a good time. Nobody caught a speckled trout so nobody won the \$10 gift certificate. But some members did catch ladyfish which have saved many a fly fishing trip. But the big reward was that whenever somebody unhooked and released a ladyfish one or more dolphins would race in from deeper water and rush around, causing quite a commotion as they tried to find it and gobble it up. There were a number of these explosions.

Bob Burkard: February 18 Outing – Cypress Point Park



Oh boy, at daybreak the tide is rushing in from a negative low level. Will it bring redfish with it? (Tides4Fishing)

Something very interesting is happening at our Saturday outing. This year our outing at Cypress Point Park coincides with a very interesting tidal flow. It bottoms out at daybreak at a negative low. Fly fishers should be there in that skinny water because when the tide starts to come in, so will redfish. The sun will be at your back. Nothing is guaranteed, of course, but some Suncoast Fly Fishers should get one or more chances to sight-cast to those reds. Be sure to read Walt Durkin's sight-fishing how-to on the next page. Walt is our February meeting speaker. You'll learn more.

Fly-fish open water, backcountry, or bayou waters in and around the preserve. Fish north of the Howard Frankland Bridge (I-275). The member catching the longest redfish wins a \$10 gift certificate. Before releasing your longest fish take pictures and measure them. Show off your pictures at the picnic lunch. The same goes for our other annual outing tournament for seatrout, snook, and ladyfish.

Cypress Point Park is on the Tampa side of Tampa Bay on the north side of the Howard Frankland Bridge but you have to approach it going west on West Cypress Street. If you've never been there check directions first. The address is 5620 W. Cypress Street.

Meet up hungry at noon at one of the pavilions for a hearty picnic lunch. You'll see the SFF sign.

Bob

Walt Durkin: Fly Fish Low Tides at Cypress Point Park



Walt Durkin with a big redfish he caught at Cypress Point Park. Walt is our February speaker. Walt is president of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.

{Excerpts from Walt's Treatise "Observations and Notes on Wade Fishing Tampa Bay"

Walt's entire article is posted on the [website of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.](#)}

- Wade fishing is a great way to fly fish in the flats surrounding Tampa Bay. Almost the entire bay is lined with shallow water flats, many suitable for wading.
 - Sight fishing will allow you to optimize your choice of flies as you watch the fish react. Expect to find redfish, snook, trout, black drum, sheepshead, small sharks and stingrays on the flat. Redfish are my favorite as they travel in schools and will readily tail.
 - Wade fishing in winter is especially good with the lowest and clearest water. Fish are more likely to tail under these winter conditions, rewarding you with the ultimate in sight fishing.
- The best way to learn to fish a particular flat is to fish the lowest tides and observe and make notes of the terrain.
 - Look for tails. Try to have your fly land close to the fish when its tail is up.
 - Mimic the herons and cranes you see standing still and carefully watching. Walk onto a flat slowly and find a spot to begin to fish in about 12-inches of water.
 - Fish are bottom-oriented in the winter, thus crabs and shrimp are a good choice.

How to fly-fish Cypress Point Park

The park opens at sunrise and you can park in the main lot. Straight off the western sides of the beach are numerous deep holes. They hold fish, particularly in the winter. Fish Clouser minnows deep along the bottom for snook, trout and ladyfish. However, the best sight fishing is to the North on both sides of the sand bar. Wade near the sand bar going north in shallow water and look for fish. On negative low tides the reds will wait in schools for the tide to come in. They will be spooky and hard to catch so make the most of your first presentations. As the tide comes in the reds will move over the bar onto the grass flats. Here they will spread out and tail at times. Wade slowly and let the fish come to you. The bottom outside the bar is nice and firm, but can be a little soft on the inside. Best times to find them tailing are winter morning lows and late afternoon lows in the summer. The flat around to the South also holds fish and is worth a try, especially on a mid-to-high tide. As always, watch for and fish around mullet when you can. You can wade to the east here and find a small channel coming out from the left. This channel is about food deeper and fish will travel along or set up in it. Past the channel are oyster bars and sand flats. Wading is okay and not too soft. You need about 18 inches of tide to fish the back of this flat where you will see reds coming on with the tide. The small cove to the east of and behind the beach is also a place to wade. Work the mangrove edges for snook, trout and reds. The Cypress is one of the best in Tampa Bay. The flat to the south of the beach is smaller, but can also hold fish. Work the edges of the sandbar and grass areas as you would on the north side.

Walt

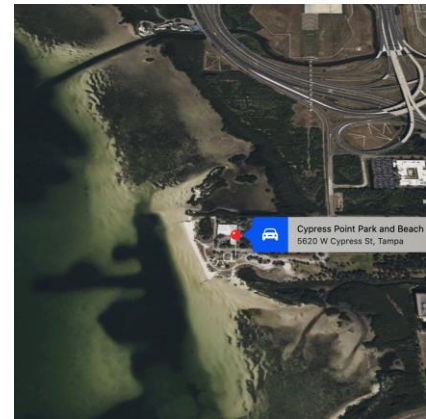
Robert Fischer: Pre-fishing the Cypress Point Park Outing



As a prelude to the next outing at Cypress Street flat:

I fished it last Wednesday (Feb. 1). Perfect low tides and wind, clear water but too many clouds. Fished the north flat and saw five redfish in the upper 20's to low 30's (inches). I got one bite but it didn't stay hooked. The other four spooked as soon as the flyrod moved. Way too spooky! I recommend 12-foot leaders with an 8-pound-test bite tippet and small #6 or #4 flies that land softly. Be extremely quiet and slow.

Robert



Satellite screenshot of the flats at Cypress Point Park.

Scott Russell: The Mayfly Project Needs Mentors



The Mayfly Project is a non-profit that uses fly-fishing to mentor foster youth. I'm the Lead Mentor for the local Mayfly Project and I am looking for a couple of additional

mentors for our 2023 project, which is set to begin March 25th.

The project is comprised of five Saturday mornings typically spaced two weeks apart. It's an amazing way to give back and to pass on our passion for fly-fishing.

Please call me at 727-403-8165 or email me at russellti@me.com, for additional information on this wonderful opportunity to help foster children in our community.

Scott

<https://themayflyproject.com/st-petersburg-florida-project/>



Here's a picture I took of Suncoast Fly Fishers who have been giving foster children their time and sharing their fly fishing skills. Sign up to join them. It is in giving that we receive.

THE MAYFLY PROJECT

Trash 'n' Treasures Auction

January's Trash 'n' Treasures meeting was another winner. Member purchases of used gear raised a bit more than \$1,000 which goes toward feeding picnic lunches to hungry fly fishers at our monthly outing.



Auctioneer Alan Sewell did another energetic job of firing up the room and getting lots of bids on used gear, like this 5-weight rod. VP Quin Berry served as Alan's assistant.



Two of a kind. Member Wayne Shriver made this clock with our logo.



Former president George Haseltine took a liking to these used tackle boxes or, more likely, the content which included an assortment of flies, lures, and other fishy items.



Bruce Evensen really liked this map of the Everglades and Florida Bay.



Going, going, gone.



New member Patti Nasrallah bid and got a fly rod, flies, and much more. Her son James Cass held some of the goodies.



Paddles anyone?



You lookin' at me?



Tied by SFF pros

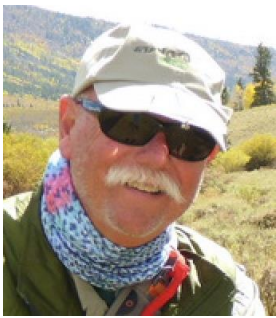


A good catch



Fly bites shoe

Woody Miller: So you want to tie flies!



Woody Miller
Suncoast Fly Fishers

I find that most new fly fishermen/women (don't want to be called sexist) sooner or later transition to fly tying as a natural extension to this sport. This, I'm afraid, is not a wise choice as I will attempt to explain.

Now I know you're wondering, what does he know about any of this? I'll tell you what I know, I have gone down this rabbit hole when it comes to fly tying and it is not pretty. Let me tell you how this all plays out.

You walk into your favorite fly shop to pick up a few flies for your big trip coming up. By the time you walk out you have a bag with a good assortment of flies and the owner of the store just made enough money to pay his rent this month. You get to thinking, why don't I just tie my own and that rent money will be in my pocket instead of the fly shop owner. This is where the plan goes all wrong. Pay the man or prepare to suffer.

Let's take a look at the fallacy of this thinking. You need a vise, that will set you back at least \$150 bucks. Now you need all the necessary tools to get the material on the hook, this can set you back a good chunk of change.

Now comes the cost of hooks which doesn't seem too costly until you realize that depending on what pattern you are tying there may be more than one size or style of hook needed. Then you begin to realize that many different patterns will be needed and now more hooks, different colors of materials and thread and before long your work area begins to look like the fly shop.

Now comes the materials. Not just one material like some bucktail, but all the other pieces of the receipt that are needed to complete the pattern and these materials come in numerous colors and since fish can be very picky these patterns must be tied in varying sizes and colors to match the hatch. Do you see where this is headed? Yep, you're right; the rabbit hole is deep and wide.

But let's stop and really think about this, does this all really matter when in fact we chose to chase something that for all intents and purposes is invisible to us hidden underwater and hidden in cover that camouflages them very well and they do this with a brain the size of a pea. I'm here to tell you, no it really doesn't matter.

Fly tying is just the next step in the evolution of this maddening sport. I cannot think of another form of fishing where individuality is so evident. We choose what weight rod to use to chase our quarry, the length of our leader, the choice of a floating or sinking fly, minnow or bug pattern, color, texture, size and most of these factors are handmade and not purchased.

Individuality is the game when fly tying and fishing. Sometimes it doesn't really matter whether we catch something as much as seeing the creation we tied sit perfectly in the water film or swim like the bait present in your area.

Each of us sees the product of our imagination in the fly we present to the fish

Woody

Tim Elms: Can Skynet Fly Fish?



Howdy! Fishing has been decent in the ponds, cricks and slop. Spring is basically 90 minutes away and I just started finding some LMBs.

Since you may know or may not, I'm pretty techy, and a slight bit nerdy. So, if you have been watching the news lately there has been a lot about AI, or artificial intelligence; particularly ChatGPT. And I thought Hey, lets see what it says if I ask ChatGPT how to fly fish for Bass? And well, its uncanny how I could have just said I wrote this...but I didn't. This is the response on what the Terminator said:

"Fly fishing for largemouth bass can be a fun and challenging experience. Here's how to get started:

1. *Choose the right equipment: When fly fishing for largemouth bass, it's important to choose the right equipment. A 5- to 7-weight rod and reel with a weight-forward floating line is suitable for most conditions.*
2. *Select the right flies: There are many different types of flies that can be used to catch largemouth bass, including poppers, streamers, and nymphs. Choose flies that imitate the natural prey of largemouth bass in your area.*
3. *Learn to cast: Fly casting is a key skill when fly fishing for largemouth bass. Take the time to learn the basics and practice your casting technique before hitting the water.*
4. *Study the water: Largemouth bass are often found near structure such as weed beds, drop-offs, and logs. Observe the water and look for signs of feeding activity, such as jumping fish or bird activity, to find the best fishing spots.*
5. *Use the right retrieve: When retrieving your fly, try different techniques to see what works best. For example, you might use a slow, steady retrieve with a popper, or a quick, aggressive retrieve with a streamer.*
6. *Set the hook: When you feel a bite, set the hook firmly but not too hard. You want to hook the fish, but not pull the fly out of its mouth.*
7. *Play the fish: Once you have a fish on the line, play it carefully to avoid damaging the fish or the equipment. When landing the fish, be gentle and handle it with wet hands.*

These are the basic steps for fly fishing for largemouth bass. With practice and experience, you will become more proficient and able to adapt your techniques to different fishing conditions."

Yikes. How great of response, not to mention how human like. Scary.

Alas, we know robots can't fly fish right? RIGHT?

Strip Strip Strip—

-Tim



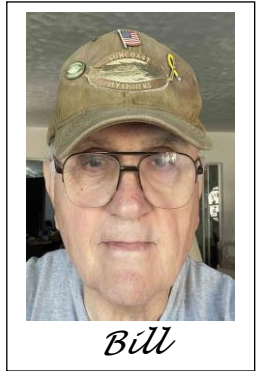
Bedding Bass



Bruce

Bruce Evensen & Bill Scarola Tie *Scar's Green Back Fly*

Members can tie flies in person Tuesday nights at Bruce's Fly Tying Studio and get step by step instructions from Bruce and Bill. The Green Back Fly was tied on Tuesday, February 7. Meet up Tuesdays at Bruce's fly tying studio at 6 pm. 531 80th Avenue North in St. Pete.



Bill

Materials

HOOK: Size #2-3 circle hooks or short shank bait types. & or 3407 hook in size 2, 3.

EYES: 5 mm stick-on holographic, silver/black, or red.

BODY TOP: *Extra Select Craft Furr* -- olive, grey and/or chartreuse. Grey/white imitates mullet fry.

BODY BELLY: White.

THREAD: Flat waxed, olive or grey. Thread color should match your top fur color.

BEARD: Micro fiber in red and/or orange.

GLUE: Eye glue, E6000 or UV Epoxy

OPTIONAL: Weight Lead or tungsten wrap can be applied before tying material to the hook shank.



Scar's Green Back Minnow Fly

Note the various color combinations. They all catch seatrout, snook, redfish, ladyfish and sail cats. These are tied on short shank, bait type hooks but longer shank hooks and circle hooks also work well.

TYING SEQUENCE

- 1: Wrap hook shank w/ thread from eye to bend. Add weight now if desired.
- 2: Add a small bit of microfiber about one or two inches long. Tie it just behind the hook eye and under the hook shank. If you have a rotating vise, turn the hook upside down to attach the microfiber.
- 3: Tie in a clump of white *Extra Select Craft Furr* on top of the shank and above the beard. It should be 2.5-inches or longer. One or two sparse applications of white craft fur will produce a full-looking fly.
- 4: Add your olive or grey craft fur above the white belly craft fur. Two small bits of craft fur may be used to fill out the fly. Keep the lengths of all fur 2-3-inches long but keep the top color slightly longer.
- 5: Tie off all materials with your thread, creating a small bead head just behind the hook eye.
- 6: Add a drop of eye glue on each side and add your eyes. Keep them above the shank on the top fur.
- 7: Add a drop of UV epoxy to cover the eyes and thread wraps.
8. Trim the fly with scissors as necessary to properly shape the fish body.

Smitty's Fly Box: Whatever-You-Want-Baitfish"



This can be tied with or without any lead wrap. Unweighted, it swims suspended just under the surface. And, the hook point rides up plus the point is covered which keeps the weeds off. That's what we need for fishing these low tide winter days like the one

at our February 18 outing at Cypress Point Park.



Tie this baitfish pattern with or without lead wrap so it sinks very slowly or fast. Whatever-You-Want.

Smitty

Materials

Hook: Black nickel wide gap worm hook size to match your baitfish choice

Thread: Mono Tying thread

Weight: Lead wire (per sink rate) wrapped on belly of hook (optional)

Body: Wrapped diamond braid (silver or pearl) to match your baitfish choice

Wing: Dyed coyote tail to match, over natural gray silver fox tail, over white fox tail

Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash & 2 strands of silver holographic Flashabou ¼" past wing

Cheeks: Fluorescent pink marabou or choice to match pectoral fin

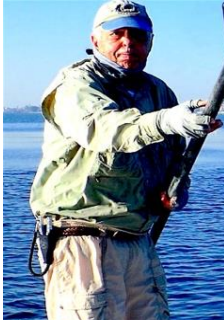
Eyes: 3-D silver/black

Head: Solarez UV Resin

Tying Instructions

Tied in order that the materials are listed.

1. Put your hook in the vise. Attach thread just behind the eye and wrap down to the belly of the hook. If weight is needed to create desired sink rate use desired size and weight lead wire to belly of hook then over-wrap with thread to secure ending with thread at back end of lead wraps. Tie in diamond braid.
2. If no weight is needed ignore lead wire and just wrap thread back the belly of the hook to just past the halfway point and tie in diamond braid. Advance thread forward to just behind the hook eye. Wrap braid forward in touching wraps to standing thread. Tie off and cut away excess.
3. Tie in a section of white fox tail long enough to reach just past hook bend, then tie in the gray silver fox tail on top to reach back just past the white fox. Lastly tie in the coyote tail to extend back just past the silver fox. You may apply head cement after each wing section to create a more durable fly if you like.
4. Tie in Krystal Flash in on both sides of the fly to spread over the body of the fly and end just short of wing. Tie in two strands of Flashabou along the lateral line on both sides to extend ¼" longer than the wing.
5. Tie in on each side feather of choice (pink marabou, silver pheasant or your favorite cheek feather).
6. Attach eyes on cheek and touching hook just behind eye and overcoat with UV Resin filling in gap between eyes.



Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

Cold and windy? Be flexible

Fly fishers need flexibility with frequent cold fronts and windy conditions being the norm. Usually, I mentally plan my charter the night before but several recent trips were changed because of wind intensity and direction. On some days, we went to one of the many rivers that empty into the gulf or bay. After driving over bridges and seeing whitecaps it was a pleasure to launch in calm conditions. When you travel up a river it becomes narrower and is protected by trees and often high banks affording you and the fish warmth, protection, and a chance to observe undisturbed wildlife. Snook, jacks, reds, ladyfish, and small tarpon will be caught next to bass and panfish because of lower salinity from freshwaters influence. Rig a rod with a floating line, another with a clear sinking tip, and a third with a full sinking line. This way you can easily handle fish that are in the shallows and in deeper water. When sight fishing is not possible, target structures such as docks, points, feeder creeks, stumps, partially submerged trees, and bridges with small flies, size 6-1, that imitate the baitfish you observe. Develop a pattern after catching a few fish and concentrate on the conditions that resulted in success.

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

A guy knocks on Dooley's door. When Mrs. Dooley answers it the guy says "Hi, I'm looking for Mr. Dooley." He's not here," says Mrs. Dooley. "Can I help you?" "I'm afraid not. I wanted to talk to him about our Fishing Association meeting. Do you know where he is?" "Yeah, just head down to the river and look for the stick with a worm on both ends. "

Some things male fly fishers never say:

- *I don't know if duct tape can fix that.*
- *Hey Charlie, rub some tanning lotion onto my back will ya?*
- *Let's get the wives,. Fishing just isn't fun without the ladies along.*

Bill



Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



Thank you, Walt. Everybody, go to the February meeting because our speaker is a fly fisher who has done the most feet-first, hands-on research about how to wade fish and catch Tampa Bay sportfish on the flats, especially redfish. Walt Durkin, president of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers Club, recently posted this terrific how-to, where-to treatise. And we'll learn even more at the meeting. ([TBFFC](#))

It's not going to be an easy fix. At a recent conference one expert opined that even if pollution were to stop flowing into Lake Okeechobee today, it would still take 150 years for the lake to be clean again. The linked article captures the bigger picture. Lake Okeechobee is part of the Everglades water system, of course. But it's just one part. Think of the Everglades as a water system stretching from south of Orlando to Florida Bay.

([Fort Myers News Press](#))

Barracuda on the fly. Our Hog Roast Speaker this year is Chico Fernandez. He has caught (and enjoyed catching) some mighty-big 'cudas. I like this short graph. *There are times when the barracuda decides to turn right or left in middle of a run, and now your fly line starts to cut through the water, leaving a big tail of foam. It's a sight you won't soon forget.* There's more. ([Tail Fly Fishing](#))

Aren't dogs wonderful? I think we're all hard-wired to love dogs. Did you know that Orvis sponsors a best-looking canine contest? Here are some of the beautiful contestants. They all have great skills, too, as you'll see, including posing for cameras. ([Orvis News](#))

The answer is yes. Do redfish have blue tails? Well, some do. Tim Elms' brother Jeremy caught one at Fort DeSoto Park. And former member Dennis Marquis recently caught several fly fishing the grassy marshes near Swansboro, NC. ([Fish Your Ass Off](#))



Jeremy Elms' blue tail redfish.

The yin and yang of invasive fishes. Yeah, I know they cause lots of problems but this article has me looking at the bright side. Eglades anyone? ([Angler's Journal](#))

Well, damn, open it up for fishing: There's a rain water retention pond in Manatee County with some 400 invasive species including a newby. ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

Another fly fishing star has died. He started and named RIO Products after the Costa Rican fishing camp Jim and his wife Kitty ran on the Rio Colorado River. Another interesting observation here, among many, was how he would wait and wait and wait for the trout to rise before making a cast. And sometimes he even would leave the river without making any casts at all. Yes, Jim Vincent. ([Fly Fisherman](#))

This is not for me. The odd thing, though, is that someday this used car with its fly fishing accessory will probably sell for more than the owner paid for it when it was brand new. Think of it as a collector's item for the person who loves classic cars and, also, never has enough fly fishing gear. H/T Tim Elms. ([Bentley Bentayga](#))

Bill

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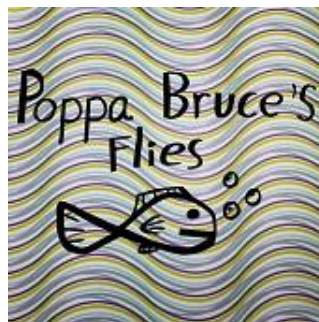
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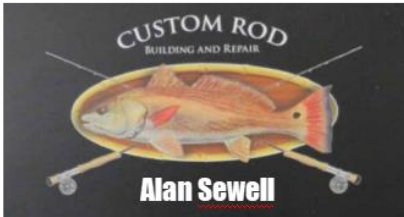


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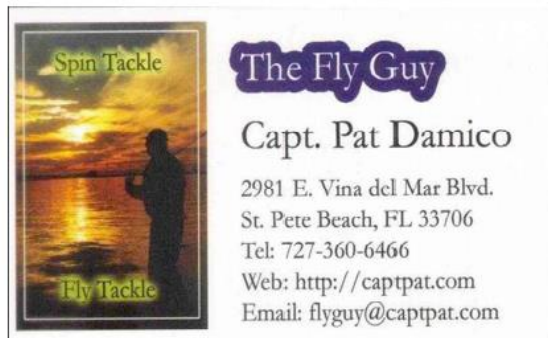
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