

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

March 18 outing at Fort De Soto Park has been canceled because of the possibility of a red tide bloom.

Stay tuned

Cypress Point Park Outing P6



Big Bass Family Outing P8



North Georgia Trout Expedition P9-10





President's Message: March 2023

It is time for the Hog Roast! The Hog Roast is our annual banquet and this year it will be bigger and better than ever before. It will be a joint banquet with Suncoast Fly Fishers and the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Members of both clubs and their guests will come together to share a meal and enjoy the festivities. We will have a delicious BBQ meal catered by Smokey Bones Bar and Fire Grill. There will be an amazing array of items available in our silent auctions and raffles. Our featured speaker will be world renown fly fishing pioneer, Chico Fernandez and one of our special guests will be the president and CEO of Fly Fishers International, Patrick Berry.

When Walt Durkin suggested that SFF and TBFFC have a combined banquet I immediately thought that it was a great idea. Both clubs have contributed merchandise for the auctions and raffles. Of course, you can expect to find rods, reels, equipment and guided trips for the fly fishing enthusiasts. You will also find a wide variety of hand crafted items, gift baskets and household items that will appeal to any non-fishing guests that come to the party. The Tampa club has been collecting items since before the pandemic so you can imagine the abundance of material that will be available to tempt your bids or to try your luck in the bucket raffle. There will be two rod, reel and line outfits in the grand prize raffle and there will be a very special 5 wt. rod crafted by master rod builder Alan Sewell that will be given away in the SFF member only raffle.

The Hog Roast is an opportunity for the us to gather together in a social setting to have a rip roaring good time. This is a kids friendly event. Anyone with a child 12 and under can bring them for free. You are welcome to bring your own adult beverage. This year we are loosely having a western theme for the event. If you want to wear your boots, chaps and spurs that will be great. If you are more comfortable in Gulf Coast casual, that will be fine too. One thing to remember, this is the main fund-raising event for both clubs. Our expenses this year will be greater than normal and we can only make this a success if we have a great turnout. I urge you to come to the Hog Roast, be generous in your bidding and have the best time you can have when you're not catching fish.

Thanks. Stay safe and keep fishing!

Rick

Rick Warfel

Meetings, Outings, and More

Thursday, March 16 -Meeting

Walter Fuller Park Recreation Center, 7891 26th Avenue N., St. Petersburg

Speaker: Rick Redd, co-founder of SFF

Vote for new officers and board. Plus: it's our Annual Business meeting

- Our speaker is Rick Redd who was one of the founders of the Suncoast Fly Fishers. He will talk about how and when our fly club got started and relay his memories of fly fishing in those days.
- Also at this meeting, members will vote for their 2023-2024 officers and board members. The nominations committee will first announce the slate of candidates.
- The meeting officially starts at 7 pm but come early or stay late so you can buy your tickets for the Hog Roast and Silent Auction. You can purchase tickets at the meeting with cash, check or credit card. Also, you can purchase via credit card on the SFF website at <https://suncoastflyfishers.com> or by calling Karen Warfel 813-505-3162.
- Fly tyer? Bring your best flies and give them to Bruce Evensen so they can be auctioned at the Hog Roast.



Chico Fernandez

Saturday March 25, Hog Roast and Silent Auction

Featured speaker: Fly fishing legend Chico Fernandez

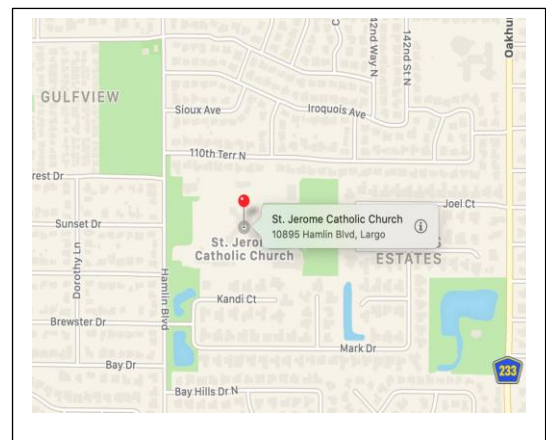
St. Jerome Catholic Church, 10895 Hamlin Blvd., Largo

- 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!

- 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.
- We have a special guest -- Patrick Berry, President and CEO of Fly Fishers International.



Tim Gibian wants to borrow your 5 gallon cooler

- Member Tim Gibian would like to borrow your cooler for an April 16 community garden tour that his wife is helping to organize in Pass-a-Grille. They need the cooler to keep drinking water cold. They'll be serving water in biodegradable cups to avoid single use plastic bottles.
- Bonus: If your cooler is owned by your business you can even place an advertising message on the lid.) Call Tim's wife -- Kerri Hesley at 301-730-3339.

Meetings, Outings, and More

Memo to Suncoast Fly Fishers from Bob Burkard

From: Bob Burkard, Chairman, Outings Committee

Subject: Everglades Canal Fly Fishing – April Outing

Hello fellow members of our Suncoast Fly Fishers club. Our SFF Outings committee members want to provide information on our upcoming Everglades outing. For many years, members of SFF have had an informal outing to fish for Bass, Bream, Cichlids, and Peacock Bass. Many of these trips catch hundreds in a day.

This April between 4/26 and 4/29 two groups of our SFF anglers are heading to different sections of the Everglades and fishing in their favorite spots. Both locations are great spots, and I am hard-pressed to select where I am fishing. Further in this email, we will provide recommended places to stay, and where we plan to meet for dinner on Wednesday and Friday nights. Please let them know that you are with the Suncoast Fly Fishers when you make your room reservations for our discounts.

Alan Sewell and others are going to a southern Everglades location near Sunrise and Bruce Evensen and others are going to a more northern Everglades location near Clewiston. Alan and Bruce will provide information on exact places to fish, what sized fly rods and flies to use, and some of their secrets at our April General meeting on April 20th. Since joining our SFF organization in 2013, I have found these two individuals to be fantastic sources of information who are always open to sharing their expertise and insights for fishing in Florida. I appreciate their friendship and contribution to our club.

We'll have a club-sponsored luncheon on Saturday. We'll share further details as we get closer to the date.

Northern Everglades Group – Clewiston
Recommended place to stay: Roland Martin Marina and Resort
<https://www.rolandmartinmarina.com/>
800-473-6766

Southern Everglades Group – Sunrise
Recommended place to stay: LaQuinta Inn at Sunrise
<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/laquinta/sunrise-florida/la-quinta-sunrise/overview>
954-838-7473

1st Night – Dinner at Lester's Diner

This fly-fishing tournament is for a good cause: April 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
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Welcome new member

- Ross Anderson, Clearwater, Florida
- Suncoast Fly fishers now has 136 members including 18 family members and 6 honorary members.

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 136 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: February 18 Outing – Tampa’s Cypress Point Park



*Bob Burkard,
Chairman of the
Outings
Committee*

Everybody was pumped. Walt Durkin gave us the how-to talk at the February meeting. Conditions were going to be perfect.

The negative low tide plus a stiff wind from the north promised us pumped up Suncoast Fly Fishers a grand chance to sight cast

to and catch a bull red on the fly.

But it didn't happen. The fish didn't get the memo. Or something.

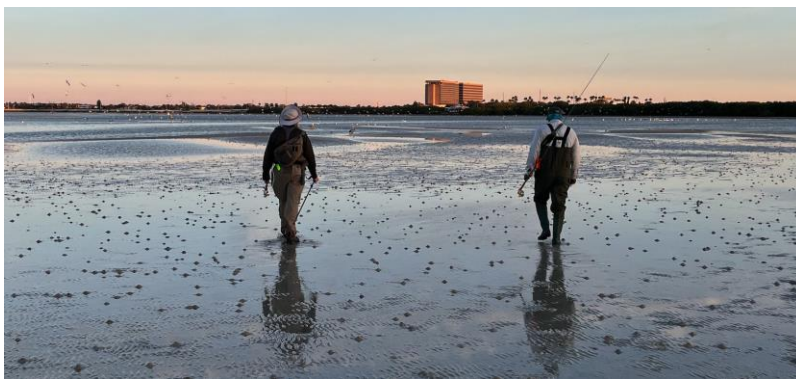
Member Tim Gibian summed it up pretty well:

I fished with the Cypress Point Park group. Although I saw a few schools of what I thought were reds as the sun heated up I couldn't get any of them to chase my fly. I used two different shrimp patterns, a Clouser minnow, and some bait fish patterns. No luck.



Oh what a beautiful morning. Guest Mike Nolan heads for the Cypress Point Park flats.

Guest Mike Nolan explored the deeper grassy flat and saw a half-dozen or so reds racing away from him. He and Bill AuCoin then hiked south toward the Howard Frankland bridge where a couple of deeper cuts bring tidal flow onto the flats. AuCoin said he saw two big reds coming toward him. He had time to cast his shrimp fly into the water and wait for the bullies to arrive. But the reds saw him first and blew out of there like bullet trains. Next time, he said, he's going to try to back away from the deeper cut and make longer casts so they don't see him and get spooked. Hopefully.



Anyway, at the picnic lunch all the fly fishers were still pumped about Cypress Point Park and were determined to return to this park soon and sight fish to incoming reds.

Bob

Walt Durkin: How to catch redfish coming up on the flats

Walt Durkin has made fly fishing wintertime's negative low tides his specialty. He's even written a 6,000 word treatise on the subject. And he shared his insights with Suncoast Fly Fishers at the February meeting. By the way, Walt is president of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers.

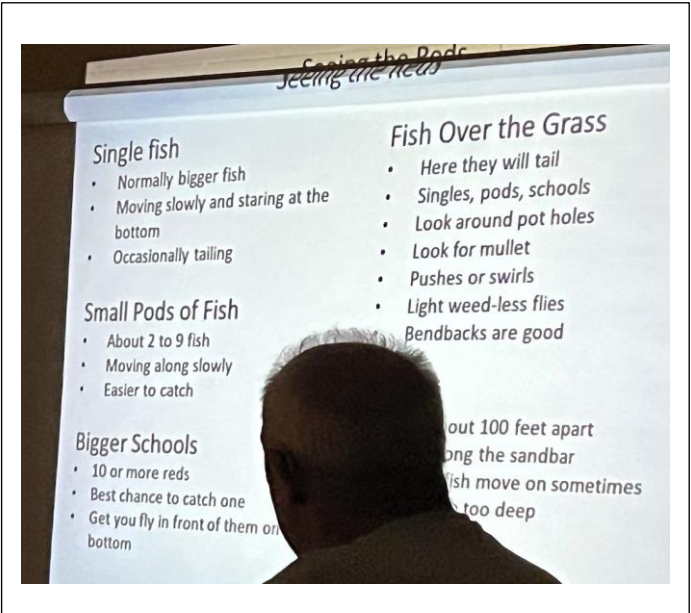
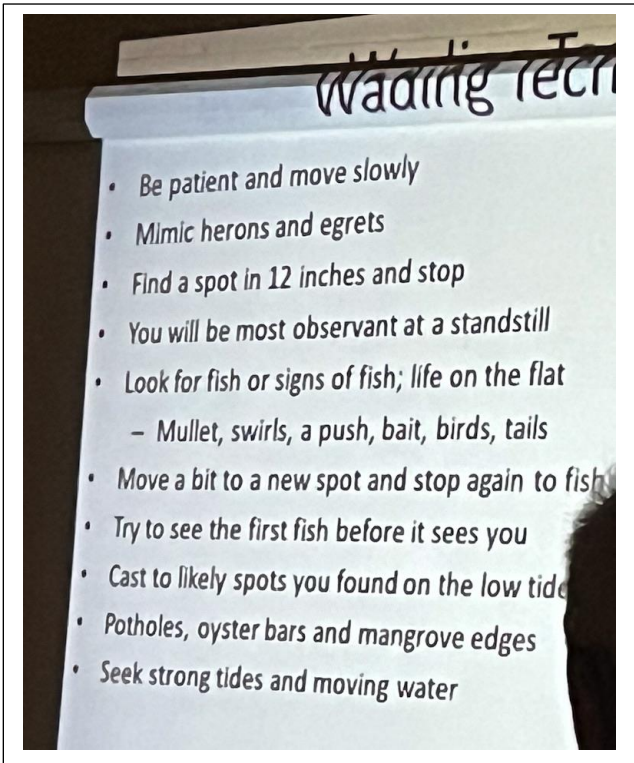
His presentation was timely because the February outing two days later was at Cypress Point Park and, yeah, it coincided with a real skinny low tide.

Here are just a few of his insights:

- Use a 7 or 8 weight fly rod.
- Find your flat. Don't crowd.
- Reds are spooky.. Use a 12-foot leader with a 15-pound test bite tippet.
- Stand on the sandbar and watch for schools of redfish cruising the drop-off.
- Cast your fly out before you see the fish. Keep your rod tip down.



Walt Durkin (l) welcomed by President Rick Warfel.



Walt's fly box has crabs, shrimps, and minnows but this fly, Walt's rat fly, is one of his favorites.

James Cass: Extended Family Bass Outing

(Editor: New members Patti Nasrallah and her son James Cass are off to a successful start. They're tying flies and catching fish. Big fish. Yeah, like, big bass. Dare we say lunkers?)

Here are several fish pictures from the weekend of Feb 18-19 and a lake behind a friend's house in Carrollwood Village. My boys caught fish. Even I managed to catch one.



First, my mom and new member, Patti Nasrallah, has been tying some great flies lately, and she recently tied some mini game-changers in white, that the largemouth bass are finding irresistible!



James Cass and his big bass from the lake in Carrollwood Village.



Patti Nasrallah with her first bass on the fly rod. "Not too shabby," said her son James. She said she caught it on a "Mini Game Changer" fly that she tied on a number 6 hook.



And here are my boys, Henry (holding the fish) and Jacob.

James

Cliff Nigh: North Georgia trout called. And we answered



Suncoast Fly Fisher Cliff Nigh, trip organizer.

St Pete Fishing Outfitters (SPFO) hosted its 3rd Annual Trout Trip and a group of 15 individuals on a 4 day, 5 night trout fishing excursion to north Georgia from February 19 through the 23rd.

Suncoast Fly Fishers was well represented, comprising over 50% of the attendees; Rick and Karen Warfel, Bill Scarola, Jack Collins, Scott Russell, Brian Clark, Richard DeMeza, and me.

Aside from Lantern Lodge, the mountain top haven that boasted a sunset view of the Smokies, and the SPFO staff prepared meals served daily, anglers were treated to two days plying the private waters of Fern Valley and Larry's Lodge on the Soque River.

Many in the group also arranged for float trips on the Toccoa and Hiawassee Rivers. While we fully expected Rainbow and Brown Trout, this is the first trip that Palomino Trout were caught by several in the group.



Here's a picture of Suncoast Fly Fishers and other fly fishers who fished north Georgia trout streams in mid-February, a trip organized by Cliff Nigh and St. Petersburg Fishing Outfitters.

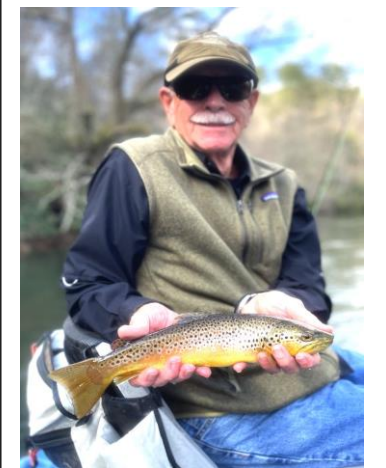
Rather than tell you about the experiences we had, I'll let the pictures on the next page do the talking.

Cliff

P2/ Cliff Nigh: North Georgia trout called. And we answered



Bill Scarola and a fat private water rainbow trout



Rick Warfel landed this native brown trout on the float trip



Karen Warfel caught this trophy rainbow in the Soque River.



Jack Collins, palomino trout



Cliff Nigh poses with a fat rainbow trout and with his team from St. Pete Fishing Outfitters who made the trip a big success.



Sunset view from Lantern Lodge



Jack Collins (left) and Rick Warfel. It's called relaxation.

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Rick Warfel: Bonefishing Central Andros Island



Rick Warfel with his first bonefish ever

In January Karen and I traveled to Andros Island in the Bahamas for our first ever bonefish trip. Our destination was Frankie's Two Boys Inn located near Fresh Creek on the Eastern side of the central part of the island.

We joined Robert Fischer and five members of the Tampa club for a one-week adventure. Two Boys is a fly fishing lodge for real fishermen. Rates include air conditioned rooms with TV and Wi-Fi, all meals, and guided fishing. Adult beverages and local cabs are extra. Nothing too fancy but the food is great, the staff are wonderful and the guides really know how to put you on the fish.

The fishing in this part of the island is excellent especially if you are interested in big fish. Everything you have ever heard about bonefish is true. Pound for pound they are one of the hardest fighting fish you will ever find and they are very willing to take a fly.



Karen Warfel caught her biggest bonefish on the first day.

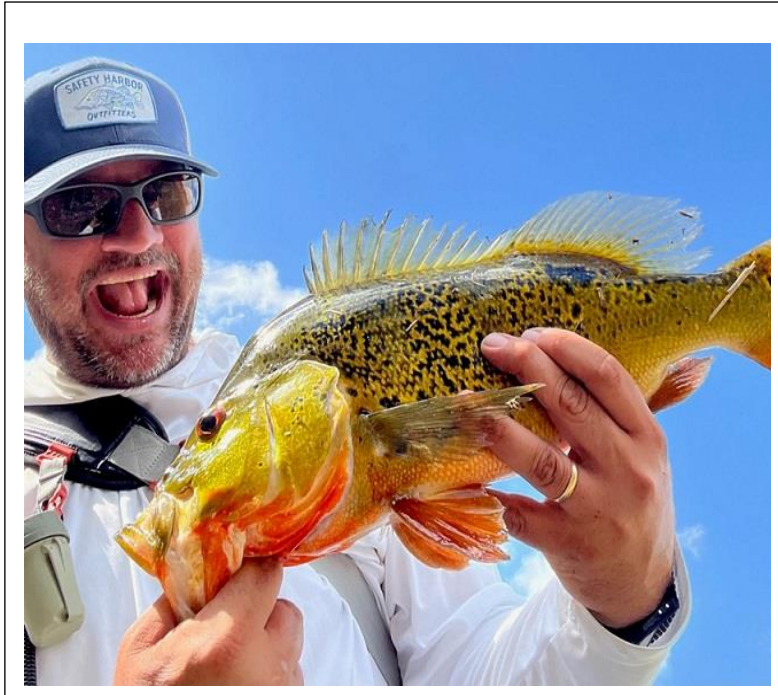
Everyone caught lots of fish. The biggest fish of the trip was a 13 lb. monster caught by Tampa's Denise Bruner. At least two other fish tipped the scales at over 10 pounds. If you are interested, check out Two Boys Inn on the web [Andros Island Bonefish Lodge | Two Boys Inn](#) or call Melinda at 242-357-2054.



Robert Fischer and his guide were both happy with this one.

Rick

Tim Elms: Splittin' Peas



Howdy! Where is the time goin? March has begun with a heat up, which means my favorite time is coming up fast.

As I watched the forecast over the end of February I knew I needed to find some Peacocks as soon as I could. Luckily, I had a an excuse in Ft. Myers one day and combined it to head to some Peacocks in SW FL.

It didn't disappoint. Sight fishing, clear water, and tons of action was in store for two hours. The best part of targeting these Cichlid killers is they love the heat, so fish later in the morning and midday with high sun.

If you find them on beds, they are usually in pairs, and both will protect the bed with an anger issue. Keep casting at the bed and literally annoy

them. The hard part with bedding peas is being fast enough to set as they aren't looking for food as much as they are literally nipping and spitting things off the bed.

If you don't see bedding peas, focus on some structure, rocks, pipes, drop-offs and start blind casting. These maniacs attack hard when hungry and don't spook very easily. Be ready to strike fast on a flare of a gill and a fight that burns your fingers quickly.

I love my usual bait patterns and top waters for peas...things with a slightly larger hook gap is the way to



go. So, get out and enjoy the heat before its actually hot.

Strip Strip Strip!!!!—Tim

Tony Piazza: Docklight slam with Dennis Marquis

I got a call from Dennis Marquis about 7:00 last Wednesday night and asked if I was available to do some dock light fishing with him. It was over a year since my last experience and I jumped at the chance.

We went to a residential area where Dennis has had some success in the past and sure enough there were three lights holding fish.

Dennis said I was first up. My first cast looked like something out of a horror movie as was my second and third. Dennis looked at me like I was in a coma.

With zero visibility it became obvious that I had fallen into the trap of seeing my casts and not feeling them. Dennis took over and within a few minutes he had a snook on the line and then in the boat. My turn again.

I finally got the rhythm of a reasonable cast and brought in a small but satisfying catch. Dennis hooked a really nice redfish; had him on for a while but lost him before he could get him to the boat. Gussed it was about 25 inches. We fished those three lights for about an hour, saw some really large snook but couldn't get them to bite.

On the way home we stopped at another light and had some fun with small but willing trout. Not being here in the summer I don't get many chances to fish the dock lights and I really enjoyed this trip. Now it's time for me to practice casting with my eyes closed.

And, by the way, before calling it a night we both agreed Dennis' redfish was at least 30 inches.



Tony Piazza with a nice snook he caught docklight fishing with Dennis Marquis.



Samantha Tallyn: Big Tampa Bay Red with Capt. Court Douthit



Samantha and her 30-inch redfish on the fly



Samantha releases her redfish to fight another day.

I took a charter with fly fishing [guide Court Douthit/Recreational Specialist](#) this past month and caught my first redfish on a fly! 30 inches!

I caught it in Tampa Bay on a shrimp pattern in a small school of fish.

Sure... I caught the fish, But Court was my fishing guide. Thank you, Court

Samantha

Chuck Hall: Southern Louisiana’s Murky Water. Mardi Gras Worse

I had planned to send an article about fishing with my daughter in Southern Louisiana, but fishing was so bad there really is nothing to say other than if you plan to fish the marsh do not under any circumstances go to New Orleans ... and certainly do not go to the area around Mardi Gras. In our four days there, there were about eight murders, five killed for watching a parade and three for apparently driving too slowly on Interstate 10. You could not drive anywhere within the city, even to get to your hotel or to make dinner reservations. Oh, and the water was the color of chocolate milk. We did see fish but only as the skiff went right over them laying on the bottom. Perhaps I will have something next month.

Chuck

Terry Kirkpatrick: Are my fishing days over?



Over a year ago I started a search for a “new” canoe. My old one was too heavy for me to handle anymore. I found a wonderful 36-lb job that would have been just right, a Wenonah Fisherman. Throw it on top of the car, and make a beeline to the lake! Except I didn't. My wife broke her leg and I became a caregiver.

Other problems cropped up, too, and I faced the reality that most of my fishing is behind me. And so is my fly rod building. I closed the business earlier this year.

I've had a lot of wonderful moments in my life:

- Track and field heralding the end of winter, the warm sun on my face.
- Riding home in the left seat of a Huey with my co-pilot on the controls, building up his time, and me watching the sun set over Cambodia.
- Watching my dad and his dog hunt quail on a chilly November day.
- And then there's this, maybe my favorite. It was almost sunset time on Alligator Lake. I was casting a 5-weight bamboo rod under the tree where Gerry G. caught the big bream. God was with me, and all was right with the worlds.

If only it could have stayed that way.

So I took the new canoe out once on a windy day. Forget it. The wind kept me at the dock. A week later I went to the lake and took it off the car. Then I looked at the wind, loaded it up again, and I went home. Then Marge broke her leg. I've been helping her and there has been no time for fishing.

So last Monday a guy drove up from Canoe Country, handed me a check, loaded the canoe in the back of his pickup, and drove off.

Fly fishing is a great sport. I'm just afraid that most of my fishing in is the rear view mirror.



Terry has crafted many beautiful bamboo fly rods over the years. He demonstrated the process to Suncoast Fly Fishers at a 2012 meeting.

Terry

Life's been good, except for those few bursts of automatic weapons fire.



Bruce

Bruce Evensen & Bill Scarola Tie Winter Clousers

This is our fly of the month. It was picked for the March outing at Fort DeSoto Park which has been canceled but it'll work in other spots. Bruce and I will help you tie this fly in person on Tuesday, March 14. The session is at Bruce's Fly Tying Studio and starts at 6 pm. The address is 531 80th Avenue North in St. Pete.



Bill

Materials

Eyes: Medium barbell eyes or large bead chain eyes

Hook" Size 1, 2, 1/0 and/or 2/0 .Use B10 stingers or similar. You can also tie this on a bend-back-shaped hook to make it weedless.

Lower body: Burnt orange bucktail or brown

Upper body: Olive bucktail

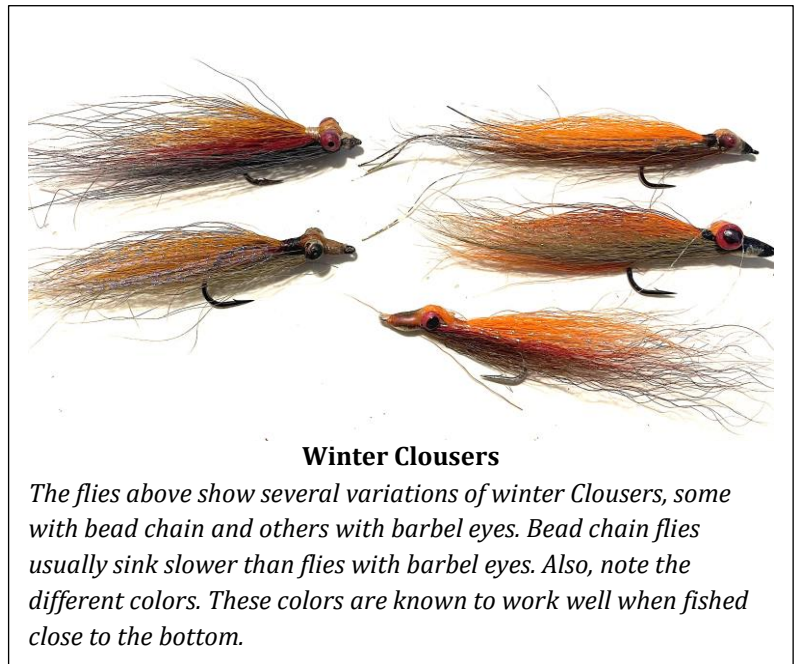
Flash: Pearl Flashabou or Krystal Flash

Thread: Flat waxed orange, olive and/or brown

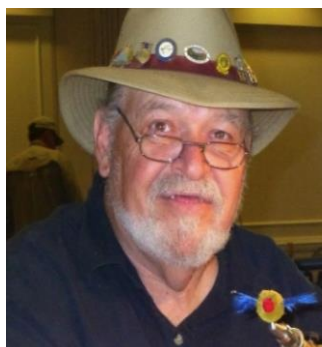
Glue: UV epoxy

Tying sequence

- 1: Wrap hook shank from eye to bend
- 2: Add eyes one third of the way back from the eye of the hook.
- 3: Add several strands of flash to both sides.
- 4: Rotate vice and add your burnt orange bucktail
- 5: Return vice to the upright position and add olive bucktail.
- 6: Tie off all material
- 7: Coat the eyes and thread wraps with UV epoxy and cure, forming a wedge shape toward the eye..
- 8: Go fishing!



Smitty's Fly Box: The Mickey Finn was one of Don Coleman's favorites



As a tribute to Don Coleman I am continuing in that vein with the "second" in a series of his favorite streamer flies, *The Four Horsemen of Trout Flyfishing* (as you may recall the first in the series last year was "The Black Ghost"). This fly is called *The Mickey Finn* and he also used it successfully on small and large mouth bass and in smaller sizes did well with bluegills. Originally called the *Assassin*, until named after a poisoned cocktail used by thieves and pickpockets in the 1930s. Becoming widely popular in America, it's a pure attractor fly with flash and colors that cause trout to strike, even out of aggression... Let's tie shall we?

Smitty

Materials

Hook: Dai-Riki #700 in size 8 (Any 4X long streamer hook will do.)

Thread: Black UTC 70 Denier

Rib: Medium-sized, oval, silver French tinsel

Body: Medium-sized gold/silver mylar tinsel

Lower fly wing: Yellow bucktail

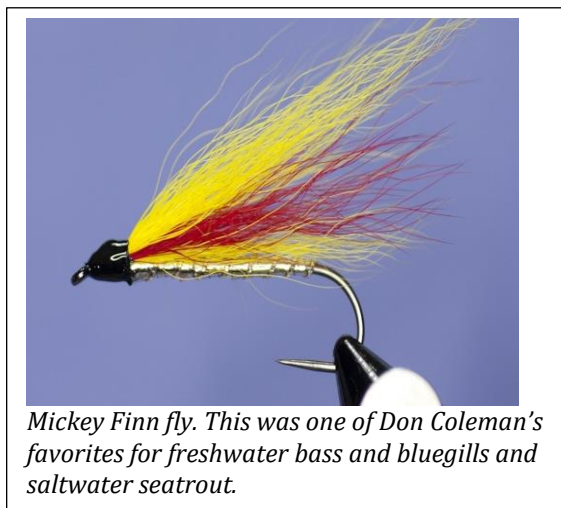
Middle fly wing: Red bucktail

Top wing: Yellow bucktail

Adhesive: Fly Tyer's Z-Ment

Finish: Solarez Bone Dry UV Resin

NOTE: It's not necessary, but a true rotary vice is best to tie this fly.



Mickey Finn fly. This was one of Don Coleman's favorites for freshwater bass and bluegills and saltwater seatrout.

Directions

1. Begin by getting the hook firmly secured in the jaws of your tying vise and making sure it rotates correctly.
2. Get the thread started on the hook shank leaving an eye-length space behind the eye and take a few wraps rearward before snipping or breaking off the tag.
3. Lay one end of the tinsel on top of the hook shank and start taking thread wraps to secure it. As you wrap rearward with your tying thread, allow the tinsel to be pushed first to the far side of the hook then to the underside. Giving your bobbin a good counterclockwise spin every so often will uncord and flatten the thread, and allow you to create a very thin, even underbody on the fly. Keep taking these thin, flat touching wraps all the way back to the start of the hook bend.

Continued on next page

P2/Smitty's Fly Box: The Mickey Finn was one of Don Coleman's favorites

4. Then, do your best to push the tinsel that started on the top of the hook shank, all the way around to the underside of the shank. You can then use your vise's rotary function to make touching wraps back up the hook shank. The idea is to produce the smoothest underbody possible. End with your tying thread at the initial tie-in point.

5. Snip a good 7" length of gold/silver mylar tinsel from the spool to make sure you have enough. Trim one end off at an angle and lay the tinsel against the near side of the hook with the silver side facing you. Take a few nice tight thread wraps to secure it.



6. If you have one, bring your bobbin cradle around into the correct position and use it to hold your tying thread in line with the hook shank. Get hold of the tinsel and start taking wraps rearward with it. Rarely does the first wrap look good, so don't sweat it. Start rotating your vise to continue taking touching wraps with the tinsel rearward, down the hook shank. Make sure to cover up all the thread wraps at the hook bend then change the angle of the mylar to start wrapping forward (Two-colored mylar like this has a tendency to separate when wrapping over a long length. Do your best to kind of flatten it out and keep wrapping. When you reach your tying thread, use it to anchor the mylar. Just like the first wrap, the last one usually doesn't look great but will get covered up later. Once the mylar's secured, you can snip the excess off close),

7. Fly Tyer's Z-Ment, applied sparingly to the thread wraps and mylar ends will help to ensure they don't come unraveled. Think of it kind of like hitting the save button on your computer. End with your tying thread at the initial tie-in point.

8. If you need to, swing your bobbin cradle back into position and once again use it to hold your tying thread. This will allow you to pick up the oval tinsel, hold it at about a 45 degree angle to the hook shank, and simply rotate the vise. Doing it in this manner usually produces nice, evenly spaced wraps all the way up the shank to the tie-in point. There, you can retrieve your bobbin from the cradle and use wraps of tying thread to anchor the tinsel rib. When you're done, snip the excess off close (Once again it's a good idea to reach for the super glue and apply just the smallest amount to save your work. Then take tight thread wraps rearward to about two eye-lengths behind the back edge of the hook eye).

Continued on next page

P3/Smitty's Fly Box: The Mickey Finn was one of Don Coleman's favorites

9. Yellow bucktail is used to form the lower part of the fly's wing. You really don't need much at all. After snipping a small clump of hair free from the hide, strip out any short hairs from the butts and any excessively long hairs from the tips. The hairs are generally way too long for the fly so I like to snip an inch or so of the butt ends off, which makes stacking a bit easier. Feed that hair, tips first, into a stacker – one with a wide mouth works very well. Then give the bucktail a real good stacking. Once done, open the stacker and get hold of the hair tips with the fingers of your left hand then pass the clump to your right. Measure to form a wing that extends to the back edge of the hook bend then cord up your tying thread by spinning your bobbin clockwise. The corded thread will be stronger and bite into the somewhat slippery bucktail better than flattened thread. Once secured, lift the butt ends up and snip them off at a shallow angle. Take thread wraps forward over the snipped-off ends, down to the hook shank to the back edge of the hook eye. Take thread wraps rearward to where you took that first wrap around the bucktail. This will be the back edge of the head of the fly.

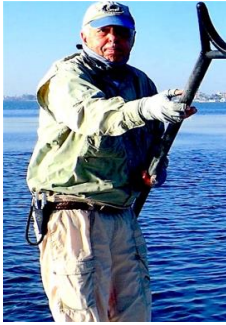


10. Now it's time for a thin layer of red bucktail. Again, snip a sparse clump free from the hide, clean out the lower short hairs and longer tips then snip an inch or so of the butts off square. Place the clump tips first into your stacker, give it a good stacking then get hold of the hair tips as you did before. Place the red bucktail on top of the yellow so their tips are aligned then squeeze it in the fingers of your left hand as you take thread wraps to secure it. Just as you did with the yellow bucktail, snip the red off at a shallow angle and take thread wraps to lock it down.

11. The top part of the wing is also yellow bucktail. Snip a slightly larger clump free from the hide, clean out the lower short hairs and longer ones from the tips, trim the butt ends off square, stack to align the tips and complete the same tie-in and trim procedure as before. Yes, your thread will likely want to jump off the little cliffs formed by the snipped-off bucktail. You can lessen this by gently angling the thread wraps and by building up a mini thread dam behind the hook eye. Be really sure to get all the underlying material covered up with the thread wraps, while at the same time trying to keep the head of the fly reasonably short and thin. When you're happy with the look, pick up your whip finish tool and do a 5 or 6 turn, back to front whip finish, seat the knot well and snip or cut your tying thread free.

12. Rather than head cement, I prefer UV cure resin, Solarez Bone Dry. The stuff penetrates the thread wraps yet at the same time builds up a nice glossy head on the fly. With all the texture of the thread filled in and smooth, use your bodkin to make sure the eye is clear then give the entire head an ample bath of UV light. In just a matter of seconds, the resin will cure to a tack-free finish and your Mickey Finn is ready to fish.

###



Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

Baitfish luring our big three into shallows

An increase in baitfish has finally lured redfish, trout, and snook into the shallows where they can be caught a little more easily. When fly fishermen exchange information, the definitive question always seems to be, "What fly were you using?" When conditions are favorable for a good bite, several successful anglers will usually be using different fly patterns. Have you ever had a savvy fly fisherman pick up your rod after you have not caught anything and begin to catch fish immediately?

I've even exchanged rods with someone having a bad day and caught fish with their setup while they continued to struggle with the rod I was using with success. The fly is usually the least important part of the equation. On several recent river trips snook were hanging very close to or under shoreline structure, such as docks, mangroves, fallen trees, oyster bars, and points. If the fly was not presented within inches of the structure, fish weren't caught. If a cast close to a fish's lair landed with a disturbing splash or was picked up too suddenly with a surface rip, the fish ignored the fly and raced to deeper water. Casting accuracy, proper presentation, and minimal disruption will vastly improve your success with the long rod.

Captain Pat

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

Fly Gear for Sale or Swap

Alan Sewell is selling his Gheenoe, \$3,500. Email sewellalan@yahoo.com

Custom Gheenoe Highside 15.4, 9.9 Mecuary , 45 lb trolling motor, custom cooler/live well, built-in tackle boxes, Garmin Striker 2 depth/GPS, float-on trailer, folding trailer tongue, Moonlighter push pole, battery charger, Gheenoe stand-up handle, spare tire, extra hubs and bearings, two 8 volt Garmin batteries, nice seats, Garage kept. Trailer motor support and flusher. All items as good as new. Motor has less than 20 hours. \$3,500.00.

Bill Scarola's Fishy Puns



Bill Scarola

The computer dates back to Adam and Eve. it was an APPLE with just one BYTE ...
then everything crashed!!!

My boss asked me why I only get sick on work days. I said it must be my ...
weekend immune system.

My wife said, " Why don't you write a book instead of your dumb word-play jokes?" I said ...

"That's..... a novel idea.

You should really try archery while blindfolded...
You won't know what you're missing!

###

Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



No, you don't need a boat to fly-fish the Everglades. Got a car? Then, hey, you're good to go to fly rod fish the Everglades. Chico Fernandez (yeah, our Hog Roast speaker) nails it in this oldie-but-goodie article which just resurfaced in print and online. ([Fly Fisherman](#))

Opportunity knocks on the Tamiami Trail. That's US 41, the one that runs south of and parallel to Alligator Alley (I-75). The Tamiami Trail offers some of the best fishing and wildlife viewing in the Everglades. Fishing it is as simple as pulling over to the side of the road and casting your fly into the water. Oh, be sure to watch your back-cast. You don't want to catch a car. ([Boundless Pursuit](#))

Yeah, the tarpon tug is a special drug. The author got hooked on tarpon when he hooked up with his first tarpon. The fish went nuts, jumped for the sky, and shook his head. He was a goner. Oh, also, enjoy the Pat Ford pictures. ([Angler's Journal](#))

And, speaking of tarpon. I think everything this guide says is true for tarpon fishing in the Tampa Bay area. We're not blind casting. We're sight fishing. So, it's time to practice making quick casts left and right. ([On The Fly South](#))

Do our fish have vision issues? This article is about the way freshwater trout can see. Apparently they see up better than down. But I wonder if our saltwater gamefishes have vision issues, too. That is, maybe they can see up okay but they have to tilt their heads down to see the bottom. I agree; we need more research. H/T Pat Damico. ([Fly Fisherman](#))

Newsletter for female fly fishers. Go here to sign up to get *FFI Women Connect* in your email. ([Fly Fishers International](#))

Did they really think they could do this? The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled against the National Marine Fisheries Service. The NMFS rule would have required recreational charter captains to install expensive onboard monitoring systems that regularly relayed their boat locations to the government. The judge ruled that not only did the NMFS violate federal administrative law in several ways but it may have also violated the Fourth Amendment, too. That's the one about our right to be secure against unreasonable searches and seizures in our persons, houses, papers, and effects. About 1300 recreational charter captains were represented by the National Civil Liberties Alliance. ([NCLA legal](#))

Blast from the past. I'd like to see more fly fishing promos like this video about the new Nash Ambassador. New? Well, it was new in 1956. I think I remember that car. In those days when you were a 13-old boy if you wanted to be cool you had to know all the car brands and all the models. ([Citizen Free Press](#))

Bill

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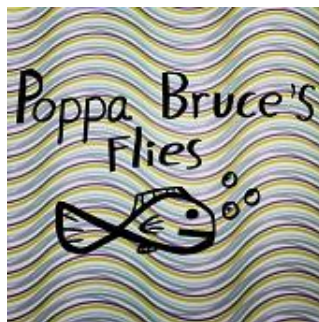
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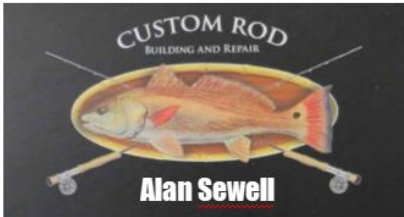


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