



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