



## President's Message: April 2023

In April of 2008, the President of Suncoast Fly Fishers was Ken Hofmeister. For many of us, Ken was the first person to greet us when we joined the club and the first to introduce us to everyone else in the club. He made us feel comfortable and welcome in a room full of strangers.

Ken was a visionary. He brought many of the lessons learned in a career in marketing to his leadership of the club. Among the principles that Ken instilled in the club were constant improvement and meeting members' needs.

Ken introduced what we now know as the SFF Vision and Values award. Paul Sequira was the very first recipient. In Ken's words, "Paul Sequira was awarded the president's "Living the SFF Values" trophy in recognition of his contribution to club communications (outstanding newsletter) and meeting member needs through information and education (fly tying column). Despite serious medical issues, Paul taught us the meaning of "responsibility" by relentless attention to detail and useful feedback (improving processes)." Paul's remarks indicate how much this award meant to him at the time. "It is truly an honor to be recognized for that award especially when we have so many other members working hard to make our club the best in Florida."

Sadly, Paul and Ken are no longer with us, but their legacy lives on. This year the Vision and Values award was presented at the March Hog Roast to Quin Berry and David Redd. David and Quin each began serving on the SFF Board of Directors in 2018. Quin went on to become Vice President of the club and David has served as Secretary for the last four years. In addition to their roles on the board, they each wear more than one hat. Quin puts together our raffle at each member meeting. This is an important job as the proceeds are used to help pay the rent on our meeting space. He also does the bucket raffle at the Hog Roast and has helped with the raffles at FFI events. Quin also organizes our Big Gun Shootout practice session.

David has taken responsibility for coordinating all the summer youth casting programs. Each year SFF does multiple sessions teaching kids an introduction to fly fishing and showing them the basics of fly casting. David has also taken the lead for SFF's participation at boat shows and events like Marine Quest. You can also thank him for carving the brisket at our *BBQ by the Bay* event each of the last few years.

Thanks to both Quin and David for a job well done and for living up to the principles that Ken established so many years ago.

Thanks. Stay safe and keep fishing!

*Rick*

Rick Warfel