

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

Snook & Tarpon Lights P7



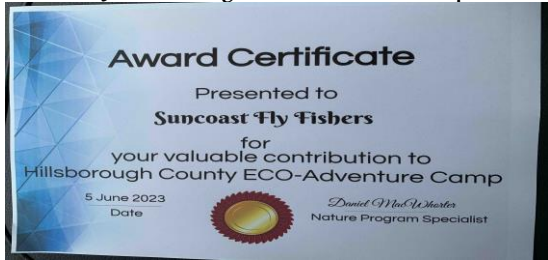
Where's the River? P8



Beach Snook Secrets P5



Fly Fishing Salute to SFF p9



July 22 Outing: Sunshine Skyway P6



Jack Collins is Singing in the Rain P8



Bruce's Tan Baitfish Fly P10





President's Message: July 2023

I grew up in Ft. Pierce on the East Coast of Florida. Our home was on Indian River Drive which ran along a ridge with the intracoastal waterway lying to the East and the Savannas Recreation Area behind us to the West. The intracoastal was known as the Indian River. It is a shallow body of saltwater that runs for miles along the east coast sheltered by a narrow barrier island. The area in front of our house was about two miles wide and much of it was shallow enough to wade. I could literally walk across the street, go down the hill to the water and start fishing the grass flats and potholes for trout. The Savannas are a freshwater sawgrass marsh. I could leave through the back door cross the railroad tracks and walk five minutes to the water to catch bass and bluegill. The water was pristine, and we never really thought that could change. Today the Indian River lagoon has been severely challenged by nutrient overload and algae blooms.

I now live next to Tampa Bay which is the largest estuary in the State of Florida. Tampa Bay has been a poster child for water quality improvement, but the challenges of a burgeoning population, industrial waste and agricultural discharge are making it increasingly difficult to maintain a healthy environment. Throughout the state there is an organization dedicated to maintaining and improving the quality of our water. Florida Waterkeepers is made up of fifteen regional groups that are focused on protecting water quality for all stakeholders. Our local chapter is Tampa Bay Waterkeeper.

Tampa Bay Waterkeeper is dedicated to ensuring fishable, swimmable, and drinkable water for all. Their mission is to protect everyone's right to clean water by working collaboratively with citizens, local organizations, and governments to safeguard our coastal and inland waters using the law, science and community action in and around Tampa Bay. Tampa Bay Waterkeeper is also a friend of the fly fishing community. Many of the officers, board of directors and members are fly fishermen and one of their main fund-raising events is a fly fishing tournament. While the mission of the organization is to protect water quality for all citizens, I think there is a special effort to make Tampa Bay a better place for fly fishing. The featured speaker at our member meeting this month will be Justin Tramble, Executive Director of Tampa Bay Waterkeeper. I hope all of you will join us to find out more about the organization and how we can all help maintain the water quality in our home waters,

Thanks. Stay safe and keep fishing!

Rick

Rick Warfel

Meetings, Outings, and More

Changes to the SFF Board

- Tom Gadacz has resigned his position with the board. We want to thank Tom for his tireless support of the club and the valuable input and service he has provided over many years.
 - In accordance with the SFF bylaws, President Rick Warfel appointed Bill AuCoin as a board member with the advice and unanimous consent of the Board. Board member David Redd was appointed as Secretary. Please welcome Bill and David in their new roles.
-

Thursday, July 20 Meeting, 7 – 8:30 pm

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

- Practice casting before the meeting starting at 5:30. VP Quin Berry is setting up targets.
 - Our speaker is Justin Tramble, director of [Tampa Bay Waterkeeper](#). Tampa Bay Waterkeeper works collaboratively with citizens, local groups, and government leaders to keep our waters clean.
-

July 22 Outing and Picnic: Sunshine Skyway , Tampa

- Fly fish anywhere along the Sunshine Skyway but meet up for a picnic lunch at the North Skyway Rest area, also known as the Blackthorn Memorial rest area.
 - There are good wade-in/kayak launch spots on either side of I-275 near the North rest area.
 - There's a "No Fishing" sign at the South Skyway rest area but there are some wade-in spots on the west side of 275. Fishing can be quite good there.
 - The member catching the longest redfish wins a \$10 gift certificate.
-

Youth fly casting session July 21

- Carrollwood Village Park July 21 Can you help? Email David Redd (reddfish68@yahoo.com)
-

Future meetings and outings (subject to change)

- August 17 meeting: Capt. Jacob Lenges will talk about where and how to catch juvenile tarpon.
 - August 19 outing: Fort De Soto Park. The target fish is snook. BBQ brisket picnic

 - September 21 meeting: Fly tying tables. Join other members at their favorite tie-a-fly table.
 - September 23 outing: Hillsborough River. Carl Hanson Memorial contest with Tampa Bay Fly Fishers

 - October 19 meeting: Peter Clark, founder and president, Tampa Bay Watch
 - October 21 Outing: TBD

 - November 16 meeting: Open house speaker TBD
 - November 18 outing: Fort De Soto Park
 - November 19 fly casting clinic. Tentative. In the planning stage.

 - December: no meeting
 - December Outing: Fort De Soto Park, Don Coleman Invitational with Tampa and Sarasota fly clubs
-

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 123 members including 19 family members and 6 honorary members. Dues are \$50 (for individuals), \$40 for seniors, and \$60 for families. That includes benefits and annual membership in [Fly Fishers International](#) and the [Florida Council](#) of Fly Fishers International.

Please welcome our new members

- Walter Dill St. Petersburg
- Alton "Ken" Parker Tampa
- Didrik Snilsberg Tampa

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: Karen Warfel

Board of Directors

Bill Scarola, Bob Burkard, Bruce Evensen, Ryan Sollars, Cliff Nigh, David Redd, James Davis, Bill AuCoin

Casting: Pat Damico, Dayle Mazzarella

FFI Liaison: Pat Damico

Conservation: Cliff Nigh

Fly Tying: Myron Hansen

Hog Roast: Open

Membership: Karen Warfel

New Members: Rick Warfel

Webmaster: Tim Elms

Facebook: Cliff Nigh, Anne Mitchell

Outings: Bob Burkard, David Redd, Bill AuCoin, Quin Berry

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.

Bill AuCoin: James Davis Shares His Beach Snook Secrets



When it comes to catching snook on our beaches member James Davis is one of the best. Davis was our June meeting speaker. He shared some insightful things he has learned over the years. Here's the once-over-lightly:

BEST ROD: Six to eight weight. His tilt is to use the lighter rod because it's more fun unless the wind is strong. He fishes a two-piece rod and keeps it connected so it's good to go when he's ready to go.

BEST LINE: Floating line, usually. You're fishing shallow water so your fly will go to the bottom if you want it to. If fishing a popper or a gurgler, use a monofilament leader.

BEST FLIES: Davis likes flies that are three inches long. Bass poppers, segmented minnows, streamers, stay hungry flies, deceivers, gurglers. Clousers, too. He likes to work the Clouser up and down like an injured minnow and puff up the sand along the way. Dark water? Fish a dark fly and vice-versa.

BEST BEACHES: His usual go-to is Fort De Soto Park East Beach if the wind is blowing from the west. If the wind is blowing east, he likes north beach. He also likes to fish St. Pete Beach including the Pass-a-Grille area.

BEST TIME: 6:30 AM starts his magic hour but you want to stay put for a while because the rising sun lights up the clear bottom and then you'll see the fish better. Of course, have water to drink and stuff your pockets with snacks. Take in the scene and note the different bottom structure – sandbars, cuts, troughs, seagrass.

WADE, WALK OR WHAT? Usually, but not always, Davis stays on the sand 10 to 15 feet back from the surf because snook are spooky. At first light snook like to hang out in the first trough of deeper water. Later they often move out to the next trough. But you should wade in if you need to reach more distant fish.

WATCH YOUR CAST: You're on the beach and people are walking back and forth behind you. "Don't snag the kids behind you," he said. Don't throw the fly longer than necessary because if you get a fish on it will take longer to get the line back on the reel. He uses a fly casting basket but he drills holes in the bottom so water doesn't accumulate.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR. Snook love to move very, very slowly close to shore to eat the minnows there. That's why it's important not to wade in at first. Later, though, as you watch the scene, you may decide to wade in and position yourself in a different area. Don't wade around too much, though; that spooks the snook.

FISH ON: Davis lands his cast ahead of the snook, takes the slack out of the line, then strips the fly two feet in front of the snook to give it a good look. Don't stop the fly retrieval when fishing bait fish patterns and if the snook follows the fly and Davis cannot strip in anymore line in, he keeps the fly in the water even if he has to swish the rod tip with a figure-eight to give the fly action while allowing the snook more time to decide to eat the fly. When you strip-strike keep your rod tip low. Don't produce the 'C' rod bend by holding the tip high. As Andy Mill says, put pressure on the fish from the lower part of the rod.

Bob Burkard: July outing changed to Sunshine Skyway *Picnic Lunch at noon at North Skyway Rest Area*



Bob Burkard, outings committee chair

Okay, the board decided the Saturday, July 22 outing will not be Picnic Island Park because there was a concern that the water quality would not be the best in Mid-summer. So, instead the outing location will be the I-275 Sunshine Skyway. You can fish either side, north or south. But we'll all meet up at noon for a pavilion picnic at the North Skyway Rest Area.

The member catching the longest redfish will be the big winner. (Okay, it's a \$10 gift certificate.) Remember: measure your redfish. Take pictures. Also, do the same with your longest snook, seatrout, and ladyfish because they might take the lead in the annual tournament. See below.

I love to wade-fish the flats on either side of the Sunshine Skyway causeway and from either the North or the South Rest Area Exits. The North Skyway rest area has lots of pull-off-the-road shoreline suitable for wading or kayak launching.

Fishing on the west side of the South Skyway exit is good and there are one or two wade-



Sign at the east side of the South Skyway Rest Area. What the heck?

<i>Leaders on the 2023 Outing Tournament Trail</i>			
Species	Winner	Length	Outing (Month)
Longest bream	Anne Mitchell	7"	Hillsborough Riv
Longest black bass	Mark Hays	14.5"	Hillsborough River (April)
Longest exotic	David Redd	12"	Everglades Outing *(April)
Longest snook	James Davis	21.5	Docklight/beach outing (June)
Longest redfish			
Longest ladyfish	David Redd	15.5	Docklight/beach outing (June)
Longest seatrout			

in spots. Alas, the Florida DOT has posted a No Fishing sign on the east side. No joke. What the heck?

June Docklights and/or Beach Outing Report

Congratulations, James Davis. You'll get that \$10 gift certificate for catching the longest snook on the June outing. That 's the 21.5-inch snook you caught on the dock lights fishing with Bill AuCoin. You edged out Tim Elms who caught one measuring 21 inches. Be sure to attend the July meeting so you can get your \$10 gift certificate and a round of applause.

Don't feel sorry for Tim Elms. He enticed three juvenile tarpon to his fly on the lights and gave them all a good workout. He landed one about 15 pounds. He said one he lost was about 50 pounds.. Bill AuCoin "guided" Tim on Friday night and James on Saturday night on the residential lights inside of Weedon Island Preserve.

Bob

Bill AuCoin: Docklight Outing Pictures

On Friday night I put Tim Elms on some lights with a huge assist by former member Dennis Marquis who steered the trolling motor from the bow and netted Tim's fish. I was the "official" photographer. Tim caught juvenile tarpon, ladyfish, catfish, and snook. But his longest snook didn't win the outing prize. On Saturday night I was joined by James Davis. He also fished the residential docklights on the inside of Weedon Island Preserve. He didn't catch as many fish but he caught the longest snook, about 21-½-inches. It squeezed out Tim's longest snook by about half an inch. Here are some of the pictures, I took.

Bill



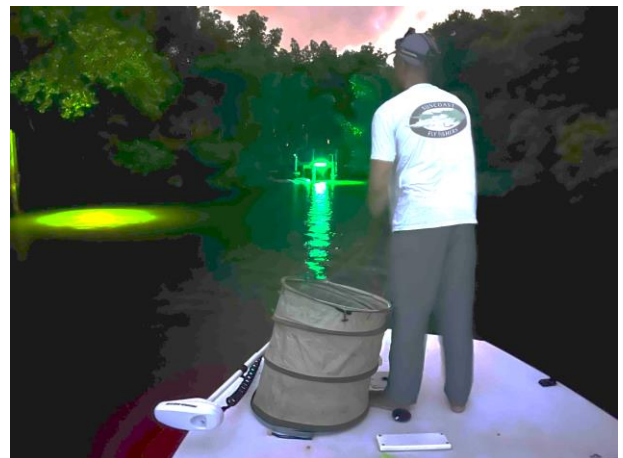
James Davis caught this 21.5-inch snook on a residential canal docklight near Weedon Island Preserve. This snook was just a tad longer than the snook caught by Tim Elms on the same canal.



Tim Elms with the juvenile tarpon he caught on the docklights behind him. And he hooked juvenile tarpon on two other lights. They raced around, jumped and threw the hook.



Docklights shining up from the bottom attract all the neighborhood fishes and they're like private aquariums.



That's James Davis working a docklight, stripping his line into a leaf basket on the bow.



Bill Scarola with one of his big rainbow trout. That's guide Dayle Mazzarella (left) doing the heavy lifting.

Bill Scarola and Jack Collins in Wyoming

Jack Collins and I arrived in Salt Lake City on June 13th. We picked up our rental car and drove about two hours to Kemmerer, Wyoming. Members Dayle & Barbara Mazzarella had us checked into the Best Western motel and from there we went to a station to purchase our fishing licenses. We each bought a 5 day license for \$ 54.00. That night they invited us to dinner as they did each of the three days we flyfished with Dayle.



Jack Collins with a hefty Hams Fork River rainbow trout.

On Wednesday we met Dayle at his trailer at 8 am and loaded up our gear and he drove us to the Hams Fork River. The first morning Dayle took us to the area called the "Ranch," a privately owned piece of property. The owner lets fishermen park there for a \$10.00 fee. The river is only about a 100-yards from the log cabin on the property

that was built in 1780. Dayle told us people lived in it until 2005. It's in need of repair now.

River water was high from snow run off and heavy rains the area has been getting hit with. In fact it rained on us each day we fished, but we still caught fish. The first two days we had some heavy down pours but we soldiered on. We caught several fish in the morning and later in the afternoon.



1780 Log Cabin on the Hams Fork



That's Jack. Singing in the rain. Or something.

The second day Dayle took us out on his drift boat in the lake that forms the Kemmerer reservoir. Despite more rain and cold we caught over a dozen trout. Most from the lake were 11-12 inches but having your rod bend is the point of the trip!! That afternoon we waded another section of the river and of course caught several more rainbows in the 16 to 20-inch class.

Then on Thursday Dayle took us to a different stretch of the Hams Fork where we got several more of the larger sized trout.

On Saturday Jack and I did some sight-seeing instead of fishing. As we were both pretty tired from all the walking and reeling. On Sunday we fished on our own and we both got skunked. No fish. Monday we went back to the stretch where we got a bunch with Dayle and we both caught six more big fish. Tuesday we drove back to Salt Lake to catch our flight home. It was great trip and I can't wait to do it again.



Scarola didn't let this fence stop him from fishing the Ham's Fork.

Bill

David Redd: Introduction to Fly Fishing Classes

We have completed all but one of our fly fishing courses at the Hillsborough County Nature Center in Riverview and Carrollwood Village Center in Tampa. Claude Neidlinger, Bill Scarola, Rick Warfel and myself gave a brief classroom introduction to the equipment and flies before taking the kids outside and putting fly rods in their hands and letting them cast flies for the first time.



We have one more sessions at the Carrollwood Village Center in Tampa, July 21.

David

[Members, if you are interested in helping please contact David Redd at reddfish68@yahoo.com]



First time fly casting--Students at the Hillsborough County Nature Center in Riverview on June 29.



Fly fishing students in Riverview. Suncoast Fly Fishers in the back row are, left to right, Bill Scarola, David Redd, Rick Warfel, and Claude Neidlinger.



These were our students at Carrollwood Village Center on July 7



Carrollwood Village Center fly casters on July 7

This is a great redfish fly for July's outing along the Sunshine Skyway

Bruce's Tan Baitfish Fly with Bruce Evensen & Bill Scarola



Bruce

Bruce and Bill led fly tiers through the steps to tie Bruce's Tan Baitfish Fly on Monday July 11.. Classes are held each Monday at Bruce's Fly Tying Studio. You can join them at future Monday sessions. Sessions start at 6 pm. Bruce's fly tying studio address is 531 80th Avenue North in St. Pete.



Bill

Materials

Hook: 1.0 short shank or circle hook

Eyes:- 5 or 6 mm stick-ons. Silver-black

Thread:- Tan flat waxed

Flash:- Pearl crystal flash, OPTIONAL

Underbody:- Orange laser dubbing or ice dubbing

Body:- Tan craft fur

Glue:- Eye glue and super and UV epoxy

Fly Tying Sequence

1- Wrap hook from eye to bend.

2- Tie in straight back a small amount of orange laser, dubbing just in front of the bend, so that it trails to the back 2-times the hook length.

3- Add small amount of tan craft fur, just in front of the laser material tying it forward on top of the hook shank towards the hook eye then push it back and build a small thread-dam in front of it to hold it back. Wetting the craft fur can help with this.

4- Add another small amount of orange laser dubbing to the top and bottom of the shank in front of the first set of materials.

5- Add several strips of pearl crystal flash here if so desired.

6- Add a larger bit of craft fur just behind the eye, above and another below the shank, again tying it forward, then pushing it back. Be careful not to wrap over the pushed back craft fur. Build up a thread dam to hold it back. Add a drop of glue. Whip-finish the fly. (Build up material to create the tapered fish body as shown.)

7- Using eye glue, (ie, E6000) attach your eyes, keeping them above the hook shank so they don't interfere with the hooks-set.) You should be so lucky to get a fish to bite!!!! lol!!!!

8- Apply UV epoxy over the eyes and thread wrap. THEN GO FISHING!!!

###



Smitty's Ghost Shrimp – July's Fly of the Month



Fish this fly as you would any shrimp pattern, with six inch slow strips then a few erratic ones to imitate a fleeing shrimp.

Smitty

Materials:

Hook: Mustad S74SZ-34011, No. 4

Eyes: Black Dazl Eyes, 5/32 ounce

Thread: Clear mono

Legs: Bonefish pink Loco Legs,
with two white hackle splayed on each
side

Body: White wool, 2-tone peachy-

pink X-cut rabbit-flesh strips and orange poly yarn

Tail: White poly yarn

Finish: Solarez UV Resin and pearlescent Sally Hansen Diamond Strength nail polish



Smitty's Ghost Shrimp

Tying Sequence:

Step 1: Begin by securing the eyes two-thirds of the way back on a long-shank Mustad S74SZ-34011 hook. Start tying in a small clump of white wool at the bend of the hook. Pull the ends of the wool to create a taper prior to securing the material onto the hook.

Step 2: Invert fly. After removing the hide, add a small tuft of two-tone peachy-pink rabbit. Use a bodkin to split fibers so they are distributed evenly on both sides of the hook point.

Step 3: Add another sparse clump of white wool over the rabbit, reverse the hook and add two pink Loco Legs to each side.

Step 4: Finish the head section by tying in two white hackles on each side of the fly, and coat all wraps with Solarez UV Resin.

Step 5: From this point on, tie all materials on the underside of the shank. Begin with another sparse tuft of wool.

Step 6: Add peachy-pink rabbit (after removing the hide). Flare out the rabbit with your fingers before securing.

Step 7: Continue working toward the eye of the hook by adding another small piece of wool, then some orange poly yarn. From here, continue with wool, rabbit and then wool.

Step 8: Finish the fly by tying in some white poly yarn Merkin-style, by crossing the thread in a figure eight. Trim the tail to an angle. Tie off and trim the underbody of the fly. Coat with Solarez UV Resin under and around the eye... then finish with Sally Hansen Diamond Strength pearlescent nail polish over Solarez UV Resin.



Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

Match your fly line to the water temperature

Your fly pattern is very important, but not putting the fly in the proper location is even more necessary for success. If casting with your normal setup is giving you poor results, your fly line is probably the culprit because of much warmer weather and especially an increase in water temperature. One well-known fly line company makes more than 1,000 different fly lines for a good reason. In the spring when gulf water temperatures were in the low sixties a line that performed perfectly will not do the same now when the same water temperature is above 80. I see this frequently with clients from northern states and find they are trying to cast a line that behaves like limp spaghetti. A line that performed perfectly for striped bass in New York in the spring will be a disaster now. Some fly lines will have designations such as tropic or warm weather on the box. Fly fishing guides understand this and will have the proper lines on their reels. When clients are having difficulty with the equipment they brought with them, I frequently give them a reel to use with a suitable line on their rod that they feel comfortable with. This will restore their confidence and go a long way to eliminate their frustration resulting in a successful day.

Captain Pat

Fly fisherman and casting instructor Pat Damico charts "Fly Guy" in lower Tampa Bay. You can reach him at captpatdamico.com and 727-504-8649



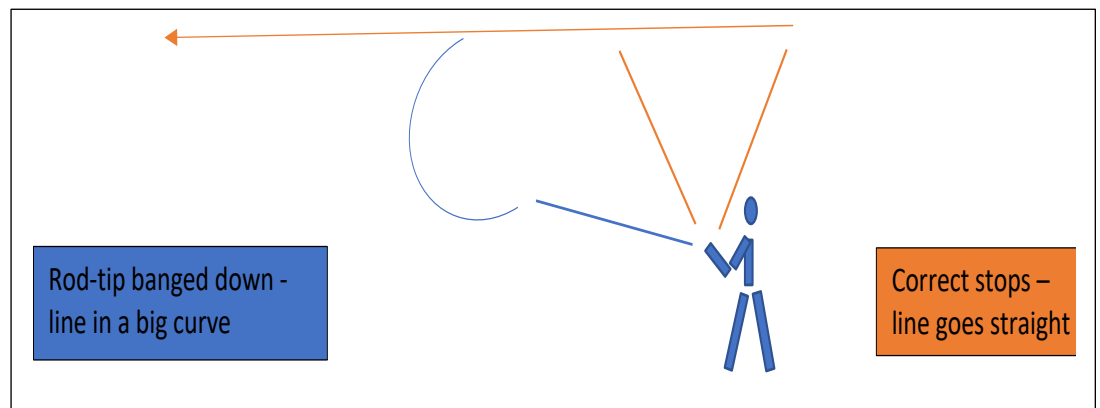
Jonas Magnusson, Fly Fishers International Certified fly-Casting Instructor

Read more on Jonas' website....

[Every Jonah Has A Whale](#)

Jonas Magnusson: Back and Forward Symmetry

The June On The Fly tip considered what happens when we bend our wrist too much on our back cast. Now, on to the forward cast. The same rule applies. The back cast and the forward cast should be symmetric. Therefore, we need to stop the rod high on the forward cast to send the line straight. Beginners frequently bring the rod tip too far down instead of stopping it higher. That leads the fly line to form a big inefficient loop going nowhere. What we really want to do is to stop the rod tip high and shape the top leg (fly leg) straight.



For Sale or Swap

Alan Sewell sold his Gheenoe. But there's more. Email sewellalan@yahoo.com or call 727-470-4570

- 1) Wilderness Systems RIDE115 kayak - high seat - stand-up kayak with dry compartments. Includes two nice paddles, folding anchor, mini paddle, tackle crate with rod holders and many extras. Ready to fish. \$400. (was \$600).
- 2) Kayak Trailer – Continental, galvanized, three bunks plus - storage boxes. Carry up to four kayak. Spare tire, extra hubs and rims (in nice carry-on boxes), hub changing kit (grease, jack, gloves, tools, etc.) . Includes 1-7/8 2" male hitch and a hitch ball wrench plus other extras. \$400 (was \$600).

NOTE: Want the "quantity discount?" Buy both for only \$750

Bill Scarola's Puns of the Day

What's the difference between a hippo & a zippo?

One is really heavy and the other is a LITTLE LIGHTER!

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day...

...but I couldn't find any.

I saw an ad for burial plots.

That's the last thing I need.

If you need an ark... I NOAH a guy!

GERTRUDE: you don't really believe your husband's story that he spent the whole day fishing, do you? He didn't catch a single fish.

Gloria: "That's why I believe him."

A Texan told his friend about the 20-pound bass he caught. His friend asked "Was it tough bringing him in?"

Yeah, " said the Texan, " but it wasn't nearly as tough as the five pound grasshopper I caught it with !!!"

Why did Grandpa put wheels on his rocking chair? *He wanted to ROCK 'n' ROLL!*

Internet Dad: Do you know the best way to watch a fly fishing tournament?

...A live stream. (Thanks, Jack Collins)

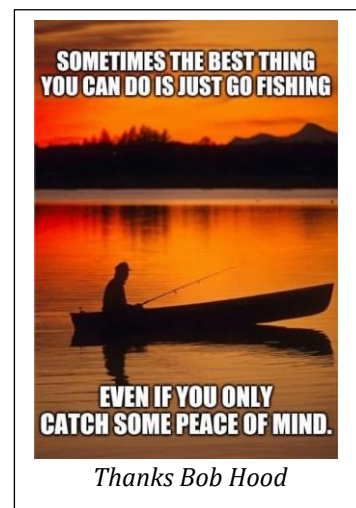
Recently posted online by Southern Living magazine:

""The fishing was good; it was the catching that was bad." A.K. Best

"Fly-fishing is the most fun you can have standing up." -

by Arnold Gingrich, 1969~1976

"Fly fishermen are born honest, but they get over it." - Ed Zern



Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



Manatees deaths are lower; however... They're about to lower the Lake Okeechobee water level, sending the dirty water down the St. Lucie River to Stuart and the Caloosahatchee River to Fort Myers. Red tide algae are looking forward to their next bloom feeding. I can already smell dead fish on the beach. ([Vote Water](#))

So long Clouser minnows? Our betters in Washington DC have banned lead weights in fishing tackle in national wildlife refuges. Clouser eyes are lead weights, right? I think they need to step back and consult with sportsmen and with industry leaders before they issue regulations like this. Or, at least, follow the science. ([ASA fishing](#))

On The Fly South – July issue is online. I went right to the article about the Florida legislature funding for water quality. Looks good to me. I worry that with the rapid increase in population in Florida water quality and marine life populations are going to be big and continuing issues. It's worrisome. ([On The Fly South](#))

I want to watch his movie, too. -- Acclaimed author Steve Ramirez – whose work is featured prominently in the new movie *Mending the Line* – has a new story in *Fly Fisherman Magazine*. In this tale, you'll join Steve as he explores fishing for snook in a boat graveyard. ([Midcurrent](#))

New IGFA world record largemouth bass. Lea Anne Powell caught this 12 pound, 3-ounce bass in February and it's now the world record in IGFA's XX chromosome division in the 12-pound line test category. She caught it in Texas. I'm guessing it was a Florida-strain largemouth bass. ([Outdoor Life](#))

Florida lakes score bigly on this – Bassmaster Magazine is out with its 10 best bass lakes in the U.S. FWC picks up on that to highlight the very best bass lakes in Florida. ([FWC](#))

A good read. Stories behind the ten biggest largemouth bass records. ([Game & Fish Magazine](#))

I've got a stuck fly-rod. I mean, it's really, really, really stuck and has been stuck for years. I gave up trying. But, you know, hope springs eternal. H/T Pat Damico ([YouTube](#))

Do you underline or overline? – When I'm wade fishing with a fly rod I like to overline for all the reasons you'll read in this article. I wade fished last week with 8-weight line on a 7-weight rod. I liked it. I could cast heavy flies and also I could cast into the wind better. My 7 weight rod is 9.5-feet long so it kept the line above the water, too. I think this is going to be my go-to set up for wade fishing. ([Tackle Village](#))

Yes. Next question. Is wade fishing the best way to fish the flats? ([Hatch Magazine](#))

Tame that monster on the line -- The word is getting out. We need to put pressure on the big fish from the butt of the rod. H/t Pat Damico. ([Trout Bitten](#))

And the manatee is still alive and doing well. Pinellas County deputies jumped in and held its head above the water for two hours. ([Fox4News](#))

Oh, they're just virtue signaling. Fly-fishing outfits are now high fashion. \$200 vests. \$2,000 leather waders. Really? ([Wall Street Journal](#))

Bill

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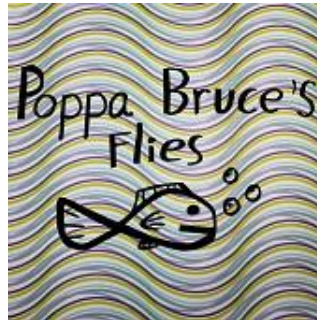


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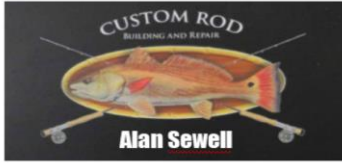


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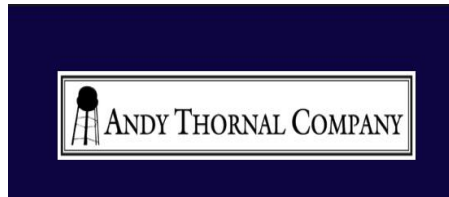
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