

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

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Tampa Bay Waterkeeper 5



Isn't it funny how a picnic can save a morning of lousy fishing? 6





President's Message: August 2023

I know that it has been hot. Some of our members have left in search of cooler weather and alternate fishing experiences. For those of you that are still here, we have some great events this month.

Our featured speaker at the member meeting will be Jacob Lenges. Jacob is a St. Petersburg native. He grew up around the water and has become a professional guide and fly fishing enthusiast. He will tell us all there is to know about fishing for juvenile Tarpon. Lucky for us this is one species that can take the heat.

I have many fond memories of fishing for baby tarpon in my youth. The mosquito control district in Ft. Pierce is a vast mangrove marsh on the East side of the Indian River. At the time, the water was kept high enough to prevent mosquitoes from breeding in stagnant conditions. Water levels were controlled by flood gates that only let water in during especially high rising tides. When the water rushed in it came with a supply of fresh bait and the tarpon went nuts. You could literally get a hit on every cast but landing them in the narrow mangrove lined canal was decidedly a different story.

Our outing this month will be at Ft. DeSoto. This is always one of our favorite places to fish. There may still be some snook along the beaches and the vast grass flats and mangrove shorelines around the park should hold plenty of snook, trout and ladyfish.

If the fishing doesn't turn out to be as good as we hope, you can just come for lunch. I guarantee that it will be worth the effort. This is our annual Brisket by the Bay luncheon. We will be serving smoked brisket and all the fixings. This is usually a very popular event. I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting on the third Thursday of the month and at Ft. DeSoto the following Saturday.

Thanks. Stay safe and keep fishing!

Rick

Rick Warfel

Meetings, Outings, and More

Thursday, August 17 Meeting, 7 – 8:30 pm

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

Speaker: Capt. Jacob Lenges

- Practice casting on the grass before the meeting. Meet up at 5:30. VP Quin Berry is setting up targets.
- Capt. Jacob Lenges will talk about where and how to catch juvenile tarpon.

August 19 Outing and Brisket by the Bay picnic:

Fort DeSoto Park, Shelter #4 on North Beach

- Fly fish beaches, bayous, and/or backcountry waters in and around Fort DeSoto Park.
 - Meet up at Shelter # on North Beach for the BBQ brisket picnic and story telling.
 - The member catching the longest snook wins a \$10 gift certificate. Measure and take a picture .
 - Check the leaders on the tournament chart on Page 6. Maybe you can take the lead on one or more categories. Measure and take pictures of your long fishes.
-

Future meetings and outings:

- Thursday, September 21 meeting. Tie-a-thon and pizza night. Watch and learn how members tie their favorite flies. Bring your fly tying materials and gear and follow the leader. And/or, eat another slice of pizza.
 - Saturday, September 23 outing. Carl Hanson Memorial with Tampa Bay Fly Fishers on the Hillsborough River. Picnic location TBD.
 - Thursday, October 19 meeting. Peter Clark, founder and president, Tampa Bay Watch
 - Saturday, October 21 Outing. Emerson Point, Snead Island, Manatee County
 - Thursday, November 16 meeting: Open house. Bring your friends who might want to join the club. Our speaker is Dayle Mazzarella, SFF member, FFI master casting instructor, [and Wyoming fly fishing guide](#).
 - Saturday, November 18 outing. It's a casting clinic, probably at Egan Field in St. Pete Beach.
 - Thursday, December 7. Ugly Sweater Holiday Party, St. Jerome Catholic Church, Largo.
 - December: no meeting
 - Saturday, December 16 Outing. Fort De Soto Park, Don Coleman Invitational (and chili luncheon!) with Tampa and Sarasota fly clubs
-

Here and There

- SFF members will be asked to vote for an increase in the annual marine biology scholarship for USF from \$500 to \$1,000 for this year. The board approves.
 - Save the date: March 16 is the probable date for the 2024 Hog Roast.
 - Redfish anyone? Member Cliff Nigh is looking into the pros and cons of a fall/winter overnight outing in the Apalachicola area.
-

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.

Welcome new member

Joseph Gullo from Sun City Center who joined this month.

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, 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: Tampa Bay Waterkeeper Justin Tramble



July meeting speaker, Justin Tramble, executive director of Tampa Bay Waterkeeper.

Something's fishy in the waters of Tampa Bay. Seagrass acreage is declining. Not good. And Justin Tramble is on a mission to find out exactly what is causing that and to organize stakeholders to pressure decision-makers to fix it.

Justin is executive director of Tampa Bay Waterkeeper. He was our July meeting speaker along with Captain Dustin Pack, a member of a diverse board of Waterkeeper directors. The BOD includes an attorney, biologist, and a medical doctor. It's a politically diverse board, too, and that's a good thing because they want everybody from all political stripes to join this fight.

And what is the problem? Until a few years ago Tampa Bay waters were cleaner and clearer. The sun was penetrating deeper, resulting in more seagrass year after year. More seagrass means more marine life. Then a few years ago seagrass acreage started to decline. But why?

Was it the discharge from the Piney Point reservoir in 2021? That probably played a part. But Justin said other causes also are probable and existed before Piney Point. Stormwater runoff is packed with lawn fertilizer from all around the Bay. And there are polluters that can be identified and pressured, and maybe sued. Politicians need to take this very seriously. It's time. Past time.

Tampa Bay Waterkeeper projects are organized into three pillars: Education. Policy. Public support.

Visit the [Tampa Bay Waterkeeper website](#) and drill down on all the topics. Early next year we can compete in The Waterman, a two-day, fly-fishing only, catch & release redfish tournament with an optional "Snook Calcutta."



The Waterman trophy

And there are more ways to help. We need to be informed. Become a member. Donate. Volunteer. Report pollution and other issues like algae blooms, sedimentation, sewage leaks, leaking containers, illegal dumping, oil slicks, fish kills, and injured wildlife. That's the Patrol Program which is funded by the Tampa Bay Estuary's specialty license plate, the [Tarpon Tag](#).



Capt. Justin Pack

Bill

Bob Burkard: August 19 Outing – Fort DeSoto Park



Bob Burkard, outings committee chair

Yes, this is a big deal, a special outing at Fort DeSoto Park for members, spouses, kids, grandkids, and fishing friends. Come one, come all and celebrate all the things that make our club great: Food. Fun. Families. Friends. And fly-fishing.

Meet up at Pavilion #4 on North Beach by 11:30. This outing is our *Best Brisket in the Bay* outing. President Rick Warfel and yours truly will be slow-cooking/smoking big beef briskets on our grills all night long. Alan Sewell is making his special corn bread.

The waters in and around Fort DeSoto Park give fly fishers lots of places to fish.

- Some wade fish the grassy-shoreline near the East Beach Parking Lot.
- Others love to wade-fish the sandy surf along North Beach.
- Another favorite wade in spot is the East Beach Picnic Area.
- The backcountry mangrove waters on either side of the maintenance road can be very productive.
- Some launch their boats and kayaks at the boat ramp at the entrance. You can wade-fish from there, too. Put in or wade in at the boat ramp and you can get an early start because you don't have to wait for the park gates to open at 7 am. (And there's always a long line of cars waiting to get in, too.)

Report: July Outing on the Sunshine Skyway

Long story short: the gamefishes weren't biting. Well, one gamer did. A 13-inch seatrout ate Rick Warfel's Clouser. Rick wins the \$10 gift certificate. He and Karen were fishing the east side of the I-275 near the North Skyway Rest Area. Even Mark Hays got skunked. Bill AuCoin caught a big pinfish, not a gamefish.

Yeah, something was kinda fishy that day. The heat. Hot water turns off the bite, some say. That's a good excuse. Well, at least the food was good: Publix wraps, chips, and cookies.

Leaders on the 2023 Outing Tournament Trail

Species	Winner	Length	Outing (Month)
Longest bream	Anne Mitchell	7"	Hillsborough River (April)
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	Rick Warfel	13.0"	Sunshine Skyway (July)

Bob

Tim Elms: Fishing with Friends is my Happy Place

Howdy! It's Summer BABY! I may be one of the only people in town that enjoy this time of year. It's solely based on fishing between storms and pool time with my wife.

Life has been interesting over the last three months. Let's just say I'm working on it. But I wanted to point out that fishing is my happy place for my mind and soul. I have found that fishing with friends is even more chicken noodle soup. I am blessed to have many people in my life who want to share time, experience, and laughter with me on the water and I take advantage of that whenever life allows.

Dock lights in June is my favorite outing in the club. I know we were chasing Snook but of course I can't ever pass up a happy Tarpon. Bill and Dennis are some of my favorite people on a night excursion. Dennis is known for his serious intentions for catching things. But he is willing and able to give and take quite a few jokes. And Billy, just always happy to be on the water with a fly rod, hardboiled eggs, and a huge smile.

Nothing makes me happier than hearing AuCoin say things like "OH MY!" or "OH? Fish on?"



Usually, things happen quite fast at night and Bill is in the zone just happy to be out and enjoying company of fellow fishers.

Then, I was lucky enough to head south and fish with my good friend in Cape Coral on the fresh side of the Peace River. I have never caught any Red Breast Sunfish or any Stump Knockers before. And we managed to wrangle quite a few. It was also the first time I have fished a fiberglass rod in Florida and thankfully my friend is also my casting coach, so we worked it out rather quickly. Joe, is a mentor of mine, and I can't help it but sit back and soak in his fountain of knowledge. I realize every time I'm out with friends, I learn more and more about fishing, life, and peace. Without my buddies on the water most of my fly achievements would never have been possible and I will forever be grateful for that. Hopefully I pay that forward to others with adventures ahead. PS get out after a storm and look for rollers....it's time y'all.

Strip Strip Strip!!!!—Tim

Tim Elms: 60 Day Report

It's been a while since I shared some catches. Here are the highlights from the past 60 days...

Strip Strip Strip!!!!—Tim



Robert Fischer: Too Hot to Fish?



*Robert Fischer with a
Marathon Mahi Mahi.*

“It’s too hot to fish!” What? Who said that? Is it ever too hot to fish? Well yes, it is during the middle of the day lately. You can still fish, just do it early in the morning, or right at dusk, or best of all, fish at night. That’s the best thing to do during the summer.

If it is too hot to fish what can we do instead? Now is a good time to do our boat and tackle maintenance so we’ll be ready when the conditions get better.

For your boat and trailer, check the lights, grind the anodes, change the fuel filters, lower end oil, spark plugs and water pump. Lube the wheels and all moving parts including locks and latches. Spray your electronics and motor with silicone. Tighten all the nuts and bolts. That’s a bigger job than you

think, (my catamaran has 1000 bolts and screws; I counted them).

Check your tires for cracking. They usually don’t ever wear out but they do get old and crack which can lead to a blowout on the highway. Check your first aid kit and replace any antibiotic spray or Betadine solution that is 3 years old. Check the date on your flares. Out of date flares can cost you \$140 if you get a ticket. Check your fire extinguisher. These things can be done in a garage or the shade of a tree with a fan blowing on you.

Clean Lines. Lube reels

Indoors there are things to do also. Clean and lube your reels. Clean all your fly lines. Change the middle and bite tippet on your leaders. The heavy butt sections don’t need to be changed because as they get old they get stiff and actually act better. Cut off a foot of your floating lines and retie your butt sections on; your lines will float better.

Throw away any flies with rusty hooks; they will break on a big fish. Lube the joints on your rods with rod wax (paraffin). Wax your rods with a good quality car wax (don’t use car wax on the male part of the rod joints, use rod wax). Dirty cork handles can be renewed with fine sandpaper or with a Scotch-Brite pad and Comet cleaner. Lube your pliers and nippers.

Why is it so hot?

Channel 10’s [online news](#) had a good explanation. Here’s the short version.

There are a couple of big reasons. One, we’re in a dome of high pressure in the Gulf that traps the heat inside. And, two, winds are from the west giving us more humidity (and more heat warnings). Usually at this time of the year we get afternoon winds and rain showers from the middle of the state which cools us all a tad.

Learn to tie a new knot. Practice tying the knots you use regularly. Read some good books and magazines about fishing. If you are a fly tier, tie new and better flies for the coming season. You can do this in the air conditioning while watching sports on TV. Donate your old flies to the club so we can put them in the raffle. So there are lots of things to do if it ever does get “Too hot to fish”.

Robert

Rick Birnbaum: Rick & April in Maine



April Turpen and Rick Birnbaum in a souvenir photo above a waterfall on the Penobscot River.

April and I just got back from fishing NW Maine, the Penobscot River in a drift boat, the Kennebec in a Scott canoe (21-ft), plus we wade-fished the Piscataquis River by a covered bridge.

The country is rugged but beautiful. We were privileged to see turkeys, deer, moose, eagles, osprey, loons, and several varieties of ducks and geese.



Their guide Chuck Wagenheim – Northern Rivers Fly Fishing -- unhooking a fish caught at the mouth of the Kennebec.

We caught brook trout, landlocked salmon and bass. We were glad to be headed home until we were reminded of congestion: I-75 was at a standstill for two hours in Bushnell.

Rick



Rick fly-fishing the Penobscot



Moosehead Lake Panorama

Scott Russell: Mentoring Youth through The Mayfly Project



This past Spring we had another successful local project through [The Mayfly Project](#). The Mayfly Project is a 501(c)(3) national organization that uses fly fishing as a catalyst to mentor and support children in foster care. Our annual local project right now occurs in the Spring and consists of five Saturday morning outings spaced roughly two weeks apart.

We are looking for additional mentors, since we always want to have enough mentors on hand for the kids we serve and to give us an opportunity for expanding the scale of our projects in the future.

If you are interested in learning more about being a mentor, please reach out to me at either 727-403-8165 or russellti@me.com

I can also connect you with other club members that serve as mentors, so you can learn about being a mentor from their perspective. I can only relay my perspective, which is working with these awesome kids and fellow mentors has been one of the best experiences of my life.

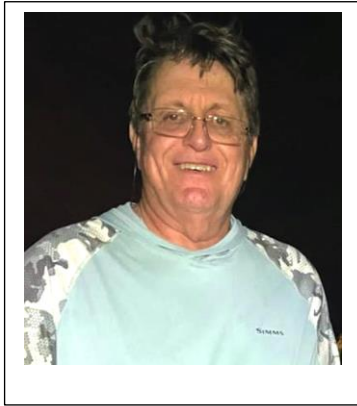
If you happen to be clear on the 23rd of this month, I'll be speaking with Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers in Sarasota regarding both our project and the national organization.



Some of our kiddos with swag we received from Captains for Clean Water.

Scott

Chuck Hall: My magic sauce is back and I'm loving it *I am like Zeus throwing lightning bolts*



I rarely read product reviews and almost never rely on them to buy fishing gear. After all, nearly everything we use to flyfish distills down to a personal preference. Is Sage better than Scott, or TFO? No one can win that kind of debate. Trust me this product is GREAT! But, you have to read a story to understand why I am here to endorse it.

Several years ago, I regularly visited *The Saltwater Fly Fisherman* in downtown Clearwater. It was a nice shop and I met lots of fishing celebrities there. (Perhaps that is another story to be written). But, on with this. Saturday, Homer, the owner said he had a new product that I needed to see.

He showed me a small silver can and asked if I knew who Flip Pallot was. Of course, I did-I had seen most of his TV shows. Homer said that there was a secret to Flip's beautiful casts. This spray, called *Special Delivery*, could produce "magical" results. Because I was searching for flyfishing competency, I bought a can.

Later that week I was fishing my favorite flat by Joe Island and things were not going well. I couldn't see any fish, my casting was off, and it was hot. I was about to leave when I remembered the magic sauce.

I sprayed some on my line-while it was still on the reel-just like the instructions said to do. One minute later I made a test case. The line flew from the tip of my rod and stopped only when it came tight to the reel. The loud pop told me there was more distance to be had. I stripped off 20 more feet and let it fly again. It flew straight and again came tight. I would like to say I threw into my backing, but that would be a lie. But, for an average Florida caster, my 85 feet made me feel like Zeus throwing lightning bolts. Later that week I went back and bought six more cans.

Fishing, and more correctly, casting, was a joy for the next year. I can't say that the Special Delivery was 100% responsible, but it did get me to relax and cast more smoothly. Distance was no longer an issue. If I could see that fish, I could easily reach it. But, I was running out of the stuff so back to the shop I went.

When I asked Homer where it was hidden, he told me that it was no longer available! Because I rarely take no for an answer, I told him to call his distributor and offer to buy any remaining stock. He said he had tried that. Sadly, I went home and looked at my last bottle.



Continued on next page

P2/Chuck Hall: The magic sauce is back and I love it



The magical silver can

As required by law, it contained the name of the manufacturer. I called the State Business Department, and they gladly gave me the contact information for the company and its recorded board of directors. I called the numbers. No longer in service.

Not to be deterred, I called a chemical testing facility that my firm used in litigation. I was told that to test the contents of my last bottle it would cost \$3,500. But, they said that even if I knew what the stuff was, it was almost certainly patented and they could not just mix me up a batch. This dead end started the hunt for a replacement.

I tried food grade silicone spray, WD40, Rain-X, and Bunk-Roller. All were better than nothing, but they had negatives too. One caused fly lines to crack and fail. Another clearly stated, "Do not inhale and avoid contact with skin." Remarkably, the trailer bunk spray said it was dangerous to marine animals. I returned to cleaning the lines as suggested by the manufacturers.

Earlier this year I had some health issues and was in bed for several weeks. I spent hours on the internet. One night at about midnight, the robots at

YouTube sent me a message. They had determined that I needed to watch a short video. The title immediately caught my attention, "**Flip Pallot's Special Delivery.**" Was this a zombie video from a decade ago or an evil taunt by AI?

I clicked play and it was a man from a fly shop in Ohio. He held up the magical silver can!

I heard, "Now in stock." I checked the date and the video was uploaded eight hours ago! I went to the website and it looked like the stuff. Even though they called it a line dressing that was also useful on dry flies, I ordered three. They arrived and I put one in my bag. The next time I went out, I sprayed some on, waited 60 seconds, and made a cast. I was Zeus again throwing bolt after bolt! The line went as far as I wanted.

I am sure that you are skeptical. I was too. I do not know if Special Delivery is better than some of the other stuff people use, but for me it is. With it on my line I throw lightning bolts. There are two cases of the stuff in my tying room. I will never run out again.*

Here is the link so you can get some. <https://www.madriveroutfitters.com/p-19094-flip-pallots-special-delivery-fly-line-dressing.aspx>

Chuck

PS: Mr. Pallot, if you ever decide to discontinue Special Delivery, please contact me. I would like to obtain a personal-use license for your product. *Charles W. Hall*

(Editor's note: This just in. Look for a can of Special Delivery on the raffle table at our next member meeting on August 17.)

Jack Collins: Chizzywinks Saved Our Day

Jack and Bill Scarola saw chizzywink swarms on their Wyoming trip



Jack with a Wyoming rainbow

I learned a new name for what I knew to be midges.

Bill Scarola and I saw these chizzywinks in action out in Wyoming in June. The swallows were too numerous to count on the lake we were fishing. It was overcast, cold and drizzling.

We kept looking for what the birds were eating but we couldn't see the tiny insects. Finally, they started landing on our boat and equipment.

We switched flies a couple more times to match the hatch and the bite was on.

We must have caught over 30 fish in a few hours. Even though it was cold, rainy and miserable to start, the chizzywinks saved our day.

This [article](#) is from a bird watcher who learned what those swallows are eating.



*Chizzywink close-up.
Credit: Edrosack*



Jack's Chizzywink Fly

Jack

Have you seen the "WADS" near the South Skyway pier?



Bill Scarola photo

Bill Scarola was crossing the Sunshine Skyway and noticed this row of concrete pyramids, each about 10 feet tall, near the South fishing pier. What are they? They're WADs – Wave Attenuation Devices. The DOT is placing them in the water about 200 feet from the shoreline to tamp down the energy of large waves to protect the shoreline and infrastructure. And, there's more good news: they'll create habitat for marine life and fish.

Cliff Nigh: Extending the Life of Your Tying Scissors



Quality fly tying scissors are, to say the least, expensive. I have one pair that set me back \$75!

Those of you who have tried to get away with cheap scissors well know that after a short time, you regret it, and find yourself purchasing the more expensive models. I tell customers all the time, "If you're going to skimp on fly tying tools, please don't skimp on your scissors". I'm sure you all know what I'm talking about.

So, you've gone out and bought a pair of real quality scissors. Well, nothing lasts forever and at some point, those pricey shears are not doing the job they used to do.

There's a very simple way to bring those scissors back to life and, I dare say, make them just about as good as new. I've done it with cheap fly tying class scissors and this easy, two-step process works miracles even on those scissors imported from who knows where. As the fly shop manager at [St. Pete Fishing Outfitters](#) I know I'm probably cutting into my scissor sales with this advice but, that's what clubs are all about, right?



All you need is an emery board with two grit sizes. They're the ones women use on their finger nails and you can probably "borrow" one from your wife or girlfriend. Single or unattached? You can buy them by the boat-load for a couple of bucks almost anywhere. You're looking for the ones that have a medium or coarse grit on one side and a fine grit on the reverse side.

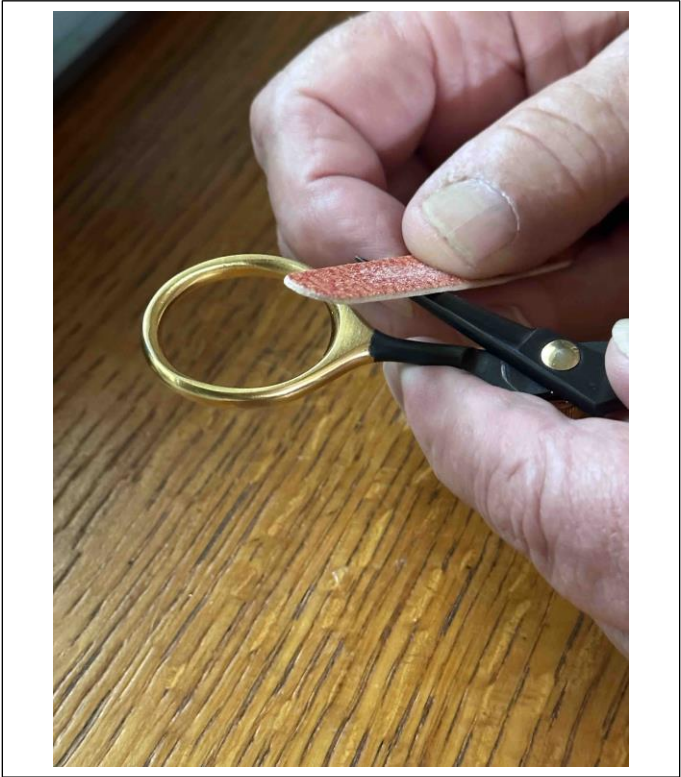
Ready? Begin!

Emery board in hand, open your scissors as far as you can. Take the coarse side of the emery board and lay it against one of the blades, paying attention to the angle the blade is ground (one side of the blade is at an angle, the other side is flat. You want the angled side).

Now, take **five** passes, **downward**, with the emery board using mild pressure and moving

down the blade toward the point, maintaining the same angle as the blade. Do not go back and forth....just a gentle downward motion will suffice.

Continued on next page



Now, flip the emery board over and do the exact same thing with the fine grit side of the board.

Repeat this process on the other blade. Viola! You're done!

Try cutting a piece of limp thread and if your scissor won't snip it clean, repeat the process on each blade until you achieve that. The most I've ever had to do this is three times until I was satisfied with the results. I've done this numerous times on the same pair of scissors and it always brings them back to life.

Total working time to complete.....less than 5 minutes. Salvaging a pair of scissors and saving some hard earned coins....priceless!

Cliff

.....

This is a great snook fly. Give it a shot close to mangroves and rocky shorelines

Simple Crab Fly with Bruce Evensen & Bill Scarola



Bruce



Bill

MATERIALS:

Hook: Size 4 b10 stinger, or similar
Thread: Brown or tan flat waxed
Eyes: Shrimp eyes AND medium bead chain
Antennae: Gold crystal flash
Egg sac: Pink or orange sparkle dubbing
Collar: Foxy brush, tan 1.5"
Body: E P fibers, shrimp body color or light brown
Claws: Barred hackle in orange/black
Glue- Super glue

TYING STEPS

- 1- Wrap hook from eye to bend
- 2- Add enough orange sparkle dubbing at the top of the bend forming a small ball as an egg sac.
- 3- Add shrimp type eyes or mono eyes tie in so they are just past the bend, as shown, keeping them separated.
- 4- Add one piece of gold crystal flash as antennae, doubled to form antennae. They should extend past the bend .
- 5- Add two pieces of barred hackle tips, one at a time, as claws, so they protrude out past the hook bend. Also be sure to split them apart to represent the claws.
- 6- Tie in a piece of foxy brush as a collar just in front of the egg sac on the straight part of the hook shaft.. 2-4 wraps should be sufficient. Bend the fibers toward the bend.
7. Attach bead chain just behind the hook eye. This is for weight so the fly swims with the hook point up.
8. Tie in the first of a 'two-inch' clump of E P fibers just in front of the collar brush fibers then repeat 3-4 more clumps, progressing toward the bead chain eyes. Pull the E-P fibers out to each side keeping them relatively flat.
9. Whip finish the fly. and add a drop of glue to the thread wraps.
10. Trim the EP fibers into a crab body shape: angular or round for an alternate look.

###

Smitty's August Fly of the Month: *Killer*



This is a four-materials fly that belies its simplicity with fish producing results. Fish it as you would any baitfish pattern. It's a KILLER. This fly can be tied in a variety of colors such as browns, grays, or whites (with red head, of course!)



Smitty

Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu SL113H size 1/0

Thread: .006 monofilament

Tail: 6 strands of ostrich herl in tan, gray or white

Body: Deadly Dazzle in Misty Camel, Steelhead Silver, Natural Belly or White

Collar: EP UV Minnow Head Brush, 1.5", Speckled Brown, Minnow Gray or Bloody Red

Head: Danville's Flatwaxed Nylon, red

Finish: Solarez UV Resin

Eyes: 3D molded eyes (optional).

(Your color of choice)

Tying Sequence

1. Start mono thread at halfway point of hook shank and wrap rearward (in touching wraps) to hook point.

Trim tag.

2. Measure 6 strands of ostrich herl 3 times hook shank length and cut from plume. Advance thread backup to mid-point of hook and tie herls on top of hook. Lash down herls rearward to hook point with open wraps, keeping the herls on top of the shank. Then semi-post them with three wraps of thread. Return thread to the midpoint of the hook shank.

3. Get a ½ a pencil width of Deadly Dazzle (your choice of color), measure from midpoint to just short of tail. Fold at that point and measure to match pre-measured length and cut from the hank. Taper both ends then tie down (at midpoint of material) on top of hook at midpoint of hook. Fold front portion back and secure on top of hook with a half dozen tight thread wraps.

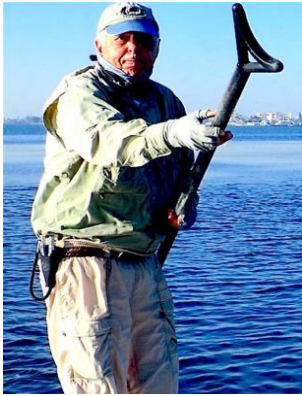
4. Rotate your vise 180° and repeat step 3 parting material evenly on each side of hook bend. Using a bodkin or comb, blend top and bottom together. Advance thread to halfway between original tie-in point and eye of hook.

5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 only using half as much material and half the length. Whip finish and cut away excess.

6. Change to Danville's Flatwaxed Nylon and secure with 3 turn whip finish. Tie in minnow head brush with locking wraps in front and in back of brush. Advance thread to hook eye and then palmer approximately 8 wraps of brush forward to hook eye stroking material back with each wrap. Secure brush with 6 turn whip finish and carefully trim away excess brush.

7. Build a nice thread head, whip finish and trim excess thread. 8. Coat head with UV Resin and cure.

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Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

Adjust your fly cast to the winds

Starting your fly fishing day with calm conditions can change quickly this time of year. Wind can be a help or hindrance. Perfect calm makes it easier to see fish, but they are very spooky, making long casts necessary. A little ripple on the surface, from the wind, hinders our ability to see fish, but they are more relaxed, meaning we can get closer. A nine-foot fly rod, the ideal length for most of our fishing should keep the fly, and hook, at least that far away from you. If the wind is blowing into your non-casting side, there is only a problem with casting accuracy. Wind into your casting side can be a problem easily corrected by casting horizontally and close to the water, giving the wind little chance to affect it. A very tight loop in your line created by having the rod tip travel in a straight line path will be almost unaffected by the wind. A large loop will be a disaster especially if thrown high. Strong wind into your casting side can be problematic, easily corrected by casting on your line-hand side using either a cast with your arm across your body, or tilting your body away from the wind and, "Brushing your hair," with your casting hand as you have the rod tip travel on your leeward side. Learning to cast with either hand is ideal.

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

Jonas Magnusson: How to cast sinking lines

Forget nice sharp loop. These lines can't be controlled that way. Open your loop to minimize the kick. Make one back cast and then briefly lay the line down in front of you. Pick up that line and make another back cast, slipping line to get the line's head out of the tip-top, then shoot the front cast. No false casting is required. Lay down every front cast once the head is out of the tip-top and shoot the next. This is much safer and easier to do than trying to false cast with a dense head and a big heavy fly.

As you retrieve your line and get ready for the next cast, the line is now **in** the water, not **on** the water as the floater is. It is not possible to go into a backcast with the line sunken. Make a roll cast or two and get the line to the surface. Once there we can make our usual pick-up. Remember to pinch down the barb for your own sake if not for the fish's, just in case.

Read more about this on my blog...:

everyjonahasawhale.com/blog/casting-sinking-lines/

Jonah

Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover

I'll see you there – Our August outing is Saturday, August 19 at Fort DeSoto Park. We'll meet up at 11:30 am at Shelter #4 for our Brisket on the Bay picnic. ([Fort De Soto Park](#))

Dirty water = Dirty money? This organization is building a lot of support and putting a lot of pressure on lawmakers who don't want to do anything to upset the fund raising. ([Votewater](#))

Confirmed: Gamefish are lethargic this month. Is August the cruelest month for Florida saltwater fly fishers? Could be. Here are some ways to change your luck. ([On The Fly South](#))

Feeling lucky? You could win a Hardy Zane Carbon Pro fly rod and reel, a Hardy Ultralight fly rod, an Ultradisc UDLA fly reel, or a WaterMaster Kodiak inflatable boat. It's the Fly Fishers International Sweepstakes. Make your move before Sept. 25. ([Fly Fishers International](#))

More about the seagrass decline in Tampa Bay. A USF study of aerial maps shows that seagrass in Tampa Bay has declined by almost 30 percent since 2016. ([Weather.com](#))

Bill Scarola: Puns of the Day

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Why do you have to "put your two cents in"... but it's only a "penny for your thoughts?" And where does that extra penny go? (Taxes, of course.)

What disease did cured ham actually have?

Why are you in a movie? But you're on TV?

My Grandad used to say "when one door closes, another opens!" He was a good man, but his cabinet making was not so good.

Why do grandpas smile all the time?

(It's because they can't hear a word you're saying!)

Did you ever notice that nothing grows faster between the time when a fish takes the bait and the time it gets away?

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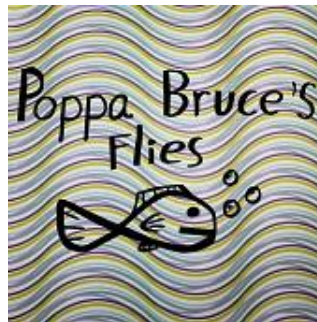


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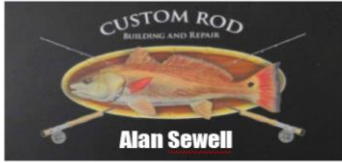


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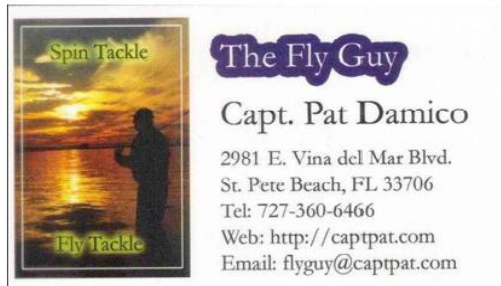
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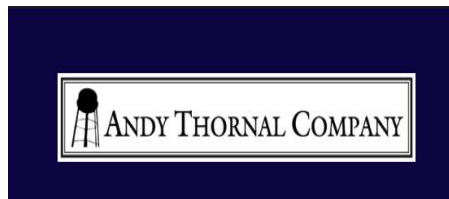
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