

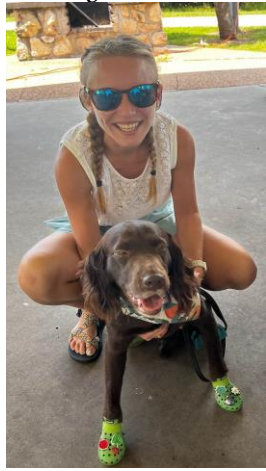
# On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

*Carl Hanson Outing 6*



*Dog Crocs? 7*



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## President's Message: September 2023

I don't usually get too emotional at the loss of a public figure but, once in a while something happens that gets to me. It happened in 1999 when golfer Payne Stewart and five others lost cabin pressure in Stewart's Learjet 35 and crashed in South Dakota. The plane had traveled 1500 miles on autopilot until it ran out of fuel and came down. He was one of my favorite golfers and I had long admired him. It was such a shock when he was lost in such a bizarre tragedy. It happened again this year on the first of September when Jimmy Buffett died from skin cancer.

Before I retired, I drove 49 miles each way from my home in Apollo Beach to my workplace in Clearwater. I often thought how much better it would be to be going under the bridge out to sea than heading over the bridge into traffic and another day at the office. On the way over I listened to the Mason Dixon morning show on radio Q105 but, on the way home I always played one of Jimmy Buffett's albums.

The music was perfect as I cruised over the Skyway bridge looking down at the sparkling water, small boats, and ships of all kinds.

Jimmy Buffett was a fly fisherman. He wrote about it in his semi-autobiographical book "[A Pirate Looks at 50](#)". He was part of an elite group that discovered a new striped bass fishery and fine-tuned the best methods to catch them on the fly. His sister, Laurie, is married to legendary fly fishing author Thomas McGuane.

In recent years Jimmy could be found chasing bonefish on a stand-up paddleboard with a graphite rod and Tibor reel. He often sprinkled fly fishing references into his social media posts.

For me it was a shock to learn that Jimmy Buffett had died. We now know that he had battled skin cancer for several years, but I was unaware of his condition. I know that like Payne Stewart I will think about him from time to time for the rest of my life.

Thanks. Stay safe and keep fishing!

*Rick*

Rick Warfel

## Meetings, Outings, and More

### **Thursday, September 21 Meeting Walter Fuller Park Rec. Center, 7891 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., St. Petersburg**

**5:30 pm: practice fly casting outdoors**

**7 – 8:30 pm. Fly tying tables**

- Gobble gobble the pizza and tie flies. Bring your vise, tools and materials. Or, just come and watch.
  - Table leaders are Bruce Evensen, Layne Smith, John Connolly, Cliff Nigh, David Redd, and Bill Scarola.
  - Flies to tie include spiders, gurglers, baitfish, shrimp, and Clousers.
  - We're testing a new \$5 bucket for the post-meeting raffle. If you win that one you get half of the total and the club gets half.
  - Practice fly casting on the grass before the meeting. VP Quin Berry is setting up targets at 5:30.
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### **Saturday, September 23: Carl Hanson Competition on the Hillsborough River**

**Picnic Location: Trout Creek Park**

- Saturday, September 23 outing. Carl Hanson Memorial with Tampa Bay Fly Fishers on the Hillsborough River.
  - Fish anywhere on the Hillsborough but meet up for a picnic lunch at Trout Creek Conservation Park,
  - The address is 12550 Morris Bridge Road, Thonotosassa. \$2 admission fee. Great panfish area. This is where we held our April outing. The member catching the most panfish wins the outing prize
  - Check out the outing awards – longest fish and most fish -- on Page 6.
  - Also check the leaders on the tournament chart also on Page 6.
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### **Future meetings and outings:**

- 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 member Dayle Mazzarella, FFI Master Casting Instructor, [Wyoming fly guide](#).
  - Saturday, November 18 outing. It's a casting clinic at Egan Field in St. Pete Beach.
  - Sunday, November 19. Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club hosts the annual Big Gun Shootout at Picnic Island Park in Tampa.
  
  - Friday, December 15.. Holiday Party, St. Jerome Catholic Church, Largo.
  - Friday, December 8. Kayak fishing and lunch at the Apollo Beach Youth Center.
  - December meeting: no meeting in December.
  - Saturday, December 16 Outing. Fort De Soto Park, Don Coleman Invitational and chili luncheon with members of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and Sarasota's Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers.
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### **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.
  - Planning for the 2024 Hog Roast is underway. We are planning another join banquet with the TBFFC. The date and location have not yet been finalized"
  - Members will be asked to vote for the 2024 Hog Roast budget of \$5,000. The board approves.
  - Redfish anyone? Member Cliff Nigh is looking into the pros and cons of a fall/winter overnight outing in the Apalachicola area.
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# 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 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N turn North on 72<sup>nd</sup> St. N. Turn left (West) on 26<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 126 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 members

Brian Berry, Joseph Gullo, and Michael Simmons (returning)

### Suncoast Fly Fishers

P. O. Box 40821  
St Petersburg, FL 33743  
[www.suncoastflyfishers.org](http://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.*

## Anne Mitchell: A Man of Few Words



Anne Mitchell

*Captain Jacob specializes in helping clients catch juvenile tarpon.*  
As many longtime SFF members know, Tim Elms is obsessed with catching tarpon on a fly (just as long as that fly isn't a Clouser). Our August guest speaker, Captain Jacob Lenges, shares Tim's love of juvie tarpon. Jacob has been a guide in Tampa Bay for five years

Where do you go to catch little 'poons? Jacob recommends the shadow lines of bridges (and a little past the lines) and dock lights at night. If you want to make the trek

north, Crystal River is the superior spot right now while Weedon Island is on the decline. You can also try any little creek with some salt intrusion in your area.

If you want to plan a trip, Jacob has had great luck in the Everglades around the Tamiami Trail, in the Keys at Big Pine Campground, and Ding Darling Road near Sanibel. If you choose to fish the small canals in the Everglades make sure you bring a fully charged GPS. It's really easy to get lost in there!



*Capt. Jacob Lenges was our August speaker. Here's [a link to his website](#). You can also talk to him on Facebook. Call (727) 643-7541*



*That's Tim Elms with a juvenile tarpon. He claims he didn't catch it on a Clouser. He has caught more than 55 juvie poons this year.*

When should you fish for them? All summer long and preferably at night.

What gear should you bring? Many fly fishermen swear by black and purple. Jacob says some tarpon do want them, but he prefers olive and tan. Eyes are fine but not necessary and the hooks should be between sizes 1-4. At night use white and chartreuse flies.

Jacob likes a 5-8 weight line, either intermediate or sink tip. He recommends a 9 ft intermediate leader, a 20-30 lb. tippet, and a sub-surface fly.

Make sure you learn to cast even if you hire a guide! Catching tarpon is hard and you need that fly to land properly on the first attempt. See where the tarpon rolls, cast to it, wait 10-20 seconds, twitch the fly, then make very quick, short strips back.

Annie

# Bob Burkard: Carl Hanson Memorial on the Hillsborough

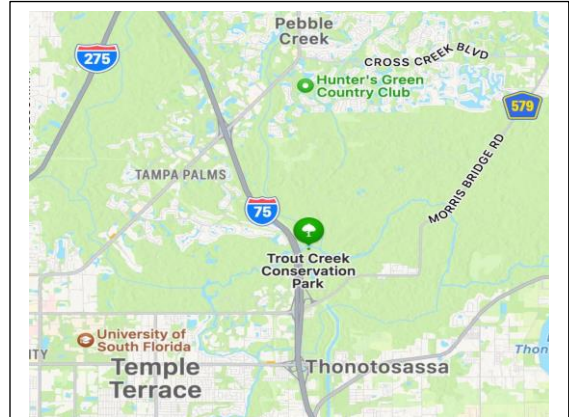


Bob Burkard, outings committee chair

Okay, on Saturday, 23, it's our club's annual fly fishing competition against the Tampa club. This is our memorial outing to remember Carl Hanson, who belonged to both clubs.

Two winners will be determined. The fly fisher catching the most panfish (aka bream) captures the Carl Hanson trophy for this club. The fly fisher catching the longest fish of any species (mudfish anyone?) gets to keep the drawing of Carl Hanson for a year until next year's club-to-club contest.

Where? The Hillsborough River. You can fish anywhere on the Hillsborough River that you want to fish but meet up by noon for the picnic and awards "ceremony" at a shelter at Trout Creek Conservation Park in Thonotosassa.



Picnic location: Kayak launch, too. Trout Creek Conservation Park address is 12550 Morris Bridge Road, Thonotosassa. \$2/car fee.



Carl Hanson tying flies. The St. Pete Times called him "Lord of

Carl was a fly fisher and fly tier and, more importantly, a fly fishing teacher. On Tuesday nights he taught fly casting in his backyard. Come one, come all. Carl died in 1998 and he will long be remembered, especially by old timers at his two fly clubs, Suncoast Fly Fishers and Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.

Check the leaders on the tournament chart below. Maybe you can take the lead in the bream and bass categories.



Catch the most panfish and you get to keep the Carl Hanson drawing for a year.

## 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	Wes Sobczak	21"	Fort DeSoto Park (August)
Longest ladyfish	David Redd	15.5"	Docklight/beach outing (June)
Longest seatrout	Mark Hays	17.0"	Sunshine Skyway (July)



## Bob Burkard: August Brisket by the Bay Outing



*Tim Elms gets ready to fly fish the first light at Fort DeSoto Park.*



*Rick Warfel carves his slow-grilled beef brisket. Delicious!*

Oh what a beautiful morning. It was so great to fly fish and meet up again at Fort DeSoto Park. The weather was good. Fishing was good. The picnic was better than good. Slow-grilled beef brisket was the entrée cooked overnight and presented by me and by President Rick Warfel. Alan Sewell's cornbread was on the table, too. Thank you, Alan! Anne Mitchell correctly described it as "amazing."

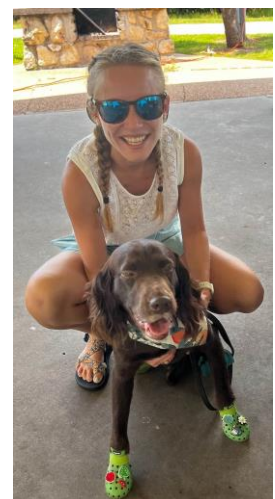


*Mark Hays plays his pompano. Or was it his gag grouper? Or his 17-inch seatrout? Or a seatrout? Arrowhead Picnic area, FYI.*

Oh, yeah, and fishing was pretty darn good but, alas, nobody caught a snook so nobody won the big prize, a \$10 gift certificate. Still, we had two catches that took the lead in our annual tournament. Wes Sobczak landed a 21-inch redfish. Mark Hays caught a 17-inch speckled trout. That was a close call because Wes caught a seatrout measuring 16.5-inches. (Wes, you need to work on stretching your fish or shrinking your ruler.) Other fish were caught. Pompano. Gag Grouper. Ladyfish. Check out Anne Mitchell's reports in this newsletter about fishing Arrowhead Park.

And we were all rewarded watching two pets get to know each other. One was Mabel Hays, the easy-going black lab. The other was Tucker, a beautiful spaniel pup recently acquired by Jill Thompson-Grim and her friend Nick. It was quite rewarding watching them get acquainted. Also, it was quite rewarding getting a look at Tucker's new shoes: Crocs. I kid you not.

*Bob*

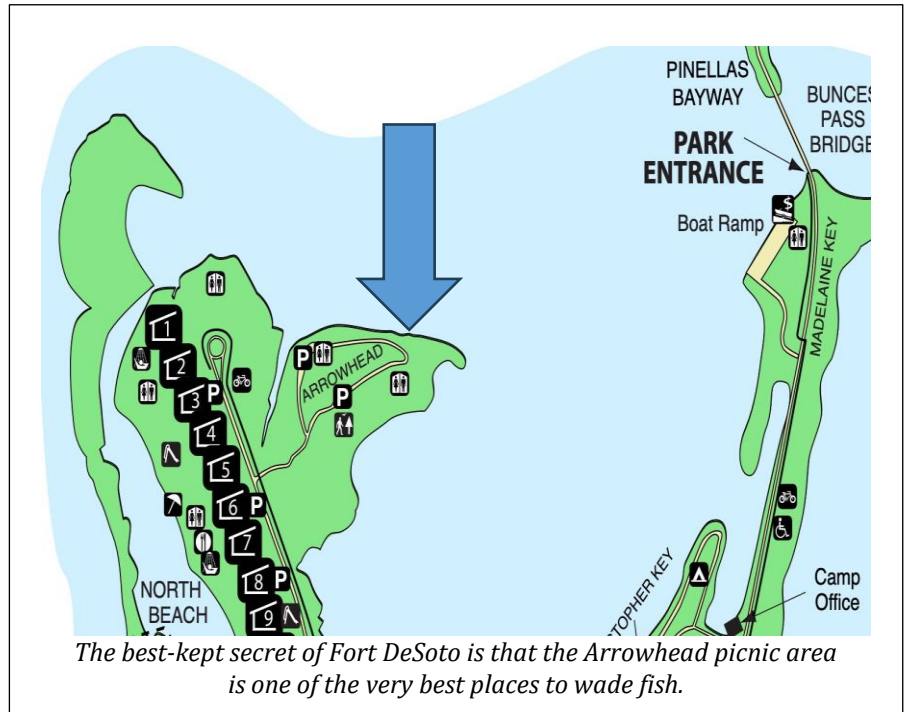


*Jill Thompson-Grim and her new dog Tucker, who wears Crocs.*

## Annie Mitchell: The Path Less Waded



Let's be honest. Fishing at Fort DeSoto Park on the weekends is always a gamble. It seems like every jet skier, motorboat owner, and bicycle nerd (those are the people in Spandex who take up an entire lane of traffic)



*Fish on, but what is it?  
Seatrout, jack, ladyfish,  
grouper, pompano?*

has to use the park like it's their own backyard all weekend long. This makes fly fishing, and even driving around the park, rather challenging. Such is the price Tampa Bay pays for being paradise on Earth.

However, if you follow the tides and fish the areas too shallow even for jet skis, you too can catch fish as long as you can find a coveted parking spot.

The best kept secret of Fort DeSoto is that the Arrowhead picnic area is one of the best places to wade fish. The reason this is secret is because the only way to truly fish it is to wade. This is because the only time it's worth fishing is just before low tide and just as the tide starts to come in from the dead low. High tide or even medium tides are no-goes. Frankly, it's best to fish it when even kayaks have issues getting to the correct positions.

A mistake we see frequently is that even wade fishers think they have to venture out to chest deep water to catch fish. This is untrue. At the previously mentioned tides, the fish are swimming in chest deep water, so you want to stand in what for me is knee deep to calf deep water. Every time we fish that area we always see some guys up to their chests holding their rods up. I don't know how they keep their arms raised for a few hours but they never seem to move any shallower, and whenever we look over they don't seem to be catching much.

This brings me to our August outing.

*Continued on next page*



## P2/Annie Mitchell: The Path Less Waded

We had the perfect conditions for Arrowhead: a breeze to keep us from overheating, the dead low to incoming tide, and no one else from the club went to Arrowhead. Robert, Dad, and I climbed down from the seawall and worked our way to the right. The tide was low enough that we were able to cast reasonably close to the channel marker, which is always a great spot, and we eventually made it to the point and back.

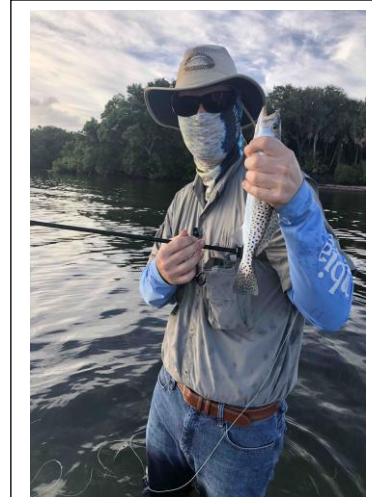
Dad caught the largest speckled trout for the SFF at 17" on a standard green and white Clouser. I also caught all my fish on the same fly, and Robert caught all his fish on a brown and white Lefty's Deceiver. We all caught a few smaller trout, and we all brought in small gag grouper. They are so much fun on small fly rods and they don't rip the line out like Jacks.



*Mark Hays' pompano he caught at Arrowhead picnic area.*

Rick Warfel and Bob Burkard both made excellent, smoky, heartburn-inducing briskets. Alan Sewell made cornbread so good I think half the club didn't get any because they didn't get in line fast enough. My Mom brought our black Lab Mabel. Jill and Nick brought their spaniel Tucker. Mabel is hard to resist when she begs with those big brown eyes, but Tucker's Crocs stole the afternoon.

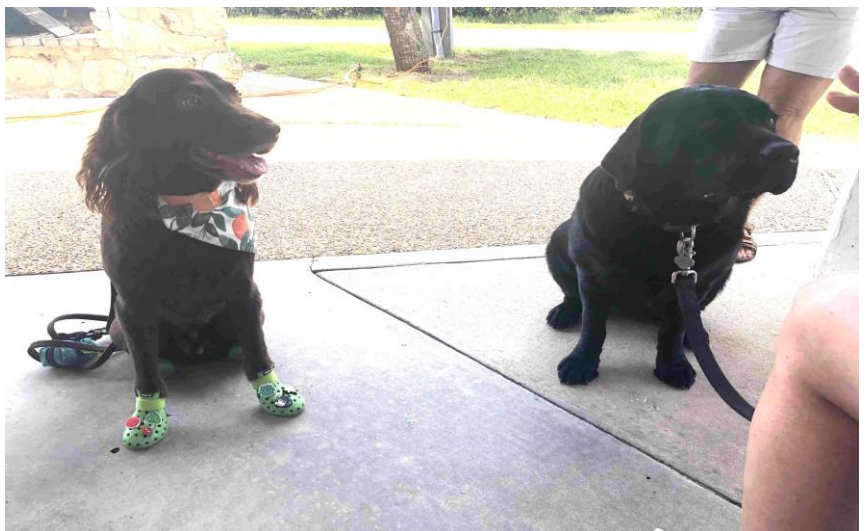
*Annie*



*Robert Mitchell and a seatrout*

Another key to fishing at Arrowhead is that when the fish stop feeding it's a hard stop. Once about 10 am rolled around Dad caught exactly one more fish and that was it! If the fish just stop biting, it's time to pack up.

However, the highlight of the day was that final fish. As we were all making our way back to the seawall, Dad cast near the channel marker and his line tore out of the reel. After a careful fight he brought in a 13" Pompano. With that, it was time for brisket.



*That's Tucker wearing paw Crocs. Mabel was not impressed. She was sniffing brisket or something.*

## Annie Mitchell: Arrowhead Park Redux. Twice.



A few weeks after our success at Arrowhead during the outing, Dad, Robert, and I went back for the Sunday during Labor Day weekend. Robert decided to fly fish, but Dad and I really wanted to bring some fish home to eat so we brought our spinning rods. We also had a new addition to our group.

Our plumbing shop is next door to the famous 1 of 1 Customs – Hand Painted Everything gallery. The gallery is helmed by St. Pete artist Rasta. I happen to know Rasta's real name, but I think he likes to keep that a secret. Rasta came to fame by painting, well, anything and everything he can get his hands on. Murals, metal cups, the champagne flutes at my wedding, you name it! He's most famous for painting athletes' shoes, which is why there are multiple giant wooden shoes in his front yard.

Rasta received some fishing tackle a few months ago and he's been asking Robert to take him fishing ever since. Our schedules finally aligned and the tides were perfect for fishing at Arrowhead (see my previous article), so we brought him along. As a native of Omaha, Nebraska, Rasta had never waded fished before. He was extremely excited to learn.

Robert let Rasta borrow his spinning rod as it was way too windy for a fly fishing lesson that morning. Dad was a bit skeptical that Robert would have much luck with his fly rod given the weather and that he was giving fishing lessons, but Robert caught an 18.5" trout on the Clouser Dad had tied for him. We may have created another fishing fool as Rasta caught two small speckled trout. Dad landed two keeper trout of his own to round our dinner for all of our families, but of course he dropped my keeper after he unhooked it. His were also between 18"-19."

Dad and I followed the same path as at the outing and walked to the right of the seawall all the way past the point. Robert and Rasta went to the left end of the seawall and stayed roughly in the same area the whole time.

As with the previous trip, once the fishing stopped it stopped! This time we ended around 10 am when Mom and Mabel showed up. Mabel charged across the mud flat after the seagulls so fast that she scared a couple of fishermen who thought she was a black bear cub.

On Labor Day morning Robert and I went back again just the two of us. The wind was even stronger so, yes, we both brought spinning rods. I know, we'll have to resign from the club after this scandal. At least we didn't use bait. We wanted to enjoy our a weekend together with Robert who has been cramming to finish studying for his master's plumbing exams.

This time the tide was still outgoing until mid-morning. Also unlike the previous day, the fish wanted soft, pink lures with sparkles. Unfortunately, I had the only sparkly pink lure. We're slowly working our way through a massive zip lock bag of rubber lures that Allen Sewell gave us last month. When Robert grabbed a handful to replenish the tacklebox he didn't grab any pinks.

**At one point I caught seven fish in seven casts.** Thankfully Robert was a good sport and I just handed them to him to unhook so I could keep casting. So many times we've bought ice and not caught any keepers, but this time we brought home two large trout and an almost 19" flounder. My dad said that was one of the largest flounder he's ever cleaned. Flounder happens to be my mom's favorite fish to eat, so we baked it the next night.

Robert and I both caught several smaller trout and small gag grouper. As the tide got too close to dead low the fishing dried up except for the needle fish so we called it an early morning. I feared that if we kept the fish on the stringer too long a porpoise was bound to show up eventually. We'll have to tie some sparkly pink shrimp flies to replicate this at future outings.

*Annie*

## Robert Fischer: Retirement of a Fly?



*Robert Fischer caught this sheephead on Smitty's Golden Eye Shrimp.*

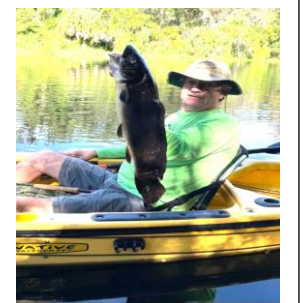
Retire a fly? Why? There can be several reasons why you might want to remove a fly from active service in your fly box. Obviously because you don't want to lose it, but there is a little more to it. Some of the reasons could be:

One: Reminder of a great or unusual catch. Here is a before and after picture of a red and white "MirrOlure" fly tied by Smitty that caught a very large puffer. There is also a picture of a golden eye shrimp tied by Smitty that caught a nice sheephead, and finally a mop fly that caught an 8-pound mudfish on a 1-wt fly rod.



*Smitty's MirrOlure fly, before and after.*

Two. Another reason to retire a fly would be because it has some Historical or Memorial attachment. The next pictures are of a red and yellow epoxy fly used by Curt Gowdy in an early



*An 8-pound mudfish on a mop fly.*

Pediatric Cancer Fishing tournament in St. Pete. There is also a Prince of Tides fly used by Jose Wejbe in the same tournament. There is an epoxy minnow tied by Jack Montaque and of course a glass minnow fly tied by Carl Hanson. And there is a Snookeroo tied by Jim Stewart who was the driving force behind the establishment of the Suncoast Fly Fishers and a black and purple brim fly by Jim who used it to win the Jack DeTar Brim tournament in Lake Okeechobee.

Three: Preserve a design. Some flies become our favorites over time because they work. But if you are a fly tyer, you cannot resist the temptation to modify, change or expand on these patterns, so it's a good idea to keep the original pattern on hand. The following photo shows some of my favorite flies in their original forms, tied by their originators. First is the Carnival Clouser by Steve Parker; next is the Crystal Beetle by Smitty; then the Green and Gold by Leigh West; and finally the Golden Eye Shrimp tied by Smitty. (This pattern is not an original design by Smitty but he helped to resurrect it and it has turned into one of my go to patterns for everything that eats shrimp).



*That's Leigh West's Green and Gold bendback on the top and Smitty's Golden Eye Shrimp on the bottom.*

Four: Finally there are some flies that are just Too Pretty To Fish. These are flies that are just amazing to look at and we just couldn't imagine that chance of letting a fish damage them. Here is a picture of a mouse and a spider. These two were instrumental in scaring the daylights out of my wife and daughter. And they are beautiful.



*Along came a spider... and a mouse. Too pretty to fish.*

All these flies have a special place in my fishing room and deserve their retirement.

*Robert*



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## Gary Sundberg: Rainbow Trout. Ware, Massachusetts. Fun!

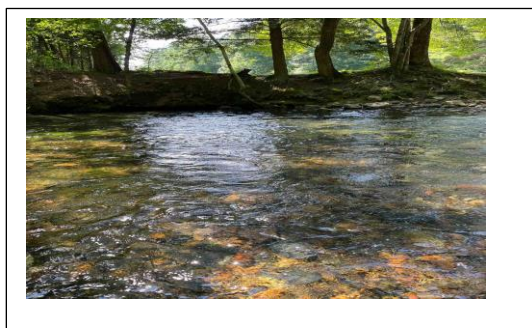
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Pretty Rainbow Trout taken from a tailwater pool at Quabbin Reservoir in Ware, Massachusetts.

Water temperature was 51°. Adams Parachute Dry Fly barbless size 18.

Tough to see the fly in the dappled light but when I saw the snout come out of the water I set the hook. Was using a 3-wt T&T rod. Fun!



Water temp in 50's, coming out of the bottom of the dam, air temp 91! Legs were freezing in the waders and my head and shirt were wet with sweat. Whole river was a fog bank, crazy.

*Gary*

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### Solitude...

*pen and ink with wash by R. McKeon*



*the hush of a secluded lake  
or stream / my thoughts unto  
myself a gentle breeze pushes the  
mind to another place in time  
young as I was fishing then  
uninterrupted / never distracted  
/ time though tip-toed to where i  
stand / here alone in my solitude  
/ next to the beauty God had  
planned*

*Robert McKeon*

Suncoast Fly Fishers thanks Bob McKeon. Bob writes the newsletter for [Desert Fly Casters](#) of Chandler, Arizona

## Crème Sickle Fly with Bruce Evensen & Bill Scarola



*Bruce*



*The Crème Sickle is a great pattern for catching the inshore slam -- seatrout, redfish, and snook.*



*Bill*

Our in-person fly tying team of Bruce Evensen and Bill Scarola are back in town and helping members tie the most productive flies for fly fishing Tampa Bay. Bruce and Bill and attendees will meet up tonight, Monday, September 18 at Bruce's fly tying room to tie the Crème Sickle fly. Join them tonight or any Monday. The meet up is at 6 pm at 531 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue North in St. Pete.

### Materials

1. Outerbody -- extra select craft fur, white  
Inner body -- Shimmer fringe, chartreuse and orange, red or pink or Senyo laser dubbing
2. Hook -- 3407, size 1/0 or similar, ie 1 or 2 stingers.
3. Eyes -- Stick on holographic eyes, 5 mm, silver/black
4. Thread -- Flat waxed in white, or mono thread
5. Glue- UV epoxy, Super Glue and eye glue
6. Lead -- Wrap ,if desired, to add weight

### Tying Steps

1. Wrap hook shank w/ thread, eye to bend
2. Add 2-3 clumps of the shimmer fringe, choice of color, starting at the bend & placing the next in front of the first. etc.
3. Add a bit of white craft fur to form the belly
4. Add a smaller bit of white fur to each side, so the colored material shows thru.
5. Add more white craft fur to form the body top.
6. Add several strands of shimmer fringe to the sides.
7. Tie off all materials & add a drop of glue.
8. Using your favorite eye glue, add a drop to each side above the hook shank and attach your stick-on eyes.
9. Epoxy over the eyes and thread wraps.

###

## Smitty's September Fly of the Month: The Creature



This fly was taught to me by Bart Lombardo, creator of the Triangle Bug another great panfish fly. The best retrieve for this fly is a slow finger roll. This is a great fly not only panfish but for bass (both largemouth and smallmouth), crappie and even freshwater catfish, weighted of course (jig head or tungsten bead to get the fly down quickly).



### *Smitty*

#### **Materials**

**Hook:** Mustad 3366 #8

**Thread:** Danville's Flatwaxed Nylon in color of choice

**Body:** Mop material; your color of choice

**Legs:** Flexi Floss or similar (two strands)

**Optional:** Dubbing in your color of choice

**Hackle:** Large body feather from a male Ringneck pheasant, grouse, or hen chicken

**Cement:** Your favorite CA cement (Super Glue, Zap-a-Gap, FletchTite, etc.)

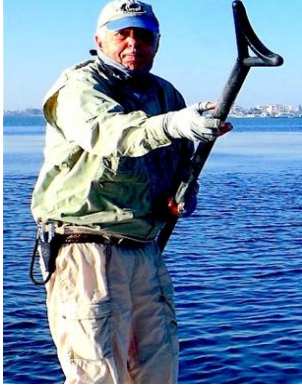
**Finish:** Solarez UV Resin (My favorite is "Bone Dry")

#### **Tying Sequence**

1. Place hook in vise and, starting at hook eye, lay down a base wrap of thread to cover hook shank to bend.
2. Apply a coat of CA cement to thread wraps to just short of the hook eye.
3. Lay a mop section on the glued shank and hold for a second. Wrap thread forward in firm open wraps then back-wrap over front of mop using closer tight wraps to secure.
4. Tie in legs on the near side of the hook, then extend to the far side and tie down. Trim to length.
5. If you are going to add a dubbed collar, do it at this point. Apply dubbing to thread using your favorite method (splitting thread and inserting dubbing in gap then spin or apply dubbing to waxed thread and rolling between thumb and forefinger).
6. Wrap dubbing over mop tie-in area (3 or 4 wraps should be sufficient) and then brush it out over the body sparsely.
7. Splay barbs back from the tip of the pheasant feather then attach the tip to the shank of the hook. Palmer feather onto the shank (about 3 or 4 wraps should do the trick) making sure to stroke barbs back as you wrap. Overwrap barbs so they lay back and then create a nice thread head. Whip finish and then coat head with UV Resin and cure.

###-





## Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

### Driving around keep an eye out for fishy ponds

Saltwater gets all our attention, but when driving to or from work, or visiting a friend in a development, keep an eye out for a pond that looks fishy. There are many very productive ponds that have bass and panfish, some even have snook and baby tarpon since both species can adapt well to fresh water. You're okay on public land, but if privately owned seek permission. Keep a rod rigged in the vehicle. An SUV can accommodate a fully rigged fly rod, or have it in sections in a protective case in the trunk. Park your car in a safe place and observe the pond's surface for activity. A small pair of binoculars is helpful. Most fish will be around structures: trees, floating plants, docks, bridges, or an aerator. On a sunny day, shade is the key. In the absence of structure, cast close to shore where most food sources like hoppers, crickets, ants, beetles, and baitfish are plentiful. Splashes will give away feeding activity. A 5 or 6-weight fly rod with a floating weight forward line using a 7-foot leader tapered to 10-pound test will handle easily and allow you to find out if any fish are present. Use flies that imitate small baitfish and terrestrials or use a white or yellow popper in sizes 6 to 8 and cover water quickly. If you find fish that are small or too large for your equipment, adjust your gear to be better prepared on your return visit. Be careful where you step; this is Florida!

### *Captain Pat*

*Fly guide/casting instructor Pat Damico charts "Fly Guy" in lower Tampa Bay.*

[captpatdamico.com](http://captpatdamico.com) and 727-504-8649



*Jonas Magnusson, Fly Fishers International Certified fly-Casting Instructor*

## Jonas Magnusson: Trajectory

Starting fly casters are taught to false cast on grass and the casts will be horizontally parallel to the ground. Casting horizontally when fishing is an unforced error, the line and the leader will turn over several feet above the surface. It will take time for the fly to drop and the wind will mess with the presentation.

I noticed at a club meeting when we were doing accuracy that the back casts usually weren't high enough.

When you aim at a spot on the water's surface the trajectory will become downward towards that spot. Because the back cast must be 180 degrees opposite to the forward cast, it follows that the back cast must be upwards.

Therefore the whole trajectory must be straight (180-degree rule obeyed). So, now the cast must look like this.

So, pick a spot on the water where you intend to place your fly. Now, drive the fly line straight to that point and try to straighten your fly line and leader just inches above that point. Now, the wind has much less room to screw up your cast.

Read more about this on my [blog https://everyjonahasawhale.com/fly-casting/casting-technique/trajectory/](https://everyjonahasawhale.com/fly-casting/casting-technique/trajectory/)

### *Jonah*

## Fishy Funnies

Do fishermen make money?

Yes, NET PROFITS!

Three Suncoast Fly Fishers were out fishing and didn't catch anything,

#1 says, " I guess because It's Windy!

#2 says "No it's Thursday!",

#3 says, "So am I; let's go get a beer!"

H/T Bill Scarola

**More puns. These are from [Laughlore.com](http://Laughlore.com)**

Why do fly fishers make bad secret agents? Because they always get caught on the line!

What do you call a fish that goes fly fishing? Hooked!

Why did the fly fisherman take a ladder to the river? He heard the fish were biting up high.

How does a fly fisherman make a phone call? On his fish-phone!

Why do fly fishers never get sunburned? They always have plenty of shade!

Why did the vegan go fly fishing? He heard there was a great catch-and-release program.

Why don't fish play basketball? Because they're afraid of the net!

How do fish play musical chairs? When the tide goes out!

What kind of music do fish listen to? Something catchy!

What did the boy fish say to his girlfriend? Let's go on a bait!

How do you tune a fish? Adjust its scales!



H/T Bob Hood

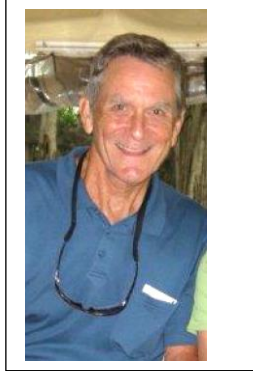


H/T Bob Hood



H/T Bob Burkard

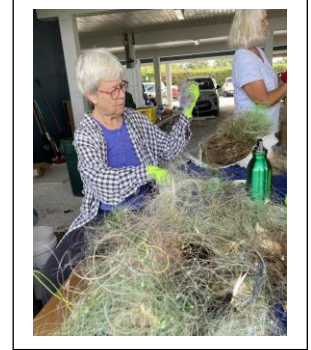
## Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



### 30 year anniversary stone?

It's a pearl. Tampa Bay Watch celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> year as our bay's coastal conservation guardian. The Pearl Anniversary; aka The Reef Ball Evening for the Bay and fund raiser will be October 21 at TBW's Tierre Verde headquarters. They're even going to have an amazing 18-piece jazz orchestra, *The TomKats*. Btw, this is just two days after TBW's founder and president Peter Clark speaks to members of Suncoast Fly Fishers at the October 19 meeting. I am really looking forward to that.

[\(Tampa Bay Watch\)](#)



### Are you free on Wednesday, October 11?

If you are, then consider signing up for the Mono Clean-A-Thon at the Tampa Bay Watch Marine Center headquarters. It's on the Pinellas Bayway on the way to Fort DeSoto Park. Volunteers clean monofilament fishing line to remove debris, cutting off hooks and lures, and so on. The mono then goes to the FWC for proper recycling. [\(Tampa Bay Watch\)](#)

### Jimmy was a fly fisher

I did not know this. It turns out Jimmy Buffett sprinkled his love of fly fishing into his social media posts. Maybe some credit for that goes to his brother-in-law, Tom McGuane, the author of *92 in the Shade*. *The Longest Silence: A Life in Fishing*, and much more. [\(Fly Fisherman\)](#)

### Are we addicted?

I love to click on the Tail Fly Fishing blog and revisit some of its oldies but goodies. This one is a goodie. Yeah, I lost a big redfish a few weeks ago. The knot. My bad. [\(Tail Fly Fishing\)](#)

### The drawing is October 6

You could win a WaterMaster Kodiak Inflatable, a Hardy Zane Carbon Pro fly rod and reel, or a Hardy Ultralite fly rod and Ultralight fly rod with an Ultradisc UDLA fly reel. [\(Fly Fishers International\)](#)

### This fly fishing tournament is in February

And we don't get many fly fishing tournaments. The Waterman Fly Fishing Tournament is a two-day, fly-fishing only event. Catch and release redfish with an optional snook Calcutta. [\(Tampa Bay Waterkeeper\)](#)

### And the winners are...

Americans Max Logan, 17, and Noah Shapiro, 19, won a gold medal at the annual Cortland World Youth Fly Fishing Championship in Bosnia and Herzegovina. More than 64 teens from 13 countries competed in this July event. The U.S. Team caught 397 fish in the five-day competition. [\(Boulder Daily Camera\)](#)

*Bill*



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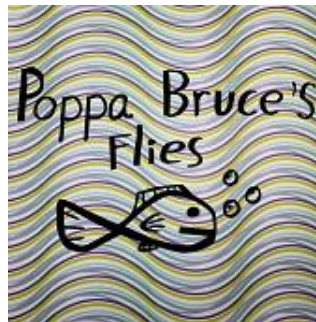


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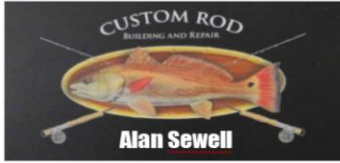


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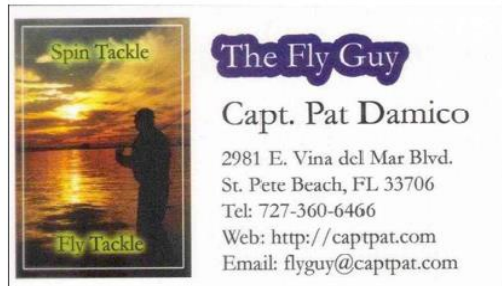
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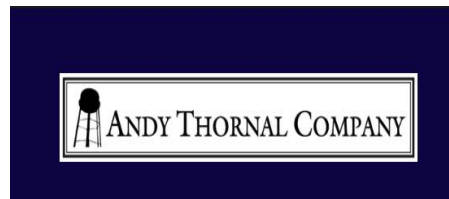
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