

# On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

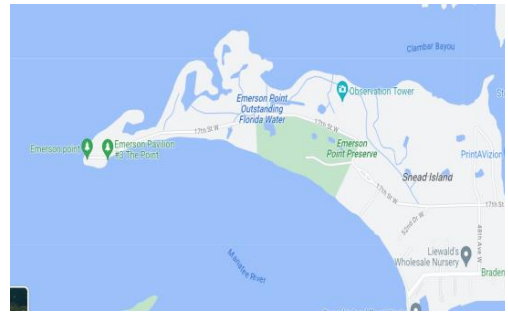
*The Exotic Regalia Fly 6*



*We have a winner 7*



*Emerson Point, here we come 8*



*How to lose new fly line 10*



*New SFF Hats 4*



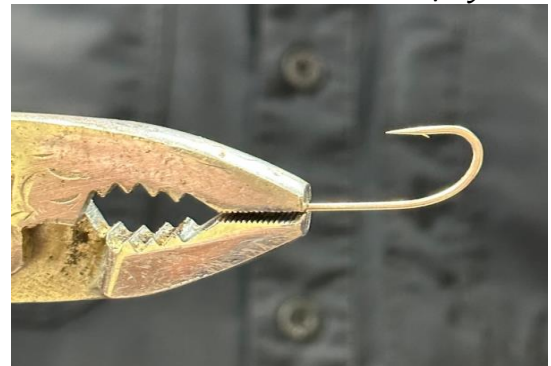
*Spoon-feed Redfish in Homosassa 11*



*Tagging sharks and more for NOAA 12*



*Bend a bendback hook. Safely 13*





## President's Message: October 2023

This is a busy time of year for SFF. It started in August with our Brisket by the Bay outing featuring, you guessed it, smoked brisket. In September we had a very successful Tie-A-Thon with one of the best groups of member fly tiers ever assembled and free pizza. Our October outing will be at Emerson Point Preserve and our luncheon will be grilled hamburgers and hot dogs.

November is our annual open house where anyone interested in fly fishing is welcome to come check out the club and enjoy more free pizza. The outing in November will be the casting clinic with FFI Master Certified Casting instructors plus breakfast and lunch. In December we will have our holiday party featuring fun activities

and an array of member supplied goodies and treats followed by the Don Coleman Invitational tournament and chili cookoff. As past president George Hazeltine often said, "We are either a fly fishing club with an eating addiction or an eating club with a fly fishing addiction." By the time we get to the end of the year we won't need a boat to fish the bay, we can just loosen our belts, pick up our feet and float across the water.

This is also the time of year when our winter visitors start returning, fall fishing is in full swing and our membership drive gets under way. It is time for all of us to renew our SFF membership and it has never been easier. You can pay by check or with credit card and you can renew on our website [SuncoastFlyFishers.com](http://SuncoastFlyFishers.com). Expect to see a renewal reminder complete with information about your membership early next month. If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Karen Warfel.

If you know anyone that might be interested in fly fishing, invite them to come to our November open house. I know that our members will make them feel welcome!

Thanks. Stay safe and keep fishing!

*Rick*

Rick Warfel

## Meetings, Outings, and More

### Thursday, October 19 Meeting

**Speaker, Peter Clark, President and Founder of Tampa Bay Watch**

**Walter Fuller Park Recreation Center, 7891 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., St. Petersburg**

- Meet the man who started Tampa Bay Watch in 1993. Under Peter Clark's direction, TBW has installed 10,000 oyster reef units, 1,200 tons of oyster shell to create more than two miles of oyster shell reef communities, and planted salt marsh seagrasses to restore coastal tidal ponds.
- Also, at this meeting, we'll share details about the October outing at Emerson Point Preserve in Manatee County.
- We've got a new \$5 bucket at the raffle. If you win that one you get half of the total and the club gets the other half.
- Practice fly casting on the grass before the meeting. VP Quin Berry is setting up targets to practice before the meeting. Targets include some similar to the ones you'll see at the Big Gun Shootout on November 19.

### Saturday, October 21 (Emerson Point Preserve in Manatee County)

- This is a great fly fishing location for wade and kayak fishing. You'll cross over the Sunshine Skyway then head south on Highway 19. It turns into Highway 41. Turn west on Tenth Street and continue all the way to the preserve.
- Catch the longest snook. You'll win a \$10 gift certificate. Get in the snook lead to be the annual outing winner.
- Bill AuCoin will be the wade fishing leader. Meet up with him at 7 am at Pavilion #3.
- Then gather up after noon at Pavilion 3 for grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and more.

### Update your calendar...

- Saturday, October 21 and Sunday, October 22. Honeymoon Island Fall Festival, 10 am to 5 pm. SFF will host a fly tying and fly casting seminar and will be inviting interested participants to join our club. Volunteers are needed to teach fly casting and to tie flies, to pitch the benefits of being a member of the Suncoast Fly Fishers. If you can help reach out to David Redd at the meeting or email him at [reddfish68@yahoo.com](mailto:reddfish68@yahoo.com). We'll have a tent on or near the beach. Park entrance and parking is free. Tell the toll booth person you're with Suncoast Fly Fishers. Bring a camp chair, sunscreen, etc.
- Thursday, October 26. Carrollwood Village Fishing Club for Kids. This is one of our great opportunities to get boys and girls interested in fly fishing. There'll be about 10 kids participating in this one-hour event. Members are asked to bring flies to the October meeting and give them to Bruce Evensen who is also tying up some of his specials for the kids. SFF will be talking to the kids about fly fishing and doing a brief demonstration. If anyone wants to help out, please contact David Redd.
- Thursday, November 2. USF Awards Reception. This year the Suncoast Fly Fishers will award a \$500 scholarship to Hallie Repeta who is pursuing her PhD in USF's Marine Resource Assessment program with a career aimed towards fisheries management and marine and coastal conservation to counter the negative effects of population growth and more fishing pressure.

*Continued on next page*

## P2/Meetings, Outings, and More

- Thursday, November 16, SFF meeting: Open house and free pizza. Bring your friends who might want to join the club. Our speaker is member Dayle Mazzarella, FFI Master Casting Instructor, who will be flying in from Wyoming to tell how he became interested in fly fishing and ended up making it his career.
- Saturday, November 18 outing. 8:30 am to 3 pm. It's not a fishing outing. It's a master casting clinic at Egan Field in St. Pete Beach with FFI Master Casting Instructors: Dayle Mazzarella and Capt. Pat Damico plus Certified Casting Instructors Jonas Magnusson, Chris O'Byrne, and Robert DeAngelis. The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club is our co-sponsor. It's free to members of Fly Fishers International (FFI) which includes all members of the Suncoast Fly Fishers. Or you can join FFI for a year for \$35 and it's only \$25 for seniors and vets. WHERE: Egan Park, 9101 Blind Pass Rd, St. Pete Beach, FL 33706. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Come join us for a fun day of friendship and instruction! Members from all clubs are welcome as well as the general public.
- November 19 –Big Gun Shootout, Picnic Island Park, Tampa, 9 am to 2 pm. Lunch provided. This is a biggie, an annual fly casting competition put on by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. All are welcome and there is no entry fee. Bring your 8 weight. Individuals and teams of three compete by casting under "mangroves," into a cup of water, through a hoop, and for distance. Come early to help do the set-ups.
- Friday, December 8. Kayak fishing and lunch at the Apollo Beach Youth Center.
- Thursday, December 15. Ugly Sweater Holiday Party, St. Jerome Catholic Church, Largo.
- Saturday, December 16 Outing. Fort De Soto Park, Don Coleman Invitational and chili picnic. Members of Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and Sarasota's Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers are invited to join us. It's a tradition.
- Thursday, January 18, Trash 'n' Treasures meeting. Donate the gear you don't use anymore and bid on the gear you need. Bring a friend who wants to get into fly fishing. Proceeds go to the club to help pay for meeting and outing goodies.
- Saturday, January 20, outing, Weedon Island Preserve.
  - 2024 Hog Roast. The date and location for the 2024 Hog Roast fund raiser party with the TBFFC is not decided. We may return to St. Jerome's Church in Largo or opt for a location closer to Tampa.
- Redfish anyone? Member Cliff Nigh is exploring a possible overnight outing in the Apalachicola area this fall or winter.



### **New SFF logo hats are being ordered**

Left, President Rick Warfel models of the new SFF logo fishing hats that are being ordered.

# 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 125 members including 18 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.

### 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.*



*Gobble, gobble. Fortunately, flies were not on the pizza.*

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## September's Tie a thon

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*Photos by Robert Mitchell and Bill AuCoin*

Thanks to all who tied flies including some who are not among these pictures -- David Redd, Cliff Nigh, Alan Sewell, and Robert Fischer. Thanks, everybody!



*John Connolly tied a takeoff of a fly named Regalia. See the finished fly below.*



*Jack Collins tied a wide variety of flies for the flats.*



*Bruce Evensen finishes up a baitfish fly.*



*Beautiful Regalia fly. Here's what John said about it: "So I took the fly home, took it apart somewhat and finished it, I had to dye feathers to match the real look, but I had no success at dye this time. I did something wrong and have corrected it, so I grabbed a hand full of replacements feathers and did my best."*



*Woody Miller tied a floater fly for the Carl Hanson outing on the Hillsborough River*



*Smitty's new Monkey Milk Fly*



*Cliff Nigh's elk hair caddis (l) and caddis pupa. Cliff uses the pupa as a dropper to the dry fly.*



*Bill Scarola's Clouser*

## Bob Burkard: Carl Hanson Memorial on the Hillsborough



*Bob Burkard, outings committee chair*

It was a beautiful day on the Hillsborough River as Suncoast Fly Fishers and Tampa Bay Fly Fishers fished September 23 at Trout Creek Conservation Park in Thonotosassa. This, of course, was for the annual memorial competition in honor of dual-club member Carl Hanson who died some years ago. Carl was a member of both clubs.

Well, as all the fly fishers met up for the picnic lunch everyone was queried and we announced the official results.

Most panfish: Karen Warfel. She caught eight and her name will be engraved, for the second time, on the Carl Hanson trophy.

Longest fish: We had a tie. Suncoast Fly Fisher Mark Hays caught a 13-inch bass. But so did Tampa's Mike Perez. So they each agreed to keep the Carl Hanson drawing for six months. Mike goes first.

And there was loud applause for Tampa's Denise Bruner who brought delicious sandwiches, sides and desserts including her world famous ginger cookies. A good time was had by all palates.



*Karen Warfel's name will go on the trophy. Again. She won the 2021 event.*



*Tampa's Mike Perez (l) and St. Pete's Mark Hays tied for the Carl Hanson drawing.*



*David Redd caught a tree. Several, actually.*



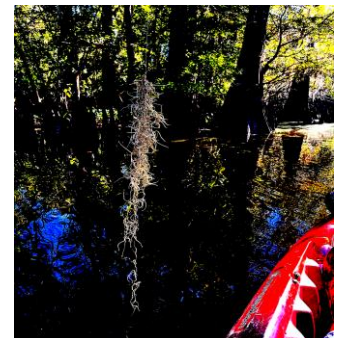
*Robert Fischer's crappie gave him a nice tug-of-war.*



*Anne Mitchell and a tiny bluegill. Sorry, Anne; we don't have a prize for the smallest fish.*



*L to r: Rick Warfel, Karen Warfel, Bill AuCoin, Mark Hays, Woody Miller, Robert Fischer. Also attending were Anne and Robert Mitchell, Wes Sobczak, Bill Scarola, and Walter Dill.*

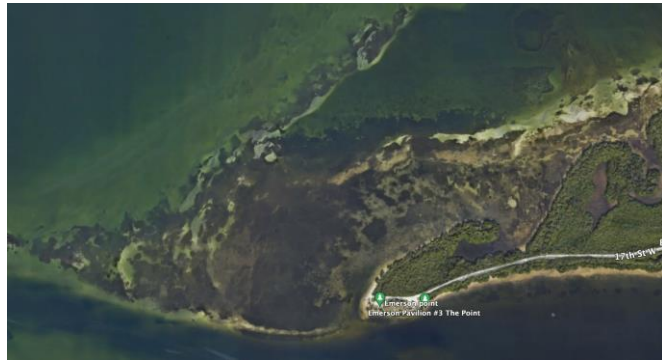


*Bill AuCoin's hooked Spanish moss. It wasn't the longest fish.*

# Bob Burkard: Emerson Point Preserve on the Manatee River

*Meet up for lunch at noon at Pavilion #3*

This is the October outing location on October 21. We haven't fished Emerson Point Preserve since, what, 2017? It's a great place to wade fish. We'll have a nice outgoing tide. The longest snook wins the big prize, a \$10 gift certificate.



*Emerson Point Preserve has lots of good wade-in, fly fishing shorelines. Expand this map and you'll see the location of Pavilion #3 where we'll gobble grilled burgers and hot dogs at noon. (Google Earth Pro)*

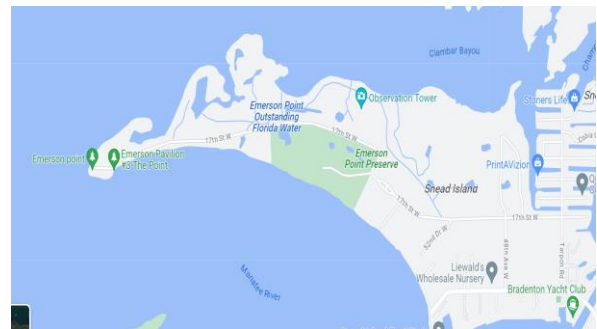


*Yes, that's Suncoast Fly Fisher Ken Hofmeister (RIP) who fished our last outing at Emerson Point Preserve. That was in 2017. Ken died May 4, 2018.*

If you are a wade fisher and want to have some member buddy system support meet up at 8 am at Pavilion #3. Your wade fishing leader is Bill AuCoin. Email him or text him at 727-417-6676.

The member catching the longest snook earns a \$10 gift certificate and if it's 22 inches or longer it becomes the leader in the annual tournament contest. Check out the tournament leader chart below. James Davis is the snook leader.

**How do you get there?** From St. Petersburg take the Sunshine Skyway (I-275) and exit #5 to US 19 South to Palmetto. Continue south on 19 which becomes U.S. 41. Keep right on 41 towards Palmetto. Go for 1.8 miles and turn right on Tenth Street W. In 2.5 miles turn right on Tarpon Road. Go 1/3 mile and turn left on 17th



*Go west on 17th Street West until it dead-ends. Pavilion #3 is our meet up location for wade fishing at 7 am and for the picnic at noon.*

Street West. Continue West until the road ends at Pavilion #3, The Point. Good luck.

*Bob*

<i>Leaders on the 2023 Outing Tournament Trail</i>			
<b>Species</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Outing (Month)</b>
<b>Longest bream</b>	<b>Anne Mitchell</b>	<b>7"</b>	<b>Hillsborough River (April)</b>
<b>Longest black bass</b>	<b>Mark Hays</b>	<b>14.5"</b>	<b>Hillsborough River (April)</b>
<b>Longest exotic</b>	<b>David Redd</b>	<b>12"</b>	<b>Everglades Outing (April)</b>
<b>Longest snook</b>	<b>James Davis</b>	<b>21.5"</b>	<b>Docklight/beach outing (June)</b>
<b>Longest redfish</b>	<b>Wes Sobczak</b>	<b>21"</b>	<b>Fort DeSoto Park (August)</b>
<b>Longest ladyfish</b>	<b>David Redd</b>	<b>15.5"</b>	<b>Docklight/beach outing (June)</b>
<b>Longest seatrout</b>	<b>Mark Hays</b>	<b>17.0"</b>	<b>Fort DeSoto Park (August)</b>



## Bob Burkard: Midweek outing on the Hillsborough

I love fishing and kayaking on the Hillsborough River. This local river is a great place to catch bass and bream, and provides a scenic paddle. Most of our Suncoast Fly Fishers outings take place in “the salt”, so our Hillsborough River outing provides an enjoyable change where I can catch fish on my light freshwater fly rods. This year, I am using a 4wt made by Alan Sewell that my wife Carole won at last year’s Suncoast Fly Fishers Christmas party. Luckily, she gifted it to me.

Instead of waiting another year for Carl Hanson Memorial on the Hillsborough, a few of our SFF members are planning a mid-week outing on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> and would like to invite others to join us. We are meeting at the Wilderness Park Creek launch at 7:30 AM.

Please email me at [robertburkard9@gmail.com](mailto:robertburkard9@gmail.com) if you would like to join us.

*Bob*

12550 Morris Bridge Road, Thonotosassa  
\$2/car fee



## Mark Hays: Never take a knife to a gun fight

One night in early October I left the house at 3:30 a.m. I had prepped the boat and tackle for a sunrise departure but could not sleep; that's one of the only benefits of growing older.

The first two docks that I checked were directly in the wind and chop of Boca Ciega Bay and too difficult to fish. The next dock was windy but a grass flat broke the chop.

Normally this dock is loaded with snook and trout but they were not visible. I started casting close to the pilings, thinking maybe the fish were under the dock. That is when the lack of fish was explained. It was not a lack of fish but the presence of a very large one.

Normally I refrain from casting to hopeless causes, but this monster caught me at a weak moment. My 5-inch bucktail Deceiver lasted three twitches then disappeared. Setting the hook while bobbing between the channel and a 5-foot tarpon is not a good idea, so I did not. I then realized that he was sitting below my boat with my leader in his mouth. That is when things got ugly.

The boat was pointed east and the tarpon started heading west in the intercoastal waterway with my fly, the leader and my new 9 weight fly line. At least I saved my backing and the rod did not break when it bent around the poling platform.

The remainder of the night went about the same. I was down to an 8-weight rod which was no match for the next three docks and their large snook. Final count for the day: one red, five trout, two snook landed, two snook lost, one tarpon lost. One line lost.



*Just hair. Mark's bulk head fly and Deceiver.*



*Mark Hays with the 29-inch snook he caught very early morning recently on the Central Avenue bridge connecting St. Pete to Treasure Island.*

Lesson learned: Add a 12 or 15 lb. section in your leader to save your line. Three days later I managed to land a nice 29-inch snook, one sea trout and two reds.

If you are wondering which fly has been working, go on YouTube and check out Gunnar Braham tying bucktail Deceivers and bulk head flies. No eyes, no lips, no synthetics, just simple hair. #1 and 1/0 hooks

Mark

**Robert Fisher: Redfish success  
in Homosassa**



I caught some nice reds in Homosassa last week. They liked the spoon fly.

*Robert*

**Team Mazzarella: Coming Soon**

*Dayle will be our November 16 Open House meeting speaker and also lead the November 18 fly casting clinic. We hope everyone has had a good summer and the fishing has been productive! We are completing a very successful and fun summer! Lots of big fish, great guests, and a lot cooler weather than much of the country! We'll be at the November 16th club meeting and at the casting clinic on the 18th. It will be super nice to catch up with all of you. See you soon!*

*Dayle and Barbara*



*This fly fisher landed this huge rainbow trout fishing with Dayle on Wyoming's Hams Fork River.*



*That's Dayle working his fly on the beautiful Hams Fork River.*

# Jill Thompson-Grim: NOAA Longline Research Expedition



*Jill spoke about her PhD program at a Suncoast Fly Fishers meeting in September 2022.*

*(Jill Thompson-Grim was the Suncoast Fly Fishers Scholarship winner in 2022. She is pursuing her PhD in marine biology at the University of South Florida. Spoiler alert: these fish were not caught on the fly. Editor)*

Here are a few photos from a NOAA longline cruise I was on during September. The objective of the cruise was to collect essential information on red snapper and sharks in the Gulf of Mexico for stock assessment purposes. We collected otoliths (ear bones), gonads, fin clips, and eye balls from red snapper and other reef fishes and tagged sharks.



*Jill said this was the largest Red Snapper she had ever seen."*



*Tagging a scalloped hammerhead shark.*

*Jill*



*This hammerhead shark must have been doped up. Or, maybe Jill just knows how to smooth 'em out.*



*This is a tilefish caught in the deep waters off Brownsville*



*Jill said this was the second largest Red Snapper she had ever seen.*



*That's a "Yellowedge" grouper.*



*Jill with a tiger shark. She knows how to handle these things.*

## Cliff Nigh: Easy and SAFE Way to Shape Bendback Hooks

Bendback Flies have been around since the 1890's and were originally developed for Large Mouth Bass. Enter the Saltwater crew and, go figure, we come up with an entirely "new application". Heck, I have a Carl Hansen Glass Minnow tied on a Bendback hook!

Those of you familiar with them know they make effective baitfish patterns and are as "weedless" as anything else that claims to be weedless. Unless you want to pay the extra money for specialty hooks, here is an easy and **safe** way to make your own bend backs. I stress the "safe" because I've watched guys impale themselves trying to bend them in the vise. Try this, with adult supervision, of course. I teach this method exclusively.

1



*First, place your hook in a pair of good pliers and position it where you want your hook to bend.*

2



*Now, while gripping the hook firmly in the pliers, place your thumb, nail up, in the gap of the hook.*

3



*Finally, push down with your thumb, keeping a firm grip on the pliers, and bend the hook to your desired shape.*

4



*Voilà! You have a bend back hook at normal hook prices....and as a bonus, you have all your fingers, no stitches and no ER bill.*

*Cliff*

## Tie the Polar Fiber Minnow with Bruce Evensen & Bill Scarola



*Bruce*



*Polar Fiber minnow fly. It's a proven fly for catching the inshore slam -- snook, redfish, and spotted seatrout.*



*Bill*

Bruce came down with the big C (Covid, you know) but he's feeling fine now and tests negative so he will be hosting an in-person tying session at his fly tying studio on Monday, October 16, starting at 6:00 pm. This would be a good fly to fly fish for snook, reds, and seatrout at October's outing at Emerson Point Preserve in Bradenton.

### Materials

1. Hook - short shank or circle hook size 1, 2 or similar
2. Thread - white flat waxed
3. Body - white polar fiber, for all white fly and Olive, Chartreuse or Gray for body tops, select craft fur can be dubbed in.
4. Beard - red flashabou, or red microfiber, or similar red fibers
5. Eyes - stick on in size 5mm or 6mm, choice of colors
6. Flash - pearl crystal, et. al.
7. Glue - U V epoxy and eye attaching glue of your choice.



*You can tie the polar fiber minnow in a variety of colors. Let the fish decide the best colors.*

### Tying Steps

1. Wrap hook shank from eye to bend.
2. Add a small bit of red, beard fiber just in front of the hook bend, be sure to point the material down towards the bend.
3. Add some white polar fiber to the bottom & top, just in front of the beard fibers and brush them back beyond the bend. (NOTE: Here's where you can add a colored fiber over the white lower fibers. Always add the white material first then the top color, if desired.)
4. Add several strands of pearl flash to both sides of the body.
5. Add another bit of white fibers in front of the 1st batch, a 3rd bit may be needed to bring the material to the hook eye. You're building a tapered body so add fibers accordingly.
6. Tie off all materials, and add a drop of super glue.
7. attach your eyes, 1st add a drop of eye glue to each side, above the hook shank. then stick on the eyes.

###

## Redfish Crab



Layne "Smitty" Smith

Smitty calls this his Redfish Crab and he's right -- redfish love it -- but you're just as likely to catch snook fly fishing the mangroves with this fly. Fish this one at the Emerson Point Preserve if you're fishing the mangrove shorelines.

###



### Materials:

Hook: Gamakatsu SC15 #1/0

Thread: Danville's Flatwaxed Nylon, brown

Weight: Medium lead eyes

Claws: Four grizzly hackles, splayed

Eyes: EZ Crab/Shrimp eyes or melted mono eyes (optional)

Tail: Brown barred magnum rabbit strip, & brown marabou to cover rear wraps

Legs: Pumpkin/Green Sili Legs

Body: Medium root beer or copper palmering chenille

Weedguard: 40-pound Mason hard mono

### Tying Sequence:

**Step 1:** Tie in lead eyes securely one eye length behind hook eye.

**Step 2:** Tie in and splay two grizzly hackles on each side, making sure feathers curve outwards.

**Step 3:** Tie Bunny strip with hide facing upwards – fly will ride hook point up. Tie in a pair of rubber legs on each side of bunny strip.

**Step 4:** Palmer marabou to hide rear wraps for a neat fly.

**Step 5:** Tie in palmering chenille and wrap forward, stopping behind the eye.

**Step 6:** Tie in a second pair of legs on each side just behind lead eyes.

**Step 7:** Add a 40-pound hard mono weed guard by folding in half and tying in from the bottom of the fly. Make sure to separate weed guards and cross wrap to secure. Apply a coating of Solarez UV Resin and cure.

## Bill Scarola's Fishy Funnies

When you're cold in Florida, go stand in the corner where it's 90 degrees.

What's a shark's favorite hobby? Anything it can *sink its teeth into*.

How do fish keep up on world events? They listen to the *current news*?



## Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

### Low tides can be fantastic

Low tides can contribute to fly fishing fun or frustration. When you see a tail break the skinny water's surface, what is it? I've had inexperienced anglers chase mullet, thinking they were reds. Spooking a school of mullet with a poor cast, sloppy wading, electric motors or shadows from the sun will scare every mullet and their predator companions, trout and redfish. Lately, sheepshead have been frequent residents of skinny water. Their tails, like redfish, show as they probe the soft bottom, changing from a horizontal to a more vertical position. Approach tailing redfish cautiously. Determine the

fish's position before making an accurate cast. Using at least a 9-foot 12-pound tippet tapered leader, carefully place the fly close to the fish's nose. Your favorite small crab pattern that matches the bottom with the hook pointed up with a weed guard is the fly of choice. Remove slack from the line. Move the fly an inch at a time and hang on.

## 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: The Ready Position

I was recently fishing the flats of [South Andros](#). Megan Nellen, an angler in our group, was relatively new to the sport, and she was asking all the right questions. We fished together for a day. As she took the bow of our boat, I noticed her ready position was suboptimal but still had a lot of positives. I gave her some pointers that seemed to work well for her. This got me thinking – what is the **ready position in essence**? I like to deconstruct problems into their constituent parts, i.e. simplify them. After some rumination, I like to present this as ....

1. The **length of the fly line** outside the tiptop needs to be **enough to load the rod** quickly.
2. The **fly must be controlled** by holding it by the bend of the hook (or by the leader just proximal to it).
3. The **line must be controlled** by the line hand. Any method that satisfies these 3 points will work.

**The line stacks.** Between the rod hand and the reel, there needs to be a line in the

cockpit that is stacked correctly – so the line close to the line hand is on top of the pile.

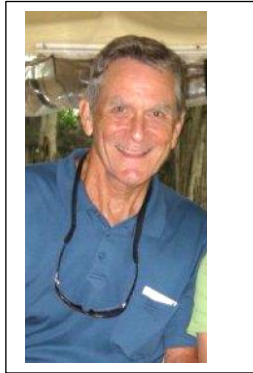
Pull off the reel, the length of line that you can cast, and place it in the cockpit of the boat. The line you can't cast only increases the risk of tangles, so it stays on the reel. Now the line stack has the line shooting first on the bottom, a surefire recipe for tangles and grief. Cast that line out and retrieve, now your line is stacked correctly and is ready.

Read more about this on my blog: <https://everyjonahasawhale.com/fly-casting/casting-technique/the-ready-position/>

Jonas



## Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



**For men only.** Just what I thought. A new study reports that sportfishing regularly lowers depression, anxiety, and other mental health conditions. They polled 1,752 males. Just guessing, I think females get the same benefits. ([Fox News](#))

**Did somebody say Emerson Point?** Yeah, that's the location of our October 21 outing. We'll have a special guest, Rusty Chinnis. Rusty is a founder and chairman of the board of Suncoast Waterkeeper's board. He'll wade and fly-fish and picnic with us. He is quite familiar with these waters and will share some of his insights. I said hopefully. ([Suncoast Waterkeeper](#))

**Here snooky, snooky.** Florida's Fish and Wildlife Commission has approved nine new areas and area-specific regulations for better management of snook populations. Two new districts include Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay, both heavily pressured. The new rules go into effect January 1, 2024. We'll be able to keep one snook between 28 and 22 inches long and only if caught in the months of April, March, September, and November. ([MYFWC](#))

**Tight loops** -- Fly Fishers International has launched a new fly casting education program for fly fishers of all skill levels and it's supported by FFI's 1,100 certified casting instructors. It's called "Loops." ([Fly Fishers International](#))

**Lake Okeechobee needs help. Now!** They're spending money to fix the St. Lucie, the Caloosahatchee, the Kissimmee, and the Everglades. But they're forgetting the main issue, the lake itself. It desperately needs \$100 million for vegetation rehabilitation. Scott Martin of Angler's for Lake Okeechobee speaks out. ([Anglers for LakeO](#))

**How to tie Lefty's loop knot** -- Orvis has posted two videos showing Lefty's easily tied loop knot that secures the fly to the lie and also lets your fly swim naturally. ([News.Orvis](#))

**Great wildlife photos.** These are really, really good. Don't miss the picture of the little bear standing next to the fly fisher. Well, after all, great minds think alike. ([Rivermen Rod and Gun Club](#))

**Tampa Bay Redfish Tournament** -- The 4th annual Waterman Fly Fishing Tournament is February 16 and 17, 2024. Early registration opens November 6. Full registration Nov. 10. It's a fly-fishing-only redfish tournament with a snook Calcutta. It's limited to 50 teams or 100 anglers total. ([Tampa Bay Waterkeeper](#))

**How to make a reef ball.** Actually, it's easy. And they'll show you how. Pick a date this month to pour concrete into molds. The reef balls will be installed along Tampa Bay shorelines to give birth to more water filtering oyster colonies. The more the merrier and the more filtering the better. Thank you, Tampa Bay Watch. Oh, did I mention, Peter Clark, TBW's founder and president, is our October meeting speaker. ([Tampa Bay Watch](#))

*Bill*

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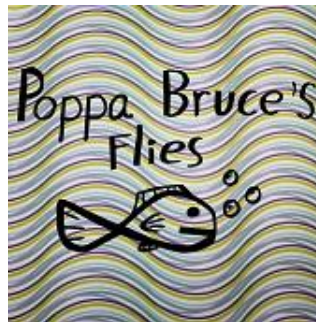


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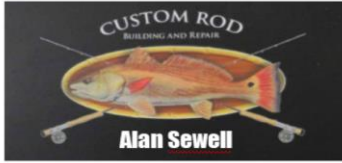


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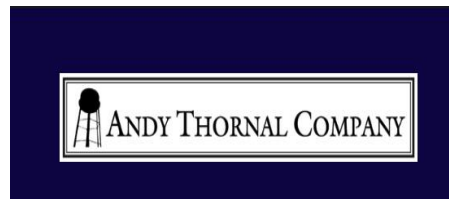
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