



## President's Message: November 2023

There are three events this month that I would encourage each of you to participate in.

- Our member meeting, on Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup>, is our annual open house featuring Dayle Mazzarella as our guest speaker.
- Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> is the casting clinic.
- And Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup>, is the Big Gun Shootout.

The open house is intended to give anyone interested in fly fishing the chance to find out more about Suncoast Fly Fishers. We encourage members to invite friends and family and the club would like to invite anyone in the local area to join us for a fun evening. We will be serving free pizza, there will be a Tail Magazine subscription giveaway and we will hold our regular merchandise raffle where you can win some great prizes.

Dayle Mazzarella is a Master Certified Instructor (MCI). He will entertain you from his lifetime of experiences as a fly fisherman, instructor, and professional guide. The casting clinic is a great chance for you to improve your skills. MCI's Pat Damico and Dayle Mazzarella will be working with a team of qualified instructors to teach all skill levels of fly fishers. I have attended every one of these clinics for more than ten years and I always come away learning something new. The clinic is free to all SFF and FFI members. If you are not an FFI member you can join at the event as your price of admission.

The Big Gun Shootout is a friendly casting competition organized by the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. There are six events that replicate many real-world fishing situations. Through the Hoop tests your ability to throw tight loops. The "V" Fish represents sight casting to your chosen quarry. There is an Under the Mangrove challenge. The Accuracy competition tests your ability to hit a hula hoop target at various distances with bonus points for hitting a smaller frisbee target within each hoop. The Carl Hanson Cup plays on Carl's contention that anyone should be able to hit a coffee cup at 30'. In reality, this one is pretty much dumb luck. The final test is the distance competition with all competitors that throw at least 100' advancing to the shootout event for longest cast. A perfect score is 600 points. Most elite casters score in the 400's. Really good casters score in the 300's and the rest of us score somewhere below that.

Many competitors are intimidated by distance casting, but it is one of easiest events to score points. There is a common theme here and that is casting. Casting is the essence of fly fishing. It is the one thing that sets fly fisherman apart from all other types of fishing. For me, I enjoy casting as much as I do fishing. I hope all of you will join us at the open house to hear one of the area's best guides and casting instructors. I also hope you come to the casting clinic to learn new skills and participate in the Big Gun Shootout to test your ability or just to watch some of the best casters show their stuff.

This is also the 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) . If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Karen Warfel, ph. 813-505-3162, email [kmwarfel@yahoo.com](mailto:kmwarfel@yahoo.com) .

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

November 2023

Page 2

On The Fly : Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers