

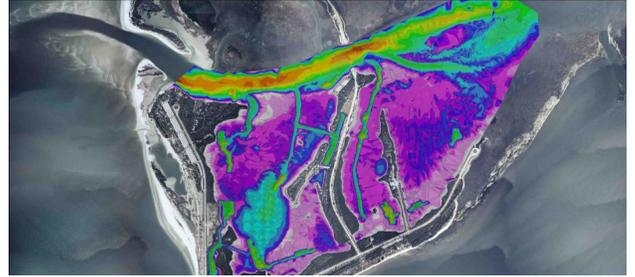
On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

Happy Holiday Party 5



December 30 Outing Fort DeSoto Park 6



Tim Elms 100+ Poons 10-11



Egan Park Fly Casting Clinic 8



Sobczaks Fly Fish Patagonia 9



Big Gun Shootout Fly Casting Winners 14





President’s Message: December 2023

It is great to be part of a club like Suncoast Fly Fishers. As we come to the end of another year, we have much to reflect on. This is the first year since the onset of the pandemic that we were able to hold all our events in person without the need to cancel anything due to Covid.

Here are some of the highlights from 2023. Our January meeting kicked off the year with the annual Trash and Treasure auction. This is always an entertaining event. Alan Sewell was the host and auctioneer. He knows how to pick the trash from the treasure and how to get you to pay as much as possible for items in either category. He will be there to entertain you again at our next live auction on January 18th, 2024.

We had some great speakers. Walt Durkin gave a terrific presentation on negative low tide fishing for redfish. He told us the how, when, and where to catch them. Founding member Rick Redd told us about the glory days of Tarpon fishing on the Gulf Coast. Justin Tramble of Tampa Bay Waterkeepers and Peter Clark from Tampa Bay Watch educated us about the state of the bay and their efforts to improve our water quality. We heard from guides Brad Lowman, Matt Foster, and our own Pat Damico with their unique perspectives on the sport and our local fishery.

Our Hog Roast this year was a combined banquet with SFF and the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. It had to be one of the best ever. We had over one hundred people in attendance and there was a very positive energy in the room. Our speaker was fly fishing legend Chico Fernandez. Look forward to another great SFF/TBFFC combined banquet on April 6th next year.

SFF participates in many special events and community outreach programs. This year David Redd organized a dedicated group of members to give several groups of young boys and girls an introduction to fly fishing and casting instruction. Bruce Evensen and Bill Scarola have worked together to organize weekly fly tying classes for any of our member that want to learn and Smitty is always present at our meetings to demonstrate fly tying and share his special knowledge about the art of tying flies.

Fishing at the outings was a little bit suppressed from the red tide that hammered the area the previous two years. It has not had much of an impact this year and we expect things to start picking up as we move into the new year. Our last outing of the year is coming up on December 30th. It is the Don Coleman Invitational fishing tournament and chili cookoff with our club, the Tampa club, and Mangrove Coast from Sarasota. Fishing should be good, and everyone can look forward to another great meal.

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 . If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Karen Warfel, ph. 813-505-3162, email kmwarfel@yahoo.com .

We are looking forward to a great year in 2024. I hope to see all of you at our meetings, outings, and special events.

Thanks. Stay safe and keep fishing!

Rick

Rick Warfel

Meetings, Outings, and More

Saturday, December 30: Don Coleman Invitational Outing at Fort DeSoto Park (rescheduled from Dec. 16)

- This is the annual outing salute to former member Don Coleman who wrote that booklet we all got when we joined the Suncoast Fly Fishers. WADING THE SALTWATER FLATS WITH A FLY ROD. Members of the Tampa and Sarasota fly clubs are also welcome to join us.
- It's also our annual chili cookoff. Members will sample and vote for the best chili. This year it looks like we'll have entries from Rick and Karen Warfel, Outings chairman Bob Burkard, plus Anne and Robert Mitchell. Anybody else? Oh, and Alan Sewell will be making his famous white chili this year..
- Fish in the morning anywhere in or around Fort DeSoto Park. We'll all meet up before noon at Pavilion #4 on North Beach for the picnic. Coffee will be ready about 10 am.
- Everybody's a winner but the member catching the longest fish of any species will win a \$10 gift certificate. Also, this is the last outing of the year so it's our last chance to overtake the current leaders on the annual tournament. The leader sheet is on page 6.
- Wade fishers are going to meet up at in the park 8 am at a place to be determined. Wind direction permitting, it may be the East Beach Picnic Area or area near the Gulf Pier where the Gulf meets the Bay. Low tide is at 8 then we'll have a nice incoming. Stay tuned for more info.

Thursday, January 18 meeting: Trash 'n' Treasures Auction, Walter Fuller Park. 6:00 - 9:00

- This is always one of the most popular meetings of the year. Alan Sewell is our auctioneer. Thank you, Alan
- Bring gear you no longer use and a credit card, check, or cash to buy some used gear at a great price.
- Members of the nominating committee will be announced.

Get ready to vote for new officers and board members

- Members of the Nominating Committee will be announced at the January meeting
- At the February meeting the nominating Committee will announce its recommendations. Nominations from the floor are also welcomed. Nominations are closed at the end of the February meeting and elections are held in March.
- Rick Warfel (President), and Quin Berry (Vice President) will have served two consecutive two-year terms. They are eligible for other officer positions and board positions. Rick Warfel is also eligible to sit on the board as a non-voting member for one year as a Past President.

January 20 outing

- Weedon Island Preserve
- The member catching the longest ladyfish will win a \$10 gift certificate.

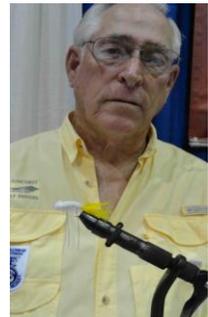
April 6, 2024: Hog Roast. Save the date

- This is our big fun, fund raiser for the year. Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club is co-host.
- We'll return to St. Jerome's Church in Largo.
- Tickets go on sale in January.

You need a new fishing hat with the SFF logo

- The new SFF logo hats are here. Baseball caps are \$25. Bucket style hats are \$30.
- Want to put the SFF logo embroidered on one of your shirts? Bring it to the January meeting. It costs \$15 per logo.

Sad News



Former member Ken Doty has died. He was a good friend to many. And his Spider Fly will live on as a winner.

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 **132 members including 20 family members and 6 honorary members**. Dues are \$50 (for individuals, \$40 for seniors, and \$60 for families. That includes benefits and annual membership in [Fly Fishers International](#) and the [Florida Council](#) of Fly Fishers International.

Please welcome new members Steve Heinrich, Fritz Lehman/Kim Tate (family), Terry Looper (family) and Lindell Townsel.

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.

Suncoast Fly Fishers Holiday Party

Suncoast Fly Fishers and family members met up Friday, December 15 at St. Jerome's Catholic Church in Largo for the club's annual Ugly Sweater competition, White Elephant Gift Exchange, and Potluck Dinner Holiday party. A good time was had by all. The White Elephant exchange was great fun. Members could pick a wrapped gift from the table or steal a gift from a previous winner. The most stolen gifts were the fishing pliers, filet knife, and Jack Daniels' sampler. Kudos to Anne and Robert Mitchell for handling the gift exchange -- it was a hoot! -- and the ugly sweater contest. Here are some party pix.



Tony Piazza stole the fishing pliers. But later they were stolen from him.



Bill Scarola got the filet knife.



It's a two-fer for David Redd



And two for Bob Burkard



Wayne Shriver got a fly rod and reel carrier.



Quin Berry unwrapped the pliers but...



Anne Mitchell gets the Jack Daniels sampler. But did she get to keep it? Robert is all in.



Ugly Sweater contest contestants, l to r: Karen Birnkrant, Bill Scarola, Arthur Birnkrant, Anne Mitchell, Layne Smith, and Ray Markham. And the winner is.... Karen Birnkrant.

Bob Burkard: Don Coleman Invitational Outing, December 30



Bob Burkard, outings committee chair

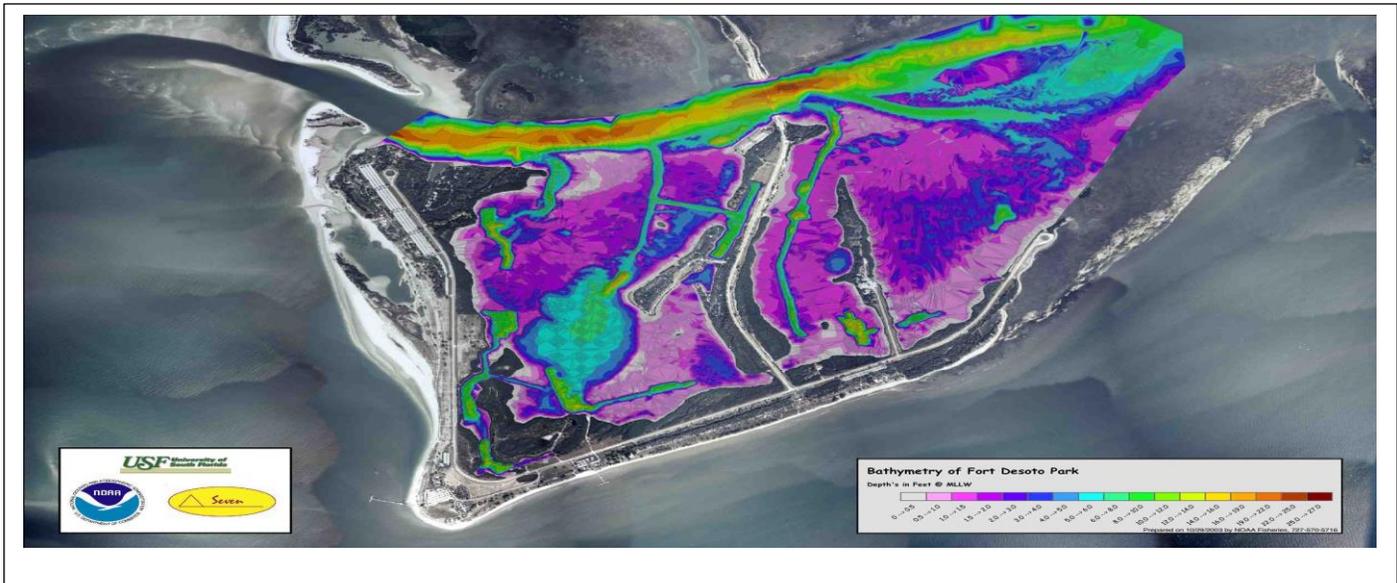
It has been said that we're a fly fishing club with an eating disorder. Well, the December Chili Cookoff outing at Fort DeSoto Park puts a couple of exclamation points on that. One belongs with the chili we're going to eat. This is the Chili Cookoff outing, doncha know. The other is Alan Sewell's amazing cornbread. Thank you, Alan!!

So, you know the thing. Fish in the morning in and around Fort DeSoto Park. Meet up at Pavilion #4 for lunch before noon. Come earlier if you want. Coffee will be ready at 10 am.

Did you know that Fort DeSoto Park was a training area for pilots during World War II? In fact, they even dropped bombs on some of the inside flats. Take a look at the NOAA bathymetry satellite image of FDP below. Deeper spots are in orange. Some, it is said, were the result of bombing practice. Those depth change areas look like good places to fish in the winter. Also, this is our last chance to unseat the snook, redfish, seatrout, and ladyfish leaders.

The leader board is below.

Bob



<i>Leaders on the 2023 Outing Tournament Trail</i>			
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	James Davis	19.0"	Emerson Point Preserve (October)

Bob Burkard: Back to Trout Creek Conservation Area



Beautiful Hillsborough River. Bob Burkard on the left David Redd on the right.

Well, I just couldn't seem to accept the idea that we would not have a November *fly-fishing* outing. Not that there's anything wrong with a casting clinic. Those are great, too. But, I thought, let's have a fishing outing, too. And President Rick Warfel said, yeah, go for it.

So several of us met up at Trout Creek Conservation Park northeast of Thonotassa on Wednesday, November 29. That was me, Bill AuCoin, and David Redd. Rick and Karen Warfel joined us for a chips-and-sandwich picnic. It was, officially, a club outing.

The upper Hillsborough river was beautiful, of course. Wading and perching birds were all around. Bill AuCoin spotted a coyote a hundred yards up Trout Creek. David Redd saw

a wild hog doing what it does -- digging up mushrooms, maybe -- and he got a picture of it.

Fishing was slow -- Real slow. Nothing was caught. So the annual tournament results remained the same.

Bob



Best kayak launch ever. It keeps your feet dry. That's Bob sliding down the kayak "ramp" into the water.



Outing picnic: Bob, Karen, Rick, David, Bill

Capt. Pat Damico: Egan Park Casting Clinic, November 18



Capt. Pat Damico demonstrates the double haul. Suncoast Fly Fishers generously thanks Capt. Pat and all the instructors for donating their time and skills to this annual event. Dayle Mazarella, who is, like Pat, a Master Casting Instructor, flew in from California. Other FFI certified instructors who made this event so successful were Chris O'Byrne, Jonas Magnusson, Leigh West, and Robert DeAngelis.

I am usually more prompt in sending out a note to thank all of you for making this event another success that should give us all a great deal of pride and satisfaction. The instructor-to-attendee ratio was incredible. Most participants had attended multiple clinics and came back for more. Both clubs are to be congratulated for their continuous support.

The conflict with the Big Gun Shootout the next day did have some effect on attendance, but it was to the benefit of those who showed up, some of them specifically to hone their Big Gun skills. Suncoast members did everything exceptionally well as the sponsor for this event. Gates were unlocked and opened by 7:30 thanks to Tom Gadacz.

Bob Burkard had coffee, donuts, and cold drinks available, and Bill Scarola and Rick Warfel had the equipment ready. Lunch in the shade was again perfect giving us a chance to rehash the morning's

activities. From start to finish members of both clubs helped with logistics. Setting things up and dismantling everything never went smoother.

Captain Pat Damico



Dayle shares some pointers with Tony Piazza (l)



Leigh West shows his long casting finish to Mark Hays.



Next time the SFF banner is up take a close look at the beautiful fly cast in the lower right corner. It was modeled after the cast of member Chris O'Byrne. That's Chris on the right.

Wes and Kelly Sobczak in Patagonia

Wes and Kelly Sobczak spent a fabulous week at [Magic Waters](#) in the Patagonia area of Chile on a hosted trip with Mark Melnyk of The New Fly Fisher (You can see his show on YouTube or [World Fishing Network](#)).

Large rainbow and brown trout were plentiful. The weather started out extremely windy (>35 mph) and cold (about 40 degrees F), and gradually warmed up so by the end of the week so it was sunny and warm (mid 70s).

They fished lakes, rivers, and spring creeks - with names like Hero to Zero, Boca Leon (Lion's Mouth), Mercedes, Palloma, Blue Lake, and Arco. The night fishing using mouse patterns was a lot of fun - you can see



That's Wes and Kelly on the right with Mark Melnyk at the impressive Magic Waters of Patagonia lodge.

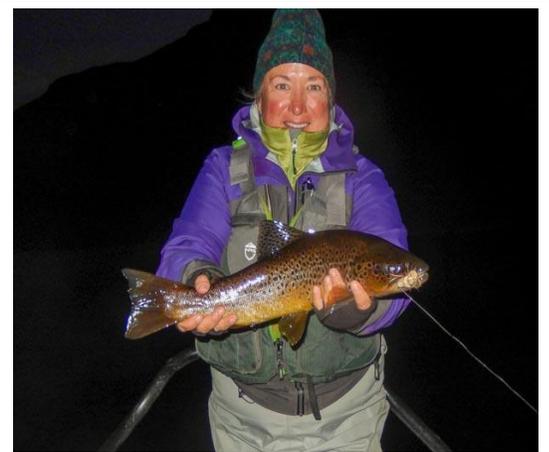


Kelly with just one of many big rainbows.

the mouse pattern hanging from the mouth of the fish Kelly is holding in one of the attached pictures.

Chilean law says the water is available to everyone, but sometimes the access is through private land, which means climbing over, under, through, and around various fences, including one electric fence.

The lodge is a work of art with beautiful woodwork, functional fly tying room, open kitchen, and hot tub heated by wood. Food was gourmet, and included a Chilean BBQ and roasted lamb, among other tasty meals.



Night or day, brown and rainbow trout loved the mouse pattern. This is a brown trout.



Wes and a mountain stream brown trout.

The guides were all fluent in English and very personable. The best quote of the week was a guide working with Kelly, who is easily distracted by the wildlife and world around her. So when a fish was on her line, the guide would say "Set Lady Set." We all agreed it would make a wonderful T-shirt.

Wes and Kelly

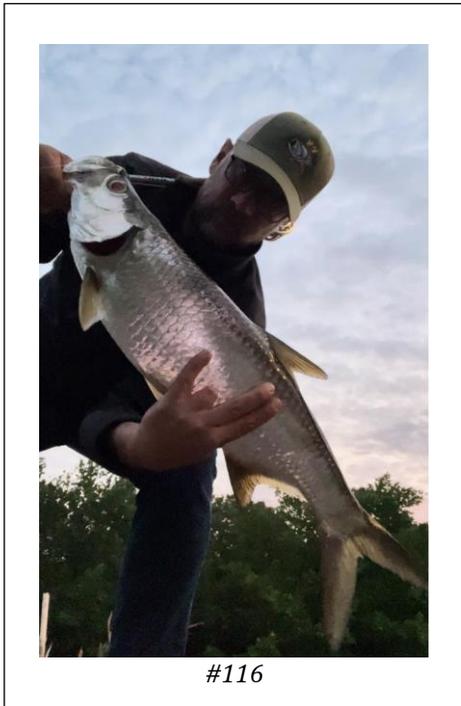
Tim Elms: 100 Silver Dollars. PART TWO

Howdy! Well, it's changing out there! Chasing Tarpon in December in Pinellas County is pretty tricky, fronts with no rain, wind out of the north blah blah blah. I should be fishing for reds and speckled trout I know! But, I can't and won't stop fishing for my silver nuggets. Today, (12/8/2023) I caught my 116th for the year. And now I have caught Tarpon every month in 2023. That's not easy. Never did I think I would accomplish such a silly goal.

Juveniles: The larger fish are of course more challenging to fight and land. I don't have many tips on this as it's more about practice and experience. Do however put some cards in your favor. With the larger ones, I ALWAYS tie on stronger bite tippet. After losing numerous fish over 20 lbs to breakage I learned my lessons on bite tippet. Fluoro is a good place to start with these.



These fish ARE larger for a reason and they are not dumb. Seeing them is easy. Well, I hope you can spot 'em. Feeding them is a whole other ballgame. Fish tight to shadow lines; ie, tree shadows, sea walls, or bridge inlets. Watch for a dark sky day, like dark, not high clouds but dark. See a pattern? Low light is usually my only time that I can fool the bigger ones. Perfect storms are key, combinations of DARK sky, sunrise, with a decent tide change. Make sense? Throw in a rain storm and slammo let's jump!



As you can tell I don't share spots. Only the general idea. Here's the truth. If, you think to yourself hmmm I wonder if there are Tarpon around here? My answer is yes. I truly assume they are there without a doubt. I'll wait and wait and wait and watch, several times at one spot, different tides, different temps, etc. until I can honestly rule them out. There are a few areas that seem to be absolutely amazing on paper but hold zero tarpon...that is until the next year when I drive by and I see a ring ripple.



There are no short cuts for tarpon fishing. There are so many days of failure, lapse in technique, or straight up bad luck. I broke my 8-wt one day on my truck door. I went through probably over 100 flies this year and I don't tie. A total of 6 fly lines wore out. I went weeks with jumps every day and zero in hand. I even had a tarpon swipe at a bluegill that had eaten my tarpon fly. That's just the way it works. It's an obsession no doubt. But it's perfect. With the year wrapping up I can't say it enough how happy I am that my wife and I chose to move to St. Pete. We live in one of the most amazing areas in the country, and I am forever grateful. Merry Christmas, ya filthy animals!

-- Continued on the next page --

P2/Tim Elms: 100 Silver Dollars. PART TWO



Tim with his 87th juvenile tarpon caught in 2023

You can watch some catch-and-release videos of Tim's baby tarpon that Tim has put on our club's youtube channel.
<https://www.youtube.com/@suncoastflyfishers/shorts>

Ooops, I forgot to share some other things. SNOOOOOOK! Ever hear those old Florida man refer to them as SNUKE? Come on. Snook are of course all over the place. Any snook under 30" for me turns into a nuisance as I know I will have to retie my bite tippet. The smaller the SNUKE the more they chafe your leader. It never fails. But, I do love a good fight with a snook and ever since I moved here I wanted to catch one over the 40-inch mark. I thought I would have to be on the east coast during the mullet run with a pro guide or throw a giant mullet with a spin rod to get one to eat. As you know larger snook are quite hard to catch on the fly. They really don't like to play. They ALWAYS see you before you see them and lockjaw is basically standard. I like to say they are vegetarians. Since the first cold front in October I have been dealing with more and more snook in my back water adventures. I kept watching the large girls swim, or FLY by me without ever turning their heads,

until this one morning, I found the perfect flow and saw a giant wake moving up the creek. I was lucky enough to have the right tippet and fly on, luckily I made my cast count. There are fewer things better than the noise of a snook eat. After a long battle and a curious aligator that I'd never seen in this area, I slid down the bank in my dress shoes and landed her. I've caught so many fish this year where each time I look around to see if anyone witnessed what just happened. Thankfully no. I was all alone and happier than snot. Just to compare some good fish, check out this 34" snook compared to the 43-inch snook. Look how much larger that head is. I could fit my entire arm in her mouth.



BIG MOMMA. Tim said he could fit his entire arm in this snook's mouth



Top water fun

Tim~ SEE YA in '24!

Robert Fischer: in Cayo Cruz, Cuba



These Cuban bonefish really liked Smitty's Golden Eye Shrimp.

Robert



That's Cayo Cruz just off of Cuba's middle north coast. Interesting flats!

Truk in the E-glades



"I'm still in the afterglow," said Truk after returning from a November fishing trip to the Eglade canals south of Clewiston in November.

Truk (Officially Tom Trukenbrod) was one of several Suncoast Fly Fishers who fished there on the long weekend of Nov. 11-13. They fished an area known as the A-1 Flow Equalization Water Area and caught lots and lots of exotics.

Left, that's Tom "Truk" Trukenbrod's left arm holding one of many oscars that he caught. Mayan cichlids, too, he said.

Myron Hansen : Docklight Crazy

Crazy...

Who fishes the dock lights in December? We Do!

James Davis and I fished the dock lights last night, Dec 1st. To say the least the dock lights weren't crowded with other fisherman. In fact we saw no other fishermen, no other boats. We had intended to fish the lights many times this past year, but my wife and I were busy moving to East lake in the spring, and then other things got in the way.

I asked Capt. Pat after the November meeting if it was too late in the year to fish the lights. He said the trout would still bite with water temp in the 60's, but the snook just stop biting when it gets to the lower range. I like fishing for trout, so we headed out to Blind Pass for a night of "catching."

The water temp. at the ramp and most other areas was 64 degrees. I remembered years back, Allen Sewell had mentioned fishing canals with southern exposure in the winter because the warmer water attracts the fish. We headed to those canals and found a few fish and the water temp as high as 66 degrees.

When we are out on the water, James and I take turns manning the trolling motor and fishing. James is great at casting to say the least, and I keep him happy by staying out a little further from the lights so he can make great casts without having the boat spook the fish. James does the opposite for me. He gets me in closer to the light, hoping that the fly I cast will reach the fish. My casts are usually about 9', the length of my rod.

We moved to a nearby dock where we saw large "trout" moving about, and I prepared to cast a new fly James had given me. I could hear James thinking, "Myron, why don't you take the bobber off your old cane pole and tie on a fly? You could get out further." Banishing that rude suggestion from my imagination, I kept on false casting (swoosh, swoosh, swoosh).



Myron Hansen

I was standing on top of a wooden bench seat behind the steering wheel, and when I stripped the fly I saw two fish competing for it. As they headed straight toward me, I hooked one and yelled out. James immediately began steering away from the pilings. With the sudden movement of the boat, I began falling backward off the bench seat I was standing on. The next thing I knew, I was flat on my back in the middle of the boat with my rod still in my hand. James took one look and said, "He's still on! Let him run!"

In spite of our best efforts, I found myself with a broken leader and no fish. "He's gone," I said to James.

James said, "That was no trout; those were snook!" and then "Are you OK?"

Not only was I OK, I had fun! It was nice to be on the water, enjoying an evening fishing (very little "catching") and talking. James and I plan to do it again.

Now if I can just locate my old cane pole.



James Davis

Myron

Big Gun Shootout Winners

Thanks to the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club for hosting this Picnic Island invitational event each year. It's a winner. And thanks to Robert and Virginia Fischer for keeping and totaling scores for all contestants.

If you were expecting that Dave Olsen would take the longest cast award at the Big Gun Shootout in November, you're wrong. Dave placed second with a long cast of 98-feet. This time the longest caster winner was Lowell Bebout who put his hookless yarn fly out there 105 feet in the long casting finals.

However Dave Olsen's team was the big winner adding up all the scores for all of the events. *The Scoundrels* team scored 1,209 point. Dave's total was 363, Walter Hoover had 419, and Eric Davis accumulated 427 points, which made him the highest individual score winner. Denise Bruner won the women's division with a total of 209 points.



Walt Durkin (l), President of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club, presented the overall points trophy to Eric Davis.

In addition to the Distance category, fly casters competed in the casting accuracy event, placing the fly in a small cup (Carl Hanson event), casting your fly through a hoop, casting your fly under a bar to simulate casting under mangrove limbs, and casting your fly so that the line lands in a "V".



Denise Bruner won the women's division.

Six members of the Suncoast Fly Fishers competed this year. Rick Warfel had the highest individual score, 269, James Davis was right behind him, scoring 263. And Tim Elms accumulated 213.5 points. Together, as team *Wind Not*, they scored 745 points which put them ahead of "The Hot Mess" team of Quin Berry, Brian Berry, and David Redd. Their combined score was 707.



Walt with the winning team, from left, Walter Hoover, Eric Davis, and Dave Olsen.

Robert



The award for the longest cast went to Lowell Bebout who double-hauled and shot his line (and backing) 105 feet.

Big Gun Shootout Team and Individual Results

2023 TROPHY WINNERS IN GREEN									TBFFC	BIG	GUN SHOOT-OUT 2023			11/19/23	
TEAM	Competitor	Distance	Accuracy	Hanson	Hoop	V-Fish	Mangrove	Total**	Rank	Team Name	Out Dis				
1	BOB BEBOUT	73.5	80	0	52	40	60	305.5	7	TARPON CAST					
1	BOBBYLACHTARA	52	60	0	50	40	60	262	15	TARPON CAST					
1	LOWELL BEBOUT	105	80	0	30	80	60	355	5	TARPON CAST	105				
TEAM TOTAL								922.5							
2	JIM HUMPHREY	58.5	60	0	0	40	0	158.5	24	THE MONSTERS					
2	ENVER HYSNI	83	85	0	8	60	40	276	10	THE MONSTERS					
2	GREG ROGERS	78.5	60	0	30	40	60	268.5	12	THE MONSTERS					
TEAM TOTAL								703							
3	BRIAN BERRY	67.5	40	10	0	40	20	177.5	22	THE HOT MESS					
3	QUIN BERRY	75.5	80	0	64	20	40	279.5	9	THE HOT MESS					
3	DAVID REDD	70	60	20	0	40	60	250	16	THE HOT MESS					
TEAM TOTAL								707							
4	DAVE OLSEN	98	85	20	0	80	80	363	3	THE SCOUNDRELS					
4	ERIC DAVIS	92	85	20	70	80	80	427	1	THE SCOUNDRELS					
4	WALTER HOOVER	90	85	20	64	100	60	419	2	THE SCOUNDRELS					
TEAM TOTAL								1209							
5	TIMELMS	73.5	80	0	0	40	20	213.5	19	WIND NOT					
5	RICK WARFEL	72	65	20	32	40	40	269	11	WIND NOT					
5	JAMES DAVIS	83	60	0	0	60	60	263	14	WIND NOT					
TEAM TOTAL								745.5							
6	ROBERT FISCHER	81.5	60	0	76	60	40	317.5	6	THE HIGH TIDES					
6	WALT DURKIN	78	70	0	40	40	40	268	13	THE HIGH TIDES					
	TED HAGAMAN	80.5	65	0	16	40	40	241.5	18	THE HIGH TIDES					
TEAM TOTAL								827							
7	ANTHONY RITCHIE	91.5	85	20	40	40	80	356.5	4	SHALLOW THINKER					
7	THAN LE	84	80	0	40	40	60	304	8	SHALLOW THINKER					
7	PETELUCE	58.5	40	0	0	20	50	168.5	23	SHALLOW THINKER					
TEAM TOTAL								829							
8	PATTY ANDERSON	64	40	0	0	50	40	194	21	LAST CHANCE CAST					
8	DENISE BRUNER	75	40	0	4	50	40	209	20	LAST CHANCE CAST					
8	BRUCE ANDERSON	60	40	40	36	50	20	246	17	LAST CHANCE CAST					
TEAM TOTAL								649							
9	LEIGH WEST	88								LONG CAST ONLY					
TEAM TOTAL								0							

* Note: Maximum score on distance is 100, contestants scored as 100* above may have cast more than 100 ft, and qualified for the shoot-out finals

** Maximum possible individual score was 600

Bay Anchovy Fly with Bruce Evensen & Bill Scarola



Bruce



Bruce and Bill led fly tyers through the steps for this fly on Monday, December 4.



Bill

Materials

NOTE the script call for EP fibers but Steve Farrar fibers or doll fibers will work also. Bill tied this one with EP Game Changer fibers. These fibers have some sparkle.

Body: Chartreuse EP game changer fibers...

Tail: Mylar strips, 1/16" color silver.

Hook: 3407 or B10 stingers, size 2 to 2/0

Eyes: 5mm holographic stick on eyes.

Flash:- Pearl Flashabou, if desired

Glue: Your favorite eye glue, super & UV epoxy

Thread: Flat waxed, chartreuse and mono thread..

Tying Steps

1. Wrap thread from hook eye to bend
2. Add 5-6 mylar strips and tie in just in front of the hook bend.
3. Prepare your EP fibers, separate small bunches of about 2-3' lengths, "less is more" prep 4-5 bunches.
4. Add the 1st bunch on top of the tied in tail mylar. Lay the material along the shank and tie in. Then fold the front part over the rear part. keep the sections equal in length.
5. Add a few pieces of flash if you're not using the game changer stuff.
6. Add several more bunches of EP fibers one in front of the other until you reach just behind the hook eye. Remember "less is more." You are trying to form a tapered fish body as shown.
7. Add the mylar collar material so it surrounds the head of the fly. It should be about one inch in length. Then whip finish the front of the fly. Here is where I used mono thread to allow silver color of the mylar to show through. then I add super glue to the thread wraps.
- 8- Add a drop of your eye glue to each side and position and attach the eyes equally on both sides. Keep the eyes above the hook shank so they don't interfere with the hook point.
9. If desired you can epoxy over the eyes.
10. With curved scissors, trim the material to form the desired shape. Start from the rear and work forward.

Note: This pattern in white EP Game Changers will also make a great fly.

Don Coleman's Black Nose Dace



Layne "Smitty" Smith

As a tribute to Don Coleman I am continuing in that vein with the "third" in a series of his favorite streamer flies, The Four Horsemen of Trout Fly Fishing. As you may recall the first in the series was "The Black Ghost" and last year it was "The Mickey Finn". The third fly is "The Black Nose Dace". Originated by Art Flick and written about in 1947: "Because the Black Nose Dace is so liked by trout, I tried to imitate it as closely as possible with a bucktail. This fly has proven itself and it takes a lot of abuse." A darter, this streamer looks natural and matches many minnows with a black stripe. It seduces trout to strike by its motion when stripped and twitched in the current.



Materials

Hook: Mustad L87 – 3665A size #4

Thread: 70 Denier, Black

Tail: Red Darlon

Body: Flat Silver Mylar Tinsel

Rib: Oval French Tinsel

Wing: Brown over Black over White Bucktail

Head: 70 Denier, Black

Finish: Solarez UV Resin

Tying Sequence:

1. Attach the thread an eyes width behind the eye and wrap a thread base back to the bend. Return the thread to the starting point.
2. Tie in a whole strand of red Darlon at the tie in point. Wrap back over the Darlon to the bend of the hook, taking care to keep the Darlon on the top of the shank as you wrap over it. Don't worry about the length of the tail at this point; you will trim it later, although the piece hanging off the back should be at least a half a shank length long.
3. Flatten the end of your French oval tinsel and tie in on the underside of hook shank. Return thread to tie in point. Tie in a 6" to 8" length of flat mylar tinsel with the gold side up/facing out. Wrap back over the tinsel to the base of the tail. Return the thread to the starting point.
4. Wrap the tinsel forward by folding it at the rear of the hook so the silver side is up. Wrap the tinsel forward in slightly overlapping turns up to the starting point. Make these wraps as tight as possible. The shank should flex as you wrap the tinsel. Tie the tinsel off with a couple turns of thread at the starting point. Wrap the oval tinsel forward-in evenly spaced open wraps (10 to 12 wraps should do). Tie down.

P2/Don Coleman's Black Nose Dace

5. Clip the stub end of the tinsel and the tail. The tail should be about equal to a gap width. Secure the stub end of the tinsel with several more tight turns of thread and then build a smooth thread base from the front edge of the body to the hook eye and back again. Leave a very slight space between the actual eye of the hook and the end of the thread base. This space assures a clean, smooth head can be built later.
6. Cut a sparse clump of white bucktail and pull out all the short fibers. You really don't want to stack the hair, although you can stack it to get it even then rearrange the hairs slightly to leave the tips a little jagged. Measure the white bucktail against the hook so the tips extend past the tail about half a hook gap width. Tie the bucktail in at the starting point with a narrow band of thread. Use a pinch wrap to secure the hair to the top of the hook.
7. Cut the butt ends at an angle. Wrap a smooth thread base over the butt ends of the white bucktail. Be sure to leave that space between the eye and the end of the thread base. Return the thread to the back of the head area.
8. Cut and arrange a sparse clump of black bucktail as you did with the white. Both the white and black clumps should be about equal in size. Measure the black hair against the white so they are equal in length. Tie the black hair in on top of the white in the same manner as before. Trim the butt ends of the black hair the same way you trimmed the white; at an angle.
9. Repeat the above process again with a like-sized clump of brown bucktail. Use the brown hair from the front of the same natural white bucktail we used for the first clump. Measure this brown clump against the first two so they are all equal in length.
10. Tie the brown bucktail in the same way as you did with the other two clumps. Keep the binding wraps toward the rear of the head here so as not to creep forward and ruin the taper we are working toward.
11. Cut the butt ends of the brown bucktail at a slightly steeper angle than before. This cut will form the overall shape of the head. The angle of these cuts form the shape of the head, which should start to become clearer to you as you progress.
12. Build a smooth, slightly tapered thread head to cover the butt ends. Make these wraps as tight as possible to keep them from sliding down the tapered front edge. Complete the head shape as shown and whip finish the thread. Clip it.
13. Apply a coat of Sally Hansen's Hard As Nails to the head. Let the first coat dry and then apply another coat. Be sure to get both coats all the way around the thread head and evenly cover it from front to back. Let dry and then apply a finish coat of Solarez UV Resin and cure.

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Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

Low tides can be fantastic

While giving casting lessons to a group of experienced fly casters. I asked, "Of the 5 Essentials necessary for every good cast I explained earlier, which is the most important? One finally answered, "Slack!" I then gave this example of how I deal with new clients as soon as we begin a charter. Stopping the boat in a wind-protected area, I asked each one to cast for me. Both were very poor casters, with layouts of their line not even close to being straight, ideally suited for most saltwater situations. Holding the rod tip about 5 feet above the water, when they did strip, the fly never moved. After watching each do a couple of casts and "work" the fly, I informed them their Clouser minnow fly pattern did not even move in any of their presentations. No fish would show any interest in a baitfish imitation that didn't look real. Their stripping to give the fly appropriate action varied considerably. I showed them a proper cast with a straight line to the fly and the rod tip ending close to the water. I told them to watch the end of their floating fly line where it joined the butt section of the leader. This will give you a very good indication of what your fly is doing. Saltwater fish usually like to have the fly on their level. If they are on the bottom in 5 feet of water, a fly on the surface is rarely taken especially as the water cools. Sometimes with the tide coming toward you, It Is necessary to exaggerate the long frequent strips to give the fly the desired action. Keeping the rod tip close to the water during the retrieve and at the beginning of the cast is necessary to reduce and eliminate slack.

How to deal with cold fronts, colder water, wind from different directions

Shallow water fly fishing conditions can be more challenging this time of year because of cold fronts, colder water, significant wind from different directions, and fish that don't seem interested in our offerings. Starting early on a low-tide, cold morning is an exciting invitation for some fly fishers; for others, it's a good reason to stay home. Check tide charts, then find a well-protected, familiar area that has been productive at other times of the year. If sunny, have the sun behind you to improve visibility, being careful of your shadow. Disturbances in the shallows will indicate the presence of your quarry, usually redfish, trout, and occasionally sheepshead. Nervous water, wakes, scattering small baitfish, slow-waving exposed tails and schools of mullet deserve your attention. Canoes and kayaks get you shallower and keep your profile and shadow low, making wading often your best option. It is also a great way to transport your many accessories. A line tied to your waist can bring your paddle craft with you. The same line can anchor the boat, allowing you to get closer to the fish. Use a good floating saltwater tapered 7-weight fly line to match your rod. A tapered 9-foot leader to 20-pound test should be attached to your favorite size 4 crab or shrimp imitation that is your confidence fly. A fly color that matches the bottom will narrow your choices. Casts must be quick and careful, the first one always being the best. A slow, natural presentation is most productive.

Fly fisherman and casting instructor Pat Damico runs charters in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at captpatdamico.com and 727-504-8649.

Captain Pat

Fly guide/casting instructor Pat Damico charters "Fly Guy" in lower Tampa Bay. captpatdamico.com and 727-504-8649

Bill Scarola: Lots of Laughs

No man ever caught a fish as big as the one that got away!!
You can always tell a fisherman, but you can't tell him much!
The best thing about fishing is that it gives you something to do while you're doing nothing!
Fishing is an idle sport that makes men and truth strangers!
Fishing is sometimes an excuse to drink beer in the day time!
If you accidentally rub ketchup into your eye, you will have *Heinzsight*.
Once upon a time there was a king who was only 12 inches tall. He was a terrible king, but he made a great ruler.
There was the time that fruit of the Loom took Hanes to court. It was a brief case.
My friend said she wouldn't eat a cow's tongue because it came out of the cow's mouth.. So I gave her an EGG.
My friend Jack says he can communicate with vegetables. That's right... Jack and the *beans talk*.
Now, go fishing. Bill

Used Gear for Sale

I'm selling my 12' NUCANOE KAYAK 41" wide, \$800.00
It has 2 seats with bases. one double bladed paddle. not shown, but both seats are very comfortable. and in good condition!
deck is lined with Sea Decking, 2 rod holders.
contact: BILL SCAROLA @ 732-740-7538, I WILL DELIVER IF NECESSARY!

Also, Bill Scarola is selling a metal storage cabinet for rifles, pistols, or whatever. It's 52 inches high by 17 inches wide and 13.2 inches deep. Excellent condition. \$75. Call Bill at 732-740-7538.

Capt. Rick Grasset: Orvis-Endorsed Fly Fishing School Dates

Here are the dates for CB's Saltwater Outfitters Orvis-Endorsed Fly Fishing Schools-Winter/Spring 2024 Dates

Located on Siesta Key, named Best Beach in America, CB's Saltwater Outfitters, 1249 Stickney Point Rd, Sarasota, FL, will hold Orvis-Endorsed fly fishing schools on Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 9 and Apr 13, 2024.

The courses, designed for beginning and intermediate fly casters, will focus on basic fly casting principles, improving casting skills and correcting faults. Instructor Capt. Rick Grasset will also cover saltwater fly fishing techniques, leader construction and fly selection.

Cost for the class, which will run from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM, is \$225 per person and includes the use of Orvis fly tackle, workbook and lunch. Optional instructional guided fly fishing trips are also available for an additional fee. Contact CB's Saltwater Outfitters at (941) 349-4400 or info@cbsoutfitters.com to make reservations.

Rick

Bill AuCoin: Snippets from Chief Curmudgeon Don Coleman

My favorite bits of wisdom pinched from Don's booklet, "Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod"



Presentation is more important than exact imitation

Sparse flies allow light to pass through the fly to create shading and contrast and dimensionality...and they are easier to tie.

You can't go wrong with yellow or chartreuse over white flies. Use a brown over orange Clouser in winter.

Fishing flies should contrast with their surroundings and not be camouflaged like baitfish.

Flies that cause commotion in the water, such as those with spun deer hair heads or with splayed hackle tails, make it easier for fish to locate your fly.

One piece leaders are liberating. ...There is nothing sacred about tradition if it is a perpetuated mistake.

Use a weight forward floating line with a saltwater taper.

Use a Sharpie Laundry Marker to identify the line size by making one long mark followed by narrower marks. For example, one long mark with three narrow marks indicates an eight weight.

One hundred and fifty yards of backing is sufficient. Tie the backing to the reel spool with a Uni-Knot and form a Bimini Twist in the end to loop to the fly line.

Use seven feet of 20 or 25 pound fluorocarbon for a leader. In heavy winds, or if your fly does not turn over, shorten your leader.

Keep your thumb hidden "behind the cork" throughout each casting stroke. The fly line will mimic what your thumb does, and the movement will be greatly exaggerated by the length of the rod.

Don't let your casting hand rise above your head.

Make your left hand follow the reel to keep slack out of the line. Keep tension on the fly line at all times. Slow down, relax, and let your rod do the work.

Just one more cast is always a lie.

The tip of the rod is for casting, the butt for fighting. Fight a fish from the first stripping guide up from the grip.

Every fly fisher has his own method of sharpening hooks. I make a "V" on the outside of the point. The only rule is to always sharpen toward the point to prevent turning over a burr at the point.

Wade like the predator you are -- like a stalking bird -- and keep your rod tip down.

game fish are not around, try for some of these "English bonefish."

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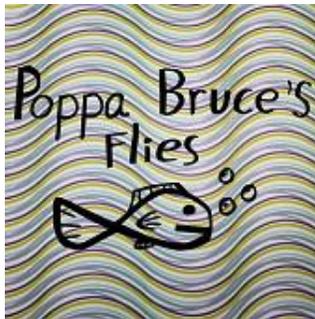


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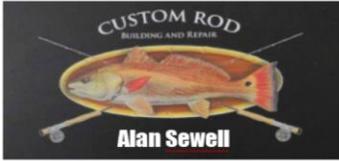


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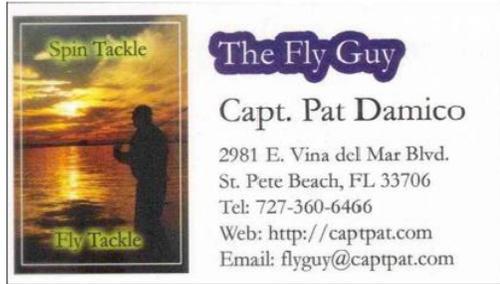
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