

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

Crystal River "area" snook. P11



Blue Ridge trout P12



Ray Markham, March meeting. P5



Anoter in the "area." P11



Not the winner. P7



Florida Keys bite is hot now. P14



Georgia Freight Trains on the Fly? P13



FFI Florida Orlando Expo April 13 P10

Fly Fishing Expo



President's Message: March 2024

Four years ago, I found myself writing a President's message for the first time. The CDC had just announced a travel ban and the government had just started talking about lockdowns. I was on the cusp of taking on the role of SFF President and my first act was to cancel all in-person events and let everyone know that the Hog Roast would be postponed until we figured out what was going on. The Covid-19 Pandemic had a profound effect on life in America and around the world.

Many clubs were crippled by the outbreak, and some did not survive. I am proud to say that Suncoast Fly Fishers got through the event pretty well. We found a way to continue our board meetings and member meetings using video conferencing and we continued having monthly outings. Every week for two years we held fly tying sessions online and posted the videos on our social media platforms. Attendance was down a bit for most of our activities, but we were able to maintain a strong membership base.

Flash forward four years and life has for the most part returned to normal. The club is doing well, and I am ready to hand the reins over to a new leadership team. David Redd and Jack Collins will be elected as President and Vice President.

I know they will both do a great job moving the club forward. We have a dedicated group of members serving on the Board and many volunteers that help with outings, meetings, social media and special events.

Our newsletter is the best I have ever read, and our website is outstanding. Participation has steadily climbed since the dark days of the pandemic and I would like to thank everyone for coming to our events and to those of you that work so hard to keep the club running and that make Suncoast Fly Fishers the best organization that I have ever been a part of.

There are just two things that I ask you to do before I end my time as President of SFF. Please renew your membership and please buy your ticket to the Hog Roast.

Thanks. Stay safe and keep fishing!

Rick

Rick Warfel

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 **138 members including 23 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: Mandy McGarry of St. Pete and John Moder and family, Tampa.

Membership notice: Members who have not yet paid their 2024 dues will be dropped from the list after the April meeting.

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, Mandy McGarry, Anne Mitchell

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.

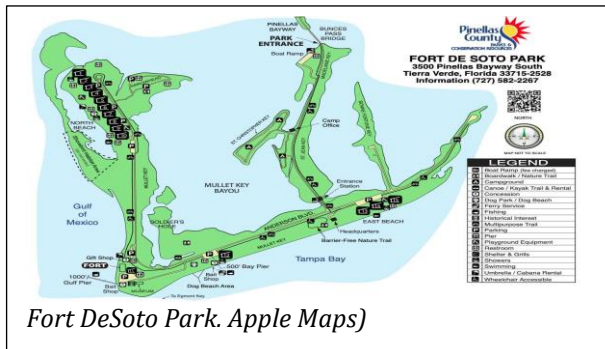
Meetings, Outings, and More

Thursday, March 21 meeting. Speaker: Capt. Ray Markham

- Captain Ray Markham is a longtime member of our club and he will share his where-when-how secrets for catching the inshore flats slam in the coming weeks. April - May - June are three of the best months of Suncoast fishing.
- Members vote on new club officers and board members recommended by the nominating committee at the February meeting.
- Bring and donate your gear and flies to the club to auction or raffle at the April 6 Hog Roast. Buy tickets for the April 6 Hog Roast. In person or online at [Suncoast Fly Fishers.com](https://SuncoastFlyFishers.com).
- Buy one of the new fishing hats with the SFF logo. Baseball caps are \$25. Bucket style hats are \$30.
- Bucket raffle: \$1 per ticket, \$5 for six tickets. \$5 for the 50-50 raffle with half going to SFF.



March speaker Capt. Ray Markham. Captain Ray, a longtime member, is always on top of what's biting, plus where, when, and how.



Fort DeSoto Park. Apple Maps)

Saturday March 23 outing, Fort DeSoto Park

- Fish anywhere around Fort DeSoto Park. Members catching the longest the longest eligible fish, (snook, trout or redfish) will win a \$10 gift certificate. Longest fish in any category will take the lead in the annual outing competition.
- If you want to wade fish with other members meet up with them at the East Beach Picnic Area by 7:30 am.
- Meet up for a picnic lunch at Pavilion #4 on North Beach.

Youth Fly Fishing. March 28, June 11, and June 25

- David Redd reports that our club will again participate with Hillsborough Parks and Recreation in youth fly fishing sessions. We will have one session on March 28 from 5:15 - 6:15 pm. This will be at the Carrollwood Village Center in Tampa.
- Two other sessions will be held in Riverview at the Balm Park Recreation Center on June 11th and June 25th. Both sessions will be from 9 - 11 am.
- If you are interested in helping with any of these sessions or have any questions please contact David Redd at redfish68@yahoo.com. Rick Warfel and Bill Scarola have volunteered to help. More volunteers are welcome.

April 6: Hog Roast. And we have a speaker. [Buy your tickets online](https://SuncoastFlyFishers.com) or at the March meeting

- This is our big, fun, fund raiser for the year. We're co-hosting with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.
- Our speaker is international fly fishing guide, fly designer, and video producer [Jesse Males](https://SuncoastFlyFishers.com). He's from Central Florida but now his primary guiding centers are Costa Rica, Homosassa, and Montana.
- The meeting starts at 4 pm and runs until 8 pm at St. Jerome's Catholic Church in Largo.
- To avoid lines at the event, buy your tickets at the March meeting or online on our website... SuncoastFlyFishers.com
- Please bring your donations and member-tied flies to our next meeting or event.

Meetings, Outings, and More

April 13: FFI Florida Council, Cast and Tie, Orlando Bass Pro Shops

- On April 13 FFI members are invited to one-day event with fly tying, fly casting, raffle, and auction.
 - So-long, covid. The Florida FFI chapter is planning several in-person events this year including possibly, a major statewide convention like the one at Plantation Inn in Crystal River in 2018.
 - FFI Board Chairman Dave Peterson is coming in to update members on FFI and new conservation initiatives. Plus, there'll be some accomplished fly tyers demonstrating their on the table techniques.
 - Volunteers are needed, of course. David Redd and Bill Scarola have already stepped up to the plate.
 - Dave Olson, Florida Council President, said this will be the first of several regional Council meetings this year.
 - Silent auction for guided trips, flies, products, and more. Check out the full-page flyer in this newsletter.
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2024 SFF Calendar (Some speakers are tentative)

- April 6 Hog Roast, 4 pm, St. Jerome's Church. Speaker: international fly guide/videographer Jesse Males.
 - April 18 Meeting. Panel discussions on the best fresh water locations including E-glades and middle Florida.
 - April 20 Outing: Trout Creek Conservation Park, Hillsborough River. Prize for the longest bass.
 - April 26 to April 28. E-glades Outing. Prizes for most bream, most cichlids. I-75 rest stop picnic lunch.

 - May 16 Meeting. Tentative speaker, Jill Thompson-Grim. Subject: Gulf of Mexico marine science research.
 - May 18 Outing: Picnic Island, Hillsborough County. BBQ rib picnic lunch. Prize for the longest redfish.

 - June 20 Meeting. Speaker, Member Mike Larkin PhD, Gulf sportfish population update.
 - June 22 Outing. Docklights in the Dark. Prize for the longest snook.

 - July 18 Meeting. Speaker, Hallie Repeta, 2024 SFF's PhD Scholarship Winner at USF Marine Science.
 - July 20 Outing. Sunshine Skyway. Prizes for the longest snook, redfish and seatrout.

 - August 15 Meeting. Speaker, Gina Russo, MYFWC outreach update on Suncoast-area regulations and research.
 - August 17 Outing. Fort DeSoto Park. Prize for the longest snook. Summer Brisket bbq picnic lunch.

 - September 19 Meeting. Speaker, Capt. Brad Lowman. Topic: Best local fishing spots. Also, Louisiana redfish.
 - September 21 Outing. Carl Hanson Memorial Outing with TBFFC. Prize for most bluegills and longest fish.

 - October 17 Meeting. Speaker, Kerry Flaherty, Restoration Ecologist, Tampa Bay Estuary Program.
 - October 19 Outing. Emerson Point, Manatee County. Prizes for longest snook, redfish, seatrout, or ladyfish. Members of Sarasota' Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers will be invited to join us.

 - November 21 Meeting. Open House.
 - November 23 Outing. Upper Tampa Bay. Prizes for the longest snook, redfish, trout, or ladyfish.

 - December , Christmas Party. Date TBD. No meeting.
 - December 14 Outing. Don Coleman Invitational at Fort DeSoto Park. Prize for the longest fish of any species. Picnic: Annual chili cook-off.
-

Annie Mitchell: February Meeting Full of Good Info



Unfortunately our planned speaker, Jill Thompson Grim, was out of commission during the week of the meeting due to undergoing emergency surgery during the week of the meeting. SFF members all wish Jill well and we hope that she is fully recovered.

Thankfully we had two substitute speakers fill in for her: Steve Smith and Walt Durkin. And they were both excellent and served up solid info on separate topics.

First, though, before the speakers took the floor, Alan Sewell raised an issue. Sadly we had just lost beloved member Smitty, and Alan noticed at the Don Coleman outing in December that we had not mentioned Don, or any other past members. Alan petitioned that we make the December outing a memorial for all the members we have lost so that we can keep their memories alive. The Board will consider this, and the idea had wide support at the meeting.

Steve Smith is a Master Casting Instructor for the FFI. He is from Canada and is an avid Atlantic Salmon fly fisher. He said that it takes about 2,000 casts to catch a salmon, so you really have to learn to cast as efficiently as possible. The FFI focuses on education, conservation and growing the fly fishing community. They believe in expanding fly fishing to "All fish, all waters," by reaching out to children across multiple countries.

The FFI has lots of resources online for members, including casting instructions. Two sets of instructions that our members should consider looking at are the "Fly Casting Skills Development," which is a guide for anyone who wants to teach others to fly cast, and the "Fly Casting Skills & Drills," which imparts the necessary and advanced skills for casting in salt water.

Both of these wonderful resources can be found at flyfishersinternational.org in the [Learning Center](#).



Walt Durkin presentation

Walt Durkin is the president of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. He loves fishing at Cypress Point Park, which is where our February outing was held. He reinforced Steve's point about learning to properly cast. His recommendation was to read Joan Wolfe's book "Essentials of Fly Casting."

Walt then warned us we may have some difficulty with our outing that week. You need a low tide, the correct wind pattern, and sunlight to catch Redfish, and we could only expect one of those things at Cypress Point that weekend. Furthermore, Cypress Point has gotten shallower and sandier due to the Howard Franklin bridge construction nearby.

He recommends a shrimp pattern with a bendback hook and bucktail. Weedless and brown are the most important characteristics. He likes to incorporate a bright spot like an egg sack to attract the fish. Crab flies will work too. You have to get the fly on the bottom before the fish sees it, then move it an inch. Repeat this until the fish follows. However, sometimes they don't want it moving at all. Redfish have decent eyesight and smell. Walt recommends a loop knot for small flies and minnow patterns.

The lower the tide, the easier it is to sight fish for reds. In February he had been having luck on the south side of Cypress Point, but normally the North Side is better. There is a creek that runs to the south flat. About one person at a time can fish it, and sometimes there are monster reds hiding in there. Walt says use any weight line, but if it's windy use an eight weight. Try to use a 12 ft. leader with 15 lb. test fluorocarbon.

Annie



Two of Walt's favorites

Bob Burkard: February Outing at Cypress Point Park



*Bob Burkard,
chairman, outings
committee*

I have good news and bad news. First, the bad news: fishing was slower than slow. I caught a speckled trout about as long as my index finger. President Rick Warfel caught the longest one-- 6.5 inches long. And he had a picture of it. But he pleaded with the outing committee to not include this fish in the monthly outing tournament contest.

The good news is that we had a good turnout -- 15 maybe? -- and everybody had a laughingly good time. Fishers included new member John French and returning member Mandy McGarry.

Rain was in the forecast but we had a good turnout anyway, and the rain politely stopped while we were fishing. Guest Joe Cordeiro, developer of the Flatwing fly, fished with us at the outing.



Bob Burkard's tiny seatrout. Rick Warfel's seatrout was much longer, he acknowledged. Maybe twice as long.

Robert and Anne Mitchell took care of the pavilion picnic which was terrific. Robert had a solid handle on grilling those burgers and hot dogs.



Joe Cordeiro who created the Flatwing fly was an outing and meeting guest. Robert Mitchell (right) grilled the burgers and hot dogs.



Rigged and ready. From left: John French, James Davis, Rick Warfel, Mandy McGarry, and Bob Burkard. Others joined them on the water later.

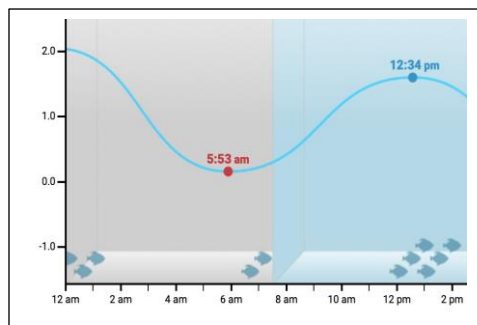
Bob

Bob Burkard: March 23 outing, Fort DeSoto Park

One of the nice things about fishing Fort DeSoto Park is that it has, actually, many nice things about fishing. There's always a good place to fish to suit the weather, water temperature, and winds, and personal preferences.

If you want to wade fish with other members meet up with them at the East Beach Picnic Area by 7:30 am. Noon picnic lunch at Pavilion #4 on North Beach.

Bob



Leaders on the 2024 Outing Tournament Trail

Species	Winner	Length	Outing (Month)
Longest bream			
Longest black bass			
Longest exotic			
Longest redfish			
Longest snook			
Longest seatrout			
Longest ladyfish			

More about Jesse Males, our April 6 Hog Roast Speaker

St. Jerome Catholic Church, Largo

Jesse Males is an **International fly fishing guide, award-winning filmmaker, and fly designer** originally from **Central Florida**. His passion for fly fishing has taken him to various corners of the world, where he shares his expertise and love for the sport with others.

Jesse spends his summers guiding fly fishing trips in the picturesque landscapes of Montana. During the fall season, he guides fishing adventures in the tropical paradise of Costa Rica. Jesse hosts trips to various destinations, including **Texas, Louisiana, Florida, and Belize** during the winter and spring months.

Jesse is not only a guide but also an accomplished filmmaker. He works on **freelance photo and video projects** within the outdoor industry. His passion for storytelling through visual media allows him to capture the beauty of nature and share it with a wider audience.

You can find Jesse on Instagram where he shares his fishing adventures and stunning visuals. He also runs a media production company called **Backwater Media Productions**. Jesse's fly shop, **Backwater Flies**, offers quality gear and expertise.

Whether he's wading in a Montana river, exploring the jungles of Costa Rica, or creating captivating content, Jesse Males continues to inspire fellow anglers and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

Jesse Males is a name synonymous with fly fishing, remote areas, and advocacy for the fly-fishing industry. He is known for his **Backwater Fly Fishing** brand, and has left an indelible mark on the fly fishing community. Here's a glimpse into his story:

1. **The Legend of Casa Mar:**

- Jesse's film, **The Legend of Casa Mar**, featured in the **F3T (Fly Fishing Film Tour)**, takes us to a hidden world in San Jose, Costa Rica. This area, shrouded in remoteness, holds a rich history of legendary anglers like **Lefty Kreh**.
- The film captures the raw intensity of venturing into this untamed territory. The northern Caribbean side, with its river mouths and optimal habitat, remains elusive due to its remote location.
- Jesse's goal with this film is twofold: to tell an untold story and to showcase the place's transformation. Casa Mar, once a thriving fishing spot, has now been reclaimed by the jungle. Conservation and sustainability are at the forefront, ensuring that this raw beauty endures.

2. **Jesse's Background:**

- Jesse's journey extends beyond Costa Rica. He has tied flies for large tarpon and other Florida species, explored remote fishing spots, and advocated for the fly-fishing industry.
- His passion for conservation and preserving pristine environments shines through. Guiding only two small mini-seasons in Casa Mar each year, Jesse ensures minimal impact on this precious ecosystem.

In summary, Jesse Males is not just a fly fisherman; he's a storyteller, a conservationist, and a bridge between anglers and the hidden wonders of our planet. His legacy continues to inspire those who seek adventure and cherish the natural world. For a closer look, you can watch *The Legend of Casa Mar* on YouTube

Fly Fishing Expo

The Florida Council of Fly Fishers International will hold a one-day Fly Fishing Expo at the Bass Pro Shops on International Drive in Orlando on Saturday, April 13th, 2024 from 9AM until 3PM. This event will feature some of the most talented fly fishers in Florida, sharing their talents and observations to improve others fly fishing skills. Featured presenters include:

Peggy Brenner

Master fly tier whose classic streamer patterns are not only gorgeous but fishy, will share her skills and help your tying.



Jon Cave

Operates the longest standing fly fishing school in the Southeast, and author of several books, including "Performance Fly Casting".



Steve Potter

Master fly tier whose work with deer hair is among the best in the world, will share his many tips on fly tying and improve your skills.



John Grasta

Fly shop manager at Bass Pro Shops and two-handed fly rod enthusiast will show you the advantages of the long rod.



David Olson

Master Certified Casting Instructor, fly shop manager, and rigging expert.



Frank Catino

Cortland Line Company's representative, fly fishing guide, and expert on fly lines and choosing the proper line for each angler and situation.



And many more!

Fly fishing with Capt. Bryon Chamberlain

Pat Damico fished the Crystal River area with Captain Chamberlain in late February.



Pat and a nice snook.



And an 18-inch seatrout. "I also caught about a dozen redfish. He knows his stuff!"

Pat

Robert Fischer fished with Captain Chamberlain in early March



I caught this 28-inch snook. It completed a set with a 15-inch redfish and an 18-inch trout for the inshore slam. I fished a Prince of Tides bendback and a mud minnow fly.

Robert

Suncoast Fly Fishers in Blue Ridge, Ga. (The trout weren't happy)

Nine Suncoast Fly Fishers met up in Blue Ridge Georgia and fished Fighting Town Creek. Member Cliff Nigh organized the trip on behalf of St. Petersburg Fishing Outfitters.

Suncoast Fly Fishers on this trip included David Redd, Tony Piazza, Walter Dill, Jack Collins, Rick and Karen Warfel, Scott Russell, Tony Piazza, Bill Scarola, and Cliff Nigh.



Get a grip, Karen Warfel!



On this day Bill Scarola caught three big rainbow trout--15, 16, and 17 inches



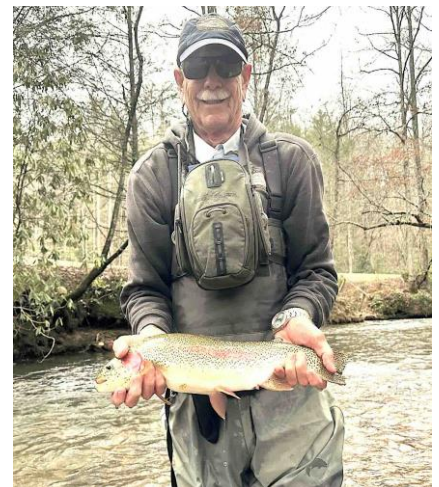
That's Tony Piazza after a happy day on Fighting Town Creek in Blue Ridge wade fishing with Cliff Nigh and the Suncoast group. Combined we hooked 20 and landed 14 trout from 17" to 20" all as fat as this one. What a day!



David Redd with one of many rainbow trout.



Nice one, Scott Russell!



Rick Warfel and one of his big 'uns.

Jack Collins and Bill Scarola: Freight trains on the fly

(Editor's note: Bill and Jack's one day float trip for trout in Blue Ridge got rained out. But member Cliff Nigh of St. Pete Fishing Outfitters pulled some last minute strings and arranged for them to fish Georgia's Nottely Lake/Reservoir. And they scored some "freight trains.")

Here's Jack.

The trip was a last minute alternative to the rain-out of the trout float trip we were supposed to fish. Thanks to Cliff Nigh's Georgia connections he was able to set us up with an alternative. Our guide Peyton loaded us into his jon boat for a very wet, chilly, but very rewarding adventure. We could see rising fish just off a point about a couple hundred yards from the boat ramp.



Jack Collins and his guide Peyton with one of Jack's big stripers on the fly.



Bill Scarola and his new SFF hat survived the heavy rain. The striper also survived, it is believed.

Peyton had us casting Blane Chocklett's game changer flies at the flashes made by the black and white stripes. Bill and I missed a couple of strikes before hooking up to some freight trains.

Peyton pushed us around the lake chasing rising pods of stripers. The rain wasn't too heavy while the action kept us focused on the fish. After landing several beautiful stripers, the biggest fresh water fish I have ever caught, the rain and rises started to slow. It was time to head back to the Lodge for a hot meal and swap stories with the rest of the gang.

Jack

Wes and Kelly Sobczak kayak-fished the Florida Keys.



This is Wes with one of many bonefish.



They caught lots of snappers. Delicious!

Wes and Kelly Sobczak camped and fished in the Florida Keys in early March. They camped at Bahia Honda State Park (12 miles west of Marathon), Curry Hammock State Park (east end of Marathon), and John Pennekamp State Park (Key Largo).

Our Florida state parks are beautiful and in the middle of some of the best fly fishing. Fishing from kayaks that were easily launched at each park, they caught dozens of fish each day, including bonefish, snapper, jacks, and lots of barracuda.

The barracuda were relentless and took many of their flies until wire bite tippet was found at a local fly shop.

Kelly said she also caught lots of fish, but wasn't as good at taking fish selfies as Wes.



*Wes takes great selfies when 'cudas
And other fish stop wiggling.*



They went to the Key Deer Refuge one night to photograph key deer and titled this photo "The buck stops here". This was not a selfie.

Kelly and Wes

Gurglers: Yes, it's Topwater Action Season Bruce Evensen & Bill Scarola



Bruce



Bruce and Bill and members tied gurglers at Bruce's fly tying studio on Monday February 26. If you're going on the E-glades fly fishing outing be sure to tie up lots of gurglers. They always attract the hungriest sportfish and you get to watch the strike on top. Also, Tampa Bay is warming up so snook are getting more active. They love gurglers. Fly tyers meet up on Mondays at 6 pm at 531 80 Avenue N in St. Pete.



Bill

Materials

Foam: various colors, white, yellow green, etc.
Hooks: 1, 1/0, 2, 2/0 for the salt, and 4 and 6's for freshwater 3407, and stingers.
Belly: Estaz, in matching or contrasting colors.
Tail: Marabou in matching colors to the foam and/or bucktail.
Flash: Optional to add to the tail. crystal flash, pearl, gold, etc.
Legs: Optional - Sili legs to form frog-type legs.
Thread: Match color to the foam color.
Marker: Optional, to mark eyes in the foam. Red or black.

Steps

1. Cut foam into strips from 3/8" width to 1/2" for larger flies. Make them 3-5-" in length.
 2. Wrap hook w/ thread.
 3. Attach a bit of tail material, either marabou or bucktail, and add some flash if desired. at the bend.
 4. On your foam, nip off two corners forming a wedge to attach in front of the bend. on top of the tail material.
 5. Wrap several wraps of Estaz from the foam tie in point forward. to just short of the hook eye. leave thread here.
 6. Fold the foam over the Estaz and place a few thread wraps just short of the hook eye. then fold the foam back over itself and place several more thread wraps to form a bubble type head, and tie off. This should extend up and over the hook eye. This creates the gurgling effect when fished.
 7. Cut the remaining foam off leaving a point or VEE, in the end as shown in the picture above.
 8. Optional. With your marker color in an eye on each side of the foam bubble head in red or black.
- NOTE: If adding foam frog legs either use a larger sewing needle and add the legs in the rear curve of the foam. I've used 3-4 Sili legs for each leg, adding a knot as a knee. The alternate method is to tie in the silly legs after you attach the foam strip as in step 4 above.

Mangrove Snook Fly



Layne (Smitty) Smith

We'll all miss Layne Smith who died January 29, but we'll remember him fondly when we fish the flies he tied.

This was Smitty's adaptation of Jim Grace's Mangrove Snook Fly from Lefty Kreh's book Saltwater Fly Patterns.



(Editor's note: Got a favorite fly that you tied with Smitty? Let me know and we'll feature it in a future issue. Editor)

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 3407 sizes #2 - 1/0

Thread: White Flatwaxed Nylon

Tail: White bucktail about 2" long (tapered)

Wing: 4 to 6 white neck or wide saddle hackle feathers 2 1/2 to 3 inches long

Flash: 4 strands of Krystal Flash and 3 strands of micro Flashabou

Cheeks & Belly: White Fish Hair (tapered) or white bucktail topping; 6 strands of Peacock Herl

Head: White Flatwaxed Nylon (built up)

Eyes: 5/32" flat or 3D molded silver holographic eyes

Coating: UV Resin

Weedguard: (Optional) #1 trolling wire or 20# mono

Tying Sequence:

Step 1: Base wrap hook shank. ***NOTE** If using a weedguard, tie in as you do this step.

Step 2: Measure and tie in bucktail at hook point.

Step 3: Tie in 2 or 3 hackles on each side, tented** over bucktail. (Flatten stems to help feathers stay positioned correctly). **NOTE: **** Tenting the wing is tying the hackle feathers in at 11 o'clock and 1 o'clock positions on the hook shank. When looked at from either end of the fly, the feathers should assume this shape "▲" over the bucktail.

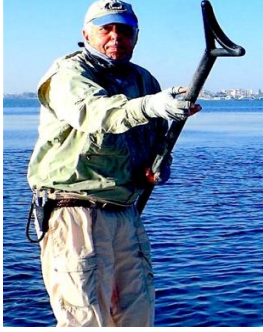
Step 4: Tie in Krystal Flash at its mid-point and extend back on either side of fly... Repeat with Flashabou.

Step 5: Tie in small bunch of Fish Hair or white bucktail (tapered) on both lower sides of hook as cheeks and belly.

Step 6: Tie in Peacock Herl topping (same length as wing).

Step 7: Build up thread head and apply eyes.

Step 8: Coat head with Softex (or epoxy). Let dry then re-coat head with Sally Hansen's Hard As Nails.



Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

Make your flies last longer

Most fly fishers also tie or make their flies. Catching a worthwhile fish on a fly is even more rewarding if it is on a fly made by the person holding the fly rod.

There are many standard patterns that when you Google the fly's name not only does a picture and a description of the materials needed to duplicate it appear, but often a video of the prescribed technique that you can closely follow. Most original patterns were made from natural materials but advances in technology offer synthetic or man-made ingredients that offer color, texture, and variations that are numerous. Synthetic materials have been popular for another reason and that is because they are usually more durable.

Many of our toothy saltwater fish such as ladyfish, snook, and Spanish mackerel can destroy a fly after catching a single fish. The result may necessitate cutting off the used fly and part of the ruined nylon leader and retying a new one before starting to fish. By the time you finish, the good fishing can be over.

Besides using synthetics, frequent application of a small drop of quick-drying crazy glue to the tying thread will add to the fly's durability resulting in multiple catches in a short time.

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 charts "Fly Guy" in lower Tampa Bay. captpatdamico.com and 727-504-8649

Jonas Magnusson: Tailing Loop on Delivery. Sound Familiar?



Jonas Magnusson, Fly Fishers International Certified fly-Casting Instructor

You are on the water and suddenly casting rather well. Damn, is it possible that those lessons Jonas gave me work (of course they do)? Now you spot a red cruising into your field of vision 50' out, and you false cast a bit (most anglers overcook that one). The fly line is behaving, and you go for the delivery. It looks good until the dreaded tailing loop enters, and the leader lands in a sorry pile. The red shakes its head and departs. Have you been there? Of course, a negative answer is a blatant lie. From time to time all casters will cast a tailing loop.

This is the likeliest scenario. When you are false casting, with the same line length, all is good. You will have a certain casting arc (see below). The rod tip is traveling in a straight line between the stops because of the rod's bend. You use more power for the delivery for the **same** arc and the rod tip dips. You can wind up with a tailing loop for several reasons, but they all have the rod tip path dipping.

Read more about this on my blog: everyjonahasawhale

Jonas

Used Gear for Sale

Bill Scarola is selling his 12-foot Nucanoe kayak, \$800 with remote control trolling motor; \$600 without.

It is 40-inches wide and very stable. It has two comfortable seats. The deck is lined with Sea Decking. There are rod holders. Title will be transferred. Call BILL SCAROLA @ 732-740-7538. He will deliver the kayak to you if necessary.

Bill Scarola also is selling a metal rifle and pistol storage cabinet. \$75

It's 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.



Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



Getting to know the Flatwing Fly. Mr. Flatwing Fly was our February meeting and outing guest. That's Joe Cordeiro. Watch it being tied. ([Fly Life Magazine](#))

Another version of Joe Cordeiro's Flatwing fly. You can also tie the Flatwing Fly with this multi-feather design. Watch it here. ([News. Orvis](#))

And the subject is.... Giant seatrout. Oh, wouldn't it be nice to catch a 30-incher? Oh well, I agree that even the 15-inchers give the fly rodder a surface-thrashing reward. And I also agree to keep one. Okay, sometimes, two. 'Tis the season. ([Angler's Journal](#))

Stop at this intersection. It's getting to be that time of the year when tarpon are on the move. They're going to meet up here and there to form spawning groups then they leave. Catching one on the fly is on every fly angler's bucket list. This is the time. This is the place. Read all about it. ([Angler's Journal](#))

Says who? Bryson City in the Smokies is officially the Fly Fishing Capital of the South. It may be true but I don't know what organization gave it that designation. Whatever. I'm sure the fishing is good there ([Post & Courier](#))

'Tis the E-glade canal fishing season. I'll be fly fishing the C-4 canal along the Tamiami Trail in late March. Then, of course, the Suncoast Fly Fisher's E-glade canal outing is in April and members will be fly fishing the canals south of Clewiston. ([Ole Florida Fly Shop](#))

Can you say polyfluoroalkl? Remember the accent should be on the antepenultimate syllable. Whatever. It's a cause for concern. And, just say "forever chemicals" ([University of South Florida](#))

Ok, he didn't catch it on fly. But still... This video is going -- *what do they call it?* -- viral. It shows a guy "catching" a huge bass in the pond next to his home. It has been clicked on more than a million times since it was shared online by country music star Brad Paisley. ([Field & Stream](#))

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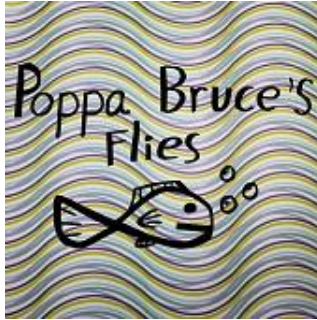


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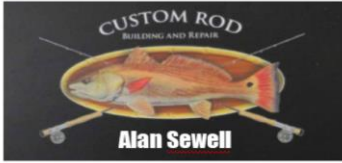
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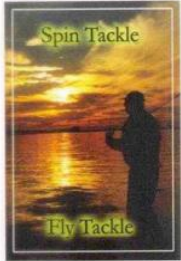
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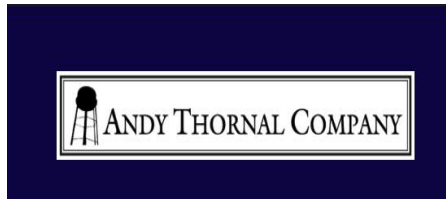
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