



## 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