

# On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

November Outing. Fresh and Salt P7



Tampa Bay needs our help. P6



Our October "outing" P7



Greg Clark's Idaho Trip. P9



Big Guns Shoot for the Prizes. P8



Can you say "herl" P10



## President's Message: November 2024



Fishing is becoming frustrating! Due to many factors, it is becoming increasingly harder to find a place to fish that isn't affected by Red Tide, flesh eating bacteria or fecal matter in the water. Runoff from the hurricanes has literally flooded the bay with nutrients that have spurred these bacteria blooms. Furthermore, outdated and over capacity sewage treatment facilities released millions of gallons of raw sewage into the bay.

Unfortunately, these issues are not going away anytime soon. The water that flows into Tampa Bay comes from multiple counties, so until harsher regulations are in place and all the counties are on the same page; the waters flowing into the bay will continue to be a major issue. For example, Pinellas and Hillsborough counties have a fertilizer ban during the summer months but Pasco County does not. The water shed for the northern part of the bay extends well into Pasco county. This is just one example.

On another front, the Tampa Bay Area suffers from over development. Hundreds of thousands of new residences are being built every year, many built in areas that used to be natural filtration for runoff. Now that runoff fills storm drains that dump it into the bay. These new residences also create a massive increase in raw sewage waste. Current sewage treatment facilities are inefficiently designed to handle this increase in sewage waste, we have seen the effects of their incapability far too many times.

These are just a couple of examples of issues that affect Tampa Bay, I'm sure we all could list many more. So, sorry for my soap box session, like I said at the beginning, it's frustrating! Man has no problem messing up the bay if he can make a buck while doing it, but is far too reluctant to spend a buck to fix it.

Enjoy Every Day,

*David*

David Redd

# 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 120 members including 21 family and six honorary. Annual membership is \$50 (\$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: David Redd  
Vice Pres: Jack Collins  
Secretary: Tony Piazza  
Treasurer: Karen Warfel

## Board of Directors

Quin Berry, Rick Warfel (Prior President), Bill Scarola, Bob Burkard, Bruce Evensen, 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

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**New Members:** Rick Warfel

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**Facebook:** Cliff Nigh, Anne Mitchell

**Outings:** Bob Burkard, David Redd, Bill AuCoin, Quin Berry, Mandy McGarry, Anne Mitchell, John Moder

**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

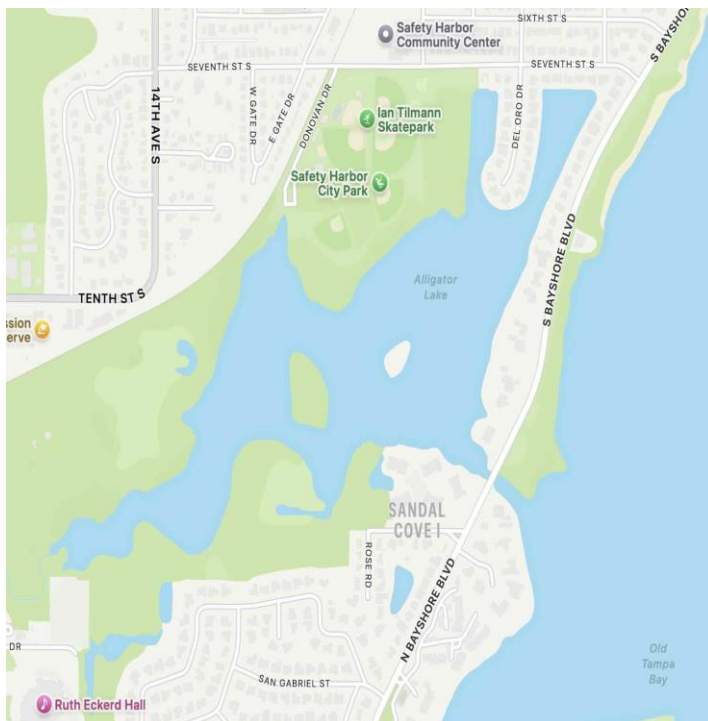
*Committees--Members are encouraged to serve on one or two committees. Do you? If not, speak to one of the officers at the next meeting.*

## Meetings, Outings, and More

### Thursday, November 21 Open House meeting.

- November 21 Meeting. Open House. Our speaker is Bob Schorejs, aka "Kayak Bob." Kayak Bob is a fly-fishing-kayak pioneer and knows what fly fishers need (and don't need) to be successful fly fishing kayakers.
- This is our annual "open house" meeting. Bring your fly fishing friends.
- Treasurer Karen Warfel, Quin Berry, Cliff Nigh, James Davis, and Secretary Tony Piazza are board members whose terms expire next year. A new nominating committee will be formed and recommend new board members at the February meeting.

### Saturday, November 23 outing, Fresh and Salt



*Alligator Lake in Safety Harbor. The boat ramp is at the Safety Harbor City Park. Saltwater fly fishers can launch their boats and yaks at the Philippi Park Boat Ramp.*

- November 23 Outing. Upper Tampa Bay and/or Alligator Lake in Safety Harbor.
- Alligator Lake anglers can launch their boats or kayaks at the Safety Harbor City Park. T
- Waders will like to fly cast around the little pond near the boat ramp. You can catch bass and bream casting to lily-pads, etc.
- Fresh water fishers are competing for the longest bass and the most bream.
- Saltwater anglers can wade in from Philippi Park or launch their boats/yaks at the Philippi Park boat ramp.
- Salty fishers can win gift certificates for the longest snook, redfish, trout, or ladyfish. Your fish might even take the lead in the annual outing tournament.
- Be sure to measure your fish and take pictures.
- Meet up at noon or earlier at Safety Harbor Park. There are no shelters, and seating is limited so it might be a good idea to bring a lawn chair.

*Continued on next page*

## Meetings, Outings, and More

### Save the dates

- December 7 at 8 pm. SFF Christmas Party. St. Jerome Catholic Church, Largo.
  - December 13: Kayak Outing at the Suncoast Youth Center, Apollo Beach, 8:30 AM. Come ready to kayak-fish. After lunch, Director Gina Russo will lead a tour of the facility. Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club members will be there, too.
  - December 21 Outing at Walsingham Park. This is a salute to members of the Suncoast Fly Fishers who donate more time, energy, and ideas to make our club one of the best in the U.S. The new outing name has been changed from the Don Coleman Invitational to the Suncoast Fly Fishers Member Tribute Outing. SFF members will be asked to suggest names for consideration. Meet up at noon at Pavilion #1.
  - January 11, annual casting clinic with Dayle Mazzarella. It will probably be at Egan Field in St. Pete Beach. This is for members AND your non-member friends.
  - January 16, SFF Trash 'n' Treasures meeting. Bring and donate the gear you no longer use. Bring a credit card and/or cash. You're going to get some good deals.
  - January 18, January outing at Weedon Island Preserve.
  - March 29, 2025 SFF TBFFC Joint Banquet at the Carrollwood Rec Center. Speaker: Bob Clouser.
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### **February 14-15, 2025: The 5th Annual Waterman Fly Fishing Tournament**

The Waterman Fly Fishing Tournament is a two-day, fly fishing-only, catch & release redfish tournament with an optional Snook Calcutta with a 50/50 cash payout to be held on February 14th and February 15th, 2025. The tournament is limited to 60 teams or 120 anglers total.

The two-day, photo submission format will make it possible for fisherman in this entire range to participate. The proceeds from entry fees, 50% of the Snook Calcutta and raffle tickets purchases directly benefit Tampa Bay Waterkeeper, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and their mission to advocate for clean water.

This tournament rewards Tampa Bay Waterkeeper for the great work they do monitoring water quality. Tampa Bay Waterkeeper is a member of the Waterkeeper alliance, a global network of over 350 grassroots leaders in six continents protecting everyone's right to clean water.

For more information and to register for the tournament go to... [Tampa Bay Waterkeeper](#)

# Tampa Bay Estuary Program



*October meeting speaker Kerry Walia of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program updated members on the data and concerns for Tampa Bay in the wake of hurricanes Helene and Milton.*

Our October General Meeting speaker was Kerry Walia from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP).

Kerry discussed the work performed by TBEP and the progress made since the 1970s in restoring the Tampa Bay Estuary. Tampa Bay, the estuary and residents, are reaching a crucial decision-making point in time following horrific hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Since the 1970s TBEP has been a leader developing and implementing scientifically sound, community-based management plans.

## **TBEP Overview ...**

TBEP leverages the resources of [program partners](#) and catalyzes action by:

- 1) Financing cutting-edge [research](#) that develops the science around key problems impacting the bay.
- 2) Sponsoring [restoration and management initiatives](#) that embody innovative solutions to address these problems.
- 3) Creating open science-based [analyses and graphics](#) that inform management and policy.
- 4) Providing ["Mini-Grants"](#) to community groups to engage the public in [bay restoration and education activities](#)
- 5) Developing [educational programs](#) and campaigns targeting and informing key segments of the bay community – including educators, boaters and homeowners.

## **Here are some ways we can help the cause**

1. Give a Day for the Bay. [Get dirty, give back, and have fun.](#)
2. [Citizen science projects.](#)
3. Install a VOG ([Verticle Oyster Garden](#))
4. Get the Florida [tarpon tag.](#)
5. Become a [microplastics ambassador](#)
6. Pick up [shoreline debris](#)

###



*Bob Burkard, meetings-outings committee chair*

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## Bob Burkard: November 23 Outing in Safety Harbor

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Fly fish Alligator Lake and/or Upper Tampa Bay. Fresh water fishers are competing for the longest bass and the most bream. Salty fishers can win gift certificates for the longest snook, redfish, trout, or ladyfish. Your fish might even take the lead in the annual outing tournament. Be sure to measure your fish and take pictures. For a seat at the picnic tables meet up at noon or earlier at Safety Harbor City Park. Bring a lawn chair just in case the park benches fill up.



*Alligator Lake Boat Ramp. There's also a boat ramp at Philippi Park for upper bay fly fishers.*



*Or fish from shore at this adjacent pond.*

Former member Terry Kirkpatrick loved Alligator Lake. Here's a fishing report he wrote for the newsletter back in 2018.

*So I ended up by the dam. It was a beautiful start of a beautiful evening. I rigged the 6.5-foot bamboo 4-weight and tied on an orange sponge spider. I worked the upstream side of the dam, and could see movement under the bug. One of the shadows turned out to be a bass; it looked like it would go 12 to 16 inches. I worked it for a while, but it seemed to lose interest and then a little 6 or 7 inch bream came up to play. He took the spider, and it was a lot of fun on the 4 weight. When I got him in, I realized he was more like 8 to 10 inches*

## October's Outing at ... wait for it...

We decided that due to the pollution introduced to our Tampa Bay and the high waters in the local rivers caused by the two recent hurricanes, Milton and Helene, we would not venture into the Tampa Bay area water in October. Instead, a group of us met at a restaurant to catch up and check on our members who were harmed by these storms.



## October "outing" at the Crab Shack restaurant

## Hoover, Lowman, Mahler, Matuziac: Big Gun Winners



*The Three Amigos team won the Big Gun Shootout Sunday 11/17. L to r, that's Joe Mahler, Walt Hoover, and Ed Matuziac.*

The *Three Amigos* team of Joe Mahler, Walt Hoover, and Ed Matuziac won the Big Gun Shootout on Sunday, November 17, at Picnic Island with a total team accuracy and distance score of 1,181. Mahler's total was 420, Hoover's was 421, and Matuziac's was 340.

Hoover's score of 421 earned him the Individual Trophy award. Lisa Lowman won the Ladies Trophy with a score of 310, besting three other competitors.

Five competitors cast more than 100 feet to qualify for the Long Distance competition. Hoover won that one, too, with a final cast of 118 feet.

2024 TROPHY WINNERS IN GREEN		TBFFC		BIG		GUN		SHOOT-OUT 2024		11/17/24	
TEAM								Max. 100			Over 100'
Rank	Competitor	Hanson	Hoop	V-Fish	Mangrove	Accuracy	Distance	Total**	Indiv Rank	Team Name	Shoot-Out Dist
1	Jaime Bigelow	20	16	60	40	60	83	279	9	Till Death	
1	Willi Klaus	0	36	40	40	80	84	280	8	Till Death	
1	Roman Kornilov	0	0	20	0	40	53	113	21	Till Death	
	TEAM TOTAL							672			
2	Joe Mahler	0	100	80	60	80	100	420	2	Three Amigos	116
2	Walt Hoover	0	56	80	100	85	100	421	1	Three Amigos	126
2	Ed Matuziac	0	0	80	80	80	100	340	3	Three Amigos	119
	TEAM TOTAL							1181			
3	Bob Bebout	0	0	60	60	60	99	279	10	Generation 3	
3	Lowell Bebout	0	0	60	60	80	100	300	6	Generation 3	113
3	Carter Bebout	0	74	40	20	20	63	217	18	Generation 3	
	TEAM TOTAL							796			
4	Jim Humphrey	0	16	40	20	40	69	185	19	Hopefuls	
7	Bobby Lacktura	0	0	40	60	60	69	229	17	Hopefuls	
4	Nichola Hazivisillis	0	0	40	60	60	72	232	15	Hopefuls	
	TEAM TOTAL							646			
5	Lisa Lowman	0	24	60	60	90	76	310	L1	Double Haulers	
5	Enver Hysni	0	24	40	60	80	82	286	7	Double Haulers	
5	Bob Weist	0	72	40	60	60	94	326	5	Double Haulers	
	TEAM TOTAL							922			
6	Walt Durkin	0	14	40	60	85	65	264	12	Sight Casters	
5	Ted Hagaman	0	0	60	60	60	72	252	13	Sight Casters	
6	Robert Fischer	0	0	60	40	80	97	277	11	Sight Casters	
	TEAM TOTAL							793			
7	Patty Anderson	20	0	20	40	45	77	202	L2	DFL Club	
7	Denise Bruner	0	0	40	20	40	84	184	L3	DFL Club	
7	Kelly Sobczek	0	0	40	0	20	61	121	L4	DFL Club	
	TEAM TOTAL							507			
8	David Redd	0	78	60	40	80	74	332	4	Hot Mess	
8	John Lookabill	20	0	40	40	60	71	231	16	Hot Mess	
8	Elie Sofair	0	0	80	40	40	90	250	14	Hot Mess	
	TEAM TOTAL							813			
9	Allen Lum	0	0	20	20	20	56	116	20	Redfisher	
9	Leigh West	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	Dist. Only		108
	TEAM TOTAL							0			
	TEAM TOTAL							216			



## Greg Clark: Annual Fly-Fishing Trip to Northern Idaho

In September I met up and fished the St. Joe River in Northern Idaho with my buddy Doug, who I met while living in Boise and who now lives in Coeur d'Alene. It's been our annual fly fishing trip within Idaho & Montana for the last nine years.

We stayed in an RV park in Avery, Idaho. It had WIFI but no cell reception for 40 miles. We fished the St. Joe River near there with good fishable water and pull-offs on St Joe River Road for about 10-15 miles.

I flew into Spokane via Denver and that was about a two- hour drive from Spokane to Avery. The St. Joe River produces mostly cutthroat trout which we caught plenty of and does have native mountain whitefish and some bull trout...but we didn't see or catch any of those.



*Greg in beautiful northern Idaho with a St. Joe River Cutthroat Trout*



*Do it correctly: Catch it. Take a picture. Then release.*

As I mentioned we caught plenty of cutthroat measuring mostly 10 to 16-inches. I did catch a personal best for me which was a little over 18 inches, with Doug as my spotter up high.

We had a great time as the weather was cool with mornings of 50 degrees, and sunny and warm during the day in low 80s, so we're able to wet wade during the afternoon to stay cool.

The trout took mostly dry flies of elk hair caddis, some big X caddis, stimulators, ants and other terrestrials. There were some pale evening duns and BWOs coming off as well, including the white spruce moth which hatches from all of the lodge pole pine trees there. Cutthroat will come clean out of the water to grab these moths.



*Here's one of those free-wheeling cutthroats Joe and Doug caught in Northern Idaho in September.*

As always, I had a great time on this annual trip..

*Greg*

## Blondie Minnow Bruce Evensen and Bill Scarola



Bruce Evensen

Due to flooding from the storms we **will not** be having any tying probably for awhile. Keep tying to keep your tying skills sharp!!!

Bruce Evensen's Blondie is a minnow imitation that appeals to fresh and saltwater fish year-around, and it will invite fish bites for Suncoast Fly Fishers fishing November's Safety Harbor outing in fresh or salt water.



### Materials

Body: White bucktail only or, alternately, chartreuse and pearl Flashabou with peacock herl and silver tinsel  
Hook: #2 -3407 or # 2 stingers  
Glue: UV Epoxy and Super Glue.  
Eyes: Black marker or small stick ons  
Thread: White flat waxed and/or Uni Mono

### Tying sequence

1. Wrap hook from eye to bend
2. Add white bucktail for the tail. Tie up to and just in front of the bend. Tail length should be 1-1/2 times hook shank length.
3. Add tinsel from 3/8" behind hook eye building up a thick body in the middle of the shank. Be sure to extend it beyond the bucktail fibers.
4. Tie in 6-8 strands of pearl flash in front of the tinsel so that it stays on top of the shank.
5. For the top of the fly tie in bucktail in front of the tinsel. If using peacock herl, tie it in above the top bucktail.
6. Whip finish a small head to secure bucktail, tinsel, and Flashabou.
7. Use black marker to dot the eyes or add the stick ones
8. Cover the head area with UV epoxy and cure. Alternatively, secure the head area with Super Glue.



Top: Blondie with bucktail, Flashabou, peacock herl, and silver tinsel. Below, Blondie with bucktail only. You can top off the bucktail-only version with peacock herl as well.

## Smitty's Fly Box – Gangster Gurgler



Layne (Smitty) Smith  
RIP

Layne (Smitty) Smith RIP tied this fly for members way back in 2015 and he said then this fly will entice all the hungry ones early in the morning, fresh or salt. It's still true. Pop this fly a few times at the November Safety Harbor outing whether you're fishing the fresh or the salt.

### Materials

Hook: Daiichi 2546 size 1/0 hook  
Thread: Grey Danville flat wax 210 denier thread medium



Mouth: Red or orange cactus chenille  
Eyes: 239 Flies crustacean eyes  
Tail: Cream craft fur and Sand craft fur  
Palps: Root Beer medium palmer chenille and Green grizzly hackle  
Overbody: 239 Flies white/tan foam strip  
Underbody: Tan EP tarantula brush (½ inch)  
Markers: Prismacolor marker (tan) Prismacolor marker (brown)

### Tying sequence:

**Step 1.** Start your thread at the eye of the hook and advance it back to ⅓ the way down the bend of the hook. Tie in your cactus chenille and palmer to the point where the hook begins to straighten on the shank.

**Step 2.** At a 45 degree angle, tie in your 239 Flies Crustacean eyes right above where your chenille ends. You may need to wrap several times in and around each eye to space the stem from the hook. The end result should place both eyes about a ¼ of an inch away from the hook.

**Step 3.** Cut 4-5 clumps of both sand and tan craft fur off the hide and place on a table separately. Pull the "long and shorts" out of each clump so you have clean and tapered clumps. Stack the sand clump on top of the cream clump matching the tips and trim the butt section off so that you are left with 1 piece that is approximately 2 ½ inches in length. Tie your craft fur just behind the eyes and bar them with the fat end of the tan marker and slim end of the brown marker.

**Step 4.** On the bump created where you tied in the craft fur, tie in a 2 inch piece of rootbeer palmer chenille and palmer forward 5 wraps.

**Step 5.** Tie in a green grizzly hackle and palmer forward 6-8 wraps. Break off the excess and wrap your thread backwards (away from the hook eye) pressing the last wraps or two of hackle fibers down.

**Step 6.** Advance your thread to ¼ of an inch behind the eye and tie in your 239 Flies foam strip. You should tie very firmly back to where the hackle ends. Your thread should be hanging nearly touching the green hackle.

**Step 7.** Tie in your tan EP tarantula brush and palmer forward to ¼ of an inch behind the eye of the hook.

**Step 8.** Fold your foam strip back and down and tie onto the hook shank ⅛ of an inch behind the eye of the hook. Whip finish 2 times in front of the foam strip and cut the foam to length.



## Capt. Pat Damico

*We get better as we age*

Fly fishing is one of the few sports, maybe the only one, where you can get better as you age. This depends very much on how you do it. In saltwater we use heavier equipment, must cast further with accuracy, and are constantly confronted with adverse wind conditions, a combination of issues that if not approached properly will cause physical deterioration of muscles, ligaments, and joints. Frequently, even younger sports enthusiasts in tennis or golf often are plagued with these issues that can be debilitating. Tennis elbow and golf wrist are frequent results. The reason is usually poor execution of fundamentals. Someone who never fly fished can have an advantage over a veteran who has many issues with

poor, "Muscle memory." Watching any accomplished sports enthusiast perform looks easy because most flaws are eliminated. An excuse I often hear is, "Fly fishing is too much work!" Do a search of Fly Fishing Clubs in your area and you will find a group of fly fisher's that share the same interests at many different levels. You can find capable instructors only too happy to get you on the correct path to make this a safe and very enjoyable pastime.

*Fly fisherman and casting instructor Pat Damico charts Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at 727-504-8649 and [captpatdamico.com](http://captpatdamico.com)*

*Captain Pat*

## Fishing Funnies

### **Pet Fish**

A woman is walking on a beach in Texas carrying two [Redfish](#) in a bucket. A game warden walks up and asks to see her fishing license.

"I don't have a fishing license," says the woman.

"You know it's illegal to fish without a license, right?" asks the warden.

"I wasn't fishing, officer. These Redfish are my pets."

"Your pets?"

"Yes, officer. They like a little exercise, so when the weather's fine, I take them to the water and let them swim around. Once they're done, I give them a whistle and they jump back into my bucket and we head home."

The officer isn't buying a word of it, so the woman says, "Don't believe me? Watch!" and she throws the fish into the sea.

The warden waits for a minute then says, "Alright, now whistle to your fish and make them jump out of the water."

The fisherwoman turns to the officer and says, "What fish?"

[Fishingbooker.com](http://Fishingbooker.com)



*This is overkill. I mean, really, who needs two nets?*

[Worth the watch...](#)

## Member Jim Fletcher Donates his Used Fly Gear to the Suncoast Fly Fishers All-Women Fly Tournament

New member Jim Fletcher had a lot of like-new gear up for sale. Then he decided not to sell it. Instead he gave it to member Samantha Tallyn to use at [FFI Women's Connect](#) seminars leading up to the SFF Women's Fly Fishing Tournament.

**"He did," Samatha wrote. "He donated it for our future fly fishing seminars...To help teach those that don't have a fly rod to bring .. so awesome of him!"**

Here are some of the items (worth mucho \$\$\$) Jim is giving to the cause:

### RODS



Orvis "Clearwater" 9-wt Fly Rod, 9 ft, 4-piece,

Sage "Motive" Fly Rod, 9-wt, 9 ft, 4-piece



### REELS

Sage "Spectrum C" series Fly Reel, color Black, Size 7/8, Like-New condition, spooled w/Backing, Fly line, & Leader, asking \$50

Sage "2200 Series" Fly Reel, color Black/Blaze, size 2210, Like-New condition, spooled w/Backing, Fly line, & Leader, asking \$75

Sage "4200 Series" Fly Reel, color Platinum, size 4210, Like-New condition, spooled w/Backing, Fly line, & Leader, asking \$100

*Thank you, Jim!*

## Used Gear for Sale

Woody Miller is selling his fly fishing kayak. Phone: 727-560-6086

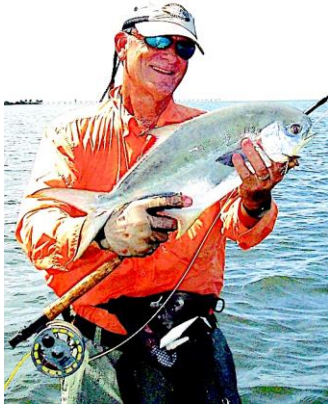
It's a Jackson YuPIK 12-footer.

It's ideal for fly fishing with an open deck design.

Excellent shape! \$1,300.00



## Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



**Short and strange history.** Interesting info about our November outing location. Alligator Lake used to be Alligator Creek. This 100-acre lake was create almost 100 years ago. ([SafetyHarborHistory](#))

**Trout Bum, RIP.** Yes, author John Gierach suffered a major heart attack and died Oct. 3. Gierach wrote hundreds of magazine articles and many books including *Trout Bum* and *Standing in a River Waving a Stick*. ([Hatch](#))

**Also, fly tyer Bob Popovics.** Apparently, he was struck and died after a hit-and-run accident. Lefty Kreh called Popovics the *greatest saltwater fly tier of all time*. ([Fly Fisherman](#))

**Listen to the Popovics podcast.** Andy Mill interviewed Popovics on his podcast and this will help us remember the contributions of another fly star. ([Millhouse Podcast](#))

**“Hack the Bay”** - This looks interesting. Tampa Bay Estuary Program is setting up a 10-hour event in Tampa January 27 called the *Hackathon*. *TBEP* is inviting organizations and individuals to help solve our bay’s environmental challenges. Registration is open. What *TBEP* needs is almost real time data on what they call indicator species like ([TBEP](#))

**Our fish are getting smaller.** They blame overfishing and climate change. Another reason, imho, is that fish that measure short of the keeper size get released back into the water. So, of course, they’re shorter. Recreational anglers and commercial fishers alike like to catch large fish," said the Post [The Washington Post] "That quest for the big ones leaves the small fries behind." An abundance of small fish will continue to produce small fish, bringing down the physical size of the population." H/T Jack Collins. ([TheWeek](#))

**Sign up for this one.** Registration is open for the fifth annual Waterman Fly Fishing Tournament. Waterman Fly Fishing Tournament is a two-day, fly fishing-only, catch & release redfish tournament with an optional Snook Calcutta with a 50/50 cash payout to be held on February 14th and February 15th, 2025. The tournament is limited to 60 teams or 120 anglers total. ([Tampa Bay Waterkeeper](#))

**Time for some browsing.** The American Museum of Fly Fishing was established in 1968 in Manchester, Vermont, by a group of passionate and enthusiastic anglers who believed that the history of angling was an important part of American culture and tradition. The Museum was created to serve as an institution to research, preserve, and interpret the treasures of angling history.

([AMFF](#))

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# Special Friends of Suncoast Fly Fishers

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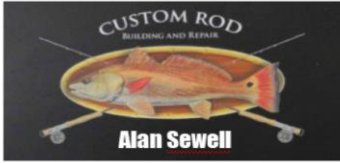


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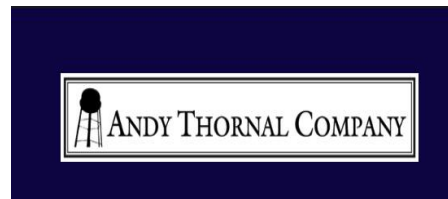
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