

# On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

December 21 Outing.  
Walsingham Park P6



Plus, Member Tribute at Walsingham. P6



Kayakers,; Be Prepared P8



Holiday Party P9



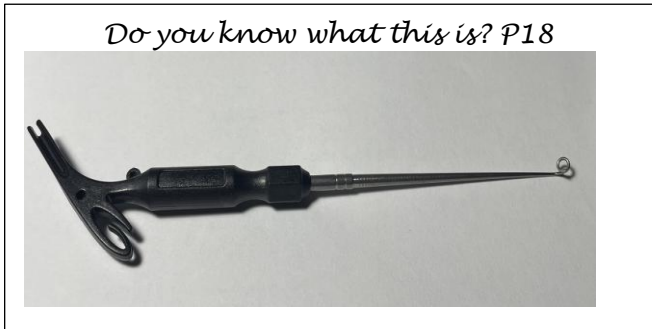
Do you stay put or move? P12



November outing in Safety Harbor P7



Do you know what this is? P18





## President's Message: December 2024

As the year draws to a close, we reflect on the events and challenges we've faced. It's been a rough year for many. We lost our good friend Smitty and many are still dealing with the issues left by back to back Hurricanes.

So it is with the deepest sincerity that I hope this holiday season brings you and your family peace, hope, and the warmth of loved ones. Together we can look forward to a brighter new year filled with fresh opportunities and shared joys.

Wishing you and yours a happy and restful holiday season,

*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.

**NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS: Annual memberships are now payable by members. They can be paid online through the SuncoastFlyFishers.com website or by mailing a check to the SFF post office box address listed above. You can also contact Karen Warfel at 813-505-3162 and pay by credit card. Dues can also be paid via cash, check or credit card at any club meeting, outing or event.**

## 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

**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, 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

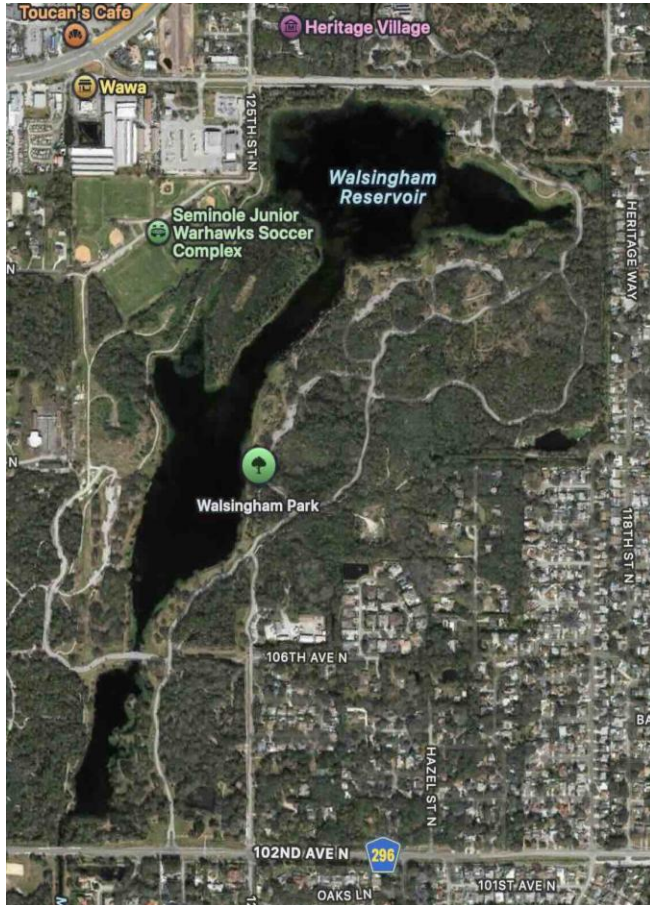
## On The Fly

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

### Saturday, December 21, Walsingham Park Chili Extravaganza and Member Tribute to Layne (Smitty) Smith and to Alan Sewell, long and treasured members of the Suncoast Fly Fishers



- December 21 Outing. Walsingham Lake in Largo. 12615 on 102<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. You can also enter at the North end on Walsingham Road.
- The park opens at 7 am. Fish anywhere inside the big lake or the smaller surrounding lakes.
- This is freshwater, of course. Club gift certificates will be awarded to the member catching the longest bass and the most panfish.
- This is our chili extravaganza picnic. Meet up at Shelter 01 on the Eastern shoreline. Food will be ready at 11:30 AM. Coffee and donuts will be available starting at 10:00 AM for those of you who arrive earlier.
- The December outing has been our Don Coleman Invitational. Starting this year we're calling it Suncoast Fly Fishers Member Tribute.
- For this year's Suncoast Fly Fishers Member Tribute Outing we are paying tribute to our departed Layne "Smitty" Smith and honoring our current member, Alan Sewell.
- Even if you do not plan to fish, our SFF board members invite you to

please attend this outing where we gather to celebrate our past and current members, share stories with friends and family, and sample great chili and sides.

- Will you be going to the outing? Please RSVP to [robertburkard9@gmail.com](mailto:robertburkard9@gmail.com) or (call or text) 610-256-7781.

*Continued on next page*

## Meetings, Outings, and More

### **Saturday, January 11, Northeast Mini Park, 875 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE, St. Petersburg**

- Our club's annual casting clinic will be from 9 am to 3 pm. Arrive earlier to register and help set up targets. Suncoast Fly Fishers provides free breakfast and lunch.
- It's open to all and free for FFI members (which includes SFF members). Others can join FFI on site. Annual dues are \$35 (\$25 for seniors and vets, \$20 for juniors.)
- WHAT: We will use a format similar to the last one where the enthusiasm was over the top. We'll keep working on fundamental skills but drills will be much more like real fishing conditions. All levels of expertise, or lack thereof, will be accommodated and welcomed. Bring whatever equipment you have, as this is often the cause of your difficulty. Leaders and practice flies will be provided. We also have some club rods.
- WHO: Instructors include Master Certified Fly Casting Instructors Dayle Mazzarella and Pat Damico plus Certified Instructors Jonas Magnusson, Chris O'Byrne, and Robert DeAngelis. Others will assist in developing the skills needed to catch more fish. Our ratio of instructors to participants will be exceptional.
- Fly Club sponsors provide breakfast and lunch. Join us for a fun day of friendship and instruction! Members from all clubs as well as the general public are welcome.

### **Thursday, January 16, Trash 'n' Treasures meeting**

- Bring and donate the gear you no longer use. Bring a credit card,, check, and/or cash. You're going to get some good deals.

### **Saturday, January 18, Outing, Weedon Island Preserve**

- Due to pavilion restrictions we will skip the on-site picnic and, instead, meet up at noon at the Crab Shack on Gandy Blvd.
- Outings chair Bob Burkard is organizing a middle of the week scout-it-out fishing event at Weedon Island. Stay tuned.

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

### **March 29, 2025, Joint Banquet with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club**

- Carrollwood Rec Center.
- Speaker: Bob Clouser.

### **September 13, 2025, LADY FLY**

- The second annual Suncoast Fly Fishers Lady Fly Fishing Tournament is on.
- More info to come. This is a big deal.

## December Member Tribute Invitational, Walsingham Park



*Bob Burkard, meetings-outings committee chair*

For quite a few years our December outing has been the Don Coleman Invitational outing held at Fort DeSoto Park. But, thanks to Hurricane Helene, FDP has been closed. Plus, nobody is really sure about the water quality in Tampa Bay. So we decided to move the outing to Walsingham Park where you can fly fish the 100-acre lake or any one or more of several ponds.

All the where-when-what info is on page 4 but I wanted to call your attention to the theme of this year's end-of-year outing: This is the first **Member Tribute** outing in which we salute members who have contributed so much of themselves to the club over the years.



*Layne (Smitty) Smith did a show-and-tell fly tying demo at every meeting.*

This year we're saluting fly tying guru Layne Smith, who died earlier this year, and multi-tasker Alan Sewell who is still building fly rods for the club, auctioning gear at the Trash and Treasures meeting, sharing his kayaks for the outings, and baking his delicious corn bread for the picnics.



*Alan tied flies for the club at fly fishing shows.*

So please come to the outing. Shake Alan's hand and tell him in person how much you appreciate what he does for the Suncoast Fly Fishers.



*That's Alan Sewell auctioning fly gear at one of our Trash 'n' Treasures meetings.*



*David Redd in the center with both of our club's member tribute honorees, Layne (Smitty) Smith and Alan Sewell.*



*For some outings Alan would load up and bring extra kayaks for members.*

## Bob Burkard: November 23 Outing in Safety Harbor

Well, in the wake of Hurricane Helene, we had to change the location of the November outing. After some back-and-forth it was decided we could fish the Safety Harbor area. The top part of Tampa Bay would be available for salt water fly fishers and those who didn't want to fish the salt (iffy water quality you know) could fish Alligator Lake.



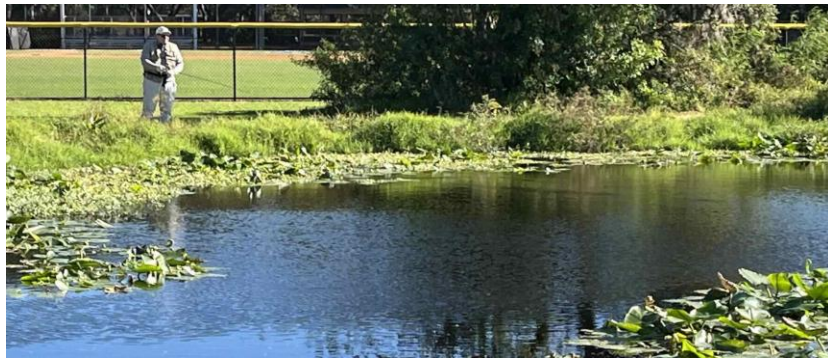
*This panfish measured inches. But do we know who caught it? Yes we do. His initials are B.B.*

It turned out nobody fished the salt and only a few fished the fresh. Outing fishers and/or picnickers included me, Bill AuCoin, Steve Heinrich, Ted Rich, and Myron Hansen.

*Bob*



*That's Bob Burkard casting near the Alligator Lake boat ramp. He caught two little panfish and would qualify (if he goes public) for the \$10 gift certificate*



*That's the little pond near the boat ramp. It's got panfish, too. Maybe more.*



*Along came a spider.*



*Great cast. But the fish were not impressed.*



*The tug is the drug*

## Kayak Bob Schorejs: *Be Prepared* is a kayaker slogan, too



*Kayak Bob Schorejs. Have a sharp knife handy because you never know what might happen.*

Bob Schoreis, aka Kayak Bob, had a scary thing happen to him one time when he was fishing from his kayak not far from a mangrove shoreline. This guy in a powerboat didn't like that Bob was where he was. Or something. Maybe he was fishing his favorite spot.

Whatever. So the "captain" of the powerboat – and he was the only person in the boat -- tilted his 150-hp Suzuki and started backing up toward Bob and his Kayak. The motor started spraying water at Bob and the boat was closing in on him. Bob got out of the kayak and walked it in closer to the mangroves. The powerboat kept coming after him stern first.

What to do? Bob reached into the yak and got his anchor and anchor rope. When the powerboat got close enough Bob tossed the anchor past the stern of the boat and, as planned, the rope got wrapped in the propeller. The big engine shut

down. Then, he quickly jumped into his kayak and paddled away. Far away.

Being prepared is one of Kayak Bob's slogans and it was the topic of his talk at our November meeting. You can tell this guy has had to deal with lots of on-the-water kayak issues. He brought all of the things he takes with him on his fishing expeditions and showed how he used them.



*Anchor line that stopped the prop attack.*



*Bob created this unique fish measuring tool. He stills the fish with bungee cords head and tail.*

Here's the once-over-lightly...

- Keep your weight inside the perimeter of the kayak so you don't tip over. Always use a larger net and one reason is you don't have to reach as far to net a fish and there is less chance of falling over.
- Watch out for big boats (and big wakes) when crossing the ICW.
- Get a lighter trolling motor battery. Bob got rid of his 65 pound lead-acid battery and bought a 13 pound lithium battery
- Try to fish with a buddy. Leave a float plan. Have nav lights on the 'yak for fishing in low-light conditions.
- Use a long stringer so fish rest on the bottom and don't dangle just under the boat and attract sharks and dolphins.
- Are cormorants ruining your fishing? Don't let them feed on the fish you release.
- Sometimes manatees swim under your yak and push you up. Leave.
- When you move away keep the anchor and rope on your lap so if you get tossed the kayak won't get away from you.
- Tie a float and a line on gear (rod, flies and lures, dehookers etc.) so if they fall over you can retrieve them. Fasten your paddle to your kayak.
- Bob doesn't have a tackle box. He puts soft plastics and flies in Ziplocks.
- You'll catch more fish with a long leader. Bob likes an 6-foot fluorocarbon leader. Mono leaders are curvy, he said.
- Make super-long casts to fish that don't know you're there. Use a long rod that reaches over the bow when fighting a fish.
- Keep a big sharp knife handy, especially if you go into remote backcountry areas in the Everglades. You never know when you might encounter dangerous characters, humans or otherwise.
- Make sure you've got your first aid items, pain relief pills, sunscreen.
- Don't forget your cell phone, a compass a multi-tool, and lens cleaners for your sunglasses

***Want to fish with Bob? It's just \$75. Call him at 72-7946-0689.***



## Anne Mitchell: 2024 Annual Holiday Party

On December 7<sup>th</sup> the Suncoast Fly Fishers gathered once again at St. Jerome Catholic Church in Largo to celebrate the Holiday Potluck. About 30 members and their families came bearing gifts, side dishes, and desserts.

We'd like to thank our president, David Redd, for taking care of the main course. As always, it was a spiral cut ham. We'd also like to thank everyone who brought a dish, especially any homemade dishes like Pat Damico's antipasto.

The gifts were for the yearly tradition of the White Elephant Christmas gift exchange. Anyone who brings a wrapped present is assigned a number. When the number is called, the person can either select a random wrapped present or steal an opened present. Some highlights included Jack Collins unwrapping a chainsaw to start the game, Bill Scarola and Pat Damico getting Christmas cat mugs, and Karen Warfel finding a fishing fanny pack full of Bill Scarola's lures.



*Thank you!!! Robert and Anne Mitchell emceed the gift exchange and the Ugly Sweater contest.*



*Shiny objects: Capt. Ray Markham won the Ugly Sweater contest. Also, take note of Robert Mitchell's shiny blazer. He deserves a prize, too.*

Robert and I emceed the White Elephant exchange

as always. Robert decided to go full Christmas game show host with a green and red sequined jacket, a Santa hat that was way too small for his head, and Christmas tree glasses. As he entered the room, every table slowly looked up and erupted in laughter as they realized who and what just entered the room.

Normally we also have a contest to see who has the ugliest Christmas sweater. This year the winner was clear: only one brave soul actually wore an ugly sweater! Congratulations, Capt. Ray Markham. It was worth it. Ray won a \$10 gift certificate for St. Pete Outfitters.

On behalf of the SFF, I would also like to thank St. Jerome's for once again graciously hosting one of our events.

*Anne*

*More party pictures are on the next page*

## Some White Elephant Gift Exchange Pictures



*Bob Burkard liked the shape of this gift. A bottle of wine maybe?*



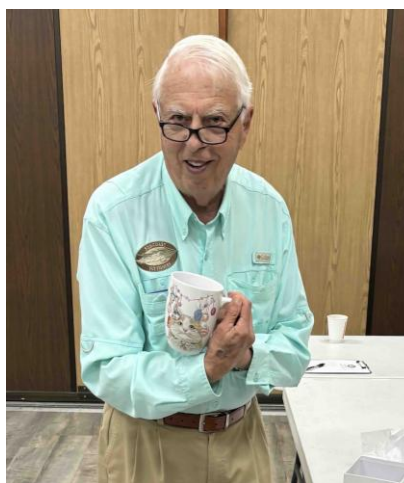
*John French and a box of chocolates with a special flavor..*



*Jacks are wild. Hey Gayle Collins, did you know that cinnamon whiskey is great on ice cream..*



*Ron Kelley seemed quite pleased with this crustacean-embroidered seat cushion. Don't let it bite you, Ron.*



*Pat Damico unwrapped a Christmas cat coffee mug. Or it's an eggnog mug. Your call, Pat.*



*Bill Scarola gets cat mug too. Somebody in our club has a thing for cats. Just saying.*

## Tim Elms: Playing Hooky for the Holidays

On Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Tampa Bay Fly Fishers hosted their annual Hooky For the Holidays Event over in Apollo Beach at the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center. Gina Russo was our gracious leader from the FWC.

Three clubs from the west coast were invited and all three were represented. We had a slow day fishing the pond in the morning with a brisk breeze from the north.

Lunch Provided by TBFFC was spectacular as always from our sister club over the bay. Then when the tide finally came in we launched kayaks to creep through the creeks into Tampa Bay.



Once the water had warmed up we saw lots of snook, reds, and snapper all over the place. As we headed out to the Bay the wind kept us off the flat so some of us went right back into the creek. The boys from the Mangrove Coast Club made it look easy with several snook and a redfish caught in between the tight trees. Good work Ken and Sam.

This was a very fun event. We just relaxed, had great conversations, gave tips on casting and enjoyed being together.

SCYCC is an education center for kids and is open to the public. They teach kids how to fish in fish camps during the summer with all different ages. It's a fantastic program with lessons on bait fishing, bow fishing, and fly fishing for the more advanced ages!. Soon a new hatchery will be located next door and we are all awaiting lil gamefish releases.

Thanks again to the Tampa Club for putting this together and to the FWC for letting us get into some fun. See ya next year!

*--Tim*

## Tim Elms: Should you stay, or should you go?

Howdy! Can you believe its December? I've been thinking about what to write this month and I was fishing this morning with serious hustle behind my booty and I wondered if we all deal with this conundrum. When do you move to another spot?

Some of the hardest things about fishing is finding fish and in salt things are moving at all times. There is no magic ripple that you know will hold a large rainbow. But, there are a few things that make me stay for fish that I haven't caught yet.

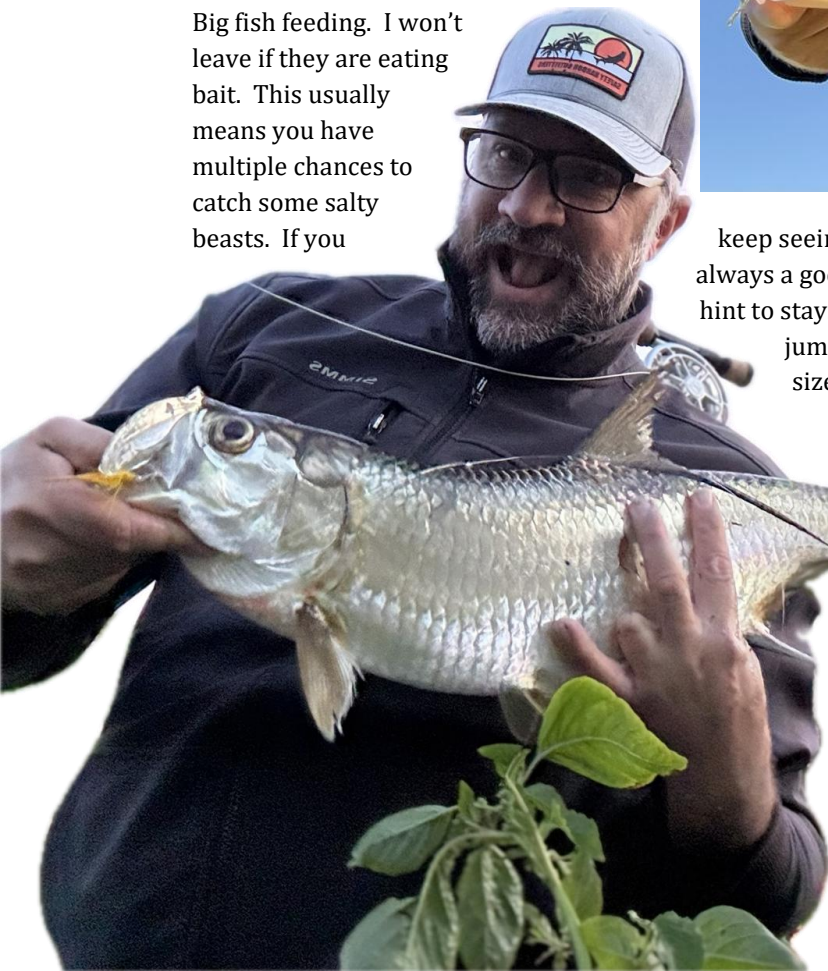
Big fish feeding. I won't leave if they are eating bait. This usually means you have multiple chances to catch some salty beasts. If you



keep seeing decent fish eat, keep fishing. Tons of bait is not always a good situation but if they are munching that's a good hint to stay. I will leave when I've spooked em, lost some, jumped one, or can't see any sign of life. I also leave if the size is a problem. Smashing 50 baby snook turns into a ladyfish situation with ruined tippet, flies, and possible high mortality rate. One under 20 inches is enough for me to move on. My fishing is a little different than most and I realize that. I may only fish for 20 minutes every day for a week but I wont sit and wait for the bite. Having gotten used to the area I know where I want to go and when I only want to go there. Patterns are hard to find but just remembering what you did the day before helps immensely. 2024 was a wild year for everyone in our beautiful area and we all hope things this season will be getting back to normal. Keep your chin up and make sure you make time to enjoy the things you love to do.

Merry Christmas!

*Strip Strip Strip---Tim*



## John French: Do we really need to go to the Keys?

I found an opening on an Orvis Everglades Fly Fishing School, one day of classwork and two days of guided fishing. What the hell, I went for it. The course was Monday through Wednesday, so I drove down to do a few days of wade fishing in the Keys the Saturday and Sunday before.

The conditions were perfect for a novice. Hmm. Winds were 25 mph sustained from the North with gusts to 35. What a treat! Research from the internet and a few people I knew said go to Long Key State Park and Bahia Honda. Both proved to be unproductive with exception of catching (snagging) a world class needle fish. It was about two and a half feet long and had an impressive set of chompers. It bit hard, then snagged itself when the fly was deemed distasteful, wrapping itself around the leader. Made me want a set of Kevlar gloves! Bahia Honda was unproductive as well.



*John French with his first tarpon on the fly (yeah, a juvie) that he caught in the Keys in early December.*

Sunday was class day and informative, mostly about fish anatomy and preferred flies. A casting clinic followed, however I spent too much time practicing so they left me alone and fussed with the other students. We were given gift cards and all met up at Florida Keys Outfitters in Islamorada, where we were served adult beverages and had discussions with the proprietor, Sandy Moret.

Monday was guided fishing on the flats, beating the bushes for snook and tarpon. We had decent success on both species, but nothing worth bragging about or photographing!

Tuesday was guided fishing again, we headed towards Flamingo to fish the west side of Florida Bay, sight casting for Reds. Up on the poling platform the guide spotted "mudding rays" that would kick up crustaceans for Reds. It was fantastic! Standing on the bow I heard "10 O'clock, 50 feet, drop the line, strip, strip, strip." The one that got away was the best. That redfish was beautiful and vibrant, followed the line all the way to about 18 feet, looked up, established eye contact, then veered left like a fighter pilot gliding to a bomb site. Never will forget it.

I headed back home Tuesday night and reflected on the trip and came to the following conclusions 1) The trip was worthwhile, but 2) We live in a great fishery, we don't really have the need to travel for good fishing, 3) I learned much more about fishing from the SFF club and am very grateful for the comradery and friendship the members have shown in my short time fly fishing!

*John*

## John Lookabill: Is it better to wade-fish or fish from the boat?

Well friends, in July I bought a boat. Since then I have been fishing from said boat with little success. Mainly small seatrout and snake fish. When I go wade fishing with the club on Saturdays I catch fish!

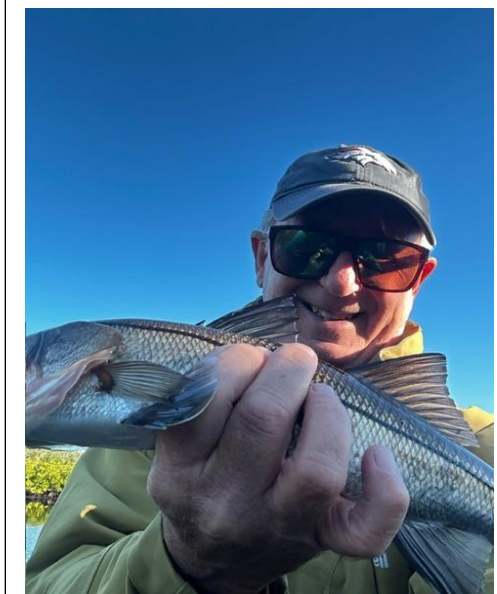
Oh, in between taking the boat out fishing I've been working on it. Last Monday December 2nd I was on my way home, after working on the boat all day, I noticed the small bay adjacent to a bridge was nearly empty because of low tide.

I parked the car and grabbed my spinning rod rigged with a swim bait. Seven small snook landed.

Wednesday I returned and landed four small snook on my fly rod plus five more on my spinning rod.

So far I've had limited success with a boat.

*John*



*John Lookabill and one of many small snook he caught.*

## Robert Fischer: Big bones on Andros Island

Here's a photo of one of several 5, 6, and 7 pound bonefish that Rusty Chinnis and I caught on Andros Island last month.

The weather was calm and cool so we concentrated on fewer and bigger fish. A very nice trip.

*Robert*

*Editor's note. Rusty Chinnis is a fly fishing and travel writer from Sarasota. He's a longtime friend of the Suncoast Fly Fishers.*



*Robert Fischer with a hefty bonefish, one of several he caught on a recent trip to Andros Island in the Bahamas.*



SFF member Bill Scarola loves to fly fish the Mighty Myakka Minnow. Here are a few that he tied.

## Mighty Myakka Minnow

*Tie up some of Steve Gibson's Myakka Minnows for the December outing on Lake Walsingham. Steve, who died in November of 2022, was a good friend of the Suncoast Fly Fishers.*



Steve tying the Myakka Minnow.

This fly appeals to a variety of fish

The mighty Myakka Minnow was born out of desperation. When bluegill and bass are busting tiny minnows and you can't even elicit one hit, your brain begins to go into high gear.

I faced that situation many times on the Myakka River over the years. I knew the bass and bluegill were hungry and actively feeding, but I couldn't get them to hit any lure in my arsenal.

After a particularly frustrating outing, I returned home and immediately sat down at my fly-tying table and began working on a tiny minnow-like fly that might appeal to the fish when they're homed in on small baits.

Voila! I'm came up with the Myakka Minnow. The fly is easy to tie, easy to cast, rugged and apparently very appealing to fish.

Many fly-fishers have asked me about the fly.

Here's the recipe:

- **Hook:** Tiemco 5262 No. 12
- **Thread:** Fine mono
- **Tail:** marabou or Krystal Flash
- **Body:** Spirit River Bodi-Braid
- **Eyes:** 3-D prism eyes

Tying instructions: Tie in tail of marabou or Krystal Flash and clip desired length. Tie in Bodi-Braid and wrap length of hook, building up into a minnow shape. Add 3-D eyes, then coat body with Devcon Two-Ton epoxy and allow to dry. I have a fly rotisserie which allows me to dry multiple flies.

For panfish, small flies work well. However, you can tie Myakka Minnows on different size hooks to match the bait on which fish are feeding.

Over the years, I have caught snook, little tunny, redfish, spotted seatrout, jack crevalle, ladyfish, bass, shellcracker, speckled perch, Mayan cichlids, oscars and tilapia on the Myakka Minnow.

I have even caught barramundi on them. For large fish such as little tunny, I use No. 2 Mustad 34011.



Mighty Myakka Minnow tied by Steve Gibson  
Photo by Steve Gibson



Mighty Myakka Minnow with Krystal Flash tail  
Photo Steve Gibson

**Member-tied Gurglers, Spiders, Poppers**

Bass and bream are our targets for the December outing on Lake Walsingham. Gurglers and spiders tied with foam, feathers and/or Sili Legs are favorites. Poppers usually get a floating balsa head. Here are some topwaters tied by Suncoast Fly Fishers.. Tie some up to fish the outing and let us know how you did.



Bill Scarola's table top of gurglers



Ken Doty died a couple of years ago but his bluegill bug lives on.



Smitty's Jointed Pencil Popper



Not sure who tied these gurglers but, whoever you are, thanks!



That's a Rick Warfel-tied spider



Something says Redd tied these poppers.



## Smitty's Fly Box: The "Creature"



Layne (Smitty) Smith, RIP

This fly was taught to me by Bart Lombardo, creator of the Triangle Bug another great panfish fly. The best retrieve for this fly is a slow finger roll. This is a great fly not only panfish but for bass (both largemouth and smallmouth), crappie and even freshwater catfish, weighted of course (jig head or tungsten bead to get the fly down quickly).



### Smitty

#### Materials

**Hook:** Mustad 3366 #8

**Thread:** Danville's Flatwaxed Nylon in color of choice

**Body:** Mop material; your color of choice

**Legs:** Flexi Floss or similar (two strands)

**Optional:** Dubbing in your color of choice

**Hackle:** Large body feather from a male Ringneck pheasant, grouse, or hen chicken

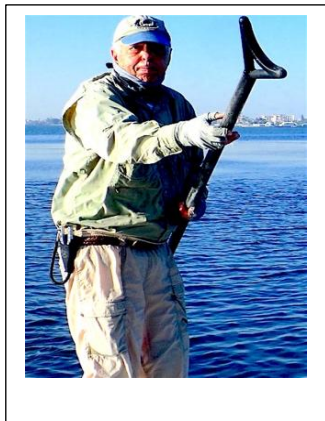
**Cement:** Your favorite CA cement (Super Glue, Zap-a-Gap, FletchTite, etc.)

**Finish:** Solarez UV Resin (My favorite is "Bone Dry")

#### Tying Sequence

1. Place hook in vise and, starting at hook eye, lay down a base wrap of thread to cover hook shank to bend.
2. Apply a coat of CA cement to thread wraps to just short of the hook eye.
3. Lay a mop section on the glued shank and hold for a second. Wrap thread forward in firm open wraps then back-wrap over front of mop using closer tight wraps to secure.
4. Tie in legs on the near side of the hook, then extend to the far side and tie down. Trim to length.
5. If you are going to add a dubbed collar, do it at this point. Apply dubbing to thread using your favorite method (splitting thread and inserting dubbing in gap then spin or apply dubbing to waxed thread and rolling between thumb and forefinger).
6. Wrap dubbing over mop tie-in area (3 or 4 wraps should be sufficient) and then brush it out over the body sparsely.
7. Splay barbs back from the tip of the pheasant feather then attach the tip to the shank of the hook. Palmer feather onto the shank (about 3 or 4 wraps should do the trick) making sure to stroke barbs back as you wrap. Overwrap barbs so they lay back and then create a nice thread head. Whip finish and then coat head with UV Resin and cure.

## Captain Pat Damico: Captain's Corner



### Gators are ready to pounce. Gator trout, that is

Very large gator trout are more available this time of year. Most are caught with bait, some with lures and flies. Locate baitfish on drop-offs or in a deep hole surrounded by shallow water, and you will be rewarded with some small trout. Large yellow-mouth trout usually are in very shallow water and occasionally with a few similar-sized friends. The key is finding shallow warmer water containing larger baitfish. Many of these locations are impossible to access with a conventional boat. A canoe or a kayak is one of the best ways to cover large deeper areas on your way to the shallows. I prefer a canoe because it has a built-in stripping basket which helps control the fly line for long casts. Stealth is necessary so connecting it around your waist with a line when walking in ankle-deep water. Use maps and charts to help find the trout. Even large trout can be hard to see making good polarized glasses necessary. Avoid creating fish-scaring ripples by moving very slowly and look for fleeing baitfish, nervous water and fish shadows on the bottom. You will spook some fish, but remember where the lunker's were to develop a pattern for finding more.

Fly fisherman and casting instructor Pat Damico can be reached at [captpatdamico.com](http://captpatdamico.com) and (727) 504-8649.

## Bill Scarola's Gift: 'Tis a Mystery

Can you run this pic and ask if anyone can identify what this is and how it's used?

I got it from a fishing gear company as a gift from the company.

I think it's some kind of knot-tying device. But I'll be damned if I know how to use it!



*Bill*

## Used Gear for Sale

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

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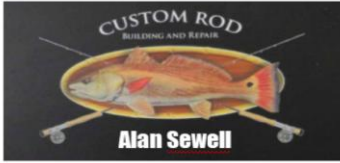
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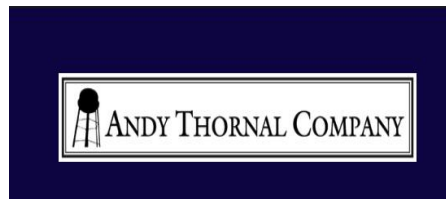
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