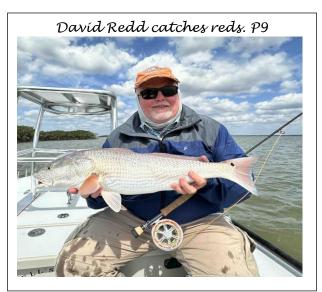
On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg



Big reds in Tampa Bay. P11











President's Message: March 2025

Do you have your tickets for the annual banquet yet?

If you haven't purchased tickets yet, you can get them on our website or at our March member meeting. It's going to be a great night with bucket raffles and silent auctions. We also have the legendary Bob Clouser as our speaker this year.

If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting Bob or hearing him speak, you won't want to miss it, he loves to tell stories and is thoroughly entertaining. This banquet is the club's major fund raising event which helps fund most of our activities, outreach and expenses throughout the year, hope to see you there.

The club will be traveling to the Everglades again at the end April. Bruce Evensen will be leading a group to stay in Clewiston April 24-28, fishing the 24-26. Get with Bruce if you are interested in fishing any of these days. Other club members travel further south and stay in the Sunrise area, make sure to attend the member meeting this month and Alan Sewell and Mark Hays can give you more information on fishing the Everglades and staying in Sunrise.

Lastly, what a great time of year. Temperatures are starting to warm, flowers are blooming and the fish are starting to wake up. The cold temperatures we had this winter seem to have benefited the water quality and clarity (at least here in northern Pinellas). So it's time to dust off the kayak and/or waders and get out and enjoy this time of year. The flats are coming alive.

Enjoy the 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 50I (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^{nd} Avenue N turn North on 72^{nd} St. N. Turn left (West) on 26^{th} 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

Online Pay Portal: Pay dues, donate, purchase

https://suncoastflyfishers.com/eshop/

Welcome new member Dave Grippo

Our club now has 122 members including 22 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

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,, 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.

Paying dues: Dues can also be paid via cash, check or credit card at any club meeting, outing or event Annual memberships can be paid online through the website -- SuncoastFlyFishers.com -- or by mailing a check to SFF, PO Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743. You can also pay by credit card by calling Karen Warfel at 813-505-3162...

Meetings, Outings, and More

March 20 meeting

Walter Fuller Park, 7821 26th Avenue N., St. Pete

Also, bring your member-tied flies and other items to donate for the Hog Roast auction.

- Our March 20 meeting presenters will be a panel including members Alan Sewell and Mark Hays
 discussing their recent trip to catch exotics in the everglades and freshwater fly fishing opportunities for
 our March 22 freshwater outing. See below.
- The April Everglades outing is scheduled April 24-26. The longest Black Bass and the longest Peacock Bass will earn gift certificates for the winner.
- They'll also talk about our March 22 freshwater outing.
- And, our new officers and board members will start their new terms after members vote on the committee-recommended slate.
- If you haven't already renewed your membership you can do so at the meeting.
- Also, buy tickets for the March 29 "Hog Roast." If you have some nice gear you'd like to donate, bring it to the meeting and it will be auctioned at the Hog Roast.
- BTW, our Hog Roast speaker is Bob Clouser who created a new fly category. Yep, the Clouser.
- Buy one of the club's new fishing hats with the SFF logo. Baseball caps are \$25. Bucket style hats are \$30. Want to put the SFF logo embroidered on one of your shirts? Bring it to the March meeting. It costs \$15 per embroidered logo.

Saturday, March 22 Freshwater Outing.

Picnic Lunch: Pavilion #4, Taylor Lake Park, in Largo

- The noon picnic lunch will be at Pavilion #4_ at Taylor Lake Park in Largo. Meet up by noon.
- Members can fish any of our big county lakes -- Taylor, Seminole, or Walsingham. All three parks are Pinellas County parks that open at 7 am.
- Gift certificate (\$10) will be awarded to the member catching the longest bass Be sure to measure and take a picture before you release it.

March 29, 2025, Annual "Hog Roast" Carrollwood Rec Center, 4 to 8 pm

- This is our yearly whoop it up gathering with the Tampa Bay
 Fly Fishing Club for dinner and silent auction for fly fishing
 gear and more. Tables will be set up to seat about 100 persons.
 Bring family members and/or friends.
- Auction items needed. Bring member-tied flies and other items to the March meeting.
- Our speaker is fly fishing star Bob Clouser well-known for his Clouser Minnow and initiatives that have introduced fly fishing to thousands. Visit his website -- <u>Clousersflyfishing.com</u>. Bob will sell and personally autograph his books and Clouser fly collections.
- Dinner will include Italian and Mediterranean salads, pasta entrees including chicken Alfredo, eggplant, and chicken parmigiana. Desserts: Tiramisu and Cannoli. BYOB. Arrive



Bob Clouser, March 29 Hog Roast

hungry. Meal sizes are said to be based on NFL linebacker appetites. Continued on next page

Meetings, Outings, and More

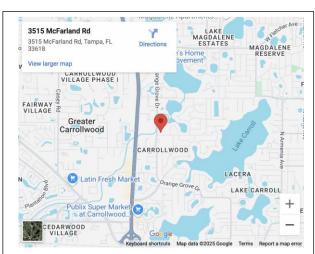
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March 29, 2025, Annual "Hog Roast" – Carrollwood Rec Center, 4 to 8 pm Speaker Bob Clouser

- Plan to put in some winning bids for Suncoast Fly Fishers' auction. This is our big, fun, fund raiser. It will be lively event with music and a DJ.
- Tickets at \$25 and will be on sale at the meeting.
 You can also buy tickets at the March meeting or on our website suncoastflyfishers.com

Fly Fishers International welcomes all

When you're a member of Suncoast Fly
Fishers you automatically become a member
of Fly Fishers International. Recently FFI
emailed a thank you to members with a list of
membership benefits.



This year we'll meet up at Carrollwood Rec Center north of downtown Tampa. The address is 3515 McFarland Road in Tampa.

- Your membership gives you access to the members-only conent on the website. This includes <u>Flyfisher Magazine</u> and the <u>Learning Center</u>, our educational resource for <u>Fly Tying</u>, <u>Fly Casting</u>, and <u>Fly Fishing Skills</u>.
- For an extra fee you also can join a variety of specialty groups.
- The <u>Fly Tying Group</u> (\$20/year) is a great resource for learning about fly tying and interacting with other passionate fly tyers.
- The <u>Guides and Outfitters Association</u> (\$30/year) is a directory of FFI guides great for connecting guides to clients.
- The <u>Fly Casting Skills Development</u> is a fun way to improve casting skills for all fly fishers in a self-paced fashion.
- <u>FFI Women Connect</u> is creating a community of women fly fishers where learning, sharing and inspiration are offered in a safe and non-intimidating environment, to develop and improve fly fishing/tying skills and, offer new opportunities in a creative and fun manner.

September 13, 2025, Suncoast Fly Fishers Lady Fly Tournament

- The second annual Suncoast Fly Fishers Lady Fly Tournament is September 13.
- It is being managed by member Samanta Tallyn. Samantha updated the SFF Board of Directors at the March BOD meeting.



Joe Cordeiro: Flatwing Fly



joe Cordeiro was our club's Feb. 20 speaker.

That helps the fly stay in the part of the water



This is Joe Cordeiro's flatwing fly. He tied this one with a single saddle in shake-a-tail flatwing style.

He said, "Joe, are there any support groups for Eye Crowders?" Probably not, Toni, but if you google it you'll learn there is a "Crowder Eye Center" in Chattanooga. But it turns out Crowder Eye Center fixes human eyes, not fly hook eyes . Yeah, if you're an eye crowder, fellow members of Suncoast Fly Fishers in St. Petersburg are your best support group.

Bill AuCoin

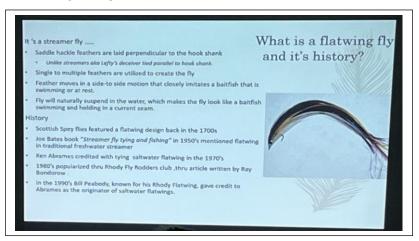
Joe Cordeiro ties all shapes and sizes but there is one fly, more than any other, that he loves so much it's like his middle name. Flatwing. It's even the URL for the website -- flat-wing.com -- that he and his son manage to sell flies, their books, apparel and guiding options

Ken Abrames, with whom Joe has had a long friendship, is credited with creating the Flatwing back in the 1970s and there have been multiple variations tied by Joe and others to match the hatch and baitfish behavior in a variety of situations.

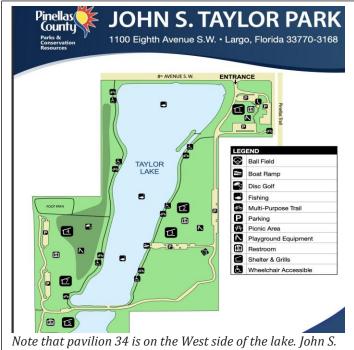
Cordeiro was our club's February 20 meeting speaker and he gave us a great show-and-tell about the Flatwing fly and why it catches so many fish. If there's one single thing about this fly that makes it different from any other is, yeah, the feather(s) singles or more, are tied horizontal to the surface and bottom. column, the depth where the fish want to be at any point in time. And, of course, the shake-a-tail feathers keep enticing the fish until they can't say no.

Flat wings score big fish in fresh and salt including tarpon cobia, striped bass, snook, redfish and more

This innovative design is a serious subject, of course, but our speaker kept everybody laughing with his one liners and more. He's got a thing against fly tyers who he calls "Eye Crowders." Those are the tyers who wrap the thread too close to the hook eye and even cover up part of the hook eye. Member Toni Fernstrom got the point.



Bob Burkard March 22 Freshwater Lakes Outing Taylor Lake. Lake Seminole. Lake Walsingham



Note that pavilion 34 is on the West side of the lake. John S. Taylor Park is 156.5 acres that connects to the Pinellas Trail and is tucked next to a 53-acre freshwater lake in Largo. The park provides a full disc golf course, a tree-lined shell trail and a lake to take a boat out for fishing.



Google Maps

What? Do we really have three lakes we can fish for the March 22 outing?

Well, yeah, and here's why: We booked Taylor Lake in Largo for the picnic. We'll all be meeting up for the picnic at noon at Pavilion #4. Then some said that fishing isn't all that great in Taylor Lake. Well, we'll see. I've never fished there so maybe I can prove them wrong. Or not. Whatever. The member catching the longest black bass will win the \$10 gift certificate and also take the lead in the annual outing tournament. See the leader chart below.

Check out the map and also park details as described on the parks section of the Pinellas County website.



February Outing at Cypress Point Park

How cold was it? It was so cold even the ladyfish had lockjaw. Greg Clark caught a 15-incher. So did James

Davis. The others - Claude Neidlinger, Dennis Mincher, Bill AuCoin -- nada. Rick Warfel join us all for the picnic lunch. Wade fishers also included Jerry Kells and Nick Colintonio from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Also zilch.

Actually, the temps warmed up a bit so we had nice temps for the picnic, which we shared with members of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club which also included Walt Durkin, Ted Hagaman, and Ed Miotkiewicz. Dunkin Donuts' coffee never tasted better. Publix' cookies were winners, too.

And we had a special guest, former member David Putnam was in town visiting from Maine and he came by to say Hi. His dog Willy really enjoyed the sliced beef that fell on the grass.



Tampa Bay club visitors Ed Miotkiewicz, Nick Colintonio, Walt Durkin and Ted Hagaman.



High Hopes. James Davis did catch a little ladyfish but James released it carefully so it could snap at more flies in the future.



Low tide should have been a good thing for our February outing. But noooo. Fish get to decide, you know.

David Redd: Fly fishing beautiful Chassahowitzka River



David Redd with one of the redfish caught fly fishing the Chassahowitzka River.



David's friend Russ with a hefty speckled trout caught on a recent trip on the Chaz.

On a recent trip fishing with guide Ethan Kiburz, my good friend Russ and I had great day on the water.

We fished the beautiful Chassahowitzka area launching out of Bayport.

The area is unique and can be very treacherous if you don't know where you are going, limestone rock formations dot the crystal clear bay.

The day was a challenge as we had quite a stiff wind blowing, but Ethan was able to put us on some fish. Russ and I managed to catch some speckled trout and a couple of redfish,

We saw several snook but couldn't get them to eat. I would highly recommend booking a trip with Ethan and experiencing this unique fishery.

David

Kelly and Wes Sobczak. Anniversary fishing in New Zealand

Wes and Kelly Sobczak went fly fishing on the north island of New Zealand to celebrate their 30th anniversary. They stayed at the Tongariro Lodge and fished the four rivers that flow into Lake Taupo, including the famous Tongariro River.

It was a lot of work catching fish in New Zealand with miles of hiking to reach fishable water and then wade fishing.

Here's a couple of their fish - a 5.5 pound brown trout for Wes and a 5 pound rainbow trout for Kelly (average size for the area is 3 pounds).



For their 30th anniversary, Wes and Kelly Sobczak took a fly fishing trip to New Zealand.



Kelly hooked this big rainbow trout in an area of bowling-ball-sized rocks and had to move as fast as possible (kind of turtle paced) to follow the fish and land her. As the trout pulled a long way into the backing, the guide went and unhooked line from a couple of bushes as Kelly was moving. They finally arrived at an area of mostly gravel where Kelly was able to catch up to the trout, get her under control, and land her. What a ride.



On the other hand, Wes' brown trout didn't run into the backing, didn't race upstream or downstream, and came right to the net. Too easy. (Said Kelly)

Dennis Mincher: Endeavour to Persevere



Dennis with his Tampa Bay red. "It was a nice slot fish just under 30 inches, I've made it look 40 inches with some nifty camera work, haha.

When out on the Bay hunting for redfish it can seem like none will ever oblige.

Whether it's the boat, a misplaced cast, a false cast shadow or sometimes even a glance from afar; anything can have them torpedoing away out of sight – but never out of mind.

The only answer is stick with it and your efforts will be rewarded.

Here is a nice redfish I caught that proves perseverance will eventually pay off.

I was fishing with Capt. Dustin Pack, a great guide. If I'd caught the fish alone I'd tell you the exact location. However, Dustin is very protective of his spots. Understandably.

That being said, I don't think he'd object to me saying " 'in the Bay' - sorry I can't be more precise!

Dennis

Tim Elms' Secret Fishing Spot?

Member Tim Elms catches a juvenile tarpon and/or a snook or a redfish almost every day of the week. Heck, last year he caught more than 300 "juvenile" tarpon. But Tim never tells us where he caught his fish. Never, ever. All we do know is he's not fishing from a boat.

In early March Tim caught a puppy red and texted a picture of it. Our reply: "Nice, Tim. Where exactly?" Tim promptly answered: 1100 S. Ocean Boulevard in Palm Beach.

Really, Tim? That's the address of President Trump's Mar-a-Lago.





Tim said he caught this rat red at 1100 S. Ocean Boulevard in Palm Beach. Really?

Bruce Evensen and Bill Scarola: Shiny White Minnow







On Monday, March 10 Bruce and Bill led Suncoast Fly Fishers through the steps to create Bruce's Shiny White Minnow



Bill Scarola

Suncoast Fly Fishers meet up at Bruce's St Pete fly tying studio every Monday at 6 pm. It's next door to his home at 530 80th Ave N. A vise is available if you don't have one. Materials, too. Don't be late. Bring a friend.

Materials

- 1. Under body: pale pink supreme hair and white bucktail
- 2.-Outer body: long white/pearl shimmer fringe
- 4. Hook:- # 2 circle hook or straight "j" hook
- 5. Eyes:- #2mm red stick-on eyes
- 6. Glue:- UV epoxy
- 7. Thread: white or mono flat-waxed

How To

- A. Wrap thread from hook eye to hook point and back to eye.
- B. Add a small bunch of pink supreme hair twice the length of the hook. Tie it in just behind the hook eye.
- C. On top of the pink supreme hair add a small bunch of white bucktail of the same length.
- D. Add 1 to 3 thin clumps of shimmer fringe to the top and sides and bottom. Allow the pink material below to be seen. Or, you can add a larger batch and spread it around as you tie it in.
- E. Whip-finish the head area building up a head large enough to add stick-on eyes.
- F. Add the eyes with eye glue then glue the head area with UV Epoxy.
- G. GET THE FLY WET!!!!

Smitty's Monkey Milk Jiggie Fly



The Jiggie fly may have been Smitty's last original fly design. It sinks to where the fish are. Crappie anyone?

Fish it in your favorite jig fishing style. Although this was designed for crappie, it works great on any panfish in the smaller size. The larger size I'd use for crappie and even largemouth bass. Also, in saltwater, think snook.



Smitty

Materials

Hook: Jenko Slasher crappie jig hooks, size 1/16 oz to 1/32 oz, white Thread: Danville's Flat Waxed Nylon, white or minnow blue

Tail: Two-toned rabbit zonker, blue and white

Under-body: Minnow Blue Cactus Chenille, medium or micro * NOTE

Over-body: UV White Badger Squishenille, medium or

micro * NOTE

Finish: Solarez UV Resin

NOTE: Use medium size for 1/16 oz. jigs and micro for 1/3 2 oz. jigs.

Inspiration: Curly Tail Grubs in Monkey's Milk colors, Crappie love 'em.

Tying Sequence

- 1. Place hook in vise and clip off bait retainer. Wrap hook shank with closed wraps from jig head to just past hook point (i.e. tie-in point).
- 2. Measure tail to two hook lengths, cut and strip away hair from jig head to just in front of tie in point. Lash down zonker forward with open wraps to jig head and then back-wrap in tight closed wraps to tie -in point to secure.
- 3. Strip off Cactus Chenille, enough to expose thread core to get a secure tie down from tie-in point to jig head, (return thread to tie-in point). Repeat the process with the Squishenille, returning thread to tie-in point. Pull both chenilles away from hook shank and making sure not to trap any of the rabbit fur in with them, start to twist the two chenilles together to make a nice chenille rope,

Start palmering rope forward (be sure first wrap cover base of tail) all the while stroking rubber chenille back so as not to overwrap previous turn. Wrap to jig head and tie off with a few tight wraps and then whip finish and trim excess thread.

4. Apply a drop of UV Resin and cure.

Captain Pat Damico: Captain's Corner



Capt. Pat Damico: Club member and FFI master certified casting instructor

Subject: Toothy fish destroy flies and leaders, too..

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 fishes lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at www.captpatdamico.com and 727-504-8649.

And...on the lighter side

Fly Fishing Quotes

"I had to call in sick, my arm is in a cast...."
Unknown

"Govern a great nation as you would cook a small fish. Do not overo it." - Lao Tzu

"Of course, I talk to myself when I'm fishing. Sometimes I need expert advice" Unknown

"Everyone should believe in something. I believe I'll go fishing." – Henry David Thoreau

Pinched from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers newsletter

- 1. Why don't fish play basketball? Because they're afraid of the net!
- 2. What do you call a fish with no eyes? Fsh!
- 3. What did the fish say when it swam into a wall? Dam!
- 4. Why are fish so smart? Because they live in schools!
- 5. What do you call a fish that only cares about himself? Selfish!

Pinched from <u>laughlore.com</u>

Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



Fly Fishing Film Tour at Tampa Theatre on April 24 -- The 19th Annual is back with the best fly fishing films from around the world and our club has received a personal reminder from Justin Tramble, director of Tampa Bay Waterkeeper which is hosting it this year. (Etix.com)

One day a scientist met an angler. Tampa Bay has been okay environmentally in recent years. Well, sort of Then Hurricanes Helene and Milton injected large volumes of polluted rain water and fecal matter into the bay. So, where are we

now? (Tampa Bay Times)

Are you going to fish the SFF Everglades outing? It's April 24-26. Some members are headquartering at the Roland Martin Marina and Hotel in Clewiston. Others are bunking at La Quinta in Sunrise. Here's a site with fishing reports from several Everglades guides. (Fishingreports.orvis.com)

Some fly fishing pictures are really, really good. The pix at this link are the work of Montana photographer Pat Clayton. Fish, wildlife, scenery. (Midcurrent)

Bill

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www.flyfishersinternational.org/



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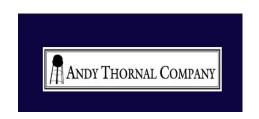
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