

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

The Beautiful Hillsborough River. 6



Everglades Potpourri 7, 8



Everglades 18" Pea 7



*23-inch Weedon
seatrout 13*



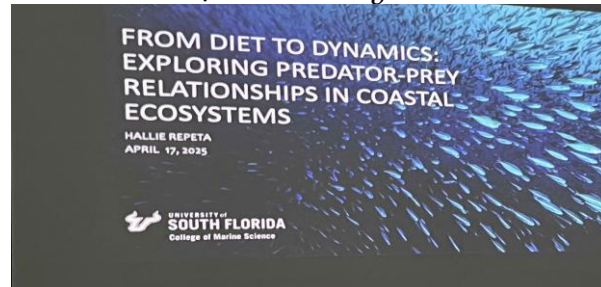
Playing Hooky 10



Clearwater Cichlid 13



Gamefish vs Forage Fish 7





SFF President David Redd

President's Message: May 2025

Everglades fishing. Great friends. Great food. No better way to spend a day.

We get started pretty early in the morning, at the crack of 8:00. Then it is off to breakfast. We enjoy some coffee and food before heading back to our rooms for a pit stop before we head south.

It's about a 45 minute run down US27 to where we fish. It can be the miles of canals that run along 27 or on Friday, Saturday or Sunday we can fish an area called the A1 Flow Equalization Basin.

The basin is a South Florida Water Management District run area approximately 30 square miles in size, constructed to store peak storm water flows to prevent flooding and help clean storm water runoff. In addition to helping clean the water flowing into the Everglades, it has become a great fishery. Because it is only open Friday, Saturday and Sunday and prohibits trailers and gas engines. The fish get less pressure and are able to grow bigger. Mayan Cichlids in the 12-13 inch range are common and they pull like a horse.

So after a day on the water, we load up and head back to Clewiston where we will gather around the picnic table, enjoy an adult beverage and perhaps a cigar, and tell stories of our adventures that day. After relaxing a bit we clean up and head out for dinner.

The local restaurants serve authentic and delicious food, whether it is Mexican, Cuban or Colombian. Believe me, we never leave hungry. We joke that it is an eating trip and we do a little fishing while we're there. Then it is back to the picnic table for another beverage, stories and fellowship.

But before we retire for the night there are two important decisions that need to be made, where are we having breakfast in the morning and dinner in the evening. Oh yeah, sometimes we discuss where we are going to fish.

Hope you'll join us sometime, *David*

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. Welcome new member Connie Hardy

Our club now has 101 members including 14 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.

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..

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.

Meetings, Outings, and More

Thursday, May 15 Meeting

Panel: How to fish Lower Tampa Bay

- We will be calling on members to share their where-and-how secrets about how they catch snook and reds in lower Tampa Bay.
- We'll get an update on the successful hog roast fund raiser.
- Bucket raffle. The board has approved the purchase of \$100 gift certificates for future bucket raffles.

Successful Hog Roast

Treasurer Karen Warfel reports that Suncoast Fly Fishers raised \$2,652.54.

Saturday, May 17, Lower Tampa Bay Outing and Picnic at Maximo Park

- Fly fish lower Tampa Bay anywhere west of I-275/Sunshine Skyway.
- Meet up at noon at Maximo Park for grilled hamburgers and hot dogs.
- Win the \$10 gift certificate. Measure and take pictures of your longest snook, seatrout and ladyfish.

Upcoming meetings

- May 15 meeting. Panel discussion: where and how to fish Fort DeSoto Park
- June 19 meeting. We'll get an update from Lady Fly tournament director Samantha Tallyn. Also, FYI the SFF board has formed a subcommittee -- David Redd, Karen Warfel, Cliff Nigh, Jack Collins -- to collaborate with Samantha in decision-making as the tournament grows.
- Also at the June meeting [Capt. Andy Austin](#) will talk about his favorite spots and techniques. Captain Austin has donated a free guided trip to the club and we'll raffle it at the meeting.

2025 outings

- June 20, 21 22. This is our brand new three day summer tournament. Fish salt or fresh in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco, Manatee, or Polk County. You decide. Awards: Most different saltwater and most different freshwater species.
- July 19: Fresh and salt. Upper Tampa Bay and/or Alligator Lake/Alligator Creek. Meet up at noon at Phillippe Park for a club picnic. Awards for the longest bass and seatrout.
- August 23: Fort DeSoto Park. Awards for the longest snook and longest seatrout. Summer brisket BBQ at Shelter #13 at the East Beach Picnic Area.
- September 20: Fish Tampa Bay on either side of the Sunshine Skyway. Picnic at noon at the North Skyway Rest Area (Aka Blackthorn Memorial). This will be our annual get-together with Sarasota's Mangrove Coast Fly Fishing Club.
- October 18: Carl Hanson Memorial on the Hillsborough River with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. We hope to be have access to the Trout Creek Wilderness Park for the picnic. Awards for the longest fish and most panfish.
- November 22: Middle Tampa Bay. Lunch at the Crab Shack on Gandy Boulevard.
- December 20: Fort DeSoto Park. Annual Member Tribute outing. Award for the longest fish on the fly.

SFF Lady Fly Tournament Update

- Tournament leader Samantha Tallyn reports solid interest by potential sponsors for our club's second annual ladies-only Suncoast Fly Fishers Lady Fly tournament September 13.

Save the dates.

- Saturday, December 13, 2025, Christmas Party, St. Jerome Catholic Church in Largo
- Saturday, March 28, 2026 Hog Roast, St. Jerome Catholic Church in Largo

Bob Burkard: Our May 17 Outing



Bob Burkard, meetings-outings committee chair

We were planning to fly fish and eat brisket at Fort DeSoto Park but all of the FDP pavilions were booked. It reminded me of the Yogi Berra one liner: *Nobody goes there anymore. It's too busy.*

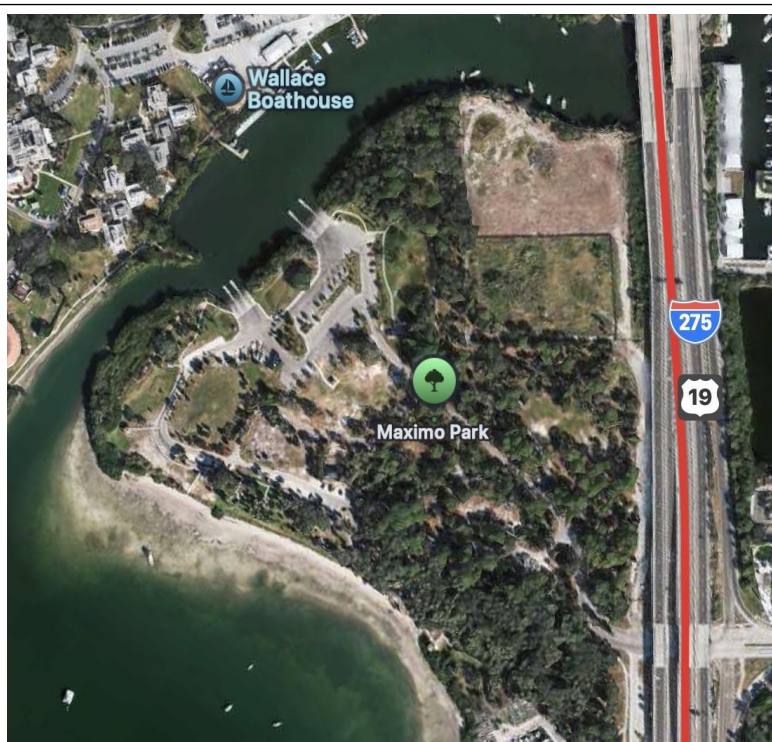
So we're going to Maximo Park. If you're driving on I-275 exit at Pinellas Park Drive South and turn west toward the entrance. And, if you were wondering, we're still going to refuel on burgers and hot dogs.

Maximo Park is a terrific park bordering

the bay and Frenchman Creek. It even has a boat ramp. In fact, you can fish anywhere in lower Tampa Bay west of I-275 and that includes Fort DeSoto Park.

Gift certificates will be awarded to the members catching the longest snook seatrout, and ladyfish. Measure your long fish and take pictures, too. You know the thing. The same goes for the longest redfish on the 2025 outing tournament trail (see below).

See you there.



Leaders on the 2025 Outing Tournament Trail

Species	Winner	Length	Outing (Month)
Longest bream	Jack Collins	7-inches	Taylor Lake (March)
Longest black bass	Bruce Evensen	22-inches	Everglades (April)
Longest Peacock Bass	Tim Elms	18-inches	Everglades (April)
Longest redfish			
Longest snook			
Longest seatrout	Mike Nolan	15-inches	Weedon Island (January)
Longest ladyfish	Tony Piazza	18.5-inches	Weedon Island (January)

Bob Burkard: April Outing Hillsborough River

This was the annual Carl Hanson outing with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. The 2024 Carl Hanson outing was cancelled because of high water levels so it was rescheduled for April 2025. The 2025 Carl Hanson outing will be in October.

Anyway, the Hillsborough River at Rotary Park on Tampa's Fowler Avenue was beautiful and the bluegill were most cooperative. (Bass not so much.) David Redd caught 23 bluegills so he gets his name engraved on the trophy for the most panfish. He said he mostly was casting beetle and cricket flies into shoreline rocks.

Brian Henderson won the longest fish award for catching a seven-inch bass. He gets to keep the Carl Hanson painting until he has to surrender it to the 2025 outing in October. He also caught 17 panfish. Not far behind was Karen Warfel who caught 16 panfish.



David Redd caught 23 bluegills. Karen Warfel presented him with the most panfish trophy

Attendance was good. In addition to David Redd and Brian Henderson, Suncoast Fly Fishers also included (with bluegill counts) Rick and Karen Warfel, Chris O'Byrne, Robert Fischer, Tony Piazza, Dennis Mincher, Bob Burkard, Mike Nolan, Bill AuCoin, Mark Hays, Ted Rich, Alan Sewell and John Connolly, plus Wes and Kelly Sobczak. Btw, this was the last SFF/TBFFC event for Wes and Kelly. They're moving to Columbia, SC.



Brian Henderson measured and took a picture of his 7" bass. Yep, he wins the longest fish award.

Tampa Bay club members included dual members Robert Fischer, Wes and Kelly Sobczak and also Walt Durkin, Denise Bruner, Ted Hagaman, Mike Perez, Ed Fisher, and Greg Rogers,

Walt Durkin gets a tip of the fly fisher hat for catching a two-foot alligator on the fly. He released it safely. (Whew!)

And Denise Bruner, thank you for bringing your delicious Baby Lemon Impossible Cupcakes.



Ready to rumble. Tony Piazza in the bow. Ted Rich at the stern.



Beautiful day in the neighborhood. Chris O'Byrne photo

Bob Burkard: Everglades outing April 24-26



Tim Elms and his 18-inch peacock bass.

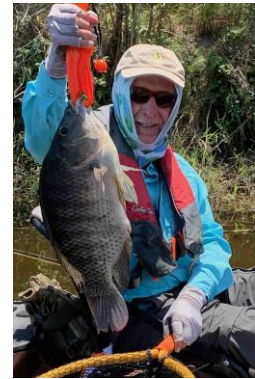
The Everglades delivered again. Peacock bass. Largemouth bass. Mayan cichlids. Bluegills. Oscars. Even tilapia.

The gift certificate for the longest peacock bass -- 18-inches -- goes to Tim Elms. Tim fished Eglade canals south of Naples.

Bruce Evensen in the Clewiston crew takes the prize for the longest bass, 22-inches. Bruce also caught several other large bass and some big cichlids about 14-inches long.

Clewiston expedition participants also included

Quin Berry, Brian Berry, Brian Henderson, Dave Redd, Tom Trukenbrod, Dennis Mincher, Tony Piazza, and Bill Scarola



Tony Piazza's big tilapia

Brian Henderson wins the \$10 gift certificate for catching the most Mayan cichlids. He caught 39 on Friday and many more on Saturday and Sunday. Brian wrote, "I caught 39 cichlids, 17 bass (largest 16", no pic) and 2 big bluegills on Friday. Didn't count Saturday and Sunday's catch but a bucket load more. I know Bruce caught a bass that was every bit of 3lbs+."

Big rounds of applause go to Tony Piazza for his huge tilapia and to Bill Scarola for his 15-inch peacock bass.



Bill Scarola and his 15-inch peacock bass.



Bill Scarola's 12.5-inch cichlid



Another feisty Mayan cichlid for David Redd

Tony Piazza: April Everglades Outing, April 25-27

Bruce Evensen organized our semi-annual trip to fish the Everglades. We based out of Clewiston arriving Thursday afternoon and fishing Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

In addition to Bruce our group included David Redd, Bill Scarola, Tom Trukenbrod, Brian Henderson, Dennis Mincher, Quin Berry and his son Brian, and Tony Piazza.

Friday we fished the A-1 water retention area, a large flat covering several square miles filled with bullrushes. Water was less than a foot deep in most areas so kayaks were essential.

Wind was brisk with a few bass caught. Half the group fished the feeder canal and did well in deeper water with bass and exotics. I had a large gar hit my fly, no hookup but when he turned the fly caught his tail and the fun began. Several minutes later he was in a net and measured out at 21-inches.

Saturday we fished in the canal a few miles south of Billy's Bass Hole. Much less wind and a lot of fish caught but mostly bream, some bass and a few exotics.

Sunday was the banner day. Back to A-1 but we all fished the deeper canal. Everyone caught a lot of large Mayan cichlids, a few oscars, and many bass. Every day we saw tilapia but no hookups as we were told they are herbivores.



Tony hooked this gar in the tail.



Dennis Mincher to the rescue

I was sight casting to Mayans and hooking up regularly. We would see tilapia but they wouldn't take. I cast to a Mayan who came to the fly but a tilapia flashed in front of him and this time I had a fish hooked in its dorsal fin.

I shouted for help and eventually Dennis Mincher arrived with his net. David Redd looked it up and identified it as a green tilapia. It was 18" long.

All in all a perfect trip, great food, cold beer and a lot of tight lines all three days.

Tony

Hallie Repeta: Forage Fish and Predator Interactions



*USF PhD student
Hallie Repeta, SFF
April meeting
speaker*

(Hallie Repeta is a PhD student at the University of South Florida's College of Marine Science. She is the recipient of the \$1,000 Suncoast Fly Fishers' scholar grant and she was our April meeting speaker.)

My research investigates the role of forage fish in structuring trophic interactions and facilitating energy flow across estuarine, coastal, and nearshore habitats on the West Florida Shelf.

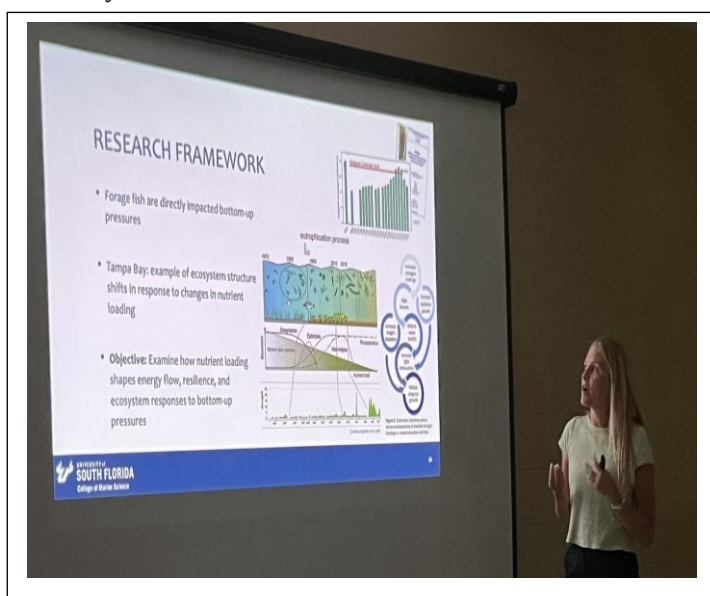
By integrating predator stomach content data with multivariate statistical analyses and distribution modeling, this research examines how predator diet composition varies across spatial gradients and life stages, and how this variability reflects underlying ecological

processes such as ontogenetic niche shifts, habitat use, and prey availability.

Framed within the context of foraging arena theory, this research explores how resource dynamics and predation risk influence predator-prey interactions, with additional focus on how environmental stressors—such as red tide events and changes in water quality—directly and indirectly shape food web structure.

Multivariate analyses, including PERMANOVA and hierarchical agglomerative cluster analysis, are used to quantify differences in diet composition and variability across predator species, life stages, and regions. These analyses also identify functional trophic guilds, offering insight into potential shifts in foraging strategy over ontogeny and revealing patterns of ecological similarity among predators. Zero-inflated Dirichlet distributions (ZIDD) are used to model compositional diet data and address the challenges of empty stomachs and rare prey, providing an improved approach to realistically characterizing prey proportions.

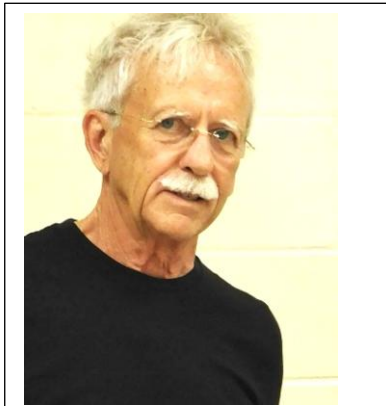
This study also develops a baseline diet dataset for coastal forage fish species on the West Florida Shelf using compound metrics such as the Index of Relative Importance (IRI). This resource can serve as a reference for tracking dietary shifts under future environmental change and supports improved parameterization of these species in ecosystem and food web models.



Ultimately, this study aims to link predator-prey dynamics with broader environmental conditions, asking whether spatial patterns in feeding reflect behavioral refuge, ontogenetic shifts, or environmental drivers. By quantifying the complexity and variability of predator diets under different conditions, this research aims to contribute to our understanding of ecosystem connectivity, resilience, and the potential impacts of environmental stressors. These findings support ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management, especially in the context of climate variability and coastal ecosystem change.

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Myron Hansen: Playing hooky. "But I had a good excuse"



I played "hooky" from our April SFF meeting. I hadn't put my boat in the water or run the engine for a while, so late Thursday afternoon on meeting day I decided to take it down to the lake (Lake Tarpon) and crank it up and go for a little spin. As I was about to leave the house, I grabbed my fly rod. This wasn't planned as a fishing trip, there was a club meeting that night, and fishing would make me late. But then I thought, "Well, why not take the rod, It already has a white spider on the line. Maybe I'll just make a couple of casts."

The motor started just fine and I headed out on the lake for a little ride. I cruised south for a couple of miles. Everything was perfect, there were a few boats around some with people fishing and others just enjoying the cool air, the water, and the

beautiful day.

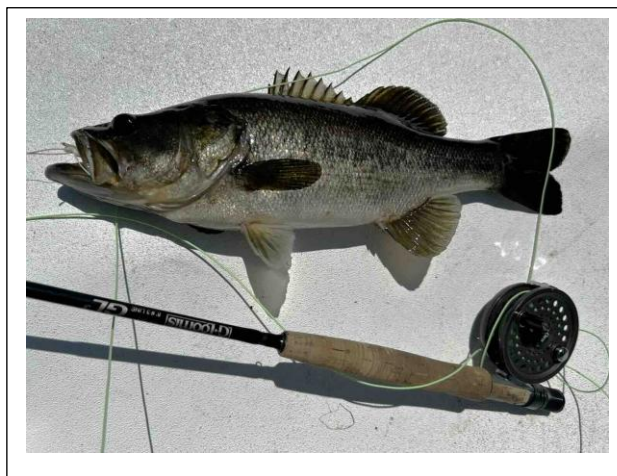
I saw the entrance to Brooker Creek and decided to head-in. Just inside the creek, there was another boat and a fisherman spin casting. I eased by him and headed further into the creek than I ever had before. The creek was plenty deep and getting wider as I advanced.

The world in here was wonderful, it is all nature, beautiful, shaded, and quiet, so I switched over to trolling motor and continued cruising. I started making a few casts. I caught a small bream, then a bass.

Time was flying and just as I was about to turn the around and head back to the lake, I made one more cast. Something hit, but didn't come to the surface. It moved around the boat and pulled slowly.

My first thought was, I've hooked a gator. I had seen a couple earlier. Then the fish surfaced and it was the bass in the photo above. After the photo I carefully released the fish back into the water. The original fly was still in good shape. (Carl's Tuesday night tying sessions taught me well.) It was too late to make it down to St. Pete for the meeting.

I decided SFF wouldn't hold my meeting absence against me. After all, missing a fishing club meeting because of too much time spent fishing is about as good an excuse as possible.



my
small
boat

Myron

Tim Elms: Tips for Fishing from Shore



Howdy! Spring has sprung—and man, it's dry out there. As we wait for the rains to roll in, the tarpon to start moving, and the last of the snowbirds to finally migrate north, I figured it's a perfect time to share my top 5 tips for fishing the way I love best: from shore, bone-dry, and with a fly rod in hand.

1. Have a Plan (No, "I Just Know" Doesn't Count)

My wife once asked how I always seem to know where and when to fish. My answer? "Oh, I just know." Cringe. That's not true. The real answer is—I *obsessively* plan. Tide charts, wind direction, temperature patterns... they're all part of the equation.

Here's a quick hack: tide events shift roughly an hour later each day, but don't forget how wind can wreck your plan. A strong north wind for three days? Expect that noon low tide to be *extra* low. That same wind also blocks incoming water, making tide charts look more hopeful than reality. Conversely, a south wind might juice up the current in your favorite pinch point or pipe, making it prime feeding ground for hungry snook.

2. Take Chances (But Not with Dumb Stuff)

I see way too many hesitant fly fishers in Florida—scared to ruin a line, break a rod, or just look silly. Newsflash: some of

my best fish came from taking risky shots.

Trust your gear. If you think your \$100 rod won't cut it, it probably won't. But if you fish it like a \$1,000 rod, it might just surprise you. That said—don't take chances on *bad* gear decisions. No cold-water lines in summer. No flip-flops on oyster beds. And for the love of fly fishing, build your leader right, tie *good* knots (wet them!), and wear *polarized sunglasses*.

And yeah—take that crazy cast. Over the tree. Into the mess of branches. Between two parked cars if you have to. If you focus on the branch, you'll hit the branch. Focus on the fish.

3. Level Up Your Skills (Even If You Only Fish Once a Month)

Practice is the hardest part for most anglers. But here's the trick: practice doesn't have to be exotic. A bluegill at the local pond can teach you more than you think. Every tug, chase, or refusal builds your intuition. Personally, bass fishing taught me a ton. Like: *don't raise your rod to strike*. Let fish take you into structure. Learn how to adjust your retrieve. Tease fish into eating. Observe body language. Does the fish get excited when you pause the fly? Or speed it up? Read them, remember it, and use that info when the real shot comes.

Casting? Work on it. A lot. Even if it spooks fish. You won't improve without sacrificing a few quiet days on the water to become a better caster.

Continued on next page



P2/Tim Elms: Tips for Fishing from Shore



4. Use All Five Senses (Well... Four and a Half)

Fishing is a full-sensory experience. Train your *eyes* to pick out movement and species. Watch for subtle water changes that scream “predator nearby.” Use your *ears*—you should know the difference between a snook pop, a tarpon roll, or a school of mullet erupting.

I often fish with one earbud in. A podcast or some music helps me tune out distractions and dial in. Dangerous? Maybe. But I trust my cast—and I never backcast into traffic.

Touch is crucial. Develop finesse in your line hand. Know when to death-grip and when to feather it. Learn to strip with big, splashy pops—or subtle nudges.

Nose? Absolutely. I like the smell of that nasty, fishy city-water funk. It tells me tarpon or tilapia might be nearby. You can smell red tide, algae blooms, or even the sweet moment right after a storm.

And *taste?* Okay, don’t lick your fly. But when I wet knots with my mouth, I can sometimes tell if the water’s fresh or salty. Helpful when I’m wondering if bluegill will be hanging out. Did you know I’m extremely allergic to fish. I have no idea what it tastes like and my epipen is always in my fishing bag.

5. Enjoy the Ride (Or Walk...)

Last but not least: *Enjoy it.* Know your limits, don’t be grumpy, and don’t fish with people who are. If your guide sounds like a bitter ex, call it early and go home. This is why I prefer to fish solo, from shore, and when I feel like it.

Don’t force it. Know when to leave. Know when to stay. And always fish like you mean it.

Things coming up with Tim

Summer fishing camp at FWC will have Tim Teaching kids to fly fish 2 days!

Tim is going to host a “Casting Game” this summer with his mentor Joe Mahler and Friends—Stay tuned

Tim will be a panelist this year at the Fly Fish Southwest Florida Symposium. Talking Tarpon from shore. Tickets are available now www.flyfishsouthwestflorida.com



Strip Strip Strip-Tim

Fishing Reports and More

Suncoast Fly Fishers: As you know our fellow member Tim Elms has scored more juvenile tarpon from shorelines than anybody else that I know. Last year his total count was more than 300 juvenile tarpon. Most he caught in creeks and ponds and associated with Tampa Bay. Well, the fly fishing community has taken notice. Tim will be one of the speakers at the Fly Fish Southwest Florida in December.

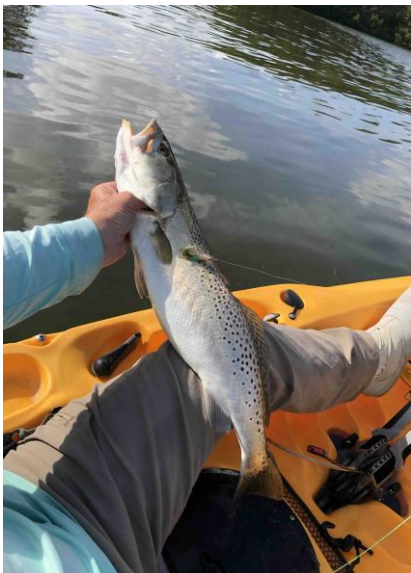


Tim Elms



Trading in the midges and nymphs of Denver, Colorado, Tim found his sweet spot in St. Petersburg, Florida, alongside his wife. Known for his urban angling, especially targeting Juvenile Tarpon from the shore on a fly, Tim is an expert in his field. Spending countless hours a year on the water, he has mastered the art of jumping tarpon in all Florida seasons. In 2024 alone, he landed over 300 tarpon and secured the coveted Micro Award in a Juvenile Tarpon Fly tournament for the smallest tarpon caught (a mere 3").

When not chasing silver, Tim dedicates his time to educating the youth about fly fishing. He serves as a Co-Lead Mentor for the Mayfly Project in St. Petersburg, is a fly fishing instructor for FWC summer camps, and actively participates in IGFA's kids education programs.



Mike Nolan caught this 23-inch seatrout at Weedon Island Preserve.

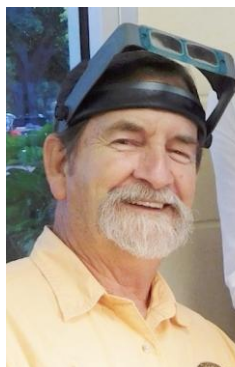


You don't have to go to the Eglades to catch a Mayan cichlid. On The Fly editor Bill AuCoin caught this one in Cooper's Bayou Park in late April. He's catching bass, too. See the photo on the right.



A little Bruce Evensen-tied Clouser caught bass and cichlid.

Bruce Evensen / Bill Scarola: Polar Fiber Minnow



Bruce Evensen



Polar Fiber Minnow

Suncoast Fly Fishers tied the Polar Fiber Minnow at Bruce's studio on Monday, May 5. This would be good fly to fish at the May outing at Maximo Park and lower Tampa Bay.



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. All are welcome. Beginners as well as veteran tyers. We have extra material and a vise if needed..A vise is available if you don't have one. Materials, too. Don't be late. Bring a friend.

Materials

- 1- Hook, short shank #2 or circle hook
- 2- Body, white polar fiber
- 3- Beard, orange micro fiber or other
- 4- Flash, silver flashabou or crystal flash
- 5- Eyes, stick on, silver/black 5 mm
- 6- Threat, white flat waxed
- 7- Glue, UV epoxy

Brian Henderson's Wooly Bugger



Suncoast Fly Fishers Brian Henderson was the guest fly tyer April 21 at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio. He led others members and guests through the steps for tying the Wooly Bugger. Bill Scarola noted that this fly can be tied in a variety of colors. His favorites are black, olive, brown, white and pink Black Wooly Bugger with bead head.



Estaz Wooly Bugger



Black Wooly Bugger



Purple Wooly Bugger

A.
Hook.

Streamer hooks sized 4,6,8,10, or 12.

B. Tail: Marabou: black, olive, white, pink. Etc.

C. Flash: Pearl crystal flash or colors to match body and tail.

D. Body. Option A. medium chenille in black and/or matching colors to your marabou tail color.

Option B. Grande estaz in black and/or matching colors to the tail color.

Option C. 3 peacock herls palmered .

E. Hackle. If using medium chenille, or peacock herl, use black saddle hackle feathers, or matching colors to tail color. (Option, add gold or brass wire in between the hackle.)

F. Weight.

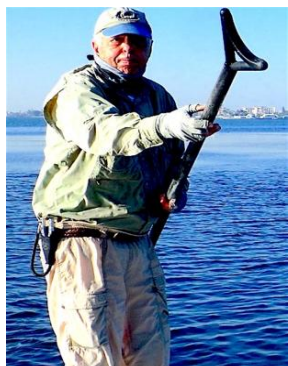
Option A. Grass cone head or brass bead head.

Option B. Barbell and or bead chain eyes. And/or you can lead-wrap the hook shank.

G. Thread: Flat waxed in black or matching color to your material used.

H, Glue. Super Glue or otherwise suitable head cement .

Captain Pat Damico: Captain's Corner



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

Subject: Practice proper catch and release.

A recent warming trend has been a boost to shallow water fly fishing, frequently resulting in catching many fish. Even if a few fish are going to be kept, having the ability to safely and quickly release a fish to catch another requires careful technique. I often see serious fishermen who want to preserve their sport for the future do the wrong things. Handling the fish with a dry towel, holding large fish vertically, and keeping them out of the water for too long will prevent their survival. When holding a fish out of the water, hold your breath at the same time. The time should not exceed that. Most flies have a single hook that can be crimped or de-barbed before starting to fish. This means it will penetrate the fish's mouth more easily and simplify removal from your quarry or your person. Do barbless hooks make it easier to lose fish? If constant tension is applied, no. When the hooked fish is close to the boat or you, grab the leader near the fish and with your other hand engage the hook bend with a simple wire hook disgorger sold in all tackle shops, similar to the ones used to remove live baitfish from a Sabiki rig. Lift

vertically with the disgorger while holding the leader below the fish's mouth, and the hook point will disengage, allowing it to slip back into the water. All this without handling the fish.

Fly fisherman and casting instructor Pat Damico fishes from Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at captpatdamico.com and (727) 504-8649.



Practicing fly casting in the snow. This is a screen shot from a video shot by Pat's nephew on an Alaskan ski slope. Well, now we know what snow skiers really want to do -- go fly fishing.

Bill Scarola: Jokes of the Day

Why did the fisherman put his money in the freezer? *He wanted cold hard cash!*

I don't know why my fishing buddy is worried about the recent flu virus. *He never catches anything.*

What do you call bad bait? *A fail-lure!*

What do you call the girl hanging off the fishing boat? *Annette*

Why did the fish get kicked out of school? *It got caught with seaweed*

What do you say to a fisherman on his birthday? *I hope you have a reel good day!*

A banker was fishing with one of his customers. They were out in a boat in a river when they hit a rock and tipped over, spilling the guys into the drink. The customer noticed the banker flailing away and said, " Say, can you float alone?" Oh c'mon! " exclaimed the banker. "i'm drowning and you want to talk business?"

Used Gear for Sale

Bill Scarola is selling his Cannondale bike. It's good to go . Hit the road or the trail. It's very clean and there is no rust. Email bill at Hi Bill can you please include these pix of my Cannondale Bike. \$300 obo. Ready for Road or trail! Very clean, no rust! Email Bill at scar7765@gmail.com

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- Model F-300 P bone
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- Lightweight alloy frame
- Extra padded seat cover



Tim Elms is selling two TFO Setups for a friend USED 1 Time!:

1: TFO Axiom 2-X 9ft 8wt

TFO NTR 3 Silver Reel

TFO NRR 3 Silver Spare Spool

With Cortland Ghost Tip Intermediate and Clear Intermediate----\$485

2: TFO Axiom 2-X 9ft 10wt

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TFO NRR 4 Silver Spare Spool

With Cortland Ghost Tip Intermediate and Flats Taper----\$650

\$950 for all of it. Email Tim: webadmin@suncoastflyfishers.com

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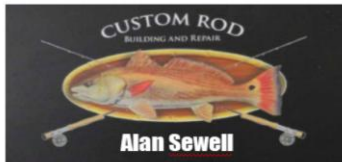
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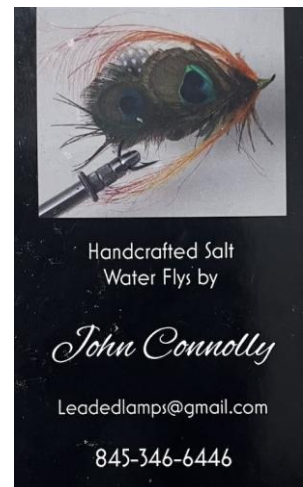
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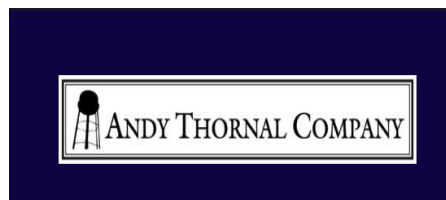
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