



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*