

# On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

Longest Snook P6



Longest redfish P6



Longest Florida Bass P6



Little fish are fun too. P9



Chattooga's "Bartram" P10



White River Drifting. P8



Do you know this fish? Snowbirds do. P9



Fly-fishing is in his blood. Literally. P7



## President's Message: July 2025



*SFF President David Redd*

Over the past few months I have been a part of many conversations pertaining to various aspects of the fly fishing community. Sometimes it was about fly shops or local guides or ideas to attract participants for our Lady Fly Tournament.

Through these conversations and meeting people, I have come to realize just how big a part of the fly fishing community our club really is. We have established relationships with local guides who come to speak to the club or donate guided trips; in return we give the guides recognition in our newsletter and on our website.

The same holds true for local fly shops. Some donate items for the Hog Roast and in turn we patronize these shops or send people their way. I'm sure it has always been this way and maybe I was less in tune with it in the past. Or maybe it is because Covid had such an effect on these things for too long and we are finally getting back to normal. Whatever the reason, I feel our club plays an important role in this great fly fishing community.

On a different topic, in the past few months, some long term members, whose opinions and ideas I respect immensely, have made suggestions or have had a request they feel would benefit members. I just want to say that those ideas were heard, discussed by the board and will be implemented. I am grateful to the members who reached out and would encourage anyone to do so.

*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 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. Welcome new members Larry Cohen, Carol Hanks, Connie Hardy, Sean Pascoli and Barry Tosdevine.**

**Our club now has 107 members including 15 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](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.org)

### Club Officers

Pres: David Redd  
Vice Pres: Jack Collins  
Secretary: Tony Piazza  
Treasurer: Karen Warfel

### Board of Directors

Quin Berry, Rick Warfel (Prior President), Bill Scarola, Bob Burkard, Bruce Evensen, Cliff Nigh, James Davis, Bill AuCoin

**Casting:** Pat Damico, Dayle Mazzarella

**FFI Liaison:** Pat Damico

**Conservation:** Cliff Nigh

**Fly Tying:** Myron Hansen

**Hog Roast:** Open

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**New Members:** Rick Warfel

**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

### July 17 meeting

First, fyi, this month we won't have any fly casting practice before the meeting. The meeting starts at 7 but most arrive earlier to share coffee, sodas, and cookies. Since our July outing has both saltwater and a freshwater fly fishing opportunities we've got two presenters, one with saltwater advice and one with freshwater advice.

Our saltwater expert is truly one of the most experienced and successful Tampa Bay flats guides of all time: Capt. Russ Shirley. He's been there and done that, you might say. The subject of his talk is *"16 Fly Fishing and Sight-Fishing Mistakes (that cost you fish.) And, what is F.U.G.U.?"*

We also have a freshwater guru to share his insights. It's Terry Kirkpatrick, former member, who has spent hundreds of hours fly-fishing Alligator Lake and Alligator Creek for bass and bluegill.

### July 19 outing and picnic.

To catch saltwater fish fly-fish Tampa Bay north of the Courtney-Campbell causeway. Gift certificates will go to the anglers catching the longest redfish and longest ladyfish. Be sure to measure it and take a picture of it. Fishing buddies are good at that.

**Freshwater:** Fish Alligator Lake, Alligator Creek, or Cooper's Bayou Park. We have gift certificates going to the fly fishers catching the longest bass, the most panfish, and longest exotic fish like, maybe a Mayan cichlid. They've been caught in the pond at Cooper's Bayou Park.

**Picnic Phillipe Park:** Pavilion 7. FYI there's a boat ramp and kayak launching at the north end of Phillipe Park. The best place to wade fish may be near our picnic shelter where you can step down into the water. And what's for lunch? Fried chicken.



*We'll be fly fishing upper Tampa Bay with a picnic at Pavilion 7 in Phillipe Park. Wade fishers: notice the stairs to step down into the water.*



*Alligator Lake, Safety Harbor. Boat ramp is at City Park.*



*Cooper's Bayou Park has a retention pond with bass, bream, and even Mayan cichlid.*



*Alligator Creek is on the west side of McMullen-Booth Road. Take Fairwood Avenue north from Drew.*

## P2/Meetings, Outings, and More

### More 2025 meetings and outings

- **August 21 Meeting.** Leigh West and Bob Burkard will talk about the best spots and how to fly fish Fort DeSoto Park.
- **August 23 Outing.** Fort DeSoto Park, Pavilion #3, brisket and pulled pork and awards for the longest snook and the longest seatrout.
- **September 18 Meeting.** Speakers are Jonas Magnusson, an FFI Certified Fly Casting instructor, and member Cliff Nigh of St. Petersburg Fishing Outfitters. Cliff will update us on the latest fly fishing gear that hits the marketplace in 2026.
- **September 20 Outing:** 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. Award for the longest speckled trout.
- **October 16 Meeting.** Our speaker is Tarpon Hunter Jeff Harrell, founder of BarFly restaurant in Safety Harbor.
- **October 18 Outing:** Carl Hanson Memorial on the Hillsborough River with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. We hope to have access to Trout Creek Wilderness Park for the picnic. Awards for the longest fish of any species and the most panfish.
- **November 20 Meeting.** (Tentative) Fly Market --Bring and sell the gear you no longer use.
- **November 22 Outing:** Middle Tampa Bay. Lunch at the Crab Shack on Gandy Boulevard.
- **December 18 No meeting**
- **December 20 Outing:** Fort Desoto Park. Annual Outstanding Member Tribute outing. Chili cookoff at Shelter #3 on North Beach. Award for the longest fish on the fly.

### More Club Events. Save the dates.

- Suncoast Lady Fly Tournament. Captain's meeting Friday, September 12; Tournament Saturday, September 13.
- Christmas Party. Saturday, December 13, 2025, St. Jerome Catholic Church in Largo.
- Hog Roast. Saturday, March 28, 2026. St. Jerome Catholic Church in Largo.

### Club Connections to our community

- On July 16 several club members including David Redd, Claude Neidlinger, and Rick Warfel will demonstrate and teach fly-casting techniques to youth at the Riverview Youth Casting event.

### Projects in Motion

- **New Lady Fly Logo.** Our club's Lady Fly tournament in September soon will be getting a very new logo. Director Samantha Tallyn reports that sign-ups and sponsorships are coming along well. For more information [go here](#). To register to fish the tournament go [here](#). Samantha will need volunteers. Call her at 727-710-3207 or email her at [Samantha@janssen-cpa.com](mailto:Samantha@janssen-cpa.com).
- **New SFF Flyer.** Jack Collins is putting together a new club-promotion flyer that we can distribute to potential members at events and tackle stores. Also in the works by member Bill Scarola is a club poster for display at tackle stores.

###

## Bob Burkard: Our June Outing Report



*Bob Burkard, meetings-outings committee chair*

June's outing was a Friday-Saturday-Sunday event in which we could fish saltwater and/or freshwater and the outing winners would be the individuals or teams that caught the most different species for each category. This format was a substitute for the club's traditional dock-light outing. Did we get more participation? Maybe. Maybe not.

Mark Hays and Robert Mitchell are big winners. Team Plumber caught the most species of saltwater fish including two bragging-size saltwater fishes, snook and redfish, a ladyfish, and more than 30 seatrout. Actually, they were dock-light fishing and that's fine. Mark landed a 30-inch snook and Robert got a 28-inch redfish. So Robert takes the redfish lead and Mark takes the snook lead in the annual outing tournament.

Tim Elms caught the most freshwater fish. He caught a 9" bluegill and a 22-inch bass. That puts Tim in a tie in the annual outing contest for the longest largemouth bass and leader of bream.

There were a couple of other participants. James Davis caught a

19-inch snook. David Redd and I fly fished the Honeymoon Island shoreline. Nothing much happened except I did catch a remora, aka suckerfish, which usually feed on scraps from sharks meals and parasites. .



*Mark Hays and his 30-inch dock-light snook.*



*Tim Elms won the freshwater division and now shares the longest bass (22-inches) category in the annual outing contest.*



*Robert Mitchell and his 28-inch red*

### *Leaders on the 2025 Outing Tournament Trail*

Species	Winner	Length	Outing (Month)
Longest bream	Tim Elms	9-inches	Fresh and/or Salt (June)
Longest black bass	Bruce Evensen/Tim Elms	22-inches	Everglades (April)
Longest Peacock Bass	Tim Elms	18-inches	Everglades (April)
Longest redfish	Robert Mitchell	28-inches	Fresh and/or Salt (June)
Longest snook	Mark Hays	30-inches	Fresh and/or Salt (June)
Longest seatrout	Mike Nolan	20-inches	Lower Tampa Bay (May)
Longest ladyfish	Tony Piazza	18.5-inches	Weedon Island (January)

## Kevin Kelly: June Meeting Report



Kevin Kelly, Meetings and Outings Committee member

Thank you Andy! Captain Andy Austin donated a free guided trip and we have a raffle winner. Congratulations, John Connolly.

Capt. Andy moved from the Florida Keys to the Tampa Bay area to escape pressures of guiding in the Keys and he has discovered a great nighttime fishery for tarpon and other gamefish.. Though he does guide during the day he invites his customers to try a night trip. Fly fishing is more successful at night. Plus: no sun and less heat, and before fishing no need to lather up with sunblock. . Plus, fishing spots aren't crowded.

Catching chances go way up at night. Redfish and seatrout can be caught, of course, but so can big tarpon. He likes to target big tarpon under the bridges where bridge lights create a sharp line between the darkness and light. Andy pointed out the shadow line is THE ambush spot for predators looking for baitfish coming in from the light into the darkness.

Be warned. Tarpon on the fly will try to swim around a bridge piling and break you off on the barnacles and oysters. He recommends a 40-lb test leader with an 11-weight rod. Use a floating line to throw baitfish patterns. Use a sinking line to throw blackish flies.

### Suncoast Lady Fly Tournament

Club member Samantha Tallyn updated us on the growing success of the Suncoast Lady Fly Tournament. Samatha said there is growing support for the tournament from the fishing industry and retailers with donations of equipment for prizes. She also pointed out the growing interest in fly fishing from younger women and the increase in team registration .

For more information [go here](#) . To register to fish the tournament go [here](#).

Samantha also needs club members to tie some flies for the event raffles and prizes. And she needs volunteers to help set up and manage the tournament. If you can help email her at [Samantha@janssen-cpa.com](mailto:Samantha@janssen-cpa.com) or phone her at 727-710-3207.

**Flowers 'N' Flies.** Also, Samantha is calling our attention to an event for women fly fishers to gather up and tie flies. *Flowers 'N' Flies* is a Fly Fishers International Women Connect event in Safety Harbor. Meet up at 5:30 pm at the "House of Petals" at 400 Second Street N. in Safety Harbor.



That's Captain Andy Austin who brings innovative fly fishing strategies from the Florida Keys. He is the grandson of IGFA hall of famer Captain Billy Knowles. Knowles guided anglers out of Islamorada for more than 60 years.



**Flowers 'N' Flies**  
Join us for a free FFI Women Connect fly tying workshop! Food and drinks will be provided and participants will be able to take a flower bouquet home.

Spots are limited!  
RSVP today -  
email Sam at  
[stallyn86@gmail.com](mailto:stallyn86@gmail.com)

7TH AUGUST, 2025  
5:30 PM  
HOUSE OF PETALS  
400 2<sup>nd</sup> St N  
Safety Harbor, FL

*FFI's Women Connect is inviting women to gather up and tie some flies at 5:30 pm on Thursday, August 7.*

## Robert Fischer: Arkansas' White River Delivers



Robert with a 20-inch rainbow trout. It went for his Sulphur dry fly tied on a size 14 hook. He also caught some brown trout.



And he caught this nice smallmouth bass. Robert drift fished. His go-to rod was a 9-foot 5-weight.

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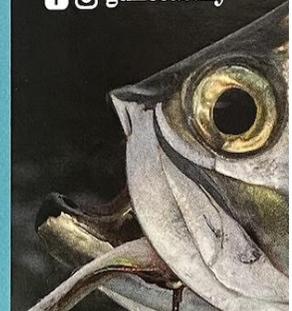
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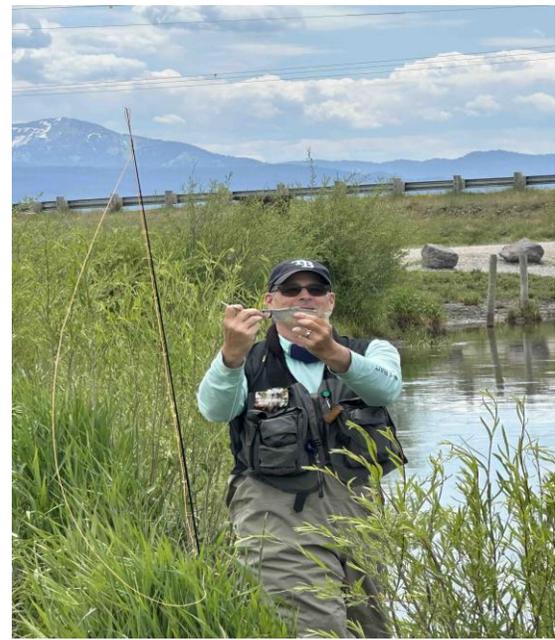


[Capt. Matt Foster](#)

## Mike Nolan: Greetings from Saskatchewan and Idaho



*That's Mike Nolan with the 45-inch northern pike he caught in Saskatchewan in June. Alas, it was not caught on the fly.*



*And this is Mike with a six-inch Cutbow hybrid trout he caught on the Teton River. Little fish = big fun. He caught this on a nymph.*

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## Wes and Kelly Sobczak: "Bart Bass" in the Chattooga River *plus rainbows and brookies in SC's Eastahoe River*

Club members Wes and Kelly Sobczak recently moved to northwest South Carolina about 30 minutes from the Chattooga River. The Chattooga is known for its trout fishing in the fall/winter/spring months, but in the summer, the Bartram's bass become the target species.

Bartram's bass are only found in two watersheds and have a distinctive turquoise slash above red eyes. Wes and Kelly participated in Bart's Day on June 21 - a free, fun tournament targeting the Bartram's bass. While they didn't win, it was a fun day ending at Humble Pie, a local pizza hangout.

They also fished the Eastatoee River for rainbow trout and Wes caught the attached brook trout.



Wes with a brook trout he caught on the Eastatoee River in South Carolina. Wes and Kelly also caught rainbow trout.



One of the Bartram Bass Kelly and Wes caught on the Chattooga on "Bart's Day" on June 21.

## Tim Elms: Casting is why we do this!



Howdy! Summer Baby! Yes, I'm out every day chasing juvis and snook and whatever bites. But a casting phenomenon is sweeping Southwest Florida, and it's called the **Florida Casting Games**. Spearheaded by my friend **Joe Mahler** and a crew of world-class fly casters, these events combine fun, competition, and community.

Every Tuesday morning in Fort Myers, this group sharpens their skills with distance and accuracy drills. But it doesn't stop there. They're taking the show on the road, traveling around West Florida to spread the sport and promote **FlyFishSouthwestFlorida.com**. It's like a roving fly casting competition—with prizes, bragging rights, and plenty of friendly competition.

There are two divisions—Pro and Amateur—to keep things approachable for all levels. But let's be honest... the talent is fierce. And one name continues to rise above the rest. Hailing from Fort Myers, **Elias** is a casting force to be reckoned with. He recently competed at the **American Casting Association** in Long Beach—yes, the same event where legends like Steve Rajeff compete. And he held his own. I've known Elias for about five years, and he's become one of

my favorite people to cast with. Not only is he humble, focused, and *way* better than I am (which pushes me to be better!), but he's also a seriously fishy dude.

Keep your eyes on him—he's even been featured on [WINK NEWS](#)

### THE EIGHT-WEIGHT GAME

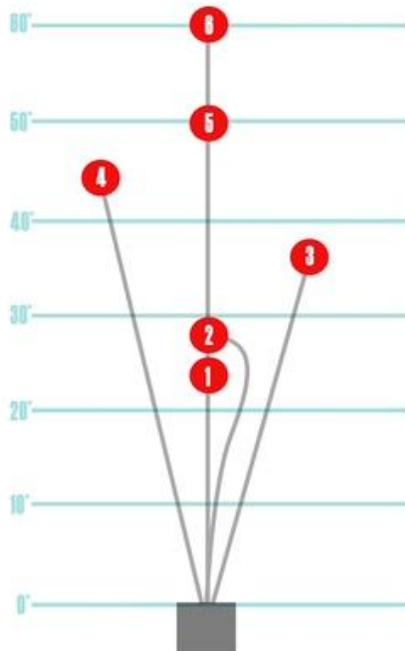
The Eight-Weight Game is a challenging fly casting game with both accuracy and distance elements. The game starts with the caster in the casting box with fly-in-hand and no more than 36" of fly line outside of the rod tip. The caster will be asked if they are ready. The caster will then cast to each target in order.

Unlimited false casts are allowed on each target. The second target is the curve-cast, meaning that the fly must land in the ring **WITHOUT** any of the line or leader touching ring one.

Once the caster has completed attempts at the six targets, a second round will follow. The caster may strip the line in to any desired length before starting round two. Each cast landing inside, or touching the ring is 300 points, a miss of less than 24" is awarded 100 points. A cast landing more than 24' from the target is 0 points.

After the accuracy portion is completed, the caster will make a series of 5 distance casts. Each cast is measured and a total of the best three casts will be added to the accuracy total.

Equipment is unrestricted (eight weight is recommended) and the official fly and leader will be provided.



Here is the Game.

Last month, I joined the Florida Casting Games at Tarpon Lodge on Pine Island. The air was heavy and distance was limited, but the spirit was strong. I hadn't made the podium yet, but I kept calm, trusted my cast, and came out with **3rd place** in the Pro Division!

Here's the final leaderboard:

- 1st:** Elias
- 2nd:** Walt Hoover (yes—the Big Gun Shootout champ)
- 3rd:** Yours truly
- 4th:** Ed Matiuzak

Big thanks to Joe Mahler and the whole crew for another fantastic event!

I'll be hosting one or two **Florida Casting Games** right here in Pinellas County this summer. If you're interested in joining a round of the **8wt Game**, let me know!

Whether you're a seasoned caster or just getting started, you'll find a place here. Don't be intimidated, we're all learning together and having a blast while doing it.

**Interested? Email me at [tim@suncoastflyfishers.com](mailto:tim@suncoastflyfishers.com).**

Let's cast, compete, and connect this summer. Hope to see you on the field!

—Tim

## Bruce Evensen / Bill Scarola: Joe Mahler's Straw Boss Fly



Bruce Evensen



Straw Boss Fly



Bill Scarola

*Suncoast Troy Dillman led fly tyers through the steps tying the Straw Boss Fly at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio on Monday, July 7. Mahler's*

*instructions are to fish this fly slowly so that it rises and falls on swells with very little stripping. Suncoast Fly Fishers meet up at Bruce's every Monday at 6 pm. Bruce's studio is 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. Bring a friend.*

### **Materials:**

Hook-Mustad 34007 or similar, sizes 2-6

Thread-White Danville 210 denier flat waxed nylon

Tail- White Arctic Fox Tail Fur (craft fur, Finnish raccoon as substitute)

Body-White Bucktail (sparse)

Belly-Thread color

Legs/Wings-White Bucktail

Misc-Hollow tube, 2.0" .025 lead/lead free round wire, Foam 1st Aid Tape

Adhesive-Clear Cure Goo Hydro, Sally Hansen, Loctite Gel Control Super Glue OR your preference of adhesive.

### **Steps**

1. Start winding thread 1/4" behind eye then several wraps to bend. Flatten wire end and attach 1/4" behind eye. Let wire hang and apply gel super glue to hook shank/thread wraps.
2. Wrap wire towards hook bend allowing gel to seep thru wire wraps. Cover with thread. End of wire no further than midpoint between hook point and eye.
3. Tie in clump of Arctic Fox at end wire wrap and wrap forward. Ensure material stays on top of shank.
4. Continue covering wire section while building a slight football shape with thread.
5. Tie in Bucktail (1/2 pencil) tips forward (become back or shell). Trim butts 1/8" in front of starting point of Arctic Fox. Wrap butts on top of shank maintaining football shape.
6. t same point tie in 2nd bunch of Bucktail (1/2 thickness 1st bunch). This becomes wings. App 1/4" length using figure eights to tie in.
7. Tie in 3"x1/4" foam 1st aids strip at intersection body/wings.
8. Wrap over strip towards bend to base Arctic Fox. Fold strip and wrap to intersection wing/body. Final fold to bend and tie off at rear of hump. Remove excess foam.
9. Pull wings forward and wrap up and down body making it smooth and tapered at both ends.
10. Pull Bucktail back to bend "tight against shank pulling downward on wings so as to not trap. Insert hollow tube over eye to base Arctic Fox. With tube in place tie of Bucktail (shell). Remove hollow tube slowly and whip finish. Use bodkin to pick out feathers.
11. Apply topcoat of choice to the back and underbelly of the fly. The shell and belly should have a hard shiny look.

###

## Captain Pat Damico: Captain's Corner



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

**Subject:** Fly fishing Florida freshwater ponds

Beautiful, sunny, windless days may be great for many things, but fly fishing isn't one of them unless you make some adjustments. Clear water, especially in the gulf, has presented many issues when sight casting. Snook are still around and share their water close to shore with baby tarpon. If we can easily see fish at a distance, how do we appear to them? Not using a flats boat is a good start. Use your boat to get to fish that are undisturbed, then wade if the bottom is suitable. It is even better to stay on land away from the water when fish are close to shore. Avoid a shadow or flash from the sun on your equipment. Leave brightly colored clothes at home. Blend in with the water or sky. Minimize what you carry. Metal fly boxes, hemostats, clippers, reflective sunglasses, even light-colored skin can be covered to allow a closer approach as well as sun protection. Wear a neutral-colored wide brim hat with a dark underside to improve vision with good polarized sunglasses. A good pair of fly fishing gloves should also have a thicker area to prevent cut fingers from frequent stripping of the fly line while working

a fly. The new distance fly lines that have a rough texture cut skin easily. Long thinner tapered leaders, often 12-15 feet, will keep the thicker fly line away from the fish. Cast accurately and allow the smaller fly to land on the water softly, well ahead of a moving fish. Very long casts are necessary; practice them with an absolute minimum of false casting.

Fly fisherman Pat Damico fishes lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at [captpatdamico.com](http://captpatdamico.com) and 727-504-8649.

## Bill Scarola: Jokes of the Day

- My teacher says that fish are more intelligent than we know. *Well, they spend a lot of time in schools.*
- Why did the fisherman put his money in the freezer? *He wanted cold hard cash!*
- What do you call a fish wearing a tuxedo? ..... *Sofishticated!*
- What's the best way to watch a fly fishing tournament? ..... *Live stream!*

## Used Gear for Sale

Tim Elms is selling a like-new 10-weight TFO rod and reel with line and a spare spool. Get it all for \$650. Email Tim at [Tim@SuncoastFlyFishers.com](mailto:Tim@SuncoastFlyFishers.com)

- TFO Axiom 2-X 9ft 10wt
- TFO NTR 4 Silver Reel
- TFO NRR 4 Silver Spare Spool
- With Cortland Ghost Tip Intermediate and Flats Taper

###

## Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



**Celebrating women fly fishers.** Club member and Lady Fly Tournament director Samantha Tallyn is encouraging us to check out and participate in the Fly Fishers International photo contest. Officially it's the FFI Women Connect fly fishing photo contest celebrating women anglers. More information is on the FFI website. ([Fly Fishers International](#))

**Vote for FFI board members.** Fly Fishers International elections are underway. Suncoast Fly Fishers are FFI members so we can vote, too. Check out the nominees and vote. ([Fly Fishers International/Survey Monkey](#))

**Club member Tim Elms is one of the presenters --** This is a December symposium in Fort Myers -- *Fly Fish Southwest Florida*. Tim is one of about 10 presenters. He will talk about how and where (well, not exactly) he catches all those juvenile tarpon. ([Fly Fish Southwest Florida](#))

**Did you hear about the very latest fly fishing gear?** ICAST is an annual trade show put on by American Sportfishing Association. Retailers get to see and order the very newest fishing tackle for their stores. It has a special section for fly fishing gear. This show is not for consumers but that's okay. Club member Cliff Nigh of St. Pete Fishing Outfitters is attending and he'll tell us about all the latest gear at the September meeting. ([ICAST](#))

**Drama: Tarpon murals and more --** We all know how fly fishing for tarpon is cool. Do non-fishers? Well, David Danforth of Tampa is on a mission. He puts dramatic colors, motions, and emotions into his art. Tarpon fishing is his thing. "Catching these monsters that are just exploding with power." He said non-anglers "have no idea what it's like to catch a 150-pound tarpon that does back flips. It's insane." His mission is succeeding imho. ([Angler's Journal](#))

**Are these flies in your fly box?** A few years ago Tail Magazine did a meta-analysis on this. Here are 10 flies you should always have, courtesy of magazine founder Joseph Ballarini. His choices aren't just off the top of his head. He picked these flies because he has been documenting their catching success. ([Tail Magazine](#))

**You can buy Simms used gear online --** The resale program, appropriately, is named "ReCast". Good brand. Good prices. And price-conscious fly fishers get some satisfying deals. ([Midcurrent](#))

*Bill*

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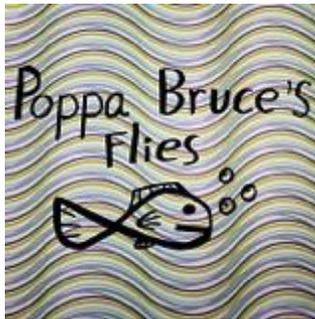
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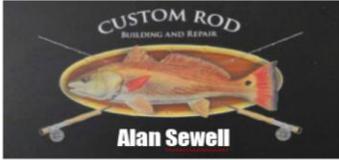
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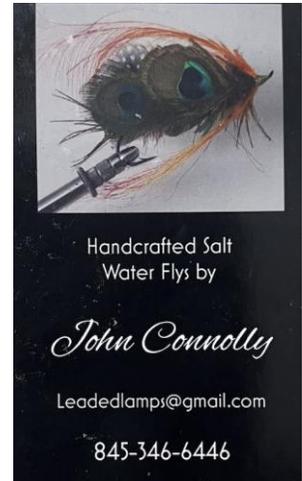
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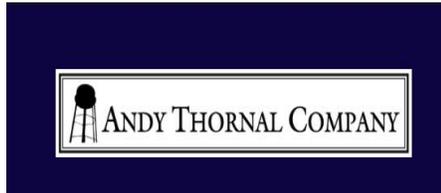
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