

# On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

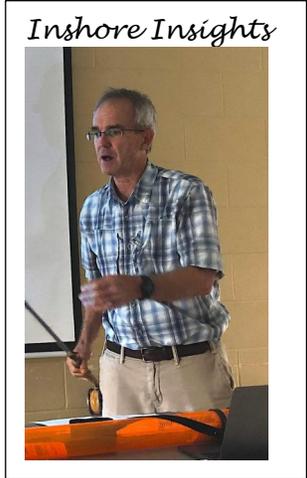
Sunshine Skyway Outing



Winners: Lady Fly Tournament



Inshore Insights



Fly fishing is in his DNA



Honeymoon Island: Lessons Learned



## President's Message: September 2025



*SFF President David Redd*

This month we will be hosting our second annual Lady Fly fishing tournament.

Tournament Director Samantha Tallyn and the board have decided to brand the tournament the “Lady Fly” and Samantha has had a new logo designed just for this tournament.

After a successful event last year, Samantha wanted to grow upon that success this year. She increased the budget, got more sponsors, and was able to attract more anglers for this year.

We will also have a stronger youth presence this year which is awesome, growing the next generation of lady fly anglers. As we go through these processes, we learn and try to improve for the future in an effort to grow the tournament even more.

By the time this message is published the tournament will have already been held and I know it will be another successful Lady Fly. I would like to acknowledge all of the time and effort Samantha has put into organizing this tournament. She creates a budget and presents it to the board. She solicits companies and organizations for sponsorships to raise the funds needed. She also accumulates auction items, arranges for a venue for the dinners, orders T-shirts, and promotes the tournament through social media along with help from her husband Wes.

Samantha has taken her idea of a fly fishing tournament for ladies and girls and has grown it into a successful and sustainable event. I look forward to seeing the full potential for this tournament.

Well done, Samantha!

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*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 member ...Mike Frick**

**Our club now has 111 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](http://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, 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

**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

### Results, Suncoast Fly Fishers Lady Fly Tournament

Total length of 2 fish caught.

September 13, 2025

First: Lisa Lowman, 32.35"  
Second: Tina Sexton, 30.25"  
Team Sealark: 25"

#### Youth Angler Division

Winner: Team Sealark: 25"

#### Closest to 24 inches total Division

Winner: Team Sealark

#### Largest Pinfish

Winner: Bobbie Skukowski

#### Smallest seatrout

Winner Karen Warfel

### Thursday, September 18 Meeting, Walter Fuller Park Rec Center

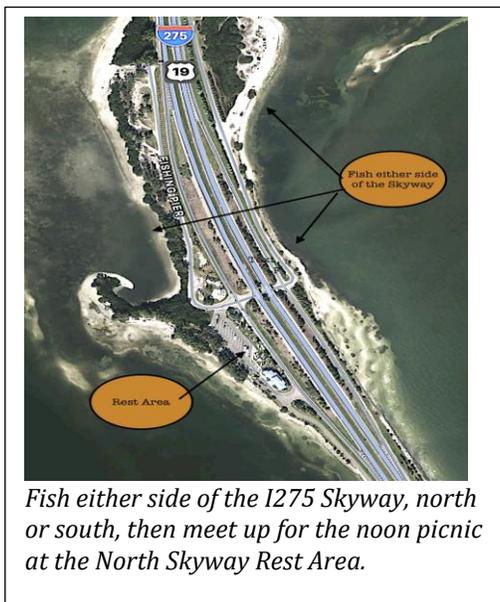
- September 18 Meeting. Speakers are FFI Certified Fly Casting Instructor Jonas Magnusson and SFF member Cliff Nigh of St. Petersburg Fishing Outfitters. Cliff will update us on the latest fly fishing gear coming in 2026.
- Bring one of your fly rods and before the meeting join members practicing on the grass behind the rec center.
- President David Redd opens the meeting at 7 but come earlier for cookies and snacks, to buy club hats and logos, and to get tickets for the bucket raffle after the meeting.



*SFF member Cliff Nigh*



*Jonas Magnusson,*



*Fish either side of the I275 Skyway, north or south, then meet up for the noon picnic at the North Skyway Rest Area.*

### Saturday, September 20 Sunshine Skyway outing with members of Sarasota's Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers. Picnic at noon at North Skyway Rest Area (Blackthorn Memorial)

- September 20 Outing: Fish Tampa Bay on either side of the Sunshine Skyway north or south. The member catching the longest seatrout wins the club's \$10 gift certificate and applause. Be sure to measure it. Also, for the annual outing tournament, measure your longest snook, redfish, and ladyfish.
- 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.

## P2/Meetings, Outings, and More

### More 2025 meetings and outings

- October 16 Meeting. Our speaker is Tarpon Hunter Jeff Harrell, founder of BarFly restaurant in Safety Harbor.
- October 18 Outing: This is the 2025 Carl Hanson Memorial on the Hillsborough River with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Fish the upper Hillsborough River then meet up at noon for a picnic at Trout Creek Wilderness Park. Awards for the longest fish of any species and the most panfish.
- November 20 Meeting.) Fly/Flea Market --Bring and sell fly 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 De Soto Park. Annual Outstanding Member Tribute outing. Chili cookoff. Award for the longest fish of any species caught on the fly.

*Congratulations to SFF President David Redd and member Tim Elms for earning FFI's Gold Level in casting. Learn more about this on the FFI website!*  
[\*Fly Fishers International\*](#)

### More Events. Save the dates.

- The Big Gun Shootout at Picnic Island in Tampa will be November 16. Start practicing now.
- Christmas Party. Saturday, December 13, 6-9 pm, St. Jerome Catholic Church in Largo.
- Hog Roast, March 28, 2026. St. Jerome Catholic Church. Our speaker is legendary fly fishing guide Steve Huff. He began guiding in 1968 in the Florida Keys after graduating from the University of Miami. He became the first full time professional fishing guide ever inducted into the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame.

### New Meeting Speaker Support Devices

- Some members have complained that they can't hear our speakers well or see the screen images clearly. So the Board of Directors is discussing whether to purchase a new sound system.
- Meeting/Outing Committee Chair Bob Burkard has donated to the club a projector that brightens up slides on the screen even when the room is not dark.

### New member promotion

- The new club brochure created by VP Jack Collins has been printed and will be presented at the September meeting.
- Member Bill Scarola has created an 11 X 17-inch poster suitable for display at fly fishing shops and other locations. The SFF board has postponed the decision about when and how many will be produced.

### And there's more...

- SFF member Tim Elms is one of the presenters at Fly Fish Southwest Florida in Ft. Myers on December 6. He has arranged for a \$10 discount for SFF members. [Go here](#) and use the coupon code: tampabay (lower case).
- Giant tarpon seeker and former Olympics downhill champion Andy Mill has been inducted into the IGFA hall of fame. :More info [here](#).

## 2025 Suncoast Lady Fly Tournament Results

The second annual Lady Fly Tournament on Saturday, September 13, was a big success.

"Everyone had a great time and almost all of the teams caught fish," said tournament director Samantha Tallyn.

"Our youth club member Marley Larkin killed it

again! Returning anglers Lisa and Tina took first and second places, and Suncoast Fly Fisher Karen Warfel and her sister Bobbie won largest pinfish and smallest trout categories. Everyone already can't wait for next year."

Tallyn also thanked all the sponsors, raffle donors, and club volunteers who helped make the second annual Lady Fly Tournament a financial success.



*Samantha Tallyn, in the middle wearing blue, poses with ladies that fished the 2025 Suncoast Fly Fishers Lady Fly Tournament..*

### **Results: Lady Fly Tournament (Total inches of top 2 fish landed)**

First: Lisa Lowman, 32.35" Total  
(2 Redfish)  
Second: Tina Sexton, 30.25" Total  
(1 Snook and 1 Sea Trout)  
Team Sealark: 25" Total  
(2 Sea Trout)

### **Youth Angler Division**

Winner: Team Sealark: 25"

### **Closest to 24 inches Division**

Winner: Team Sealark

### **Largest Pinfish**

Winner: Bobbie Skukowski

### **Smallest seatrout**

Winner Karen Warfel



*FFI Women Connect sponsored five teams led by Sam Tallyn, Amanda Mattair, Cliff and Linda Nigh, and Jordan Gard with the Tampa Bay Waterkeepers.*

# Leigh West: Gulf and Bay Flats Fishing from A to Z

Leigh West of has been fly fishing for 33 years. Wade fishing is his thing and he estimates he has wade-fished 2,000 miles over the gamefish flats on Tampa Bay plus the Bahamas, Christmas Island, Cuba, and Mexico. He is a long time member and former president of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. One day he and TBFFC President Walt Durkin were sight-fishing to a school of big redfish in Tampa Bay. Leigh landed 29.

Leigh was our August meeting speaker. The topic was where are the fish and how do you catch them?



Meeting speaker Leigh West. Topic: Where are the fish and how do you catch them?

### Fly Fishing Forecast

- **Mar/Apr** Snook, trout and reds in Sarasota Bay, Glades & Keys great.
- **May - July** Snook & tarpon on beaches, redfish in the bay.
- **Aug/Sept** Ugh. Hot > (red tide?) > seaweed die-off. Juvenile tarpon good, mangrove snook and schooling reds on flats. Maybe some evening tailers mixed with smaller snook. Travel west/north, take a break...
- **Oct/Nov** Water clearing. Some larger trout may show up on the flats/edges. More tailing reds, evenings. Temperature inversion: Snook go nuts.
- **Dec - Mar** Clear water, lower tides. Temp/weather-dependent success. Good times for sight fishing!

### Seasonal Variations

	Winter	Summer
Fly line	Saltwater	Tropic
Fly	Small, less flash	Large, flashy, noisy
Presentation	Quiet, slow retrieve	Fast retrieve
Time of day	a.m./p.m.	
	Deep holes, drop-offs, power plants	On flats, dark/light bottom
	mid-day	
	On flats, dark/light bottom, potholes	Deep holes, drop-offs, channels, light bottom, shaded areas
Visibility	Sight fishing/clear water	Clear/tannic/turbid; blind casting

### Equipment

	Bonefish   Trout / Redfish	Snook   Barracuda
Rod	6 - 9 wt.	8 - 10 wt.
Line	floating, sink tip	Clouser, magnum taper
Backing	20# (200 yds)	20# (200 yds)
Tippet	8 - 12# Ande/fluorocarbon	12 - 20# Mason, fluorocarbon
Blte tippet	12 - 20# F1	30 - 40 F1   <del>20#</del>
Hook size	#8 - 2   #4-2/0	1/0 - 4/0   <del>1/0</del> trailer

Flies: Crazy Charlies, Gotchas, crabs, Lefty's deceivers, Clousers, Seaducers, poppers/gurglers/sliders, shrimp, bendbacks, ~~needlefish~~

Long story short: Quit blaming the fish and up your game. We all need to learn where to see fish and how to see fish in different situations. In other words, read the water!

Leigh has caught all the inshore gamefishes on the fly. Yeah, tarpon, snook, pompano, permit, and on and on. But in Tampa Bay his favorite is probably the redfish. Redfish are all around all year around and often hungrily pounce on many different fly patterns from top to bottom. Plus, Florida FWC hatcheries are raising more and more reds for planting in Tampa Bay and other locations.

#### Where-When-how

Leigh likes to focus on the what-when-where-how on the Gulf and Bay coastlines of Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Sarasota Counties. He also changes his flies, rods, line and tippets based on the gamefish he's targeting.

Safety is huge, too, of course. Water quality is iffy, especially in the summer and in waters with less tidal flow. Wear waders. Don't fish with open wounds. Fish with a buddy. Bring your mobile phone. Yeah, be careful out there.

Leigh encourages members to go online and read Walt Durkin's wade fishing guide to Tampa Bay. It includes wade in and kayaking flats all around the bay. Here's the link: [Wade-Fishing-Guide-to Tampa Bay](#).

## Bob Burkard: August BBQ Outing at Fort DeSoto Park



*Bob Burkard, meetings-outings committee chair*

Good food brings out the best in people. Well, the best appetites. Our August outing at Fort DeSoto Park featured our annual bbq picnic. Rick Warfel, David Redd, and I work our grills overtime to bring the pork every year. Alan Sewell brought his world famous corn bread.

Yeah. Delicious. It was a Florida H & H day (heat and humidity) so attendees stayed hydrated drinking cokes and waters. I calculated the average as 3.5 bottles per member.

Fishing wasn't so tasty or hydrating. Nobody caught a snook, the outing species, so the club keeps \$10 in the bank. Bill AuCoin caught a 15-inch ladyfish. Tim Elms and Scott Russell fished Tim's "rattlesnake hole" and together they caught eight seatrout, all about 12-inches.



*David Redd carves brisket like he knows what he's doing. (Actually, he does.)*



*Bill Scarola crashed through the mangrove shoreline to find fish.*

Rattlesnake Hole? Yeah, that's the name Tim gave to his wade-in spot in Mullet Key Bayou opposite the North Beach Parking Lot. He hikes a "path" through the mangled, tangled mangrove shoreline.. Rattlesnakes love it.



*Scott Russell (above) and Tim Elms caught a lot of little seatrout.*



*That's Jack Collins fishing the east end of Fort DeSoto Park*



*Bill AuCoin's ladyfish.*



## Bob Burkard: September 20 Sunshine Skyway Outing

### *Noon picnic at the I-275 north rest area (Blackthorn Memorial)*

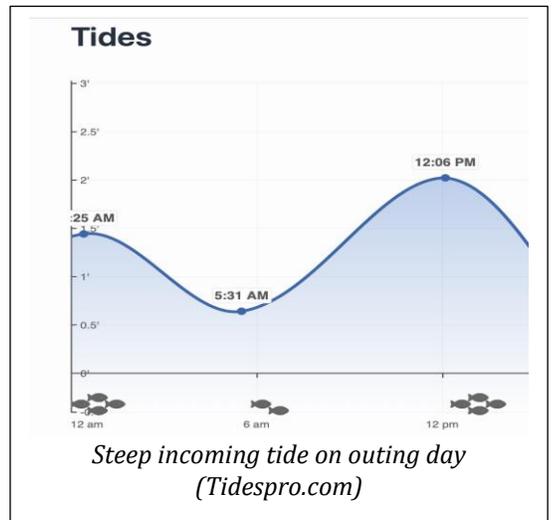
You can fish lower Tampa Bay on either side of the Sunshine Skyway. The member catching the longest spotted seatrout earns a \$10 gift certificate. Also measure your longest snook, redfish, and ladyfish if they look like they could take the lead in the annual outing tournament. The current leader board is pasted in below.

This outing is turning into a tradition: Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers, the Sarasota club, will be joining for fishing and picnicking as they did last year. Our club will supply the main meal (probably sandwiches, chips, etc.) MCFE will bring the dessert.

Somebody mentioned there should be a club-versus-club competition. Well, of course. We'll make a final decision before the event. It will probably be which club catches the most seatrout. So keep a count.



*Fish lower Tampa Bay on either side of the Sunshine Skyway (I-275) (Google Earth Pro)*



### *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)

## Tim Elms: The Cast Continues



Howdy! Holy moly there's a lot going on lately in the fly casting scene for me. First off: We will have our first St. Pete Open on October 4<sup>th</sup>! Anyone who reached out to me in July made it on the reservation list. Yep, the event is full. If you want to be put on my list for casting games let me know and I'll be happy to reach out to you when the next one comes around. See my article from July for details on the game. My Email is [tim@suncoastflyfishers.com](mailto:tim@suncoastflyfishers.com)

But there's more: Last month David Redd and I went through the FFI Fly Casting Skills Development. We wanted to see if this is something we should be promoting to the club and now that we achieved our Gold level we can administer it to anyone (FFI members) who want to do it.

The FCSD program from FFI is a self-paced structured way to improve your casting skills from newbie to advanced. For all the info you can dream of check out the angler guide [HERE](#)

The program was incredibly fun and challenging. It's a great way to measure your casting skills and pat yourself on the back when you achieve the skill levels. There are a few things to remember: Bronze is pretty simple but gets you ready for Silver. The first 2 achievements can be done at your own pace of skills on different days if you need to. When you are going from bronze to silver you must get these signed off by a silver or gold. An FFI CI or Master CI can also sign these for you. Gold is a little more intense. You must achieve all tasks in one setting and you aren't allowed to get any coaching during the evaluation.

We did Bronze, Silver, and Gold all in one day. Phew! Our FFI rep for the day was FFI CI Chris O'Byrne. We had a lot of fun going through tasks, reading the requirements and poking fun of each other's loops.



Stay tuned on what we want to do with this. Or you can also contact me or David if you are interested to get started right away with your journey through this program.

Lastly: Back in July I mentioned my friend Elias, who is turning into a casting phenomenon from Ft Myers. In August he and three other unbelievably-good casters from SW Florida competed at [the US OPEN Casting Championships at the American Casting Association location in Long Beach](#). The team from SWFL made a HUGE impact in the competitive casting world. Not only did Elias tie Rajeff in 2 events, he set multiple records. The 4 of them took home over 40 medals and set lots of new records. We are so proud of that group and can't wait to see them all compete at the Big Gun Shoot Out on November 16th in Tampa!

Congrats buddy!!



*That's Elias on the left with fly casting icon Steve Rajeff*

*Strip Strip Strip—Tim*

## Bob Burkard: Lessons Learned

### *I saved \$\$ on a new fly line and lost a big snook*

Back in June, I decided that it was time to purchase a new fly line for my 7 wt. fly rod and I was surprised to see how much the cost of “premium” fly lines has gone up. So, I did some online searching and found a discounted price for an online purchase and got a \$125 fly line for only \$85. The line arrived quickly, and it seemed fine to me when I replaced my old line.

My first trip was to Honeymoon Island with a few friends from our Suncoast Fly Fishers Club. After walking up the beach and casting for an hour a large fish (I am sure it was a snook) took my chartreuse and white Half-and-Half and headed straight out from shore producing the sweet sound of screaming drag. “The Tug is the Drug” as they say.

After a minute, the line snapped, and I cursed myself thinking that my leader had failed. Instead, about two feet of the fly line itself had broken off and the outer coating on the line was disintegrating. What seemed like a fine fly line when installed on my reel was now a crumbling mess.

Well, I went to my local fly shop and replaced this bad line with the same brand but now from a reputable source. They told me that they had seen this situation before when online sellers had stored their fly lines in very hot warehouses where the high temperatures destroy the integrity of the fly line coating. So, the adage, “You Get What You Pay For” fits this situation.

### **How heat destroys fly line**

As a follow-up to this experience, I wanted to share information on how to store and maintain your fly line. A lot of this advice is common sense, but my situation served as a strong reminder to me.

- Melting and breakdown: Fly lines have a plasticized coating, most often made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC), over a braided core. While durable, this coating can break down when exposed to excessive heat, especially if the line is tightly coiled on a reel.
- Increased "memory": Heat makes the line more susceptible to developing memory, which is when the line retains the shape of the spool, causing it to come off the reel in tight coils. This can make it difficult to cast accurately.
- Cracking and brittleness: As the plasticizer in the PVC coating breaks down, the line can dry out and become brittle, leading to the formation of hairline cracks. These cracks cause a floating line to sink as water penetrates the core, and they create friction that hinders casting.
- Adhesive damage: In addition to the line itself, other components can be damaged. For example, high heat can compromise the adhesive used for a rod's reel seat, potentially causing it to fail.



*Troy Dillman, David Redd, Barry Tosdevine, Bob Burkard*

## Is Mark Hays' snook longer than his grandson?



Yeah, it looks like the snook is a little longer than little Robert

Anne Hays Mitchell passed the word that her dad Mark caught a 29-inch snook the night of September 10. (Yes, it's in the slot.)

Anne said her dad caught it on a bill head deceiver.

Mark launched at the Jungle Prada boat ramp on the Intracoastal Waterway in St. Pete.

He's showing the snook to his grandson Bobby Mitchell. "For scale," said the mom, also the photographer.

## P2/Bob Burkard: Lessons Learned

### Best Practices for Storing and Cleaning your fly lines

- Store in a cool, dry place: The most important rule is to keep your fly line and other gear out of hot environments like vehicles, garages, and attics. A temperature-controlled space, such as a closet or basement, is ideal.
- Avoid sunlight and UV rays: Direct sunlight is a major factor in the deterioration of fly line coatings. Store your reels in a dark place or in a protective case.
- Uncoil and relieve tension: If your line is in storage for a long period, it can help to remove the reel and uncoil the line, or at least loosen it, to reduce tension on the core.
- Clean and condition: Regular cleaning with mild soap and water can remove dirt and grime. For modern fly lines, follow the manufacturer's advice on conditioning.

This situation was also a reminder that it is important to support our local fly shops. Not only do you get products that are stored properly, but you also can get friendly advice and information on any fly fishing topic that you are interested in.

*Bob*

## Mike Nolan: Somewhere Out West

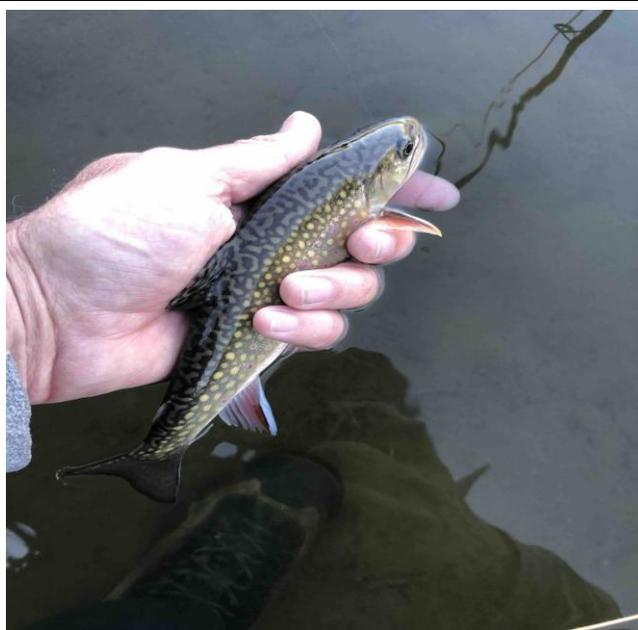


*Bragging-size brown trout*

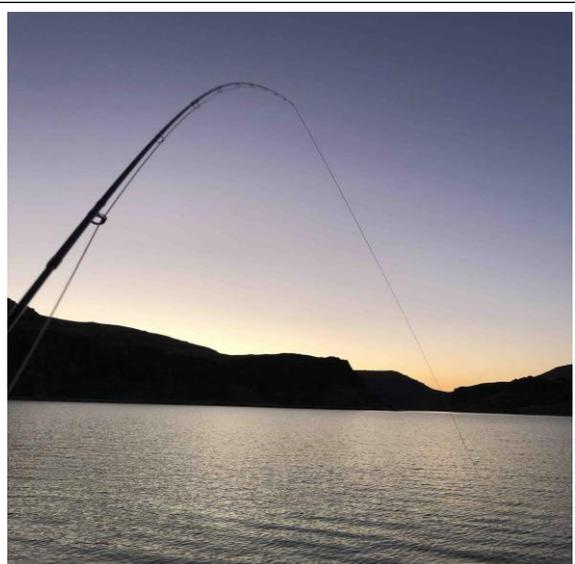
I've had a pretty good summer chasing trout, mostly in Oregon rivers and small mountain lakes. I caught lots of smaller (6-10in) Brookies and Rainbows and one nice Brown (16-in on a size 20 zebra midge nymph). I even caught some Crappie and Smallmouth Bass, all on the fly.

I'm ready to get back to Florida where the fish are a bit bigger! I still need to land a Tarpon!

*Mike*



*Mike caught lots of little brook and rainbow trout.*



*The tug is the drug*



*Even crappie*

## Ted Rich: Keeper of the Flame



*Long time SFF member Ted Rich is unofficially our club historian because he has been keeping pictures and information about club members for many years and shares them for the newsletter*

When I first joined our club in 1994, I had never fly fished. I thought I would learn faster if I also joined the Tampa club. My wife and I went to their annual banquet where they would bid on flies and other items. Carl Hansen's spiders were not bid on and later that night he gave them to me. On the Carl Hansen outings, I would start the day fishing with one of them, but now I only have one left.

When I lived in Port Charlotte three members of the club would fish with me on Shell Creek. Alan Sewell came but the current was so strong we couldn't fish. Myron Hansen came in 2003 and Dr. Richard Odenski came a few times.

Shell Creek is a pretty creek east of Punta Gorda. Woody Miller and his wife Ann paddled it a few years ago.



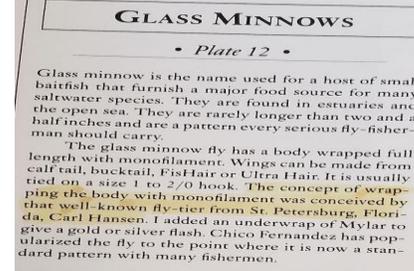
*Carl Hansen spider*



*Ted took this picture of Myron Hansen and a bluegill on Shell Creek east of Port Charlotte.*



*Ted took this picture of Alan Sewell on the right helping a vet build a fly rod at Bay Pines VA Center.*



*Lefty Kreh credited SFF member Carl Hansen with this tip.*



*Phil Mazur, RIP*

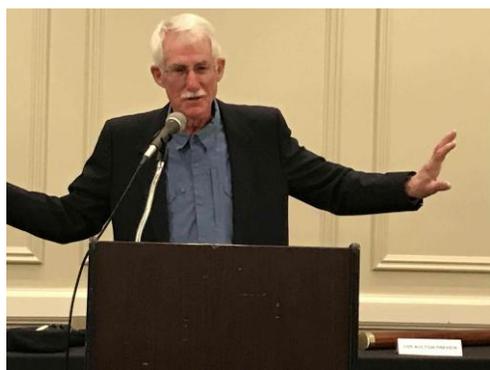


*Dave Barson managed the club raffle table for years. He died in 2020.*

Club members might not know these two men (left) who passed a few years ago. Dave Barson sold tickets at the club raffle. Phil Mazur had been in the Navy. worked at Bay Pines, and helped with the club's rod building program for veterans.

*Ted*

## Legendary Guide Steve Huff is our 2026 Hog Roast Speaker



From [Florida Keys Outfitters](#)

Steve Huff is a legendary guide. He began guiding in 1968 in the Florida Keys after graduating from the University of Miami with a degree in marine biology. In 2010, he became the first full time professional fishing guide ever inducted into the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame. His insatiable curiosity and passion for being on the water have driven him and his clients to nearly 50 years of great friendships and fishing.



Steve possesses an almost encyclopedic knowledge of the details of caught fish, tidal influences on a particular area or flat, or how fishable a location will be in various sets of conditions. His knowledge is not only grounded in the cumulative total of 50 plus years of fishing, but also hidden behind the power of observation and his dedication to continued learning at every opportunity.

As a pioneer of the tarpon fishery in Homosassa, Florida, Steve guided angler Tom Evans to six tarpon world records on four different line classes. Together with Del Brown, they popularized permit fishing, developing techniques for catching them on fly tackle with Steve guiding anglers to well over 2000 permit on the fly. Steve and his anglers were formidable competition during Keys fishing tournaments. In the 1970s and 1980s he guided anglers to 13 championships in the Gold Cup Tarpon Tournament, the Islamorada Invitational Bonefish Tournament, and the Islamorada Invitational Fly Bonefish Tournament.

Fishing buddies for decades, good friend Sandy Moret says of Steve, "He is without question the top fly fishing guide on the planet".

## Support Our Favorite Fly Fishing Guides

St. Petersburg/Tampa Bay

### Fly Fishing Charters

Captain Andy Austin  
 Phone: 954-821-1390  
 Email: andyaustin519@gmail.com  
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Capt. Matt Foster

## Flip Pallot has died

It is with deep respect and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Flip Pallot, an icon in the world of fly fishing and saltwater angling.

Flip passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy as vast and enduring as the waters he loved. He was more than a fisherman — he was a pioneer, a teacher, a storyteller, and a steward of the wild.

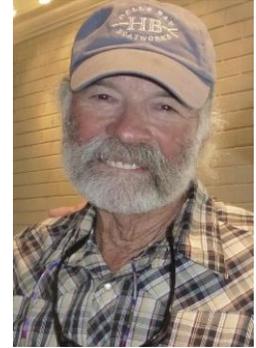
Born with a wanderer's heart and a deep reverence for nature, Flip Pallot carved a unique path through life. After serving in Vietnam and working in the banking world, he traded a desk for a skiff and never looked back.

His love for the Everglades and the unspoiled stretches of water across Florida and beyond became the current that carried him through a life of purpose and passion.

Flip introduced countless anglers to the raw beauty of fly fishing through his groundbreaking television series, *The Walkers Cay Chronicles*. More than just a fishing show, it was poetry on water — blending philosophy, conservation, and adventure into every cast. His quiet voice and gentle wisdom drew viewers into a slower, more intentional world, where the thrill of the hunt was matched only by the sanctity of the surroundings.

Reprinted from [wired2fish](http://wired2fish.com)

*Flip Pallot, RIP*



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*Bruce Evensen / Bill Scarola Host Monday Fly-Tying Classes Open to All*  
**Jack Collins' Half-and-Half Fly**



*Bruce Evensen*

*SFF VP Jack Collins led fly tyers through the steps tying his Half-and-Half fly at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio on Monday, August 25.*



*Bill Scarola*

Bruce's studio is next to his house at 531 80th Ave. N. St. Pete. Come one; come all! Members and guests are welcome. We have materials and vices if you need. We start tying at 6 pm so come a little early to get a good seat.

**MATERIALS**

Hook - Ahrex SA 210 Bob Clouser Signature Streamer 1/0 or Equivalent

Thread - Danville 210 denier - White or Equivalent

Eyes - Large Painted Lead Dumbbell Eyes - Pearl

Body- Bucktail - White

a- Flat Diamond Braid - Pearl

b- Bucktail - Olive

Tail - Large Streamer Saddle Hackle Feathers - Olive

Flash - Krystal Flash - Pearl.

Glue - UV epoxy and head cement or super glue.



*Jack Collins at the tying bench*

**TYING STEPS:**

1. Create a thread base about 1/4" way down shank from the hook eye.
2. Add the dumb-bell eyes at the 1/4" point with figure 8 wraps.
3. Continue thread base to the bend of the hook.
4. Add 1/4 pencil width batch of white bucktail so that it extends a shank length beyond the bend. Then chaffe and cut ends and tie in just behind the barbell eyes. wrap thread to the hook bend.
5. Select 4 olive saddle hackle feathers, strip the ends and measure to 2x hook length. Tie in 2 feathers on each side at the hook bend. Keep the white bucktail in the middle. Lock them in with glue. or UV epoxy.
6. Bring thread back to the eyes, and tie in 4 strands of Krystal Flash on each side & trim to 1/2 the length of the hackle feathers.
7. Return thread to the eyes, add a half pencil batch on top of the shank of white bucktail. tie in from behind the eyes, to 2x the hook shank length.
8. Next ,attach a 4" piece of flat diamond braid at the bend and return thread to the eyes. Wrap the braid up to the eyes and secure.
9. Add a 1/2 pencil width of Olive bucktail on the opposite side of the eyes so that it extends 2x the hook shank.
10. Whip finish the fly and UV epoxy of the eyes and thread wraps.

## Captain Pat Damico: Captain's Corner



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

**Subject:** Fly fishing Florida freshwater ponds

I have seen some members of our local fly-fishing clubs on the water using spin tackle because they felt it was too windy to use their fly rods. However, you will occasionally see someone fly fishing in the wind, and they seem to be very comfortable. If you plan a distant fishing trip, days without wind may be very scarce. Several things will help. Keep your loops very tight. Cast very close to the water, holding the fly rod horizontal instead of vertical. This gives the wind less time to destroy your cast. Keep your rod, fly line, and fly on the downwind side of you in a crosswind. Using a longer rod keeps everything away from you, including your fly's hook point. Use smaller flies that are lightly dressed. Shorten your leader and make it heavier and stiffer than usual. A chop on the water allows you to get much closer to fish, making shorter casts the norm. Avoid fishing in open water; find areas where there is protection from the wind. Islands, trees, buildings, and bridges can be used to your advantage. This is a good time to fish narrow creeks and channels.

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

## Gear for Sale

**Tim Elms is selling a fishing Stand Up Paddleboard with a trolling motor!**

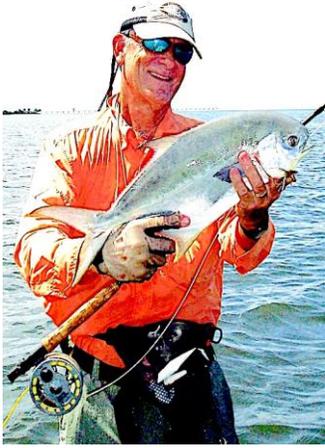
This is a Sea Eagle SUP 126 with swivel seat and trolling motor. All the accessories including the pump and pack. The only thing you will need is a 12V battery for the trolling motor.

For specs and comps look at one new on ebay Here: <https://ebay.us/m/ND9Zov>  
or watch how it works and looks on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGwbEjezxHE>

This SUP was sold to him used but it is in excellent condition. Tim has decided to keep fishing from shore like the maniac he is.

How much? \$650 or best offer for everything he has. Email Tim [tim@suncoastflyfishers.com](mailto:tim@suncoastflyfishers.com)

## Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



**Hurry, hurry** -- POONFECTA 2025 is September 18-21 to bring awareness to protecting juvenile tarpon habitat. This is contest #11. Team entry is \$225. ([Tampa Bay Waterkeeper](#))

### **Here Snookie, Snookie**

Check out the fall snook dates in all the Gulf districts. And if you want to keep one it has to be between 28 and 33 inches. ([MYFWC](#))

### **Seatrout are also a big subject**

Hat tip to Jack Collins for calling our attention to this. Surveys show a culture shift for seatrout anglers: around 90% of anglers are now release-oriented, with goals centered on consistent numbers and quality—"catch a lot" and "catch big." The modern seatrout fishery is almost entirely recreational after the "net ban" a few decades ago.

Representatives from the shrinking commercial sector attended the symposium.

([Saltwater Guides Association](#))

### **Bonefish, too**

Florida Fish and Wildlife has passed a measure outlawing fishing around a recently discovered area in Biscayne Bay when bonefish gather up before spawning. ([Bonefish and Tarpon Trust](#))

### **How good is your casting?**

Bravo to Fly Fishers International for this new website detail helping us up our fly casting skills. Check it out. ([FFI](#))

### **Sign up for this one**

This new substack column is focused on fly fishing -- new stories, conservation pieces, photo essays, and more. and you can add your two-cents here and there. ([Flylab](#))

### **This is very sad**

The same thing happened to an old high school friend of mine who went on a "bucket list" fly fishing trip to Iceland. ([Fly Lord Magazine](#))

## *Fly Fishing Quotes*

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

"Maybe your stature as a fly fisherman isn't determined by how big a trout you can catch, but by how small a trout you can catch without being disappointed."

"Scholars have long known that fishing eventually turns men into philosophers. But it is almost impossible to buy decent tackle on a philosopher's salary."

*Thanks and a tip of the Suncoast Fly Fishers' hat to the newsletter  
and our fellow fly fishers and friends at the [Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club](#).*

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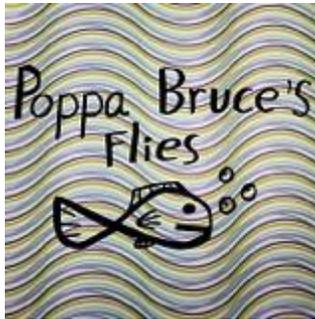
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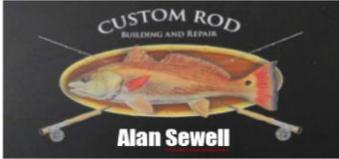


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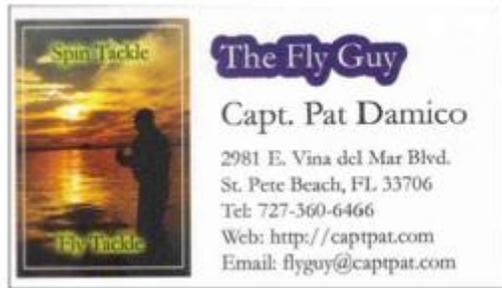


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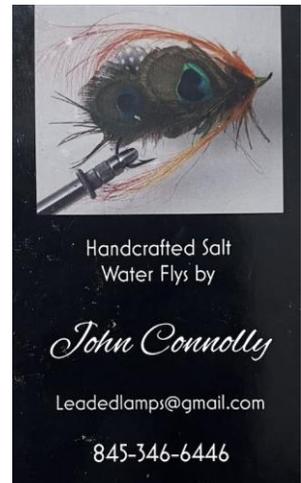
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