

# On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

Look for stupid tarpon. P6



Carl Hanson Outing P8



Big Gun Shootout P9



Carl Hanson spider P17



Nano Minnow P14



Soft Plastic "Flies"? P18



Frick 'n' Fun P11



Ken Doty Spider P17



Gill Getter P15



Suncoast Fly Fishers Poster P5



FFI Florida Expo 2026 P5



## President's Message: November 2025.



*SFF President David Redd*

We were all a new member to the club at one point, and I'm sure our experiences joining were all a little different. Each of us may have had some expectations when we joined or at least some questions about the club.

What if the club had a mentorship program to help meet new member expectations and provide some answers to their questions?

A mentorship program could foster the best possible experience for a new member for their first year with the club. The program would help increase new member retention by providing new members with a feeling of being valued and help them make connections with other members. The program would also help new members learn about Suncoast Fly Fishers' mission, our history and also our conservation efforts.

As for the mentors, experienced club members with knowledge of the club's history would prove invaluable. Casting level would not be important to the mentor roll.

So, with that being said, would you like to be a mentor? Would you like to help make new members feel welcomed and valued, help increase new member retention? If so, please contact me or talk to me at a meeting or outing. I look forward to hearing from you.

*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:

**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, John French, Bill AuCoin

**Casting:** Pat Damico, Dayle Mazzarella

**FFI Liaison:** Pat Damico

**Conservation:** Cliff Nigh

**Fly Tying:** Myron Hansen, Bruce Evensen, Bill Scarola

**Hog Roast:** Open

**Membership:** Karen Warfel

**New Members:**

**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

**Succession Plan:**

**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, November 20 Meeting, Walter Fuller Park Rec Center

- Sellers and buyers, please come to the November 20 meeting to enjoy our club's first Flea Market. Oops. Not Flea Market. FLY MARKET.
- Bring some fly gear to sell. Put a price tag on it and display it on one of the tables. And/or come with a pocketful of cash to get some great deals. You are encouraged to donate unsold item to the club for auctioning at January's Trash 'n' Treasures meeting.
- President David Redd opens the meeting at 7 but come earlier for the pizza, plus cookies and cokes, waters, and whatnots.
- And, in the back of meeting, buy some new apparel with Suncoast Fly Fishers logo. And, plop down a dollar (or 10, or 20) and get tickets for the raffle buckets.
- Also, before the meeting, practice fly casting. Bring one of your fly rods and join members practicing on the grass behind the rec center.



*Bill Scarola (l) and Brian Henderson tied flies at the October meeting. Bill tied the Nano Minnow.- Brian tied Kent's Stealth Bomber.*

### Saturday, November 22 Outing

- Fish Middle Tampa Bay between the Howard Frankland Bridge and the south end of Weedon Island Preserve.
- Measure and take pictures of your longest fish. Win a \$10 gift certificate for the longest redfish or take the lead in one of the saltwater fish categories in the annual outing trail competition.
- Lunch at noon at the Crab Shack restaurant. Members of the Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers will be fishing and having lunch with us, too. Introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.

### More meetings and outings

- December 18. No meeting
- December 20 Outing: Fort De Soto Park. Annual Outstanding Member Tribute outing. Chili cookoff. Gift certificate for the longest fish of any species caught on the fly.
- January 15 Trash 'n Treasures meeting. This is one of our big fundraisers.
- January 17 outing. Weedon Island Preserve.
- January or February: Casting clinic led by member Dayle Mazarella, an FFI Master Casting Instructor.

### Save the dates

- Christmas and Ugly Sweater Party. Saturday, December 13, 6-9 pm, St. Jerome Catholic Church in Largo. Robert and Annie Mitchell are returning as emcees.
- Hog Roast, March 28, 2026. St. Jerome Catholic Church. Our speaker is legendary fly fishing guide Steve Huff. Huff 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.

### Club Elections

- Bob Burkard chairs the nominating committee and will add two more participants. The makeup of the committee will be announced to members at the January 2026 meeting.
- At the February meeting the committee will present its slate of recommended officers and board members. Nominations from the floor are also welcomed.
- Members will vote for officers and board members at the March meeting.

*Continued on the next page*

## Meetings, Outings, and More

### 2026 FFI-Florida Council Expo

- SFF member Rick Warfel, president of FFI Florida, has announced the 2026 Expo will be at Plantation on Crystal River.
- The FFI-Florida Council represents Florida fly fishing clubs affiliated with Fly Fishers International.
- The Plantation Inn is still undergoing repairs from Hurricane Helene in 2024 so the EXPO is scheduled for November 6-7, 2026. "The Plantation Inn is undergoing major renovations and is expected to be re-branded as a Margaritaville property.
- Presenters and other EXPO details will be announced online. Go to [FFI-Florida Council](#)



*Plantation on Crystal River, location of the 2026 FFI Florida Expo.*

### National Recognition for Suncoast Fly Fishers

- This year FFI Fly Fest was in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Rick Warfel, president of FFI-Florida Council, participated in an online presentation.
- The topic was what does it take to have a successful fly fishing club and Suncoast Fly Fishers was mentioned as a model for practices that are common to most successful clubs. They include monthly meetings, an online presence, monthly outings, casting clinics, community outreach, an annual banquet, and a monthly newsletter



### Our new club poster

- The club's new 11x17-inch poster has been printed and is now being displayed in several locations,
- Posters are being delivered for display at sportfishing retailers including Tailwaters, St. Pete Fishing Outfitters, Bill Jackson's Shop for Adventure, BarFly Restaurant, Tampa Fishing Outfitters, Bass Pro Shops, Sportsman's Warehouse, Academy Sports, and Gator Jims.
- Thanks to Bill Scarola for putting this poster together and getting them displayed in local businesses."

### Membership vote on SFF scholarship, Mayfly Project

- The board has approved to fund a \$2,000 scholarship for a participant in the Marine Science program at USF
- A second motion was made and approved by the board to donate \$900 to the Mayfly Project in support of their 2026 program. Members will vote on this donation at the November meeting.
- These donations are made possible by the proceeds of the SFF Lady Fly Tournament. Thanks to tournament director Samantha Tallyn and all of the volunteers, sponsors, and participants.

### Fly Fish Southwest Florida

- SFF member Tim Elms is one of the presenters at Fly Fish Southwest Florida in Ft. Myers on December 6. Tim has become a star at finding and catching juvenile tarpon on the fly.
- He has arranged for a \$10 discount for SFF members. [Go here](#) and use the coupon code: tampabay (lower case).

### Judith Gadacz funeral service 11:30 am, Nov. 20

- The wife of Tom Gadacz, former SFF president, died recently. A funeral service will be held at 11:30 am on November 20 at Our Lady's Chapel at St. Jude Cathedral in St. Petersburg.

## Tarpon Hunter Jeff Harrell Really Likes Stupid Fish



Tarpon Hunter Jeff Harrell, founding owner of BarFly restaurants, has a tarpon addiction.

Jeff Harrell is a tarpon hunter. Big poons. Juvies. Whatever. He even has a tarpon tattoo.

Jeff jumps on planes and flies to Belize, Caymans, Keys. And even when his schedule keeps him close to home he jumps on the bow of a guide's boat and sight fishes for them in Tampa Bay and nearshore Gulf of Mexico.

And he's quite successful, as a matter of fact.

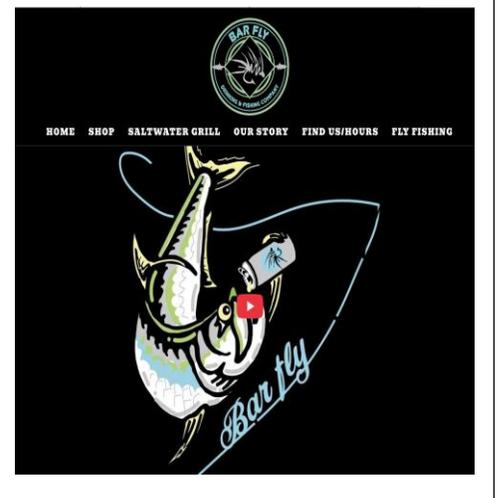
Jeff is also a successful restaurateur, owner of BarFly restaurant in Safety Harbor. *Slogan: The only fly fishing bar in the world.* You can eat and drink and browse his artwork and fly fishing apparel. He started it 13 years ago. And recently opened BarFly number two in Palm Harbor.

Jeff was our October meeting speaker.

He did acknowledge that catching a

big permit was a big deal -- and he has caught big permit -- but he is really addicted to those high-flying gamefish with "big eyeballs and bucket mouths." Tarpon, of course.

So, everybody, get 'em to the boat quickly, revive them, and let them live to fight another day. About 11 years ago Jeff started the "Poonfecta," a tournament to raise money to protect juvenile tarpon habitat in the Tampa Bay estuary and the entire state. The tournament is now run by [Tampa Bay Waterkeeper](#).



Jeff's smart phone has a reminder about catching tarpon. (Warning: Some content is not suitable for minors.)

Jeff shared some of his how-to insights into catching tarpon, big and small.

- Look for stupid fish. When you're sight-fishing and you see a tarpon that has wandered away from the pod, you're looking at a stupid fish.
- Look for happy fish. These are slow-rolling fish that stay close to the surface. Plop a gurgler over there.
- However, when you don't see stupid, happy tarpon switch to subsurface flies. Throw big flies to entice big tarpon and throw little versions of the same flies to entice little tarpon. Jeff's go-to fly rod for little tarpon is the 8-weight.
- By the way, the smartest tarpon are in the Florida Keys. And, as Jeff reminds us, Andy Mill is the world champion at catching smart tarpon.
- Sometimes tarpon migrate on the Gulf side of the barrier islands; sometimes they'll switch to the inside. It's important that you know where the barrier islands are

changing over time. Storms often create new inlets and close up old ones.

- Find your lane. Pods of migrating tarpon tend to be in one lane for part of the day but then they disappear. When you stop seeing them, it usually means the tarpon have moved to another "lane."
- Fish with a guide. They are on the water every day and know the tarpon migrating patterns.

###

Bill AuCoin, editor

## Bob Burkard: November 22 Middle Tampa Bay Outing



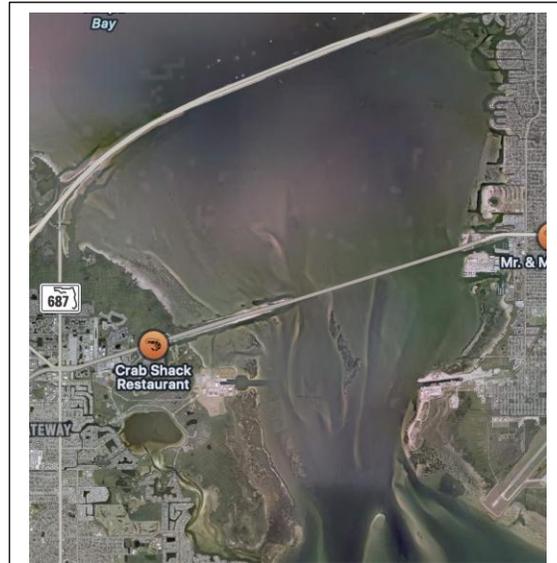
*Bob Burkard,  
meetings-outings  
committee chair*

We're back on the Tampa Bay flats for the November 22 outing. And we've got some company: like-minded friends from the [Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers](#). And they'll be joining us for lunch at noon at the Crab Shack, too.

If you're fishing for long fish to enter into the outing tournament or the Annual Tournament Trail contest then be sure you catch your fish in Middle Tampa Bay between the Howard Frankland Bridge and the bottom of Weedon Island Preserve. The longest redfish wins the November outing prize. Measure and take a picture of your longest fish.



*There are grass flats on either side of Gandy Boulevard with multiple wade-in and kayak launch spots. For wade fishers there's a trail through the mangroves on the north side of Gandy Blvd where the water meets the mainland. (Apple Maps)*



*Fish middle Tampa Bay between the Howard Frankland Bridge on the north and the bottom of Weedon Island Preserve on the South. Meet up at noon at the Crab Shack restaurant. (Apple Maps)*

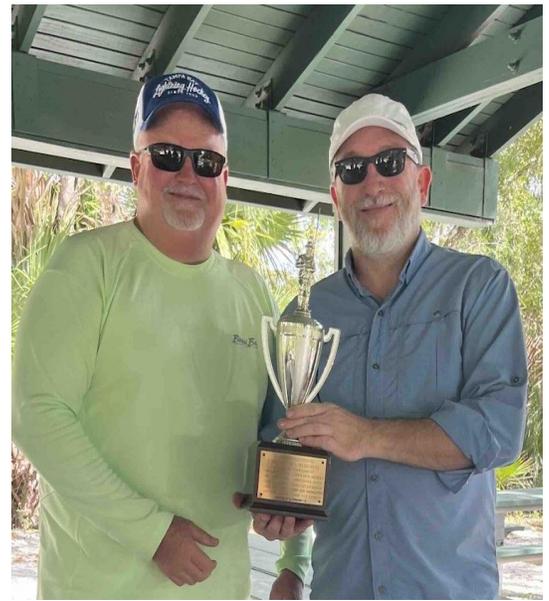
### *Leaders on the 2025 Outing Tournament Trail*

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

## October's Carl Hanson Memorial on the Hillsborough River

The annual Carl Hanson Memorial Outing was held Saturday, October 18 on the Hillsborough River at Trout Creek Conservation Park north of Tampa. Ted Hagaman of the Tampa Club caught the longest bass, 16-inches.. The river delivered lots of bluegills and Brian Henderson of the Suncoast Fly Fishers gets his name engraved on the trophy for catching the most, 39.

This is a long-running, annual competition between Suncoast Fly Fishers and the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Carl belonged to both the Tampa and Suncoast clubs and he will long be remembered. Plus, the word is that the Hillsborough River near the Trout Creek Conservation Park was very special to him.



*Trophy winner Brian Henderson caught 39 bluegills on a variety of flies including a white beetle, ant fly, gill getter, and a hula popper. He caught most on an orange gill getter.*



*Ted Hagaman (l) of the Tampa club caught a 16-inch bass on a gurgler. SFF President David Redd presented him with the Carl Hanson drawing which he keeps until the next Hillsborough River competition between the two clubs.*



*Woody Miller shot this picture of Ted Hagaman fishing the beautiful Hillsborough River.*



*Ted Rich launching his kayak. Robert Fischer and Leigh West are up next.*

**Tim Elms wins TBFFC's Big Gun Shootout.  
And it's a big win for the Suncoast Fly Fishers**



*HOLD MY ROOT BEER.* The team of Joe Mahler, Tim Elms, and MJ Provencher won the Big Gun Shootout on Sunday, November 16, at Picnic Island. And, SFF member Tim Elms won the trophy for the highest individual score -- 454.

The Mahler-Elms-Provencher team earned an accuracy and distance score of 1,213 which was the total of Tim's 454, Joe's 424, and MJ's 335.

Lisa Lowman won the Ladies Trophy with a score of 360, besting four other lady casters

Four competitors cast more than 100 feet to qualify for the Long Distance competition. Lowell Bebout won that one with a final cast of 109 feet.

MJ is the first woman to be on an overall winning team and she blasted a solid 98ft cast! Thanks to the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club for another spectacular event!

**Team winners Joe, MJ, and Tim**



**Lowell and Walt**



**Lisa and Walt**

# SFF Member Tim Elms wins the Big Gun Shootout.

2025FINAL

Sheet3

2025 TROPHY WINNERS IN GREEN		TBFFC	BIG	GUN	SHOOT-OUT 2025				11/16/25			
TEAM						Max. 100				Over 100'		
Rank	Competitor	Hanson	Hoop	V-Fish	Mangrove	Accuracy	Distance	Total**	Indiv Rank	Team Name		Shoot-Out Dist
1	CARTER BEBOUT	0	0	20	0	45	60	125	23	GENERATION 3		
1	LOWELL BEBOUT	20	68	60	60	85	100	393	4	GENERATION 3	103	109
1	BOB BEBOUT	0	20	80	40	85	84	309	11	GENERATION 3		
	TEAM TOTAL							827				
2	TIM ELMS	20	84	60	100	90	100	454	1	HOLD MY ROOT BEER	107	
2	M.J. PROVENCHER	0	32	80	40	85	98	335	L-2	HOLD MY ROOT BEER		
2	JOE MAHLER	0	84	80	80	80	100	424	2	HOLD MY ROOT BEER	111	
	TEAM TOTAL							1213				
3	DON GALLO	0	44	60	40	80	75	299	12	FISH FEAR US		
3	VINCE RUGGIERO	0	84	80	60	90	87	401	3	FISH FEAR US		
3	ERNIE BLUM	20	52	80	60	85	84	381	5	FISH FEAR US		
	TEAM TOTAL							1081				
4	RICK WARFEL	0	72	40	60	40	66	278	14	TEAM FORE		
4	SCOTT RUSSELL	0	80	20	20	80	77	277	15	TEAM FORE		
4	JAMES DAVIS	0	100	40	40	85	79	344	7	TEAM FORE		
	TEAM TOTAL							899				
5	LEIGH WEST	0	72	60	60	65	100	357	6	WISHING TO BE FISHING	110	
5	JAMIE BIGELOW	0	16	80	80	65	87	328	8	WISHING TO BE FISHING		
5	WILL KLAUS	0	32	60	40	20	73	225	20	WISHING TO BE FISHING		
	TEAM TOTAL							910				
6	RICH MCGEE	20	8	60	20	60	90	258	19	CAST OFFS		
6	COLIN TOWNSEND	20	8	60	60	45	78	271	17	CAST OFFS		
6	LOU BRUNO	0	16	80	60	80	88	324	9	CAST OFFS		
	TEAM TOTAL							853				
7	TED HAGAMAN	0	32	40	40	80	83	275		THE HOME TEAM		
7	WALT DURKIN	0	68	60	40	80	70	318	10	THE HOME TEAM		
7	ROBERT FISCHER	20	4	60	60	60	90	294	13	THE HOME TEAM		
	TEAM TOTAL							887				
8	TORIN BRADT	0	0	40	20	60	52	172	22	DFL		
8	PATTI ANDERSON	0	4	20	40	40	73	177	L-4	DFL		
8	DENISE BRUNER	0	52	40	40	40	82	254	L-3	DFL		
	TEAM TOTAL							603				
9	LISA LOWMAN	0	76	60	60	80	84	360	L-1	LADY FISH		
9	ABBY GAMBREL	0	0	20	0	0	43	63	L-5	LADY FISH		
9								0				
	TEAM TOTAL							423				
10	BOBBY LACHTARA	0	56	40	40	60	74	270	18	LAST CHANCE		
10	JIM HUMPHREYS	0	8	20	40	45	70	183	21	LAST CHANCE		
10								0				
	TEAM TOTAL							453				

\* Note: Maximum score on distance is 100, contestants scored as 100\* above may have cast more than 100 ft, and qualified for the shoot-out finals

\*\* Maximum possible individual score was 600

## Mike Frick: Fishing with friends for a good cause

*Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby is 80 years old. How was the fishing? "In a word, TOUGH."*

I recently returned from our fall trip to Martha's Vineyard, my corner of heaven on earth. Each spring we head up to MV to open the house and then repeat the trip to close it down come late October.

Fall is the best time of the year to be on the Vineyard. Every September, after the summer crowds have departed and travelling becomes more manageable, Martha's Vineyard comes alive for five weeks to host the [MV Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby](#).

This was the 80th year for "The Derby", one of the premier fishing events in the Northeast. With over 3000 entries The Derby continues to attract fisher folks from up and down the east coast as well as all points west.

Here are a few highlights: Three fish are included - Bluefish, Bonita, and False Albacore (Albies). Striped Bass were removed from the Derby several years ago in order to protect the species

1. You can enter as "All Tackle" or "Flyrod". All Tackle will also cover Flyrod entries. However if you opt for the specific flyrod entry that is a category unto itself.
2. Biggest fish of the three species off shore and the same for off a boat.
3. Each of the above entries gets a key, one of which unlocks a 22-foot boat.

There are Daily/Weekly/Special prizes as well totaling several hundred thousand dollars, and as you will see, the entry fees are very reasonable. They also hold a silent auction as well to raise money for the primary benefit item: college Scholarships for Island kids

So, "How was the fishing" you might ask? In a word: TOUGH !

The first two weeks of The Derby gave us Sunshine, cloudless skies, 75 degrees, light winds and no water cool down which we usually see to pull the fish in. Bait was thick, but the fish were not. We usually fish "Moving Water" with an emphasis on incoming tides, but this year the Outgoing tides produced better results. White and Pink were the primary colors early on, with pink fading in favor of Green in the latter weeks.

We landed several Bonita which if you have never caught one on a fly, you are missing a fun, fast fighter. Blues were hard to come by during the first two weeks, as were albies, and we were out an average of seven to eight hours a day with little to show for our efforts.

Week three saw a Nor'easter without the clouds and rain blow in with 40 MPH winds. The seas were rough but the fish came in. Once everything calmed down for a couple of days, the bite was on! Big albies were prevalent (10 to 15 lbs) and bonita were plentiful, mostly in the 4 to 6 pound range. Blues were finicky for flyrodders, but striped bass, even though they were not included, were out in force to make sure you did not forget about them.



*Mike Frick, a new member of the Suncoast Fly Fishers, with a bonita he caught fishing the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby.*

## P2/Mike Frick: Fishing Friends, Fun, and a ... Nor'easter



*Some of Mike's fishing buddies including Dan, Gary, David, Mark, Scottie, and Charles.*

After three days of fishing bliss, another Nor'Easter came in, this time complete with the rain, wind gusts up to 60 MPH for three days. The last two weeks of The Derby had 25 MPH winds with 30 to 40 mph gusts.

Now you can understand why I said fishing was tough!

Undeterred, we fished every day, and landed some nice ones. I got a 31" Striper in 6 ft seas off the shore and 30 MPH winds, but the most impressive fish came from the Albie category (IMO). It was a monster, around 14 lbs, landed by one of my flyrod buddies, Dan from Boston. It stripped him within about 20 yards of the end of his backing, but he was able to land it,

take pictures and decided we needed more big Albies so he threw it back! He gave up a Flyrod Category potential winner!

The most important aspect of The Derby is the scholarships it provides for Island kids. In addition to the \$100's of Thousands of dollars in prizes provided to participants, the scholarships provided allow these kids to pursue their dreams off island. Not everyone who lives on the Vineyard is a millionaire. There is a homeless problem on the island as well. To help combat those issues, when a fish is entered, the filets are donated to the local food banks to help feed the hungry. They also do Drug Awareness, yet another plague that hits the Cape, Nantucket and MV hard in the off season.

We were also invited to a Fund Raiser on Chappaquiddick at the home of the owner of Kismet Outfitters, Abbie Schuster. They raised several thousand dollars for "Casting for Recovery", a group who works with women who have breast cancer, teaching them to fly fish. As a bonus, "The 2 Joe's" , Joe Calcavecchia and Joe Cordeiro did a fly tying session at Kismet attended by about 30 folks.

All in all, my group of Fly Fishing Friends who we all randomly met on the beaches, fishing over the last several years, had a great time for the 5 weeks of The Derby. We laughed, ate over 300 oysters I caught in the Great Pond, had a few drinks, and told a bundle of great fish stories: some true; some not.



*Often the best bite is at sunrise and sunset*

There is Dan (Money Manager, Boston), Gary (Fly fishing guide from Colorado), David (Islander retired Teacher), Mark (Ad Exec, and Trout Unlimited Mid Hudson Chapter President), Scottie (Print Exec and East Coast Surfer Hall of Fame inductee this January !) and Charles (we have no idea what he does or did, but he was there at our fishing spots everyday so we adopted him into the group).

Fun, Friendship, Camaraderie, and raising money for a good cause. That's what The Derby is all about, and we will work to make certain it remains that way for many years to come.

*Mike*

## Wes and Samantha Tallyn: Bonefish and Triggerfish in Belize



Samantha Tallyn with an on-the-fly Belize triggerfish.



This is one of many bonefish that Wes caught on the Belize flats.

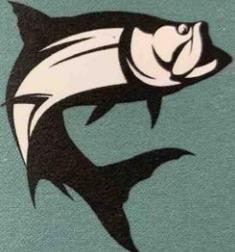
Samantha and I just got back from Belize. Sam caught her first triggerfish on a fly and I caught some nice bonefish!

*Wes*

**Fly Fishing Charters** St. Petersburg/Tampa Bay

Captain Andy Austin  
 Phone: 954-821-1390  
 Email: andyaustin519@gmail.com  
 Website: andysfishingcharters.com

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Captain Andy Austin

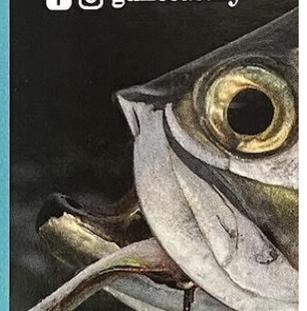
**USCG Licensed**

**Capt. Brad Lowman**  
 lowmansluckyfly@gmail.com  
 727.484.0065

**Capt. Matt Foster**  
 matthewfoster91@gmail.com  
 813.765.2932

Give us a Follow!

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Capt. Matt Foster

*Bruce Evensen / Bill Scarola Host Monday Fly-Tying Classes Open to All*

## **Bill Scarola: Nano Minnow**



*Bruce Evensen*

*Bill Scarola led fly tyers through the steps tying his Nano Minnow at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio on Monday, October 27.*

*SFF members and guests are welcome to come and tie flies every Monday starting at 6 pm. Come early to get a good seat. No charge.*

*Bruce's studio is next to his house at 531 80th Ave. N. St. Pete. Materials and vises are available if you need them.*



*Bill Scarola*

### **MATERIALS:**

Hooks: circle hooks sizes 1-2. plus

smaller ones if you wish to add a stinger Note I also tied one with a long shank hook. Your option, of course.

Thread: Red flat waxed.

Eyes: 4- 6 mm stick-ons.

Glue: UV epoxy.

Body (materials vary): Flashabou in various colors.

Peacock herl. Mylar tinsel in pearl or crystal flash,

and/or Peacock Flash.. (The top right fly has this material.) The best and easiest materials to apply to the

inside of the fly are ones that lie straight and flat as the pattern calls for material only applied to the middle of the sticky side. This allows the tape to close at the bottom.

Body tape: This tape is double-sided and very sticky so you may want to cover one side with Saran Wrap. Other materials might work for the outside of the fly.



### **STEPS**

1. Wrap thread from hook eye to about half way up the shank.
2. Option, with your scissors, trim the tape into a bait fish pattern. Leave a small tab at the head of the tape. You can skip trimming until after you finish applying the tape.
3. Peel off the plastic material exposing the sticky side., Lay it flat and place Saran Wrap side down.
4. Add several strips of whatever material you choose to use **ONLY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TAPE**.
5. Place tape and material over the center of the hook shank and fold it down so both sides stick together. be careful not to cover the hook gap. You can trim tape to expose the hook more. I angled the hook shank slightly downward with the circle hooks.
6. Wrap the tape at the tab that should be just behind the hook eye. Build up a small tapered head.
7. Attach your eyes so they are even on each side and apply UV epoxy to them and to the thread.
8. Now you can trim the tape into a bait fish pattern if you didn't do that earlier.
9. If you use a stinger hook, I suggest you use 30-50 lb. test line. Attach and glue the stinger hook leaving several inches of line to attach to the front hook. This step must be done before applying your tape to the hook. Measure the length of the tape to determine how long it's needed to just stick out of the tail of the tape (aka fish body.) I wrap several layers of thread to each hook and super-glue it for added strength. Allow super glue to dry before applying the tape.

###

*Bruce Evensen and Bill Scarola Host Monday Fly-Tying Classes Open to All*  
**Brian Henderson: Gill Getter**



*Bruce Evensen*

*Brian Henderson led fly tyers through the steps tying his Gill Getter at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio on Monday, November 10. The GILL GETTER is a buggy looking freshwater fly for catching panfish including oscar and cichlids in Florida canals. (Bill Scarola)*

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*Bruce's studio is next to his house at 531 80th Ave. N. St. Pete. Materials and vises are available if you need them*



*Bill Scarola*

**Materials**

- Hook- # 6 to 8 nymph style 1x long, or streamer hooks.
- Thread- color to match body material color.
- Weight- light .15 or .20 lead or tungsten wrap
- Tail and wing case- Moose, elk or bucktail in dark or natural colors. this should be a darker material.
- Body- medium ultra chenille, your choice of colors, ex. white, yellow, cream, chartreuse, etc.
- Legs- round rubber legs, white or black
- Glue- head cement and U V epoxy



*Gill Getter*

**How to:**

1. Wrap hook with thread from eye to bend.
2. Add 4- 6 lead wraps in the center of the shank for balance
3. Attach a piece of moose, elk, or bucktail as a tail piece,(half inch length for a tail) just in front of the bend. and leave the longer strands intact, bending them up out of the way. These will be brought forward later to form the wing case.
4. Starting at the bend, add a piece of chenille and then bring your thread forward, begin to palmer it forward, toward the eye. As you bring the chenille forward insert TWO rubber legs on one side then the other, adding a few thread wraps to secure the legs. Be sure to note the position of the legs in the middle of the fly body. Also be sure to leave 1/16 of an inch of space behind the hook eye to tie off the wing case at the hook eye. Or you can attach the legs first on EACH side then palmer the chenille forward, enclosing the wraps, then tie it off.
5. Bring the wing case material forward on top of the chenille and tie off just behind the hook eye. and clip the Remaining fibers. Option: apply UV epoxy to the wing case to give it a glossy look.
6. Add a drop of glue or epoxy to the thread wraps and wing case, as in the 'option' above.

###

## Brian Henderson: Kent's Stealth Bomber

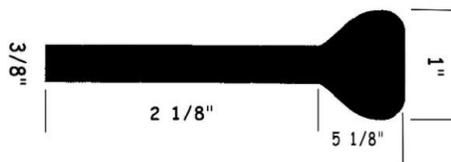


Brian Henderson shows off Kent's Stealth Bomber.

### Kent Edmonds' Stealth Bomber – Tying Instructions

<https://www.flyfishga.com/stealth.htm>

[https://www.flyfishga.com/am\\_angler\\_shoal\\_bass.pdf](https://www.flyfishga.com/am_angler_shoal_bass.pdf)



Foam pattern, measurements, can size up or down from 1/0 to

- Tail width: hook gap
- Tail length: roughly 2x the hook
- Head width (side to side): roughly 1 hook shank length
- Head length: about 1/2 to 3/4 the hook shank

Brian Henderson led fly tyers through the steps tying Kent's Stealth Bomber at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio on Monday, October 20. Brian encourages members to go to [Kent Edmond's website](#) to learn about the materials and steps and for tips on how to fish this innovative fly.

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## Carl Hanson's Bluegill Spider

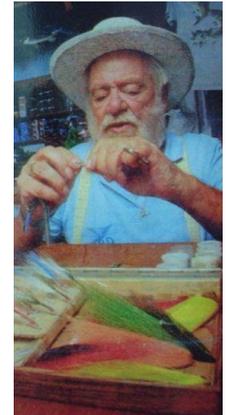


*Carl Hanson tied this spider. One day he gave a handful of them to SFF member Ted Rich, our club's unofficial keeper of the memory flame.*

Carl Hanson, one of the stars in the start-up days of Suncoast Fly Fishers, loved to fish for bluegills with his spider.

Bream bugs like Carl tied are probably the most-used and most productive on-the-surface flies. Bluegills will nose up to this floating fly and when the Sili legs twitch, they suck it in.

Did Carl Hanson ever write down directions for tying his celebrated bluegill spider? Bueller? Bueller? Anyone? Maybe. But until his directions surface let's go to the instructions left behind by



*Carl Hanson, "Lord of the Flies" died in 2005.*

Suncoast Fly Fisher Ken Doty who, like Carl, has retired to fly fishing heaven.

Below is the write-up on Doty's fly in the June 2009 issue of *On The Fly*

## Ken Doty's Bluegill Spider



*Ken Doty's white spider fly was very similar to Carl Hanson's bluegill spider.*

There's something about rubber band spiders that fascinates bluegills.

Sometimes the bluegill is all over that spider fly the minute it lands. But many times the bluegill is bit more tentative. It will nose up to the surface and watch this thing from one inch away. It's like it's hypnotized by it.

The fly angler doesn't have to move the fly. Some other unseen force will make it move or shake a rubber leg. The bluegill can't help itself. Whop! Yep, he's on.

Ken Doty is one of the best at tying the bluegill spider fly and he demonstrated the procedure at a

prior meeting.

Ken Doty makes it look easy and sound easy, too:

1. Start with a 3366 Mustad, size 10 panfish hook.
2. Lay a base of thread down the hook to the tail.
3. Add a small piece of marabou, usually yellow, for the tail.
4. Run thread halfway back to the eye of the hook
5. Pinch on a white foam disk about a half-inch wide.
6. Tie the foam disk to the hook at the midpoint of the hook.
7. Add legs on both sides.
8. Trim it up.



*Ken Doty died in 2023.*

## Bob Burkard: Fly Fishing Soft Plastics



Bob Burkard

For most of my fly-fishing life, I fished for freshwater trout, bass and sunfish/bluegills using a large variety of dry flies, nymphs, wet flies, cork poppers, and spun deer hair bass flies. I caught fish and I prided myself on tying with the most “natural” materials that I could and almost felt “dirty” when I tied a few rubber San Juan worm flies. It just felt right to me to go as traditional and natural as possible especially when I fished in clear mountain streams in the Northeast USA.

I carried this unhealthy aversion to tying with synthetic materials over to my saltwater flies when I moved to Florida and started for saltwater.

Yes, I tie gurglers and use some EP fibers on minnows. And, yes, I use epoxy, but I have mostly stuck with feathers and bucktails. I joke that Clouser Minnows are really a jig not a fly, but I still only use bucktail and some crystal flash, so it was an OK fly.

Well, I have sure changed my tune on using synthetic materials, and I am now using soft plastic flies in my Florida freshwater fishing. After hearing a lot about Mop Flies and reading more about fly fishing plastic worms I started using some soft rubber flies myself.



Bob Caught this nice bass on the Chazzahowitzka fly fishing with a soft plastic fly.

### Fly Fishing Soft Plastics

by Cal Kellogg February 1, 2023



Here's a screenshot of the top of an interesting online article on fishing soft plastics <https://calflyfisher.com/tips-and-techniques/fly-fishing-soft-plastics>

My recent experiences using soft plastic worms and small curly-tailed grubs have shown me that I can significantly improve my catching compared to flies using my traditional materials. I am not sure if this is something others in our club have experienced or it is a few one-offs.

Since one or two outings don't prove anything, I propose that in 2026 the Suncoast Fly Fishers should research this further. I think it would be fun to schedule some freshwater outings where there are competing groups, some fishing traditional flies and poppers and others fly fishing with soft plastics.

Bob

## Captain Pat Damico: Captain's Corner



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

**Subject:** Protect your gear

Fly reels in freshwater are generally thought of as a place to store fly line. It is rare that the backing is even seen. In saltwater, your first trip might include a large jack, snook, or even ladyfish that will have you into the backing in seconds. Take some necessary steps to avoid any problems that can happen very quickly.

Don't knock the reel against rocks, boat decks, hard floors, etc. Small scratches and dents expose bare metal, which will easily corrode.

On a boat, always place the rod butt (and reel) on a damp cloth, so it will not slide and scratch, or get a reel cover if not supplied with your reel. Flats boats have 6 or 8 horizontal rod holders under the gunnels that afford perfect protection for both rod and reel.

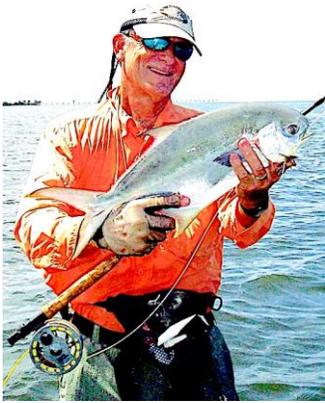
Never drop the reel in the sand, especially when stringing your rod.

When taking a picture in the water with your catch, avoid having your reel on the sandy bottom at your feet. Placing a reel in your hat if it must be on the ground is a good idea. Sand grains are very hard and can scratch the inner housing, causing damage to disk drags and even ball bearings. A ball bearing housing is made from stainless steel; the balls themselves are not. A corroded ball bearing will heat up and seize in the middle of the fight with your fish of a lifetime.

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

***Readers: for future editions, please email me your Fly Casting related questions..... Capt. Pat***

## Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



### Why didn't you see that fish?

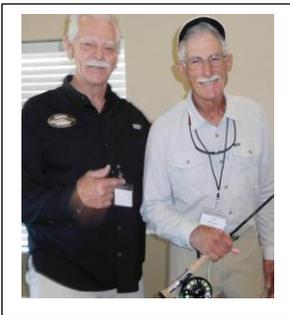
When you can see the fish you're more likely to place the fly where the fish can eat it. And you're more likely to get a good hook-set. Make the sun your friend. (Yeah, that's an easy one.) There's more in this Flylab/Kirk Deeter article. ([Substack](#))

### Spotted Seatrout are under pressure

Florida Fish and Wildlife is seeking input from fishers about its plan to include seatrout in its "adaptive holistic approach" that it uses for snook and redfish. In other words, should it have different regulations for different management regions? ([MYFWC](#))

### Stripers anyone? Georgia is calling

On the Georgia coast the striper never actually go to sea. Rather they inhabit the lower reaches of the rivers in the area where fresh and saltwater mix, while venturing into total salt areas at some seasons. Those fish can be mainly found in the Altamaha, Satilla, Ogeechee and Savannah Rivers. Among those, the Savannah and its feeder streams provide the strongest number and sizes of striped bass. ([On The Fly South](#))



### Reminder: Steve Huff is our March 2026 Hog Roast speaker

MidCurrent is calling our attention to a *Garden and Gun* magazine article by author Monte Burke about fishing in the Everglades with legendary fly fishing guide Steve Huff. Huff was the speaker at a FFI Florida Council Expo a few years ago and he was terrific. ([Midcurrent](#))

(left: Rick Warfel and Capt. Steve Huff)

### Did somebody say Monte Burke?

Monte Burke, the author of *Lords of the Fly* and many others, will be speaking at the December 11, 2025 meeting of The Sanibel FlyFishers Club. *Lords of the Fly* was named one of the best books of the year by both Field and Stream and Outdoor Life and quickly became a cult classic in the fly fishing world. ([Amazon](#))

### Orvis is closing stores

Tariffs and other factors are changing the retail business and Orvis is leading the way in this restructuring. President Simon Perkins said like many others in the retail sector, Orvis' business model underwent a significant shift due to an unprecedented tariff landscape. He said Orvis will be focusing on its core strengths to make sure the Orvis brand continues to lead in innovation, serve its customers, and protect wild places. ([MSN](#))

### Are fly tyers breaking the law?

Headline: : You are actually not allowed to keep bird feathers you find on hikes -- and it's all thanks to two women who got really mad about hats. ([Popular Science](#))

###

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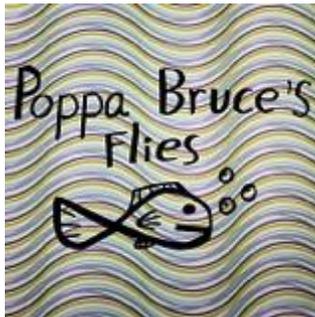


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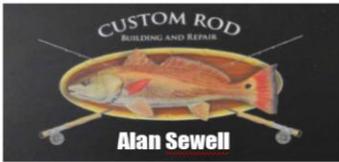
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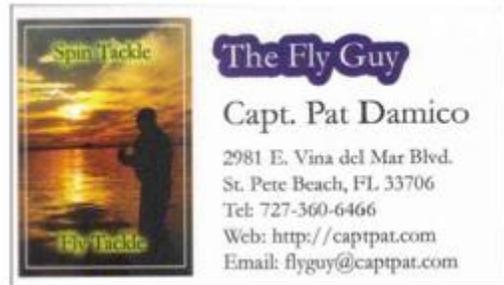
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