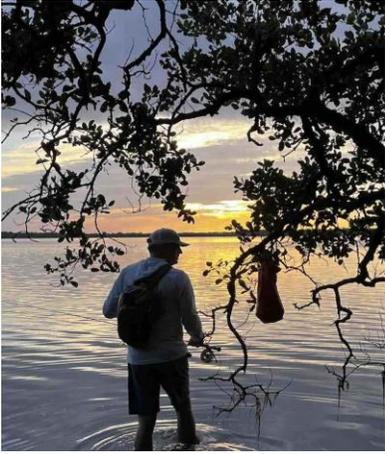


On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

Dec. 20 Ft. DeSoto Park P6
Member Tribute. Chili.
Club invitational



Dues are Due
No meeting in December
Happy Holidays
Christmas Party P8



Just one of 25+ P134



I'll take boots
for \$15 Alex P9



Catch of the month P10



Women Connecting P13



Big 'uns in Bahamas P15



Clewiston Group back to Eglades P11





SFF President David Redd

President's Message

As 2025 comes to a close, it's been another outstanding year for Suncoast Fly Fishers.

We kicked things off with our annual casting clinic, where members once again shared their knowledge and passion for fly fishing.

One of the year's highlights was teaching children in Hillsborough County how to cast a fly rod, an investment in the next generation of anglers that we all can be proud of.

We had another very successful Hog Roast, which brought members together for great food, fellowship, and plenty of story-telling. One of the most enjoyed gatherings of the year.

Our Lady Fly Tournament enjoyed a very successful second year, growing in participation, enthusiasm, and energy. It's quickly becoming one of our signature events.

We're grateful that this season brought no hurricanes, allowing us to enjoy meetings, outings, and events without interruption. And we wrapped up the year in true Suncoast style, with another warm, fun, and memorable Christmas party surrounded by friends, stories, and good cheer.

2025 was filled with community, learning, service and plenty of time on the water. Here's to an even better 2026!

Wishing you and your families the warmest holiday blessings,

David

We are Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

Aims and Purposes

The Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. (SFF) is an organization of fishing enthusiasts who love fishing with the fly rod. We welcome all people of all ages with similar interests, regardless of their fly-fishing skill level. We enthusiastically teach those that wish to learn or improve their fly casting, fly tying and related fly-fishing skills. SFF meets monthly where we talk fly fishing, tie flies and most months feature a speaker with a program highlighting local fly-fishing opportunities.

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization. SFF is a charter member of the Fly Fishers International (FFI). SFF is a member of the Florida Council of FFI. SFF supports the conservation of natural resources, boating safety and fishing regulations.

Monthly Meetings. Guests welcome.

Third Thursday of every month (except December) at St. Pete's Walter Fuller Park Rec Center, 7891 26th Ave. N. 6 to 8:30 pm.

Directions to our meeting at Walter Fuller Park.

From 22nd Avenue N turn North on 72nd St. N. Turn left (West) on 26th Avenue N. Then turn right into the rec center parking lot.

Monthly Outings

Club members meet up every month for a fly-fishing outing and lunch. Usually it is scheduled on the Saturday after the monthly meeting on the third Thursday of every month.

Contact us by mail: Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40821, St Petersburg, FL 33743-0821

Visit our website and Facebook pages, too

SuncoastFlyFishers.com

[Monthly Calendar](#)

[Facebook.com/scff2020](https://www.facebook.com/scff2020)

Online Pay Portal: Pay dues, donate, purchase

<https://suncoastflyfishers.com/eshop/>

Membership. Welcome new members: Cameron Mercatos

Our club now has 112 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

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, Abby Gambrel, 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

No club meeting in December

How to join or renew your membership in Suncoast Fly Fishers

- Dues for 2026 are due. Annual membership is \$50 (\$40 for seniors) and \$60 for families.
- Dues includes benefits and annual membership in [Fly Fishers International](#) and the [Florida Council](#) of Fly Fishers International.
- The easiest way to pay is by credit card on the [ESHOP](#) section of the SFF website.
- You can pay by credit card by phoning Treasurer Karen Warfel at 813-505-3162.
- Dues can also be paid via cash, check or credit card at any club meeting, outing or event. or by mailing a check to SFF, PO Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743.



Saturday, December 20, Member Tribute/Chili Cookoff/visiting club invitational Outing at Fort DeSoto Park

- Annual Outstanding Member Tributes. This year we honor former president Ken Hofmeister (RIP) and a co-founding club member, Robert Fischer.
- Chili cookoff and picnic at noon at Pavilion #13 on East Beach Picnic Area.
- Each year SFF invites members of other fly clubs to join us including Mangrove Coast (Sarasota), TBFFC (Tampa Bay), and Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers.
- Gift certificate will be awarded to the member catching the longest fish of any species.

More meetings and outings

- January 15 Trash 'n Treasures meeting. This is one of our big fundraisers. Donate gear you no longer use for the auction. Proceeds go to the club.
- January 17 outing. Weedon Island Preserve. Lunch, TBD. We may meet up at a nearby restaurant.
- January 24: Casting Clinic. Led by Dayle Mazzarella, SFF member and FFI Master Casting Instructor. This will also be an opportunity for members to earn their bronze award in FFI's new Fly Casting Education Program.
- February 21 outing: Cypress Point Park, Tampa.

Save the dates

- 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.
- November 6-7, 2026. FFI Florida Council 2026 Expo at Plantation on Crystal River

Can you hear me now?

- The board of directors has approved purchase of a new sound system and microphones so members can better hear meeting speakers.



Steve Huff, IGFA Hall of Famer

Meetings, Outings, and More

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.
- New officers and board members will take office on April 1.



SFF poster on the wall at Bellaire Bait & Tackle

Our new club poster

- The club's new 11x17-inch poster has been printed and is now being displayed in several locations. The goal is to inform and encourage more fishers to join the club.
- Posters are being delivered for display at sportfishing retailers including Bellaire Bait & Tackle, 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.

Club Scholarships and sponsorships

- Suncoast Fly Fishers have approved a \$2,000 scholarship for a new student in the Marine Science program at University of South Florida in St. Petersburg.
- The board and members have also approved a club donation of \$900 to the Mayfly Project in support of their 2026 program to teach fly fishing to teens in foster care. Every spring, for five Saturdays, fly fishing mentors work one-on-one with the foster children.
- SFF also donated \$500 to Tampa Bay Waterkeeper to support their efforts to improve, protect and preserve Tampa Bay's watershed.
- All donations are made possible from proceeds of the new Suncoast Fly Fishers Lady Fly Tournament. Thanks to tournament director Samantha Tallyn and all of the volunteers, sponsors, and participants.

###

Saturday, December 20 at Fort DeSoto Park Member Tribute -Chili Cookoff - Club Invitational Outing

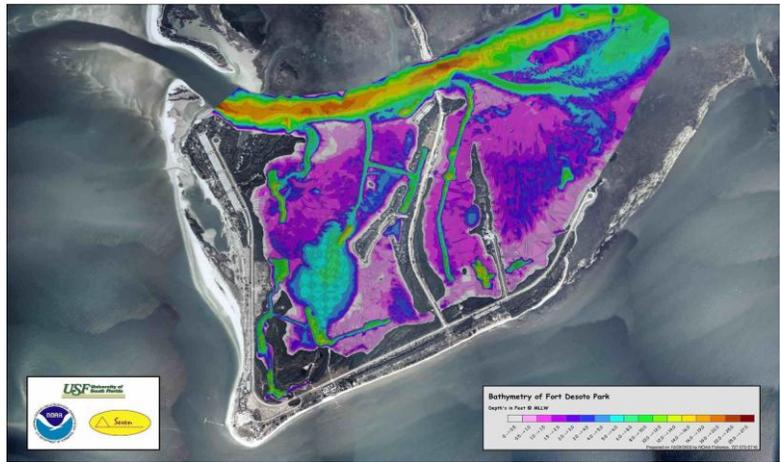


Bob Burkard, meetings-outings committee chair

Our December 20 outing at Fort DeSoto Park is always our club's most popular outing of the year. Fishing can be very good at FDP. There are lots of wade-in and kayak launching spots. We meet for a picnic at noon

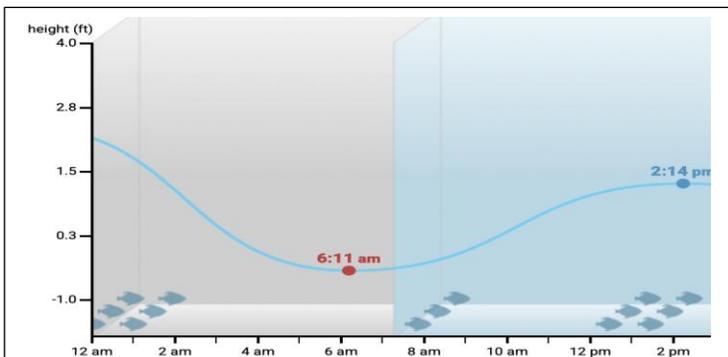
and slurp chili and let our taste buds vote for the winner. We also welcome members of the Tampa, Sarasota, and Tarpon Coast fly clubs.

We used to call this the Don Coleman Outing, a tribute to a long time member who wrote the booklet all members receive: *Wading the Saltwater Flats with a Fly Rod*. Now it is officially the *Suncoast Fly Fishers Member Tribute* outing. We identify and express our thanks to two members who have helped make Suncoast Fly Fishers a success for so many years. This year we honor Ken Hofmeister and Robert Fischer. Last year we honored fly tyer Layne (Smitty) Smith (RIP) and Alan Sewell. Alan shared about how he and Smitty and others helped start Suncoast Fly Fishers. Our website has more. [Go here.](#)



Fort DeSoto Park image showing depths in colors. Take note of a few orange-red colored spots, deep holes made by WWII bombing practice.

- FDP opens at 7 am but you can park and fish earlier from the boat ramp parking area. You'll need a credit card to pay for parking.
- Meet up at noon at Pavilion # 13 at East Beach Picnic Area. Here's a [link to the park map](#)
- Member catching the longest fish of any species wins the outing prize.
- This is also the last outing and last chance of the year to win one or more of the annual tournament trail longest fish categories.



We'll have a nice incoming tide. Negative low tide bottoms out shortly after 6 am. (Tides4Fishing)



Snook caught at North Beach on Fort DeSoto Park

Continued on next page

SFF Member Tribute 2025: Ken Hofmeister and Robert Fischer



Ken Hofmeister fished (from a wheelchair) one last time with his friend Al Pitcher. "Through Ken I came to know the true meaning of friendship, his love for all things fishing, and most of all the man," said Al Pitcher, his close friend and fellow fly fisher.

This year at the December outing at Fort DeSoto Park we are honoring Robert Fisher and Ken Hofmeister (RIP) with the Suncoast Fly Fishers Member Tribute.

Robert is one of the founding members and has stayed active in the club from the very beginning. He's served as Vice-President, joined us at countless meetings and outings, and has always been someone the club can rely on. He has also been a member of CCA for more than 30 years.

Robert's steady involvement and support have helped shape this club into what it is today. We are grateful for everything he has given to the Suncoast Fly Fishers.



Robert Fischer with a big bonefish, one of his favorites. He was a co-founder of Suncoast Fly Fishers.



Ken Hofmeister at USF Marine Quest helping a future fly fisher tie her first fly.

This year our members also honor a long time member and former club president Ken Hofmeister. Ken died in 2018 after a long battle with multiple myeloma cancer.

Ken also served as secretary for the Florida Council of FFI. In addition, Ken donated his time to teach fly tying to veterans through Project Healing Waters and helped boys and girls tie their first fly at University of South Florida's annual Marine Quest event. He taught *introduction to Fly Fishing* classes at the former Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing.

###



Robert Fischer teaching fly casting to a future fly fisher.

Bill AuCoin: Christmas Party 2025

It's a tradition. Our annual Christmas Party, that is. And, as you suspected, some merchandise was stolen. But in a good way.

Yeah, we're talking about the White Elephant Gift Exchange. If you don't like the gift you opened you get to steal one that was opened earlier. You know the thing.

Anyway, it was all in good fun. The Dec. 13, 2025 party was held at St. Jerome Catholic Church in Largo. The only "complaint" was that there was too much food. Everybody got to take home leftovers. Delicious!

Bill

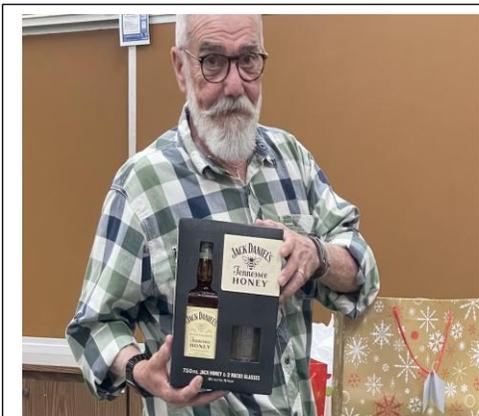


This was a "potluck" and it was delicious.



Abby Gambrel won the Ugly Sweater contest. The bulbs on her sweater actually lit up and the tree limbs had artificial flies. Alan Sewell did a great job emceeing this event and the White Elephant Gift Exchange.

<<< Cliff Nigh got some "Tennessee Honey" but it



was stolen. Greg Clark is the suspect.

>>>Somebody stole Bill AuCoin's Tee Shirt and a box of Jack Daniel's whiskey samplers. aaaarrgh.

It was all good fun.



Bill AuCoin: November "Fly Market" Meeting

Our November 20 meeting was our first kick at a *Fly Market* in which members could display and sell fly fishing gear and flies. Everybody enjoyed browsing the goodies and some got some darn good deals. And members also got to gorge on free pizza.

Fly gear sellers were Bruce Evensen, Bill Scarola, and Kevin Kelly. Bruce sold beautiful flies in fly boxes. Bill sold rods, reels, fly line, and much more. Some of the gear was his and some belonged to former member Ray Smith who died in early 2025.



Fits great. Mike Nolan got a new pair of Simms wading boots for only \$15. Abby Gambrel did, too.

Bill AuCoin paid only \$10 for a brand new Columbia fly vest sold by Kevin Kelly. Mike Nolan and Abby Gambrel each paid only \$15 for Simms wading boots.



Looks like Rick Warfel wants to buy another pocket knife.



Robert Mitchell Jr., our youngest club member, strolled around but didn't buy anything this time.



Bruce Evensen sold his beautiful flies.



Capt. Ray Markham came dressed for the occasion.

Bob Burkard: November 22 Middle Tampa Bay Outing



Bob Burkard,
meetings-outings
committee chair

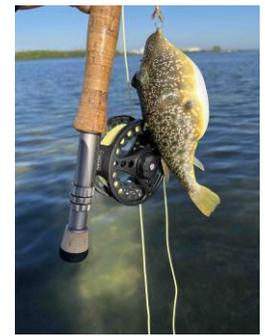
Middle Tampa Bay was the location of our November 22 outing. There was a little communication mix-up about the longest fish award. Was it for the longest redfish as was stated in the newsletter? Or was it for the longest ladyfish as we stated in the 2025 outing list?

Easy fix: We have officially declared two winners for the longest fish gift certificate. One goes to Rick Warfel who caught an 21.5-inch ladyfish wade fishing a rust-over-black Clouser in Riviera Bay and he also takes the lead in the annual tournament trail. And the other \$10 gift certificate goes to Tony Piazza who caught a 12-inch redfish fishing from his kayak in Snug Harbor.

A dozen or so members met up at noon at the Crab Shack restaurant



Our outing "picnic" was at the Crab Shack restaurant on Gandy Blvd. Left side, front to back: Samantha Tallyn, Wes Tallyn, Tony Piazza, Bill AuCoin, Dennis Mincher, Karen Warfel. Right side: Bruce Evensen, John French, Jack Collins, Kevin Kelly, Ted Rich, and Rick Warfel.



Puffer was not the designated species.

for lunch and gave their reports. Some did well but generally catching was pretty slow:

Tony Piazza: One red, one jack, two seatrout, three catfish, two ladyfish, one pinfish,

Rick Warfel: Four ladyfish and one catfish.

Mike Nolan: One redfish (11") and one ladyfish.

Dennis Mincher: Two ladyfish.

Bill AuCoin: One puffer.

Andrew Norman: One puffer

Greg Clark: One puffer.

Karen Warfel: Zip. (But she did jump a couple of big fish cruising under the mangroves.)

John French. Zero.

Jack Collins: Nope.

Kevin Kelly: Nuttin.

Bob

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 | Rick Warfel | 21.5-inches | Middle Tampa Bay (November) |

Truk Trukenbrod: November Eglades Trip

The Clewiston crew challenged the cold weather and found victory in November. And they ate heartily. We're talking about Bruce Evensen, Tony Piazza, David Redd, Woody Miller, Gary Sundberg, Jack Collins, Dennis Mincher, Brian Henderson, Tom DeBela, and yours truly.



Truk and his 17-inch bass.

We headquartered again at the Roland and Mary Ann Martin Resort in Clewiston and headed south on US 27 to fish. We drove to the A-1 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB), a 15,000 acre water restoration project to enhance water quality in the Everglades managed by SFWMD. Upon our entry to the property we traveled down a five-mile dusty road atop a berm to the middle area of the reservoir.

The kayaks came out of the trucks and when geared up we choose between a long canal of a very large open flat area to fish for bream, bass, cichlids, oscars, and other fish. What



This is one of Woody's oscars. They loved his Sili Leg Spiders.

we got was tough fishing. That was probably due to the cold snap from the previous days. But, we all were persistent and caught plenty of fish including some nice, good-sized bass.

My best fly was an orange woolly bugger. Mop flies did very well, also the gill getter, and spiders. Fly rods were mostly 5-weights. Woody and Gary used 3-weights, I think. There will definitely be another trip next spring.



Truk enjoying the shade and a a midday lunch in his kayak.



Truk said the team ended days around a picnic table "telling stories (exaggerations), and a few libations and then to dinner at our favorite Cuban and Mexican eateries."

Tight Lines... Truk

Mike Nolan's catch of the month



My catch of the month was a rabbit in Tanglewood Canal using a 7/0 carrot fly with a fast retrieve!

My catch of the month was a rabbit on Tanglewood Canal using a 7/0 carrot fly with a fast retrieve! Just teasing.

I'm not sure how the rabbit got into the canal. I was heading out in the kayak at first light and I heard something at the canal wall.

At first I thought it was a bird but as I got closer I saw a rabbit clinging to some oysters at the waterline. I was able to net him and get him up on the seawall. Classic catch and release so it could live to fight another day!

(Below:) I caught the 12 inch ladyfish during the November outing at the cut between Benjamin and Snake Island. I caught the small Jack off a dock on Caye Caulker, Belize.

Mike



Mike caught this jack crevalle from a dock in Belize.



Mike caught this 12-inch ladyfish during the November outing in middle Tampa Bay.

Samantha Tallyn: Flowers 'n' Flies Women Connect Workshop

Back by popular demand

Fly Fishers International Women Connect hosted their second Flowers 'N' Flies Fly Tying Workshop in late November.

We met up at House of Petals Flower Co., a florist and gift shop in Safety Harbor.



All spots filled up quickly with 15 participants, and we had a lot of first time fly tyers! Everyone had a great time and learned to tie Lefty's Deceiver.



Another fun Flowers 'n' Flies workshop. Will a fly fishing expedition be next on the schedule? Stay tuned.

Our FFI Women Connect group discussed scheduling a fly fishing outing. We would like to see an outing at the Isla Del Sol Bayway Causeway. I like fishing different areas that we normally wouldn't explore .

Samantha

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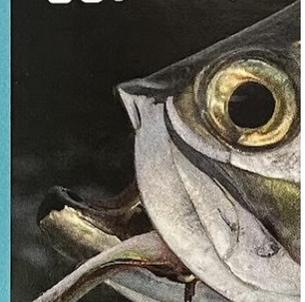
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matthewfoster91@gmail.com
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[Capt. Matt Foster](#)

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Abby Gambrel: Rainbows Galore in North Carolina



Abby and one of 25 sizeable rainbows she caught.

In mid-November, over the Veteran's Day holiday, I took a quick long weekend trip to the Cashiers area of North Carolina, taking two half-day guide trips to private waters on the West Fork of the Tuckasegee River and Caney Fork River.

The second day was after a cold front came through, so the air temp was in the upper 20s/low 30s, the water was a balmy 46, and flurries came down throughout the day, but the fish were still biting! Great success with catching some sizable rainbows—I lost count exactly, but I caught at least 25 over the two days and all put up a good fight.



The pictures are of the biggest/fattest one I caught and the fly used to catch it — a BWO nymph dropper on a chubby Chernobyl.

A variety of other setups were used over the two days with success on all of them. Mostly nymphs including Rosa pheasant tail attractor pattern, prince nymph, and rainbow warrior. I also used a stone fly caddis with different nymph droppers with success, even having multiple fish hit the stone fly rather than the nymph.

Abby

Robert Fischer: Big Bones in Andros with Leigh West



Robert with one of many bonefish he and Leigh caught in the 2 to 4-pound category.

Leigh West and I spent a week on Andros Island with some friends from Sarasota and caught many bones in the 2 to 4 pound class. Then we wanted to catch some larger ones so we hunted for big ones specifically on flats away from the crowds.

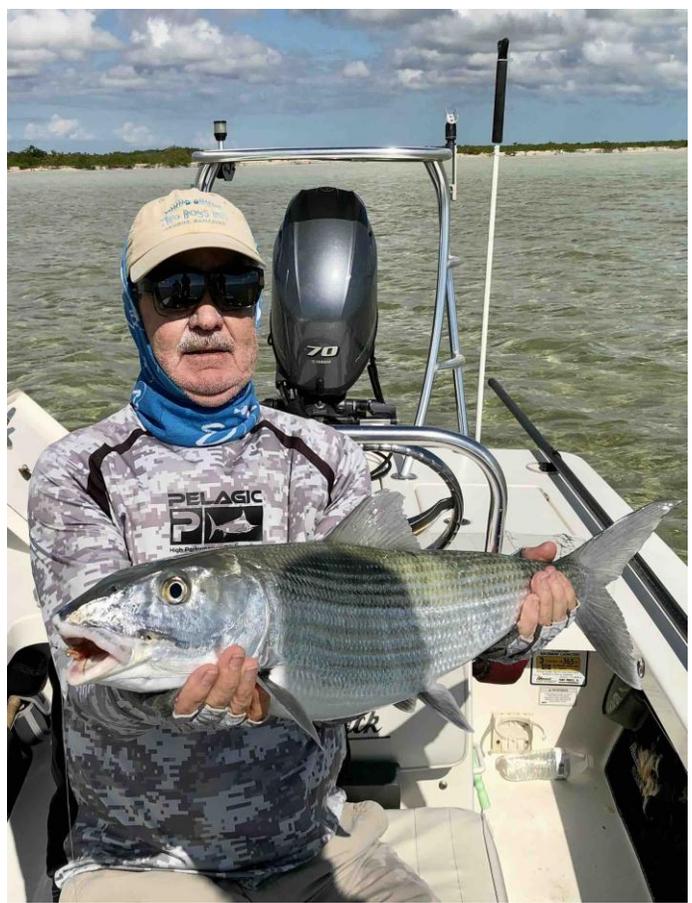
Leigh had to make an 80-foot cast to get his big bone. I was luckier; I only had a 20-foot cast. Then we both had to pull very hard to keep them away from sharks. My 7-weight rod and 12-pound tippet were maxed out.

Both fish measured 25 1/2-inches, a strange coincidence.

Robert



Leigh West of the Tampa Bay Fly fishing Club also caught a and a 25.5-inch bonefish,



Robert Fischer, a member of both SFF and TBFFC, with his big Bahama bonefish, which also measured 25.5-inches long.

Wally Vidal: My Clouser was dangling from a crab trap float



This small tripletail ate my chartreuse and hot pink Clouser as it dangled from a crab trap float.

Lucky cast!

I found this one between Blind Pass and Johns Pass, but they can be anywhere near crab trap buoys during stone crab season.

Wally

Capt. Ray Markham: Local Lake Bass on a Foam Spider

I caught this largemouth bass on a foam spider in a Pinellas County lake. It was pushing four pounds.

Ray



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Sean Pascoli: Project Healing Waters in Michigan



Oak Heart Lodge near Newaygo, Michigan.

I accompanied a Project Healing Waters trip to the Oak Heart Lodge near Newaygo, MI to fish the Muskegon and Pere Marquette rivers for three days, 5-7 November.

Big fish were landed ... big fish were lost ... but we got Steelhead, King Salmon and brown and rainbow trout into the boat during the day.

At night the veterans tied Michigan Classic flies like the Dry Skunk and regaled each other with tales of the "one that got away."

Most importantly the Marine Corps' 250th Birthday was celebrated in a beautiful ceremony at the lodge!

Sean



Tying flies and telling tales.



The subject is healing.



They fished the Muskegon and Pere Marquette rivers catching Steelhead, Rainbows, Browns, and King Salmon.

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

Bill Scarola: Lip Lettuce Fly



Bruce Evensen

Bill Scarola led fly tyers through the steps tying his Lip Lettuce fly at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio on Monday, November 24.

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

Hook: Stingers in 1,1/0, 2, or 3/407's similar sizes. Sizes 4 - 6 might also work.

Tail: Extra select craft fur, in browns and or tans, etc.

Head: a. short brush material in light brown, tan or olive.
b. lip--brown, tan and/or olive shaggy dubbing.

(Shaggy dubbing provided)

Side legs: Silly legs in brown or tan barred.

Flash: Flashabou, optional in matching colors, or gold, etc.

Eyes: Medium bead chain, optional.

Marker: Black or brown Sharpie or similar.

Glue: Super glue or similar. Epoxy optional.

Lead; Lead or tungsten wire wrap (optional) for weight. 15 or .20.



Lip Lettuce fly



Three versions of the Lip Lettuce fly

How To

1. Wrap thread from eye to bend.
2. Add several lead wraps to the shank and/or attach bead chain eyes (add approx. 3/16-inches behind hook eye.)
Add eyes Clouser style on the top of the shank so hook point rides up.
3. Add 1, 2 or 3 clumps of craft fur to fill out the body, top, and bottom of the fly. Then mark an odd number of bars with your marker.
4. Add 2 or 3 strands of Flashabou if desired and 3 silly legs to each side. Keep them as long as the craft fur.
5. Add several wraps of short brush material to form a small head up to the eyes if used. If not used, then leave a small space behind the hook eye for the shaggy dubbing. Palmer it forward starting on top of the craft fur tie in spot.
6. Either dub shaggy dubbing in front of the brush material up to the hook eye or rle in a pinch of top and under the hook shank. This forms the "lip."
7. Whip finish the fly and add a drop of glue to the thread wraps!
- 8 Then go get it wet! Fish it slow and deep alternating short and long strips of the line with short pauses in between.

###

Spoon Fly



Fly Tyers tied the Spoon Fly at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio on Monday, December 1.

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.

Bruce Evensen



Bill Scarola

Materials

Hook: 3407 or stingers, sizes 4, 6 1, or 2.

Eyes: Bead chain size to match hook size. or small barbell eyes.

Tail: EP marabou, or Steve Farrar fibers in white, yellow, et al.

Flash: Gold or silver Flashabou or tinsel.

Body: Tear-shaped from various materials such as soda cans, plastic bottles, or pre-fab tear shaped stickers.

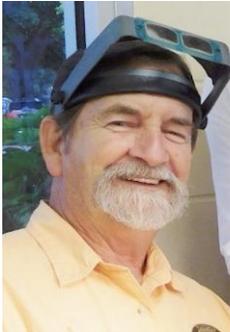
Coloring: Gold or silver glitter. Shiny tape can also work.

Glue: UV epoxy, Super Glue 7, E-6000, or similar.

Thread: Mono or flat waxed in red, white, or other colors



Bruce Evensen / Bill Scarola Host Monday Fly-Tying Classes Open to All
Jack Collins: Deep Clouser Minnow



Bruce Evensen

Jack Collins led fly tyers through the steps tying this popular fly at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio on Monday, December 8.

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

Hook: Ahrex SA 210 Bob Clouser Signature #2 or Equivalent

Thread: Danville 140 denier - Olive or equivalent

Eyes: Medium Painted Lead Dumbbell Eyes - Red

Body: Bucktail - White

Flash: Krystal Flash - Pearl

Body: Bucktail - Olive



Deep Clouser Minnow

Tying Steps

1. Attach the dumbbell eyes at the 1/4 point of the hook shank.
2. Continue to create a thread base halfway down the hook shank and return the thread to just behind the dumbbell eyes.
3. Secure 3 full strands of pearl Krystal Flash over the same thread wraps behind the dumbbell eyes. Keep all 6 strands on top of the hook shank.
4. Return the thread to just in front of the dumbbell eyes and secure a 1/4 cleaned and stacked pencil width bundle of white bucktail up to the hook eye.
5. The total fly length should be approximately 3 inches long.
6. Extend the hair over the dumbbell eyes and secure it behind the dumbbell eyes to the end of the previous thread base.
7. Invert the hook and return the tying thread to just in front of the dumbbell eyes.
8. Secure a 1/4 cleaned and stacked pencil width bundle of olive bucktail from the dumbbell eyes to the hook eye.
9. Build up a head on the fly, covering all of the hair butt ends with thread. Whip finish and rim the Krystal Flash to the length of the bucktail.

Captain Pat Damico: Protect Your Gear



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

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

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

Bill Scarola: Fishy Funnies

- A fish was arrested for swimming without a license. He eventually posted bail. "Oh, good, I'm off the hook," he said.
- What does BOAT stand for? "Bust out another thousand!"
- Do you know the difference between a hunter and fisherman?
Answer: A hunter lies in wait. A fisherman waits and lies!

Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



Snook season is closed. It closed Dec. 1 for all of Florida's west coast management zones and it closed Dec. 15 for all of Florida's East Coast management regions. Now, let's pray we don't have a severely cold winter. Snook die when the water gets too cold. Snook season will reopen in March for two months and reopen for three months in September. The bag limit is one snook per day per person. Slot limit: 28-33 inches. ([MyFwc](#))

Well, of course, why not crappie? Chris O'Byrne, a member of Suncoast Fly Fishers, bylines an article in Florida Sportsman about how to catch crappie on the fly in the winter. Indeed, he makes the point that catching crappie on the fly may be the next big thing. ([Florida Sportsman](#))

Do you know about the ADA POTATO fly? This is the fly that former president Ken Hofmeister created and the word is he named it after his granddaughter. Anyway, we should all tie some up in memory of Ken who died in 2018. And, the timing is right, because we're saluting Ken this month and at the December outing/picnic at Fort DeSoto Park. Here's a link to the Ada Potato tying instructions in the Fly Archive section of our club's website. Thanks to Truk Trukenbrod for pointing this out to me. ([Suncoast Fly Fishers](#))



Truk tied these Ada Potato flies

Bring back the bones. Florida Fish and Wildlife will be closing an area in Biscayne Bay National Park to protect a bonefish pre-spawning aggregation area. Bonefish and Tarpon Trust discovered this site, the first to be identified in Florida waters. Bonefish aggregate in this area then the school swims to deep water to spawn. ([Flylords](#))

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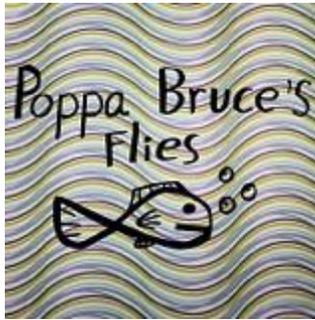


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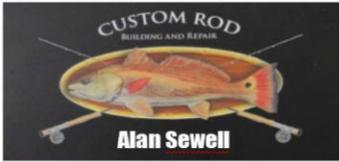


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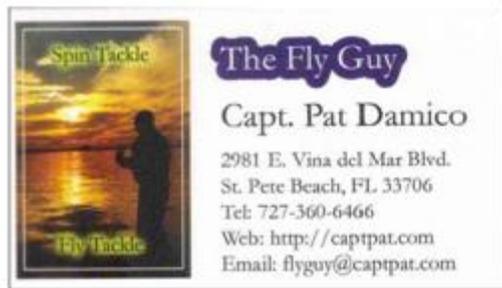


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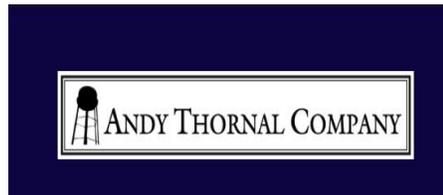
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