

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

Successful FFI Casting Clinic. P11-12



Trash 'n' Treasures P7-8



Andros Island Bones P14



Peacocks in Brazil P13



Cypress Point Park Redfish P9



Black Nose Dace P15



Electric Chicken P16



Easy to "tie" fly P6





SFF President David Redd

President's Message -- February 2026

I first want to thank everyone who helped with the casting clinic the club held in January. Dayle Mazzarella and Tim Elms spent a great deal of time planning and setting up for the event, which was a great success.

Also, thank you to all the casting instructors who helped man the various casting stations and to Rick Warfel for manning the registration table. But a huge shout-out goes to club member Simon De Gagne who generously provided lunch for the 40 or so people who attended. Thank you Simon!

One of the goals of this clinic is to be able to easily replicate the clinic format so it can be used by other clubs and the Florida Council of FFI at regional events. Thanks again to Dayle who is still working on the details.

Get your tickets for the Hog Roast, it's going to be here soon. So mark your calendar for March 28th. Food, raffles, silent auctions and our guest speaker, Steve Huff. Steve is a legendary guide from the Florida Keys and a member of the IGFA Hall of Fame. Cliff Nigh has graciously donated a 7wt bamboo fly rod to be raffled off at the banquet, so be sure to get your raffle tickets for a chance to win this beautiful hand-made bamboo rod. The Hog Roast will be held at St. Jerome's Catholic Church in Largo.

If you haven't done so already, please renew your membership. Renewals and Hog Roast tickets can be purchased on the club's website, at member meetings or by mail. Don't let your membership lapse and risk missing the Hog Roast and our speaker Steve Huff.

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. **Our club now has 123 members including 16 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

February 19 meeting

- Wade fishing guide Dave Ulgenalp is our February meeting speaker. Topic: *Wading in winter for redfish*
- He catches lots of inshore gamefish wading the flats. He'll have some tips for helping us find, hook, and land redfish, snook, and seatrout at the February outing at Cypress Point Park. Check out his website,



- At the February meeting the nominating committee will present its slate of recommended officers and board members. Nominations from the floor are also welcomed. There are four positions up for renewal and two new board positions.

February 21 Outing

- February 21 outing: Cypress Point Park, Tampa.
- Members of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club will be invited to join us.
- The member catching the longest redfish will win the outing prize.

March and April Meetings

- March meeting speaker is TBD.
- Members will vote for officers and board members at the March meeting. New officers and board members will take office on April 1.
- Cliff Nigh, our scholarship committee chairman, will contact Howard Rutherford at USF Marine Sciences to invite our club's scholarship recipient to speak at the April meeting.
- New SFF logo items are coming. John French will provide samples of proposed SFF Hoodie and baseball cap for consideration.

February 20-21, 2026: The 5th Annual Waterman Fly Fishing Tournament

- The Waterman Fly Fishing Tournament is a two-day, fly fishing-only, catch and release redfish tournament with an optional Snook Calcutta with a 50/50 cash payout to be held on February 20th and February 21st, 2026.
- The two-day, photo submission format will make it possible for fisherman in this entire range to participate. The proceeds from entry fees, 50% of the Snook Calcutta and raffle tickets purchases directly benefit Tampa Bay Waterkeeper, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and their mission to advocate for clean water.
- For more information and to register for the tournament go to... Tampa Bay Waterkeeper

Meetings, Outings, and More

March 28, Hog Roast, St. Jerome Catholic Church



Steve Huff, IGFA Hall of Famer

- This is our annual fun and fund-raising event with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Buy raffle tickets at the February meeting, February outing, or at the event. It's Saturday, March 28 from 4 to 8 pm.
- Our speaker is Capt. Steve Huff. Huff began guiding in 1968 in the Florida Keys after graduating from the University of Miami. Huff became the first full time professional fishing guide ever inducted into the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame. Recently Huff received the Isaac Walton League of America award for modeling the "Compleat Angler" for his fly fishing leadership, mentoring, and conservation.
- Member Jack Collins heads the committee to score new and used products that can be on the silent auction tables. Member Quin Berry will contact businesses in Dunedin to donate items.
- Member Cliff Nigh confirmed that the bamboo fly rod he has built for the raffle promotion is on schedule but we must promote the sale of the 100 raffle tickets required to make this successful. Cliff is also contacting top level guides and asking them to donate guide trips for bidding.

September 12, 2026 Lady Fly Tournament (Date subject to change)

November 6-7, 2026

- FFI Florida Council 2026 Expo at Plantation Resort on Crystal River

2026 Meetings and Outings (Details subject to change)

Year	Month	Meeting Date	Speaker / Meeting	Outing Date	Outing	Target Fish	Fresh or Salt	Comments	Lunch
2026	January	1/15/2026	Trash & Treasures: Alan Sewell	1/17/2026	Weedon Island	1. Longest Ladyfish 2. Longest Trout	Salt		Bruce Evensen's
2026				1/24/2026	Fly Casting Clinic				
2026	February	2/19/2026	Wader Dave (Dave Ugelanp)	2/21/2026	Cypress Point Park	Longest Redfish	Salt	Confirmed	Sandwiches at the Park
2026	March	3/19/2026	Tim Elms	3/21/2026	Ft. Desoto	1. Longest Bass 2. Longest Bream	Salt	John following up with Tim. Bob will reserve Pavilion	Grilled hot dogs
2026	March			3/28/2026	SFF/TFE Joint Banquet (The Hog Roast)	1. Longest Ladyfish 2. Longest Trout 3. Longest snook			
2026	April	4/16/2026	Scholarship Recipient	4/18/2026	Taylor, Seminole, or Watsingham Lakes Lunch at Taylor Lake Park, in Largo	1. Longest Bass 2. Most Bream	Fresh	John following up with Dave. Bob will reserve Pavilion	Grilled Hamburgers, Sausages and Hot dogs
2026	April			4/23/2026	Everglades Outing	1. Most Bream 2. Most Cichlids 3. Longest Native Bass 4. Longest Peacock Bass	Fresh	Need to Decide if we are having the Everglades as an SFF Outing this year	
2026	May	5/21/2026	TBD	5/23/2026	Fishing along Skyway Bridge - North & South Lunch at Skyway Rest Stop North	1. Longest Snook 2. Longest Ladyfish	Salt		Lunch TBD
2026	June	6/18/2026	Samatha Talyn - Lady Fly Overview & Andy Austin	6/20/2026	Dock Lights & Beaches for Friday & Saturday Lunch at War Veterans Memorial Park	1. Most different Saltwater 2. Most different Freshwater species	Salt & Fresh	Bob following up with Samantha, Dave following up with Andy	Lunch at War Veterans Memorial Park
2026	July	7/16/2026	Fly Typing Tables - Pizza Party	7/18/2026	Upper Tampa Bay or Alligator Lake Lunch at Philippe Park	1. Longest Trout 2. Longest Bass 3. Most Bream	Salt	Bob will reserve Pavilion	Grilled Hot Dogs, Sausages, etc.
2026	August	8/20/2026	Tampa Bay Estuary	8/22/2026	Fort DeSoto	1. Longest Snook 2. Longest Trout	Salt	Bill will follow-up with a speaker. Bob will reserve Pavilion	Summer Brisket, Ribs, and Pulled Pork BBQ
2026	September	9/17/2026	Cliff Nigh - Latest Fly fishing Equipment update from ICAST & ask Mangrove Club for a member to speak on fishing that area? Or member panel	9/19/2026	Skyway Rest Stop North with Mangrove Club	1. Longest Ladyfish	Salt	Dave following up with Cliff Terry Kilpatrick is not up for a long time	Skyway Rest Stop North - Sandwiches and sides
2026	September			TBD	Lady Fly Annual Tournament				Date TBD
2026	October	10/15/2026	Member Panel for Fishing the Hillsborough River	10/17/2026	Hillsborough River - Carl Hanson	1. longest Bass 2. Most Blue Gills	Fresh	Panel members TBD	Tampa Bay Club turn for lunch
2026	November	11/19/2026	SFF Open House, SFF Fly Market & May Fly Project Introduction of Participants & Pizza Party	11/21/2026	Upper Tampa Bay and Alligator Lake	1. Longest Ladyfish 2. Longest Bass 4. Longest Trout	Salt & Fresh		Lunch at the Bar Fly Restaurant in Safety Harbor
2026	December			12/12/2026	Christmas Party - St Jeromes				
2026	December		No Meeting	12/19/2026	Ft DeSoto - Member Tribute Outing	Longest Fish on a Fly	Salt	Bob will reserve Pavilion	Our Annual Chili Extravaganza

Bob Burkard: January 17 outing at Weedon Island Preserve



Bob Burkard, meetings-outings committee chair

Fishing around Weedon Island Preserve was good and so was the food, a picnic around a warming firepit in Bruce Evensen's side yard.

Yes, ladyfish were biting in Riviera Bay. Well, at least they were biting close to the eastern shoreline. That's where Bill AuCoin caught about 20, including several 19-plus inchers. He measured one at 19.5-inches. He caught them on different flies (but not gurglers.)

Other members fishing Riviera Bay included Barry Tosdevine, Rick Warfel, and new member Simon de Gagné. Simon "landed" a big one in but it escaped while AuCoin shot pictures. Sorry 'bout that, Simon.



Bill AuCoin caught about 20 ladyfish fishing Riviera Bay including several 19-inches on Clousers.



Barry Tosdevine got some hits but no takers.

Purists or Posers?

The firepit picnic at Bruce's house was terrific. Publix fried chicken and sides. There was a lively discussion about whether it's okay to fly fish with soft plastic "flies." One member -- was that you Tom DeBella?- called soft plastic fly fishers "posers." Or something. Let's keep this topic alive for future firepit discussions. And a competition, maybe?

Bob



Bill AuCoin caught some ladyfish on soft plastics rigged with 1/32-ounce hooks. "The ladyfish loved it," he said. "It's like a Clouser on steroids."



Simon De Gagné with a little lady.



Thank you, Bruce Evensen. Our firepit outing picnic at your house was an warming, uplifting treat.

January Trash 'n' Treasures Auction

SFF Auction January 15, 2009



The Jan. 15, 2009 Auction
Top Left: Some of the items. Top Right: Bob Switzer & Norm Sande closely exam another fine casting fly rod outfit. Center Left: More goodies for auction—do I see a couple of million Ada Potatas in that bag? Center Right: A tough sell to a tough crowd—John Zientarski, Woody Miler and Ken Hofmeister worked the crowd hard. Bottom Left: Tom Jones describes the culinary virtues of his world famous fish chowder to Ken Doty. Chef Tom Jones in the kitchen ready to serve it up.
Photo credits: all—Paul Sequeira except bottom right—Ken Hofmeister.



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Our January Trash 'n' Treasures meeting was another fun-fun-fun (and funding) meeting. As usual, auctioneer Alan Sewell kept members and guests bidding and laughing and bidding even more. Thanks also to all the members who donated the fly gear they don't use. Thanks to Quin Berry, David Redd, and other members who helped Alan select the gear that enticed the biggest bids, items like rods, reels, waders, even a TV set with a sound system. And mega thanks are steered to Rick and Karen Warfel who sat in the back and recorded all the sales.

And how much we raise? Treasurer Karen Warfel reports that Suncoast Fly Fishers banked \$1427. That's one of our best takes in all the years going back to the start of the Trash 'n' Treasures auction. The money will be spent on all the things members love and support-- outing picnics, prizes, the USF marine scholarship, and The Mayfly Project to teach fly fishing to teenagers in foster care.

Does anybody know when our club held the first Trash 'n' Treasures Auction? Bueller? Bueller? Anyone? Anyone?

Well, the auction meeting goes back, at least, to January 2009 as the adjacent image from an old newsletter confirms although back then we didn't call it "Trash 'n' Treasures.

We had lots and lots of winners. Too many to mention. New member Francisco Donoso, also new to fly fishing, loaded up with some very good gear including a fly reel and a couple of fly rods.

Bob Burkard, our meetings/outing committee chair, had the winning bid for a 7 weight St. Croix rod, a brand new spinning reel, a soft sided cooler, and flies.

Wayne Shriver scored a Sage fly reel. James Davis got a on a bamboo rod. \$29? OK, maybe 30. Toni Fernstrom won the bidding for a Sage 9 wt. There was more. A lot more. Fly tying materials, lawn chairs, rod caddies, fly lines, flies, flies, even wooden Duck decoys.

Bill AuCoin

Next page: Trash 'n' Treasures pictures

P2/January Trash 'n' Treasures Auction



Auctioneer Extraordinaire Alan Sewell doing this thing.



New member Francisco Donoso gets a good start with fly fishing gear.



Bill Scarola liked the low price he paid these waders.



Cliff Nigh has lots of fly rods. So he bid and won decoys and an animal trap.



Bruce Evensen already has a plan for which flies he'll put in this artsy box.

Bob Burkard: February 21 outing at Cypress Point Park



Wade the redfish flats at Cypress Point Park

Cypress Point Park is in middle Tampa Bay next to the Howard Frankland I-275 bridge. It opens at sunrise.

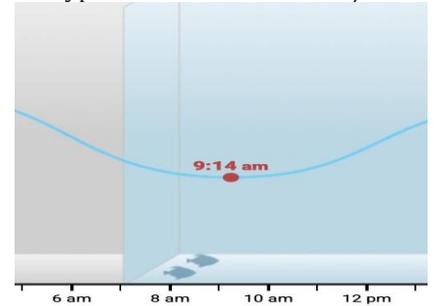
Cypress Point Park opens at 7 am. Fish anywhere around the park on the Hillsborough County side of the bay only.

The member catching the longest redfish will win a \$10 gift certificate.

Be sure to measure all of your snook, seatrout, and ladyfish catches too because and you could take the lead in any of the saltwater sportfish categories.

After fishing we'll all plop down for a pavilion picnic at noon: We'll invite members of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Maybe they can show us how to catch the big reds. Once upon a time redfish would school up at the drop-off and wait for the rising tide so they could move in and feed on the flats.

Cypress Point Park Tides 2/19



Falling/rising tide on outing day at Cypress Point Park. Will the redfish like it?



Walt Durkin of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club with a 27-inch redfish he caught wade fishing Cypress Point Park. Read Walt's how-to tips on the next page.

Will they do that at this outing?

Leaders on the 2026 Outing Tournament Trail

Species	Winner	Length	Outing (Month)
Longest bream			
Longest black bass			
Longest Peacock Bass			
Longest redfish			
Longest snook			
Longest seatrout			
Longest ladyfish	Bill AuCoin	19.5-inches	Weedon Preserve (January)

Walt Durkin: Wade Fishing Cypress Point Park



Wade Fishing Cypress Point Park

By Walt Durkin, President, Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

[Excerpts from Walt's Treatise "Observations and Notes on Wade Fishing Tampa Bay"

Walt's entire article is on the [website of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.](#)]



- Wade fishing is a great way to fly fish in the flats surrounding Tampa Bay. Almost the entire bay is lined with shallow water flats, many suitable for wading.
- Sight fishing will allow you to optimize your choice of flies as you watch the fish react. Expect to find redfish, snook, trout, black drum, sheepshead, small sharks and stingrays on the flat. Redfish are my favorite as they travel in schools and will readily tail.
- Wade fishing in winter is especially good with the lowest and clearest water. Fish are more likely to tail under these winter conditions, rewarding you with the ultimate in sight fishing.
- The best way to learn to fish a particular flat is to fish the lowest tides and observe and make notes of the terrain.
- Look for tails. Try to have your cast land close to the fish when its tail is up.
- Mimic the herons and cranes you see standing still and carefully watching. Walk onto a flat slowly and find a spot to begin to fish in about 12 inches of water.
- Fish are bottom-oriented in the winter, thus, crabs and shrimp are a good choice.

How to fly fish Cypress Point Park

The park opens at sunrise and you can park in the main lot. Straight off the western sides of the beach are numerous deep holes. They hold fish, particularly in the winter. Fish Clouser minnows deep along the bottom for snook, trout and ladyfish. However, the best sight fishing is to the North on both sides of the sand bar. Wade near the sand bar going north in shallow water and look for fish. On negative low tides the reds will wait in schools for the tide to come in. They will be spooky and hard to catch so make the most of your first presentations. As the tide comes in the reds will move over the bar onto the grass flats. Here they will spread out and tail at times. Wade slowly and let the fish come to you. The bottom outside the bar is nice and firm, but can be a little soft on the inside. Best times to find them tailing are winter morning lows and late afternoon lows in the summer. The flat around to the South also holds fish and is worth a try, especially on a mid-to-high tide. As always, watch for and fish around mullet when you can. You can wade to the east here and find a small channel coming out from the left. This channel is about food deeper and fish will travel along or set up in it. Past the channel are oyster bars and sand flats. Wading is okay and not too soft. You need about 18 inches of tide to fish the back of this flat where you will see reds coming on with the tide. The small cove to the east of and behind the beach is also a place to wade. Work the mangrove edges for snook, trout and reds. The Cypress is one of the best in Tampa Bay. The flat to the south of the beach is smaller, but can also hold fish. Work the edges of the sandbar and grass areas as you would on the north side.

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Jack Collins: Florida FFI Council Fly Casting Clinic



Jack Collins

The clinic was a resounding success attracting 43 participants who learned new techniques, improved their casting abilities, and earned Bronze and Silver Awards in FFI's skill challenge program.

On January 24th, the Suncoast Fly Fishers, alongside Dayle Mazzarella and FFI Florida Council President Rick Warfel, hosted their annual fly casting clinic at Campbell Park, located at 601 14th St. S. in St. Petersburg. This event took place under sunny and clear skies with a gentle breeze, providing excellent conditions for participants to practice and refine their fly-casting skills. Attendees benefited from the guidance and support of experienced instructors

throughout the day.

The clinic was led by club member and Master Casting Instructor Dayle Mazzarella, supported by a team of instructors from FFI clubs across the region.

Dayle and his team began by offering a brief introduction and demonstration for each of the challenge courses planned for the event.

Participants were divided into two groups: Basic Skills and Skills Demonstration. The Basic Skills group, led by Dayle, focused on introductory casting techniques, blending theoretical instruction with practical exercises. Each attendee received personalized attention from the instructors to help hone their abilities.



The clinic was led by club member and FFI Master Casting Instructor Dayle Mazzarella,



SFF President David Redd demonstrates the roll cast

Participants practiced a range of casting techniques, including:

- Pick-up and Lay-down cast
- False casting
- Roll casting
- Reach mends, slack line, and curve casts
- Accuracy from both Dominant and non-dominant shoulders
- Distance and shooting line
- Hauling
- Casting while seated or kneeling
- Presenting the back cast

Continued on next page

P2/Florida FFI Council Fly Casting Clinic



This year, participants had the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency by completing tasks for the FFI Fly Casting Skills Development Program, which includes Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels. The clinic's first seven casting tasks, essential for the Bronze Award, culminated in the "35 ft. Lob or Water Tension Cast." Eight members successfully earned the Bronze Award.

The Silver Award level began with the "Dominant Side 45 ft. PULD and Shoot," requiring casters to accurately "Pick Up and Lay Down" their fly within two feet of a target at 45 feet without false casting or hauling. Participants faced eight additional challenges, concluding with a "Distance to 60+ ft" cast, with hauling permitted. Five attendees achieved the Silver Award. Further details about the FFI Fly Casting Skills Development are available on their website.

The clinic was a resounding success, attracting 43 participants who learned new techniques, improved their casting abilities, and earned Bronze and Silver Awards. Additionally, Rick reported that the event resulted in six new FFI members and three new Suncoast Fly Fishers club members. The hope is that this clinic will instill greater confidence and enhanced skills for casting in the challenging conditions encountered on the water.



Rick Warfel, president of FFI Florida Council, reported that we signed up six new FFI members and three new members for the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St Petersburg



Outings chair Bob Burkard and John French set up tables of coffee and donuts and, later, picnic food generously donated by new member Simon De Gagné. Thank you, Simon!!!

Wes and Kelly Sobczak Fly Fish the Amazon River



Wes' peacock bass weighed 17 pounds.

Wes and I traveled to the Amazon in Brazil to fly fish for peacock bass. We stayed at Agua Boa Lodge about 300 miles north of Manaus (and 100 miles north of the equator) where all fishing is fly fishing using single barbless hooks only.

Fishing was done from boats, from shore, and sometimes at the end of a hike to a laguna. Most of the peacock bass fishing was sight fishing stripping as fast as you can.

No matter how fast we stripped, the guides said we were "muy slow" and needed to strip faster, although only one fish had its tail eaten by piranha as Wes reeled it in.



It's a two-fer.



Kelly's arowana.

There are many things in the Amazon that want to eat you, from the toothy fish -- Boga Grips were a necessity -- to caiman wanting to eat your fish (or you) and the no-see-ums that just ate everything.

The lodge was nice and at the end of each day of fishing, servers offered Caipirinha (National drink of Brazil) as you stepped off the boat and appetizers at the top of the boat ramp. After seven days of fishing, we caught 17 different species, including Wes' largest, a 17 pound peacock bass.

Kelly

Tony Piazza: Bonefishing Andros Island



Tony Piazza hooked up with 16 bonefish. Here's one.

Welcome to use this if you like.

Robert Fischer invited me to join him, Walt Durkin ,and John Lookabill from the Tampa Bay Club for 6 days of bone-fishing in Andros Island in the Bahamas. We stayed in Mangrove Key right on the middle bite at Swain's Lodge.

Despite a full day rain out and the following cold front that put the fish down we had a great time. I was without a doubt the green horn but despite that was able to hook-up with 16 bonefish and land 11. Two of the five I lost were dumb moves on my part.

Feeling a fish take 100 feet of line and 200 feet of backing in a few seconds is something one will never forget.

Walt and I had a double hookup and managed to land both fish after a few crossovers.

If I get a chance to go again I have to learn how to make a 35 foot cast directly into a 15 mph wind fast.

Tony



Tony and Walt Durkin of the Tampa Club landed bonefish at the same time. That took some fly fisher acrobatics up on the deck.



Walt Durkin and a pretty hefty bonefish. His Swain's Lodge guide made sure they got a picture of this one.

Ross Andersen: Black Nose Dace Streamer



Bruce Evensen

Ross Andersen led fly tyers through the steps tying his Black Dace Fly at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio on Monday, February 2. This classic streamer is a freshwater trout-catching star and works great in salt, too.

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: long shank hooks 5x - 7x streamer, limerick bend type sizes 4 through 12.

Thread: black 6/0 or 7/0 denier, et als.

Tail: red yarn or similar.

Body: Silver mylar tinsel, silver tubing can sub. here.

Wing: Brown and black bucktail over white bucktail.

Glue:: head cement and or UV epoxy

Eyes: optional white nail polish

Tying Steps

1. Wrap hook shank from hook eye to bend
2. Attach a long piece of red yarn ON TOP OF THE SHANK, from about 3/16" behind the hook eye so it extends beyond the bend about 1/2". Wrap thread down the entire length of yarn in short spaced wraps, stop thread just above the barb. These don't have to be tight, close wraps.
3. Bring the thread back to the start of the yarn behind the eye.
4. Tie in a strip of mylar tinsel at the start of the yarn and wrap it securely down to the bend and then back to the starting point. Tie it off, doubling the tinsel. The space in front of the yarn and tinsel is necessary to leave room for the wing material.
5. Add a small batch of white bucktail. Keep it sparse. Clean out the short fibers before attaching it. Length should be slightly longer than the end of the red yarn. Try to keep the tips equal by stacking. Cut off the butts of the bucktail at an angle behind the hook eye.
6. Repeat step 5 with the black bucktail. Again use a sparse amount of black. This represents the lateral line. The angular cutting helps in forming a tapered wedge head with your black thread.
7. Add brown bucktail on top of the black and cut off the butts at an angle. Use more brown bucktail than black.
8. Wrap the black thread to form a tapered, wedge head. That's the "BLACK NOSE" of the Dace.
9. Add a drop of glue to secure the thread wraps and or use UV epoxy.
10. Optionally, add a small drop of white nail polish on each side of the black thread for the eyes.

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The black nose dace streamer

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



Bruce Evensen

SFF members and guests tied the Swamp Fox Fly on January 12. This fly was created by guide Josh Boyles and it's widely recognized for its vibrant "Electric Chicken colors -- pink and chartreuse.

All 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

- 1- Hook, stingers and or 3407's in 1,1/0,2 ,2/0 etc.
- 2- Eyes, bead chain and or barbells, medium to large.
- 3- Head, Estaz Grande in various colors (your choice)
- 4- Tail, various colors of bucktail, bright colors are required as shown. BRIGHT PINK, CHARTREUSE, GREEN, YELLOW!
NO DARK COLORS ALLOWED!!
- 5- Thread, colors to match tail materials, or MONO thread works well here. Red is a good color to finish off the head.
- 6- Weight, lead or tungsten wire wraps are an option to aid in getting the fly to sink. Especially if using a bead chain.
7. Weed guard (optional). Add a 20 -30 lb. mono weed guard..



Swamp Fox Fly tied in the electric chicken colors.

STEPS

- 1.Wrap thread on hook.
2. Add lead wrap if desired.
3. Add eyes just behind the hook eye.
4. Add several layers of bucktail, using mixed colors -- one or two on top and bottom. Attach them about 1/3 down the shank. leaving room for the Estaz head area. Leave your thread here. NOTE; if you use a weed guard see item "F" below.
5. Add your Estaz to form the head, start by covering the tied in bucktail and palmer it to the hook eye. and whip finish. BE SURE TO USE CONTRASTING COLORS AS SHOWN AND MIX AND MATCH ON EACH FLY.
6. Attach the weed guard. Tie a 2-3 inch piece just behind the hook eye before you add the Estaz. Leave most of it in front of the hook eye to bend and crimp it into place when finishing the fly.

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Capt. Pat Damico: Captain's Corner

Winter Fishing

Winter is always a real test for shallow water fishermen especially when using a fly rod. There are several ways to increase your odds. Work flies slower and incorporate some weight to put the pattern at the fish's level which is usually closer to the bottom. Use sink tip fly lines instead of floating line. Warmer water will be the key to locating active fish. An inexpensive pool thermometer is helpful. It is not uncommon to find water temperatures on productive flats several degrees warmer than similar locations that seemed devoid of active fish.

Captain Pat

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.

"Fly Guy" for sale

Capt. Pat Damico is selling his year 2000 Maverick flats boat with outboard and trailer. Check it out at O'Neill's Marina.

Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



Bill AuCoin, On The Fly editor

Fly fishing is a philosophical game. Thanks to Toni Fernstrom for this link. "On and off I listen to the Orvis Fly Fishing podcast with Tom Rosenbauer. I found this week's episode especially interesting. It discusses fly fishing as a pastime and game(!) from a philosophical viewpoint. If you have any interest in why we fish and how (and recalling the banter around Bruce Evensen's firepit Saturday a week ago...) it's worthwhile listening to." Cheers, //Toni ([Orvis Fly Fishing](#))

When to cast a fiberglass fly rod. "A fiberglass rod isn't better or worse. It's just different. I use one about 25% of the time I fish. Sometimes I do it because I want a different experience; other times, it's a strategic choice that I think will catch me more fish." ([Sports Illustrated](#))

This long casting champion was a ballet dancer. Correct, Joan Wulff. In this 10 part online series she explains how to become a long caster and shares tips for us no matter what our skill level. ([Winston Rods](#))

A tribute to Dave Whitlock who recently died. Renowned Ozark artist Duane Hada is painting a memorial tribute to Dave Whitlock, the Oklahoma-born fly-fishing legend who spent more than four decades on the White River and whose innovations—from the ubiquitous Dave's Hopper to the Whitlock-Vibert Box egg incubator system—helped establish north-central Arkansas as a destination that anglers worldwide view as world-class. Unveiling is March 26 in Bull Shoals. ([Midcurrent](#))

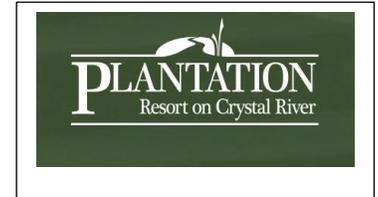
Can you identify the exotics in the Eglades? Here's a useful website with good pictures and descriptions. ([Bugwood Cloud](#))

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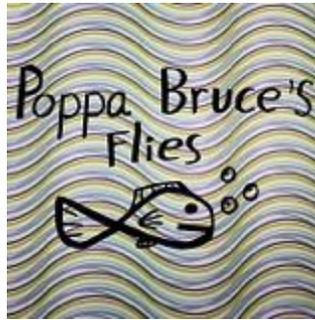


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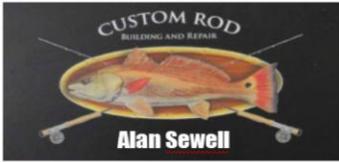
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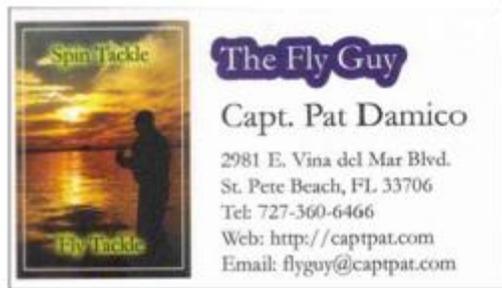


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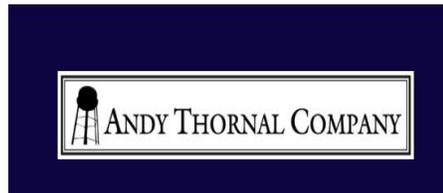
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