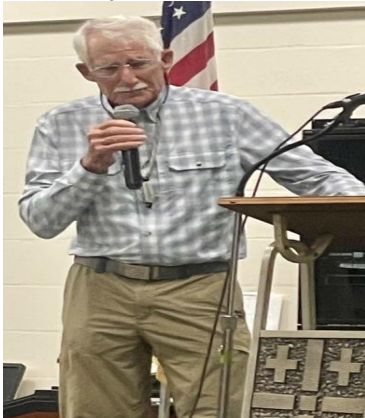


# On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

Some fish you'll  
always remember. P8



April Lakes Outing P6



Lots of Winning P7



Walsingham Brim P11



North Carolina P11



Walsingham Bass P11



Tampa Bay health and sealife? P9

Thriving Habitats & Abundant Wildlife

tbep.org/hmpu

## NEKTON INDEX

- Reports on the health of fish and invertebrates
- Responds to water quality and habitat degradation
- 2024 results show all bay segments as caution, except LTB
- More info at <https://shiny.tbep.org/nekton-dash/>



It's time to catch snook. P12





*SFF President David Redd*

## President's Message -- April 2026

What a wonderful evening we had at this year's Hog Roast event—made possible by the hard work and dedication of so many people I would like to thank.

First, a special thank you to Jack Collins for leading the Hog Roast Committee. I would also like to recognize Karen and Rick Warfel, Tony Piazza, Bob Burkard, John French, Ginny and Robert Fischer, Robert Mitchell, Bill Scarola, Bruce Evensen, and Bill AuCoin. Your efforts and commitment ensured a truly successful evening.

We are also grateful to our friends from the Tampa Bay club—Walt Durkin, Ted Hagaman, Patty and Bruce Anderson, Denise Bruner, Jim Dye, and others—thank you for your support and participation.

I couldn't speak about the evening without mentioning Mr. Steve Huff. What a humble individual and a true ambassador for the sport of fly fishing. He spoke from the heart with genuine passion, and we were truly fortunate to have him with us.

Finally, thank you to all the members who donated items for the auctions. Member-tied flies are always among the most popular items, and the proceeds from the Hog Roast go a long way in supporting our club.

Already looking forward to next year,

*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/>

Welcome new members: Vince Alber Lars Aleebing, and Fritz Gutwein Membership. **Our club now has 126 members including 16 family and six honorary.** Annual membership is \$60 (\$50 for seniors) and \$70 for families. \$25 for youth. \$100 for business. 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, Dennis Mincher, Brian Henderson

**Casting:** Pat Damico, Dayle Mazarella

**FFI Liaison:** Rick Warfel

**Conservation:** Cliff Nigh

**Fly Tying:** Bruce Evensen, Bill Scarola, Dennis Mincher

**Hog Roast:** Jack Collins

**Membership:** Karen Warfel

**Webmaster:** Tim Elms

**Facebook:** Cliff Nigh, Anne Mitchell

**Outings:** Bob Burkard, David Redd, Bill AuCoin, Quin Berry, Anne Mitchell

**Outreach, shows:** David Redd, Bob Burkard, Bill Scarola

**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

### **Thursday, April 16 meeting, Rec Center, Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg**

- Our speaker is member Tim Elms. He catches juvenile tarpon almost every day from shorelines. Will he tell us where and how? Last year Tim won the outing trail award for the longest Peacock Bass, longest Bream, and longest bass. Okay, Tim. It's time to share your secrets.
- Our meeting emcees are Bob Burkard , chair, and John French from the meetings/outings committee.
- We'll get updates on our outings and also the very successful Hog Roast party in March.
- Hog roast Speaker Steve Huff was terrific. Plus, the club raised a good sum to pay club expenses including The Mayfly Project and advanced marine degree scholar grant.

### **Saturday, April 18, outing -- Taylor-Walsingham -Seminole Lakes**

- Members catching the longest bass and most bream win outing gift certificates.
- Meet up at noon at Pavilion 7 on the west side of Taylor Lake for grilled burgers and hot dogs.

### **Saturday, April 25, Fly Fishing Film Tour**

- It's at Tailwater Outfitters in Clearwater/Palm Harbor
- Tickets are \$15. Proceeds go to Tampa Bay Waterkeeper

### **Saturday, July 10, Fly Casting Lesson, Riverview ECO Camp**

- Fly casting instructors needed. Talk to President David Redd at at the meeting

### **September 12, 2026 Lady Fly Tournament**

- The Board of Directors and members have approved the budget for the 2026 Lady Fly Tournament.
- Tournament Director Samantha Tallyn will give us an update at the June meeting.
- Bob Branham and his daughter are guest speakers and will lead a panel on their father-daughter fishing experiences.

### **Saturday Fly Casting Practice Sessions**

- SFF member Tim Elms supervises accuracy and distance fly casting on most Saturday mornings.
- Next session is Saturday, April 25. Starting time is 7:30 am at Meadowlawn Park, 7501 14th Street N., St. Petersburg. No casting on May 2. (That's a Mayfly outing day.)
- Congratulations to John French, Simon de Gagne, Paul Rademaker for reaching the FFI's Gold Level.
- Congratulations to Brian Henderson for reaching the Silver Level.
- Brian Berry achieved Bronze and Silver in one day.
- And congratulations to Tim for making the longest cast of his life 135 feet. Woohoo!

### **November 6-7, 2026**

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

### **New member service**

- Our club has a new mentoring program for new members.
- Club members will work one on one with new members to help them take advantage of all the club's benefits.
- Volunteers are needed. As of now we have five. If you can help, text Tony Piazza at 314-249-8762.
- If you would like to be mentored please let Tony know that you would like to participate.

# 2026 Meetings and Outings

(Details subject to change)

Year	Month	Meeting Date	Speaker / Meeting	Outing Date	Outing	Target Fish	Fresh or Salt	Lunch	Comments
2026	January	1/15/2026	Trash & Treasures: Alan Sewell	1/17/2026	Weedon Island	1. Longest Ladyfish 2. Longest Trout	Salt	Fried Chicken at Bruce Evensen's	
2026				1/24/2026	Fly Casting Clinic				
2026	February	2/19/2026	Wader Dave (Dave Ulgenalp)	2/21/2026	Cypress Point Park	Longest Redfish	Salt	Sandwiches at the Park	Shelter 03
2026	March	3/19/2026	Maya Burke Assistant Director Tampa Bay Estuary Program	3/21/2026	Ft. Desoto	1. Longest Ladyfish 2. Longest Trout 3. longest snook	Salt	Shelter 04 - Grilled Burgers	Shelter #4
2026	March			3/28/2026	SFF/TFE Joint Banquet (The Hog Roast)				
2026	April	4/16/2026	Tim Elms	4/18/2026	Taylor, Seminole, or Walsingham Lakes Lunch at Taylor Lake Park, in Largo	1. Longest Bass 2. Most Bream	Fresh	Grilled Hamburgers, Sausages and Hot dogs	John S. Taylor Park Shelter 07
2026	April			4/23/2026	Everglades Outing	1. Most Bream 2. Most Cichlids 3. Longest Native Bass 4. Longest Peacock Bass	Fresh		
2026	May	5/21/2026	Alejandra Aguilar Scholarship Recipient (confirmed)	5/23/2026	Fishing along Skyway Bridge - North & South Lunch at Skyway Rest Stop North	1. Longest Snook 2. Longest Trout 3. Largest Ladyfish	Salt	Sandwiches	
2026	June	6/18/2026	Samatha Tallyn - 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	Lunch - TBD, we normally do not have lunch at the June Outing	Bob following up with Samantha, Dave following up with Andy
2026	July	7/16/2026	Need a Speaker	7/18/2026	Upper Tampa Bay or Alligator Lake Lunch at Philippe Park	1. Longest Snook, 2. Longest Trout 3 Longest Black Bass	Salt & Fresh	Lunch TBD	
2026	August	8/20/2026	Tampa Bay Watch - Tara Kok, Not confirmed	8/22/2026	Fort DeSoto	1. Longest Snook 2. Longest Trout	Salt	Summer Brisket, Ribs, and Pulled Pork BBQ	Bob Working on a Speaker Pavilion # 13
2026	September	9/17/2026	Cliff Nigh - Latest Fly fishing Equipment update from ICAST & Fly Typing Tables - Organized by Dennis Mincher & Brian Henderson Pizza Party	9/19/2026	Skyway Rest Stop North with Mangrove Club	1. Longest Ladyfish	Salt	Skyway Rest Stop North - Sandwiches and sides	Dave following up with Cliff
2026	September			9/12/2026	Lady Fly Annual Tournament				
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	Tampa Bay Club turn for lunch	Panel members TBD
2026	November	11/19/2026	SFF Open House, SFF Fly Market & Mayfly Project Introduction of Participants & Pizza Party	11/21/2026	Upper Tampa Bay and Alligator Lake	1. Longest Ladyfish 2. Longest Black 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	Our Annual Chili Extravaganza	Pavilion # 13

## Bob Burkard: March and April Outings

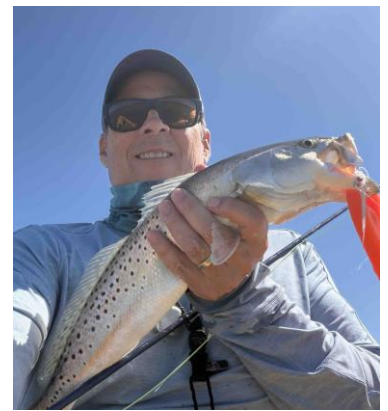


Bob Burkard, meetings-outings committee chair

### March 22 Fort De Soto Park

Our March 22 outing at Fort De Soto Park was a terrific outing. The sun was shining. Temps were pleasant. The burgers and hot dogs grilled by Robert Mitchell were superb. But there was one negative. Kinda. Most members went fishless.

But not all. So, let's applaud those who caught ladyfish and seatrout, including Rick Warfel and Robert Fischer who teamed up on Robert's flats boat. And let's give it up bigly for Mike Nolan who caught a 19-inch seatrout. He wins the outing gift certificate and also takes the lead in the seatrout category in the annual tournament trail contest.



Mike Nolan's 19-Inch seatrout won the March outing and takes the lead in the seatrout category for the outing trail contest.

### Saturday, April 18 Outing -- Taylor Lake, Walsingham Lake, Seminole Lake



Our April outing is our first freshwater outing of the year. We'll return to the central-Pinellas County lakes of Taylor, Walsingham, and Seminole where we can catch panfish and bass. The member catching the longest bass is the winner. The most bream is also a winning category. Measure your longest bass and take a picture.

We'll all meet up for lunch at noon at Pavilion #7 on Taylor Lake. I'll be grilling burgers and hot dogs. Note that pavilion #7 is on the west side of the lake in Largo. And, it has a boat ramp.

Check out the map and also park details as described on the [parks section of the Pinellas County website](#).

Bob

### 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	Mike Nolan	19-inches	Fort DeSoto Park (March)
Longest ladyfish	Bill AuCoin	19.5-inches	Weedon Preserve (January)

## 2026 Hog Roast. Success!

Our March 28, 2026 Banquet with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club was a big success with BBQ pork and chicken, generous silent auction and bucket raffles, and a darn good speaker. (Yeah. Capt. Steve Huff). A good amount of money was raised to help Suncoast Fly Fishers pay for outing picnics, Mayfly Project sponsorships, marine graduate student awards, and much more. The annual event was held at St. Jerome Catholic Church in Largo. Next year it will be hosted by the TBFFC at a Tampa location.

Speaker Steve Huff was terrific. Way back when saltwater fly fishing was a new thing, Huff guided clients to catch record permit, tarpon, and snook in the Everglades and record tarpon in the Homosassa area. *(More about Steve Huff on the next page.)*

*And there were winners*



*2025 Outing Trail Tournament winners: Tim Elms with the fresh water sweep (bream, black bass, peacock bass), Rick Warfel (ladyfish), Mark Hays (snook), Robert Mitchell (redfish)*



*Mike Nolan (r) won the tournament trail award for the longest spotted seatrout.*



*Kevin Kelly happily won the bamboo rod hand-crafted by Cliff Nigh (l) and mahogany rod case made by Rick Warfel(r).*

*President David Redd presented SFF cocktail glasses to Bill Scarola and Bruce Evensen for their tenure on the clubs board and their fly tying contributions.*

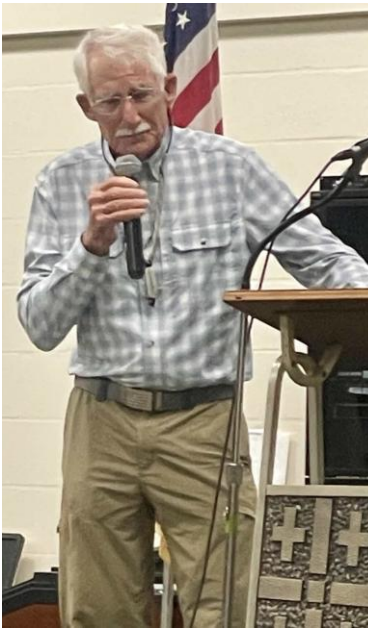


*Member Abby Gambrel left with a big grin and arms full of gear won on the silent auction.*



*Club Presidential awards were presented to Bob Burkard (l) for his extraordinary work as chairman of the meetings/outing committee and to Tim Elms for leading weekly fly casting sessions and managing the SFF website. David Redd (r) made the presentations.*

## Steve Huff Explains the deep-felt thrill of sight fishing



*Capt. Steve Huff, our 2026 Hog Roast Speaker, is in the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame.*

What makes fly fishing the saltwater flats so compelling for the angler and for his guide?

Steve Huff said he had been thinking a lot about this. For one thing, he said, fly fishing the saltwater flats is *freedom*. Guiding clients is *freedom*. But there is something else going on, Steve said, something that drills deep into who we are.

Steve spoke to members and guests of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg and the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club at our annual Hog Roast banquet at St. Jerome Catholic Church on March 28. And he spoke from his heart. He even paused once to acknowledge he was getting "emotional" about it.

Steve started guiding after he graduated from the University of Miami with a marine science degree in the mid 1970s. Saltwater fly fishing was a brand new fly fishing category then. He was the go-to guide for acclaimed saltwater fly fishers like Sandy Moret, Tom Evans, Del Brown, Norman Duncan, and Lefty Kreh. He found their record-setting and trophy permit, tarpon, and snook. Sandy Moret, owner of Florida Keys Outfitters, said Steve was "without question the top fly-fishing guide on the planet."

At the banquet Steve told us that lately he had been thinking a lot about his days on the Everglades and Homosassa flats. Recalling his views from the poling

platform he believes what really made it so compelling was a heartfelt "thrill" for him and his client in synch together from sight to bite.

"It's timing. It's trickery," he said. The trophy is sighted. The guide and the angler accurately read the fish's behavior. The angler casts the fly. The fly drops into the water at the right place. The fish sees it and goes for it. This time the big fish doesn't turn away. He sucks it in. The angler sets the hook.

Sometimes it's not going to happen, Steve said. Sometimes it's not the right time. Sometimes the angler is not the right person. But when it all comes together it means both have worked hard for that fleeting but memorable slice of life.

Both the guide and his angler will feel it, deep in their hearts, and they will continue to remember it for years.

*Bill AuCoin, editor*

### Watch "HUFF" the Movie

Captain Steve Huff's illustrious career and dedication to conserving Florida's Everglades is showcased in a powerful film directed by Captain David Mangum and Patrick Rhea and produced by SEAHOLM and Gordy & Sons Outfitters with support from Bonefish & Tarpon Trust (BTT), Patagonia, YETI, Captains for Clean Water, and the International Game Fish Association (IGFA).

[Here's the link to watch HUFF](#)



# Myra Burke: Tampa Bay Estuary Project



Myra Burke, Tampa Bay Estuary Program

Greater Tampa Bay waters and its natural habitats and sea life have had to deal with a lot of tough invasions over the years -- red tides, phosphates, nitrogen, wastewater overflows, and more.

It is so much better now thanks to the central role of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) in monitoring the health of the four-county estuary.

Myra Burke, assistant director of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP), spoke to Suncoast Fly Fishers at the March meeting and updated members how, over time, Tampa Bay is very much healthier than in previous years.

Burke told members that in 2025 water quality was generally good. All major bay segments met targets for light penetration and chlorophyll (algae). That said, rainfall was lower than average. Nitrogen and phosphate runoffs from heavy rains can hurt that cause.

She said seagrass monitoring suggests we might have (finally) stopped losing seagrasses in Old Tampa Bay. Slight increases in frequency of occurrence were observed in Old Tampa Bay, Hillsborough Bay, and Middle Tampa Bay, while a slight decrease was observed in lower Tampa Bay.

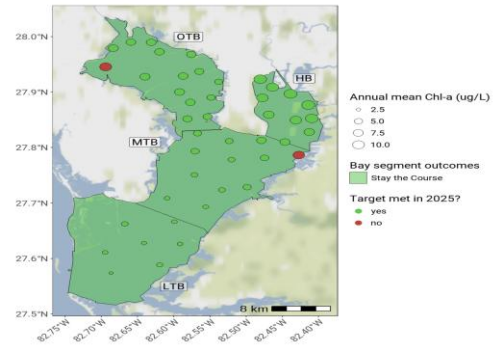
### Sealife is stable

It is a continuing battle. Some metrics could get worse even as other improve. She said we've been in a drought which has lowered the release of fertilizer nitrogen but the coming summer rains could change that. For now, three of the four bay segments remain in the "caution" category.

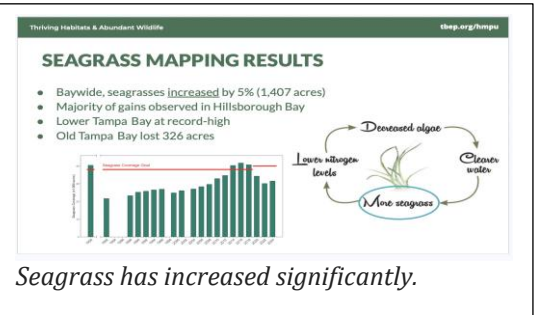
Nekton communities (fish, crabs, etc.) in Tampa Bay are generally stable, but still recovering from multiple stressors.

The big takeaway from Burke's presentation is that unless there is an unforeseen catastrophic event, the health of the Tampa Bay watershed will continue to get better and, for that, we value the continuing work of Tampa Bay Estuary Program and its coordination with county, state, and federal partners.

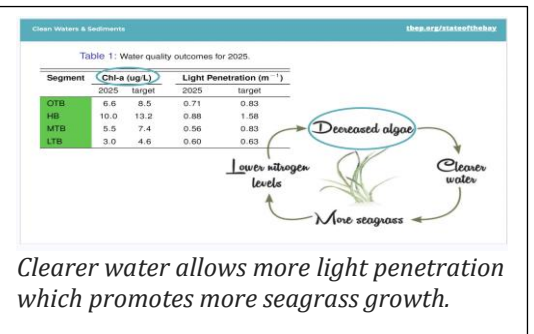
Bill AuCoin



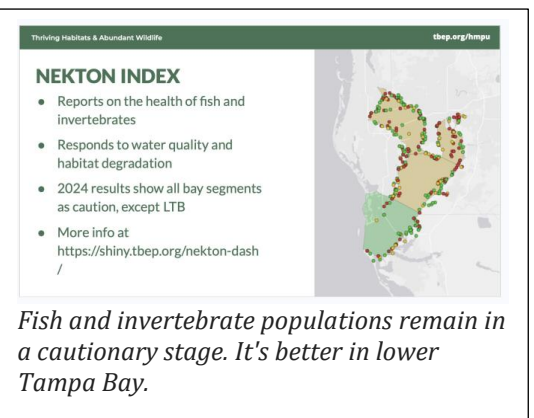
Note two red dots: All but two 2025 water quality goals were met in Tampa Bay.



Seagrass has increased significantly.



Clearer water allows more light penetration which promotes more seagrass growth.



Fish and invertebrate populations remain in a cautionary stage. It's better in lower Tampa Bay.

## Mike Nolan: Speckled Trout and Ladyfish



Mike Nolan with one of his speckled trout

I had a pretty good start to April fly fishing. I caught several trout in the 12-15 inch range and a handful of ladyfish.

I had no luck with a Clouser but David Redd's Jig Head Baitfish fly worked like magic!

The fly pictured had light silver and red sharpie highlights but the colors faded away after several takes. Our president, David Redd, taught this fly to fly tyers at Bruce's fly tying studio a couple of weeks ago



David Redd's Jig Head Baitfish Fly

*Mike*

## Tim Elms: 135-foot Monster Fly Cast



I don't usually like to toot my own horn (haha), but I'll make an exception here.

On Saturday, April 4th, everything lined up—the wind was right and my arm was in rare form. I put down two casts over the 130-foot mark, **with witnesses**. Both were clean, no false casts—just straight Belgian style: pick up 65 feet and send it.

Longest cast went 135 feet, and the crazy part? Both landed within a couple inches of the tape. Yikes.

For those wondering: Orvis Helios 4D 8wt paired with a Ballistic Pro WF Saltwater 95' line (58' head / 210 grain). For perspective—that's over 30 feet into the backing!!!!

*Tim*

## Ted Rich and Mark Hays Scouted Walsingham Lake



Ted's "bream" bit his

Mark Hays and I fished Lake Walsingham Thursday (3-26-2026). Here are a couple pictures. Things were slow but it was an enjoyable trip. I was fishing with poppers and Smitty's beetle.

### Ted

Several weeks ago, Ted Rich and I met at Walsingham Park for a little paddling and fishing. The lake is in great shape. The water is crystal clear, and it's not yet full of weeds as it will be in warmer weather. I was able to stand in my kayak and peer

into the openings in the moss. I was amazed! I saw schools of shiners, large bluegills, and speckled perch. The fishing has always been tough in this lake due to moss and clear water, but we did manage to catch fish. I landed several bass and lost 3 more in the lily pads. I even caught the largest speck of my life. It was 13 inches long. What was the secret fly? A weighted streamer tied on a jig hook tied with pheasant hackles. (For instructions on how to tie the fly, go to YouTube and look up Gunnar Brammer pheasant hackle flies.) White poppers have always produced for me when the light is low, either early in the morning or in cloudy conditions, but this day I forgot to bring some with weed guards. The lily pads are thick. As a side note, anytime you fish lily pads in the wind, always cast dead down or up wind. Any cross wind casts will be soon tangled.



Mark Hays' bass loved the shiny peacock herl feathers on his fly.

### Mark

## John French and Simon DeGagne fish the Watauga River in North Carolina



John French and a rainbow trout on North Carolina's Watauga River.

Simon De Gagne and I were busy working in North Carolina but we made time to fish the Watauga River.

I picked up a "grand slam" --Brown, Brook and Rainbow trout.

Our waders were frozen, but we persevered! We had a great time but our time on the water was way too short!

Alas, we really missed the fellowship at the Hog Roast!

### John



Simon and a big brown.

Editor's note: Both of these guys achieved Gold in the FFI FCSD last weekend!!

## Walt Durkin: Snook Fishing Tips



Walt Durkin, President, Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

*Walt Durkin is president of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.*

Snook are one of my favorite fish because I grew up fishing for them in the West Palm Beach area. I was an avid snook fisherman all through my middle and high school years. This was during a time when young kids were free to seek adventure from dawn to at least dinner time and I made the most of it.

We fished from the bridges across the intracoastal, inlet jetties and below spillways. This was mostly spin fishing and I caught hundreds of snook each year. Spillway fishing was especially good where snook would come up to feed on the fresh water baitfish coming down

the canal thru the gates. It reminded me of fishing a river with fluctuating tide and water flows. I think we have a spillway coming out of Lake Tarpon I have been meaning to try.

Locally, you will find snook on the flats, around bridges/docks and also on the beach in summer. You can sight fish snook on the flats, but won't find them in big schools like reds. However, sometimes they will cruise around making them easy to spot. Try minnow imitations like the Puglisi minnow, Lefty's Deceiver or a Gurgler for top water action.

Smaller snook will often chase bait in cuts where water moves on and off the flats. On higher tides, work a Gurgler along the edge of mangroves; again seek moving water. Walk local beaches during the summer to look for snook quite close to shore.

Use a bite tippet of at least 25-pound fluorocarbon with a non-slip loop knot.

Bridge and dock fishing is often best at night. Pick tides with good moving water and you can spot snook under the lights chasing shrimp and bait.

The March issue of Florida Sportsman has several nice articles on snook fishing for you to check out. Please remember the open season is March-April and September-November. Slot limit is 28-33 inches.

I have not killed a snook in years, but they are very tasty. As always, handle your catch as little as possible when returning them to the water giving another angler a chance for a thrill.



### **FWC Snook Regs for the Tampa Bay Area**

- Slot limit 28-33 inches
- Open season is March and April, plus September, October, and November.

*Walt*

*Bruce Evensen / Bill Scarola Host Monday Fly-Tying Classes Open to All*  
**Robert Fischer: Trout Gotcha**



*Bruce Evensen*

*Robert Fischer led fly tyers through the steps at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio on Monday, March 9.*

*SFF members and guests are welcome to come to Bruce's fly tying studio 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 - Mustad Big Game #1 or 1/0
- Thread - Pink flat waxed nylon
- Tail - Mylar braided rope
- Body - Mylar crystal braid
- Eyes - bead chain or lead dumbbells
- Underwing - Ice dub white or green
- Wing - Fake fur shrimp or tan color; or tan calf tail

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Mount hook in vise with point in the down position (like for a Clouser).
2. Wrap thread on back third of hook and 1/3 down along the bend.
3. Tease out 1/2" of mylar from the rope and take 1/2 of the amount.
4. Tie it off at the bend of the hook so that it points down a bit.
5. This will point up when the fly is flipped over.
6. Tie in the crystal braid at the same location.
7. Wrap thread along the shank up to the hook eye and back from the eye about 1/4".
8. Tie in eyes and loop thread over the thread holder (if you have a rotary vise).
9. Run a bead of glue along the hook shank and wrap the crystal braid up to the eyes. Tie off and cut the braid.
10. Flip the fly over in the vise so the hook point is on top. Tie in a small patch of the ice dubbing, about the size of a dime, between the hook eye and the bead chain eyes.
11. Tie in a bunch of the fake fur or calf tail on top of the dubbing. Be sure it is equally spread on each side of the hook. Build up a head with the pink thread, whip finish and seal with glue.



*Robert Fischer's Trout Gotcha Fly*



Bruce Evensen

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

**David Redd: Dave's Jig Head Baitfish**

*David Redd led fly tyers through the steps at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio on Monday, March 30. SFF members and guests are welcome to come to Bruce's fly tying studio 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:**

- A. Hook: #2 jig hook
- B. Wire: Plastic .020 lead wire
- C. Thread: White
- D. Body: White marabou, white Senyo's laser dubbing.
- E. Eyes: Plastic bead chain
- D. Markers: Your choice of colors

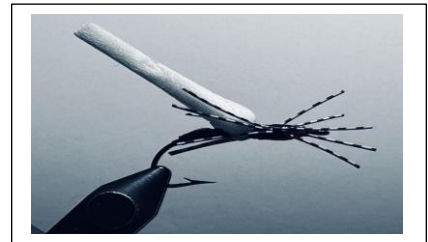


**Woody Miller: Everglades Droopy Butt**

Woody Miller directed fly tyers on this fly on Monday, April 6. He said this fly will ride with the hook below the water surface making the fish easier to hook since they don't get a full mouth of foam!

**MATERIALS:**

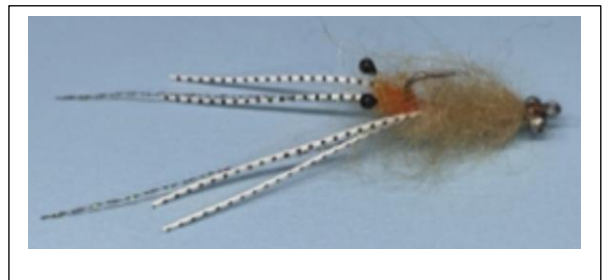
- A. Hook: Size 6 or 8 streamer hook 3x long- freshwater hooks.
- B. Thread: 6/0 Black thread.
- C. Wire - Red, Gold, or Green wire (small size).OK to substitute gold braid.
- D. Legs: Size small rubber silly legs black and white barred.
- E. Foam: 3mm foam. Any color.
- F: Body - Black flat waxed thread or similar material to build up a segmented body, Black floss thread works, too.



**Jack Collins: EP Spawning Shrimp Fly**

*Jack Collins led fly tyers through the steps at Bruce Evensen's fly tying studio on Monday, March 16*

- Hook: Mustad S71SAP Salt Streamer #4 or equivalent
- Thread: Danville 140 denier - Tan or equivalent
- Bead chain eyes - Silver
- Ice Dub - Hot Orange
- Rubber legs - Grizzly Flutter Legs - Black barred whiter
- Krystal Flash: Black
- Mono Eyes - Red or black
- .75-inch EP Shrimp Dub Brush - Tan



###

## Capt. Ray Markham: Rain? Fish bugs.

If we get some rain in the coming days, it's a good bet that if you break out the fly rod and tie up some small bug-type flies such as foam spiders, poppers, worms, and crickets, and fish the perimeters of our regional lakes, you'll have an excellent opportunity to catch some big bass and a variety of panfish. Many manufacturers are making a fly-fishing combo to start anglers new to the sport, which are well under the \$100 price tag. Cortland, Redington, and Bass Pro Shops come to mind. Ready-made flies are available, but half the fun is learning how to tie some easy patterns that catch fish. Most fly clubs like Tampa Bay Fly Fishers, Suncoast Fly Fishers, and Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers have monthly meetings with fly tiers showing how to tie flies that catch area fish. It's a fun hobby for adults and kids alike, and one that can be shared for a lifetime. Get the kids together and seek out a fly club near you, and get your kids hooked on fly fishing! "Til then...I'll catch ya later!(941) 228-3474 text only for

charters. [www.CaptainRayMarkham.com](http://www.CaptainRayMarkham.com) *Capt. Ray*



*Capt. Ray Markham likes buggy flies when it rains.*



## Captain Pat is selling his boat and trailer

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

## Abby Gambrel: The Tug is the Drug?

I went out one morning at Ballast Point Park to fish for something quick and close.

Only things I landed were oyster balls and mangroves.

*Abby*



*Abby leads the outing trail in the mangrove branch category. (Snark)*

## Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



### **Fly Fishing Film Tour is coming to town**

Suncoast Fly Fishers are invited to watch the best fly fishing videos from all over the world on April 25 at Tailwater Outfitters in Clearwater/Palm Harbor. Tickets are \$15 and all of the proceeds go to Tampa Bay Waterkeeper. The 2026 Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) is the original, largest, and most celebrated fly fishing film event of its kind. ([Happening Next](#))

### **Mill House and Capt. Steve Huff**

Member John Callaghan has shared this link to the terrific podcast Andy Mill video/recorded with Capt. Steve Huff a few years ago. ([Mill House](#))

### **John Gierach, we miss you**

If you haven't read John Gierach's books and columns put it on your to-do list. Kirk Deeter has written a terrific piece about his relationship with one of fly fishing's best authors ever. When he learned that Gierach had died he wrote this terrific article. "In my mind, the world had just lost one of the last "everyman" storytellers the fly-fishing world had ever known. H/T Rick Warfel. ([Trout Unlimited](#))

### **Are you fishing the April Eglades outing?**

Here are Chico's favorite flies to fish in the Everglades. ([Tail Fly Fishing](#))

### **Is the drought good or bad for catching exotics?**

Canal water levels are really low in the Everglades. A couple of years ago water levels were low and the word was that the exotic fishes like oscars and Mayan cichlids were easier to catch because they were closer to shorelines. ([Share The Outdoors](#))

### **Can you identify Florida's non-native fishes?**

This is a image you can use to check (in color) the fish you catch when you catch them. ([Bugwoodcloud](#))

### **Scientific Anglers line wins Best of Show**

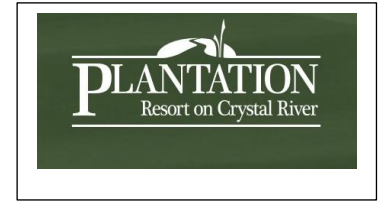
Scientific Anglers Magnitude Smooth Balance Taper Floating Fly Line was elected Best of Show during the product awards held with the recently concluded 2026 Fly Fishing Show. The competition was jointly sponsored by the Fly Fishing Show, Fly Fusion Magazine, and Fly Fishing Journeys. ([Fly Fishing Show](#))

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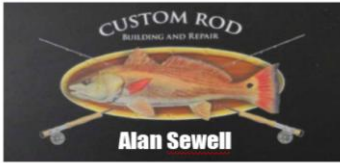


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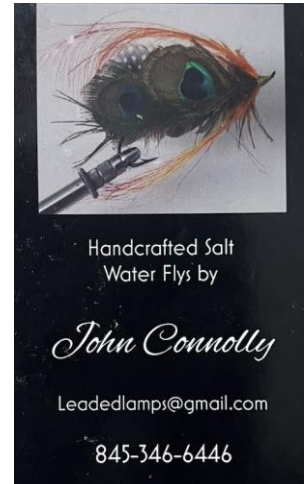
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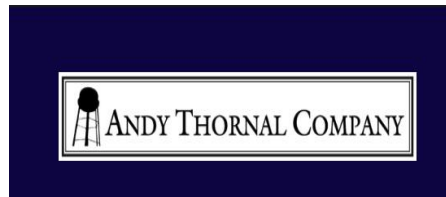
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