

President's Message -- June 2026



SFF President David Redd

Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of meeting with Tom Gadacz. For those of you who don't know Tom, he was a longtime member of Suncoast Fly Fishers. Tom served on the Board of Directors and held various positions, including President and Secretary. He is also a former president of the Florida Council of FFI.

Tom was instrumental in getting our club involved in teaching fly casting to children at summer camps, a program that continues to this day. He also helped organize and conduct casting clinics for our members, sharing his knowledge and passion for the sport with countless anglers.

In January 2017, I was looking for a fly fishing club and decided to attend a Suncoast Fly Fishers monthly meeting. I arrived a little early, and the first person I met was Tom. He immediately made me feel welcome, telling me about the club, its activities, and introducing me to other members. I joined the club that very night.

Tom recently contacted me because he will be moving soon and wanted to donate some items to the club. At the end of this month, he will be relocating to Virginia to live closer to his daughter. Following the passing of his wife of 57 years, Judith, last October, and with his health declining, both Tom and his family felt it would be best for him to be near his loved ones.

I asked Tom if it would be alright to share this news so that friends and fellow members could wish him well if they choose. Suncoast Fly Fishers is strong and well-rooted because of people like Tom Gadacz and so many others who have dedicated their time, talents, and passion to our club.

Thank you, Tom, for being a mentor, a leader, and a true champion of the sport of fly fishing. Your contributions to Suncoast Fly Fishers and the fly-fishing community will not be forgotten. We wish you all the best.

David

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