

President's Message -- August 2026



SFF President David Redd

Help Us Welcome Our New Members

Through the end of July, Suncoast Fly Fishers has welcomed 21 new members this year—a great sign that our club continues to grow.

A few months ago, we launched a mentorship program headed by Tony Piazza, and the program has been very successful. Of the 21 new members, we have contacted 16, and 13 have expressed an interest in participating in the mentorship program.

The challenge is that we currently have only 12 members who have volunteered to serve as mentors, and many of those mentors are already serving on the Board of Directors.

Our new members have told us they see real value in the program, and we would certainly like to continue reaching out to the remaining new members. At the same time, we don't want to put an additional burden on the members who have already stepped up to volunteer.

So, I'm making a plea to all of our current members: Please consider becoming a mentor.

Being a mentor doesn't require great casting skills, fly-tying expertise, or years of fishing experience. What it really requires is simply being welcoming and willing to make a connection. A mentor can introduce a new member to other club members, encourage them to attend meetings and outings, answer a few questions, and periodically check in to see how they're doing.

It's a small commitment that can make a big difference in helping a new member feel welcome, become engaged, and get the most out of their membership.

I hope you will consider becoming a mentor and helping us continue to make **Suncoast Fly Fishers the Friendliest Fly Club!**

David