

On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

Another winner...Suncoast Lady Fly P10



Tim's Docklight Smashup P11



Could you tie a fly with these "materials"? P8



Abby's winning fly P8



September Skyway Outing P7



Flexo Crab P17



October FW outing ... P6



President's Message -- October 2026



SFF President David Redd

Fall is here, and the cooler temperatures are starting to show it. This also means that some of our members will be returning to their winter homes. We're looking forward to seeing them again!

This month, SFF will host the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club (TBFFC) at the Carl Hanson Outing at Trout Creek Wilderness Park. So grab a kayak and a friend and join us for a day on the beautiful Hillsborough River.

At our November member meeting, we'll have fly-tying demonstrations featuring a variety of patterns. Bring a vise if you'd like, sit back and learn a new pattern, or tie along with the demonstrators. We'll also be bringing back our Fly Market in November, so bring any gear you no longer need or want and would like to sell.

On December 5th, we'll hold the SFF Holiday Party at St. Jerome's Church. The club will provide the main dish, and the sides will be potluck. We'll once again have the popular White Elephant gift exchange and the Ugly Sweater Contest.

Our December outing will be the SFF Member Tribute Outing, with chili served for lunch.

So mark your calendars, and I hope to see you there!

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. 7 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/>

Welcome new members: Luke Coscia plus the Ange family--Lou and Sonny.

Membership. **Our club now has 123 members including 17 family and six honorary members** Annual membership is \$60 (\$50 for seniors) and \$70 for families. \$40 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 -- 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, Dennis Mincher, Brian Henderson

Casting: Pat Damico, Dayle Mazzarella

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, John French

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

Succession Plan:

Programs: Board of Directors

Publicity: Bill AuCoin

Social media: Anne Mitchell, Dennis Mincher

On The Fly

Editor Bill AuCoin, Abby Gambrel, Anne Mitchell, Bob Hood, Karen Warfel, Kevin Kelly, Rick Warfel, Tim Elms.

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, October 15 meeting, Walter Fuller Park Rec Center

7891 26th Ave N., St. Petersburg. 7 - 9 pm

- Samantha Tallyn will tell us about another successful Lady Fly fishing tournament last month. It's looking like Suncoast Fly Fishers Lady Fly tournament is becoming one of the major women -only fly fishing contests.
- The October 17 outing is our annual Carl Hanson Memorial Outing on the Hillsborough River at Trout Creek Conservation Park. We'll have a panel of members sharing secrets about catching bass and panfish in the Hillsborough River. Panelists are David Redd, Karen Warfel, Brian Henderson, and Mark Hays.
- We'll get an update on our club's new mentoring program to help new members to get the most from meetings, outings, and other club activities. Already, mentors have been assigned to 13 new members but we still need more members to step up to the mentoring plate. If you can help raise your hand at the meeting or text Tony Piazza at 314-249-8762.
- In honor of Robert Fischer, RIP, club members will vote on making his wife Ginny an honorary member of Suncoast Fly Fishers.
- Club members will also vote on renewing the annual \$2000 grant to an incoming PhD candidate at USF's School of Marine Science in St. Petersburg.
- Hats and other items with the SFF logo are available for purchase before and after the meeting at one of the back-of-the-room tables.
- Before or after the meeting members and guests can buy raffle tickets for \$1 (or 6 for \$5) to win some fly tying materials and other items.

Thursday, November 19 meeting, Walter Fuller Park Rec Center

- Our November 19 meeting is our annual "open house" meeting. Bring friends who might want to join.
- Dennis Mincher will demonstrate fly tying. Also, we're setting up tables so members can sell fly gear they no longer use. It's sorta like a flea market but we call it a *Fly Market*.

Carl Hanson drawing



Saturday, October 17, Carl Hanson Hillsborough River Memorial Outing

- Fly fish the Hillsborough river from Trout Creek Conservation Park in Thonotosassa.
- This is our annual "competition" with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club to remember the contributions that former member Carl Hanson made as a member of both clubs. Carl died in 1998.
- The member catching the longest fish gets to keep the Carl Hanson drawing for a year. The member catching the most panfish gets his or her name engraved on the trophy.

Saturday morning casting practice sessions, St. Petersburg

- Meet up (almost) every Saturday at 8:00 am at Meadowlawn Park, 7501 14th Street N. Guests are welcome.
- Oct 24 - FLA CAST'S St. Pete Open! --See the flyer on the last page. Let Tim Elms know if you're going so he can order enough food and drinks. tim@timelmsflycasting.com
- Work on distance, accuracy or any other skills you need to work on including practice for the Big Gun Shootout at Tampa's Picnic Island Park in November.

--Continued on next page--

P2/Meetings, Outings, and More

Florida Council FFI Expo will be rescheduled to a new location.

- Florida Council President Rick Warfel received a notice from The Plantation Resort at Crystal River that hurricane renovations are behind schedule so it will not be able to host the Florida Fly Fishing EXPO in November.
- Rick is looking for a new venue and will let us know the new time and place as soon as possible.

Dec. 5: Suncoast Fly Fishers Christmas Party, St. Jerome Catholic Church, Largo

- It has been rescheduled. It's no longer Dec 12. The new date is Saturday, Dec. 5.

April 4-9 -- Trophy Trout Trip to North Georgia

- Member Cliff Nigh reports that the St. Pete Fly Shop, part of St. Pete Fishing Outfitters, has openings for the 2027 Trophy Trout Trip to just outside of Blue Ridge in North Georgia.
- The dates are Sunday, April 4 to Friday, April 9.
- The trip includes lodging at Laughing Bear Lodge, a 10,000 sq. ft. "cabin," all your meals (and we're not talking about Cheerios or Hot Dogs), and two full days of professionally guided fishing on private waters where 20- to 24-inch rainbow and brown trout are not uncommon. For the price and all the details phone Cliff at 727-510-1467.

2026 Meetings and Outings

Year	Month	Meeting Date	Speaker / Meeting	Outing Date	Outing	Target Fish	Fresh or Salt	Lunch
2026	October	10/15/26	Member Panel for Fishing the Hillsborough River	10/17/26	Hillsborough River - Carl Hanson	1. Longest Fish 2. Most Bream	Fresh	SFF Club bringing lunch Trout Creek Park
2026	November	11/19/26	SFF Open House, Fly Typing Tables - Organized by Dennis Mincher & Brian Henderson Pizza Party SFF Fly Market & Pizza Party	11/21/26	Upper Tampa Bay and Alligator Lake	1. Longest Ladyfish 2. Longest Black Bass 4. Longest Trout	Salt & Fresh	Lunch at the local restaurant: TBD
2026	December			12/5/26	Christmas Party - St Jeromes			
2026	December		No Meeting	12/19/26	Ft DeSoto - Member Tribute Outing	Longest Fish on a Fly	Salt	Our Annual Chili Extravaganza

October 17: Carl Hanson Hillsborough River Outing

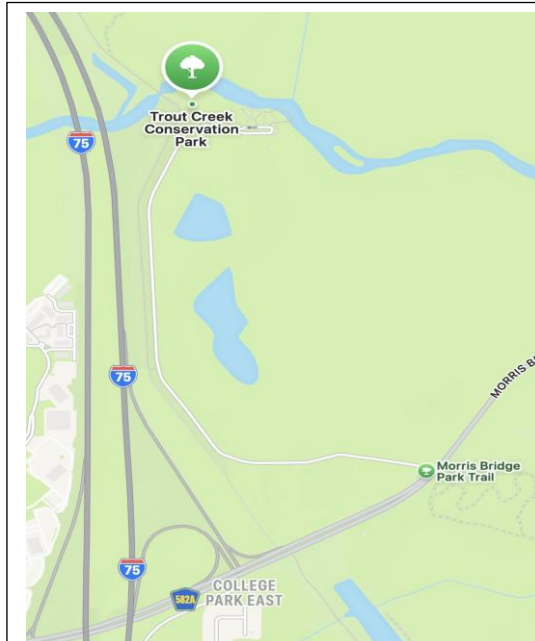
Trout Creek Conservation Park is back by popular demand for the location of the annual Hillsborough River competition with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers Club (TBFFC). This outing is in memory of Carl Hanson who belonged to both clubs. Carl was a Hillsborough River fly fishing fanatic.

Carl O. Hanson, known as *Lord of the Flies*, died in 1998. He was 84. Carl Hanson hosted a Tuesday night fly-tying and casting session, usually at his St. Pete home, for more than 40 years.

The member of either club catching the longest fish gets to keep the charcoal drawing of Carl for a year. Last year's longest fish winner was Ted Hagaman of TBFFC who caught a 15-inch bass. The fly fisher catching the most panfish gets his or her name engraved on the gold trophy. Last year SFF'er Brian Henderson caught 39 panfish and took the gold.

Brian and three others -- Mark Hays, Karen Warfel, David Redd -- will share their Hillsborough River secrets to success at the October 15 meeting.

TBFFC is this year's host. TBFFC and SFF take turns hosting the event and providing the lunch. Both clubs liked the idea of returning to fly fish the Hillsborough at the Trout Creek Conservation Park. It's Suncoast Fly Fisher's turn to serve the picnic lunch and our outings chair, Bob Burkard, will set up the buffet. Come hungry. . (Hey Bob; bring macadamia cookies, please.)



Trout Creek Conservation Park is where Trout Creek empties into the Hillsborough River. On Apple Maps the address is 12550 Morris Bridge Road, Thonotosassa.

2026 Tournament Trail Leaders

<i>Leaders on the 2026 Outing Tournament Trail</i>			
Species	Winner	Length	Outing (Month)
Longest bream	Bill Scarola	9-inches	Everglades (April)
Longest black bass	Brian Henderson	19-.5 inches	Everglades (April)
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)

Sunshine Skyway Outing with Sarasota's Mangrove Coast Club

The annual Fort De Soto Park Outing and Brisket Picnic in August was another terrific annual meet up with members of the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers in Sarasota. Six Mangrove Coasters joined 12 Suncoast Fly Fishers for the event -- fishing on either side of the Sunshine Skyway and picnicking at noon at the North Skyway Rest Area.

About 10 anglers waded in about 7 am and the bite was on! Until it wasn't.

We have a winner

Well, the bite was on for maybe 30 minutes then it quit. That was the word from Suncoast Fly Fisher Bob Hood. Bob caught four seatrout in the first half-hour then it stopped cold. Still, Bob wins the \$15 gift certificate to St. Pete Fishing Outfitters for catching the longest seatrout -- 15.75-inches.



Jay Tinsky of the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers caught this juvenile tarpon in the Manatee River.



Well, at least the pinfish were hungry

Our newest member, Luke Coscia from North Carolina, caught a flounder about 12 inches long and a baby seatrout. Kudoes to SFF member Brian Henderson for loaning a fly rod and giving some of his successful flies to Luke.

Jay Tinsky of the MCFF spend some of his early morning time fishing the Manatee River and caught a nice juvenile tarpon.



Panorama of Suncoast Fly Fishers and Mangrove Coasters at the September outing picnic at the North Skyway Rest Area. Alas, the pano picture failed to show Mark Hays on the far left. Sorry, Mark.

Cliff Nigh: Our First Weird Stuff Fly Tying Competition

At the September General Membership Meeting, we hosted our first fly tying competition night and it may not be what you think.

Originated at Bar Fly Restaurant in Dunedin and carried forward by St Pete Fly Shop (part of St Pete Fishing Outfitters), the competition stretches a fly tyer's creativity and skills and is intended to be a purely fun event.

Each participant was given one hook, all the same type and size. They were then called upon to design and tie the best fly they could using only the materials placed before them and this is where the fun started. "If it ain't on the table, you can't use it to create your fly".

At the meeting, a well-used cycling glove, one "not so smelly" sock, and old silk tie, some clear rubber tubing, a mesh flat cap and some paracord were placed on the table. The clock was started and participants were given 30 minutes to create the best fly they could.



Weird Stuff -- A necktie and some of the other odd fly tying materials.

Participants were David Redd, Brian Henderson, Dennis Mincher, Sonny Crouch, Ben Schultz, Jack Collins, Abby Gambrel, and Bill Scarola.

Judging was conducted at the end of the timed session by Luca Fiore, Karen Warfel, and Cliff Nigh. Criteria used were fishability, castability, neatness, proportions and whether it was thought that the fly would catch fish. 1st and 2nd place prizes were gift certificates to St Pete Fishing Outfitters.

The competition was well received by participants and observers alike and we look forward to hosting another "competition night" sometime in the future.

Winners:

1st Place : Abby Gambrel

2nd Place: Sonny Crouch



Abby's winning fly



Sonny's fly was second



Abby Gambrel and her winning fly



Sonny Crouch's fly took second place



Dennis Mincher's gurgler



Fish will like David Redd's fly.

Cliff Nigh: Icast Insights and Esoterica



Maybe it was just me, but the 2026 ICAST Sportfishing Trade Show in Orlando in July lacked the luster and pizzazz of previous shows. With that said, there were, indeed, some good take-aways.

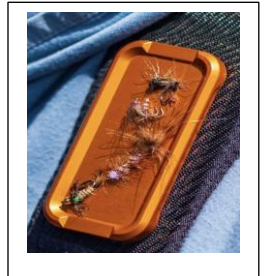
Temple Fork Outfitters (TFO) introduced a redesigned Legacy Rod in the \$400 range. This fast action rocket launcher echoes previous Legacy's and the BVK. They also introduced the Solution which is a freshwater clone of the Moment. Same blank, different hardware and comes in at around \$550. Overall, a very, very nice weapon. They have also introduced the Moment and Solution in 1 piece versions.



St. Croix won Best of Show for their 9th Generation Imperial. Rod retails for about \$395. The 9 Gen rod is completely redesigned but retains the loveable aspects of prior Imperials. Comes in 3 through 8 wt. The crusher is it is backed by a 15 year warranty which is close to unheard of. Top that with it being made in America (Park Falls, Wisconsin). Certainly worth a look-see.

Loop Reels won Best of Show with their Classic X Multiplier reel which boasts a 2.5:1 retrieve ratio. Designed in Sweden and manufactured in S. Korea, I'm not sure how many of you will be interested in them especially when considering their \$1,150 price point.

Cling Mag products are worth checking out. They are magnetic fly holders and a far cry from the wool fleece patches most of us are familiar with from "back in the day". They offer a wide range of sizes, including vest/shirt sizes, various boatbox and gunnel sizes. They also offer a line of tool holders for tying bench and boats. What's impressive is that they are moderately priced!!



Rambler is offering a complete line of fly tying tools in addition to their vises. If you recall, Rambler bought out Wolff Vises several years ago and still carries the Wolff Atlas (very nice vise) as well as some new models of their own. Their Apex vise retails for about \$199. Just as impressive is their modestly priced tools including scissors, bobbin cradles, etc. Definitely worth checking out when compared to Dr. Slick's continual price increases.

Asghar Export won Best of Show for their Fly Tying Tool Kit. Yes, it's nice and high quality but at \$150 I wonder..... The problem with "kits" is you end up with items you will seldom, if ever use or could make cheaper yourself. I can show you how to make a dubbing brush for less than \$1 and a dubbing loop twister out of a paper clip. Haha. Still, nice tools if you have the coin.

Hope this all gives you something to check-out and ponder about.

Cliff

Samantha Tallyn: 2026 Lady Fly Tournament



*Samantha Tallyn,
founder-director,
Suncoast Lady Fly.*

The Suncoast Fly Fishers third annual Lady Fly tournament was a big success! We had the largest turnout so far with 20 teams entered and 29 anglers participating. We had several new anglers this year and three youth teams. All of the anglers have vowed to return next year.

The awards dinner held at TikiDocks was a wonderful event. Everyone mingled, and

swapped fishing stories. We had a great raffle line up, including four charters, casting lessons, TurtleBox, and a hotel stay/manatee tour. and much, much more

Congratulations to our 2026 Lady Fly winners

First Place: Admiral Dibby (Jenny Roche) 44.25 inches

Second Place: Lisa Lowman 44 inches

Third Place: Queen Fishers (Erica Holla and Rachel Wells) 30.25 inches

Closest to 24 inches: tie between Frequent Flyers and The Holly Rollers
(Frequent Flyers Karen Warfel and Bobbie Skukowski submitted their picture first.)

First Place Youth: Sea Lark (Marley Larkin)

Smallest Trout: Admiral Dibby (Jenny Roche)

Largest Pinfish: Aria Ross (our seven year old winner)

Everyone enjoyed the dinner and drinks while listening to our guest speakers, Bob Branham and his daughter Stacy. The evening was perfect, with everyone enjoying themselves and saying how wonderful this event was. Our winners of the tournament was a range of the teams, with our youngest winners being seven years old. We had our first tie of the tournament, with the Frequent Flyers posting their picture first.

This event is growing in popularity, we have gained well over a hundred followers in just the past couple of months on social media. After the awards dinner one of the guides commented to my husband Wes that he believes that this could become the largest lady fly fishing event outside of the keys.



Contestants in the third annual Suncoast Fly Fishers Lady Fly tournament on Sept. 12.

This is an event for our club to be proud of, and I can't thank enough all the volunteers and those who donated flies for our raffle. They help make this event the success that it is. I'm grateful for the support from our sponsors and I'm excited for the future.

It's a big **GO** for next year!!!!

Samantha

Tim Elms: "Light Shadows"



Howdy! Summer is almost winding down and I had to get out for a dock light trip. I had the pleasure to go out with our local guide Ethan Kiburz in September. Ethan and I had previously went out during the beach migration for tarpon and got to feed a few and fight a very large



fish for over an hour. It was our first time together, so I think we both were pushing each other on what we were made of. Light trips are another beast. Ethan doesn't do them much anymore for clients and I can see why. We fished til 430am for a start. Hahah

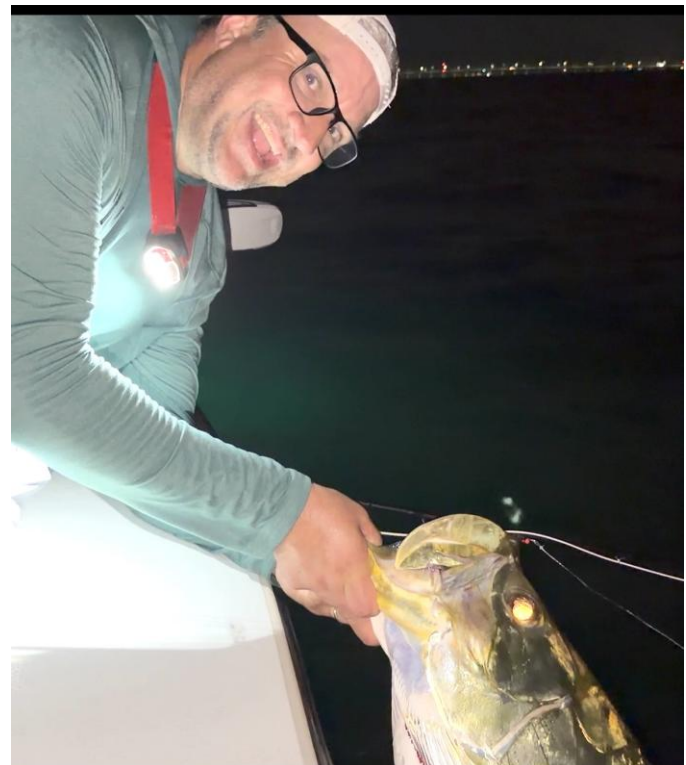
This was the first time I booked a captain for a night trip. And even though I miss and love my night time fishing buddies, having a pro behind the wheel is well worth the dough. Ethan was a wizard with a trolling motor. Putting me in the exact spot I wanted to be in before I even could tell him how I wanted to attack. Having a local pro do the hard part is a no brainer.

The night started out with plenty of sea trout. I mean plenty. Even to the point we were pointing fish out and targeting specific ones. Pulling my fly out before a non target would eat. Its so great to see the trout back. We landed quite a few over the 25" mark. Then we ran into snook. This is always a night time favorite for me. Seeing a large female surrounded by hungry males makes the shot even more challenging. I got to make it look easy with my captain. Many snook were caught but these 2 over slots were the best. One was even waving its tail at us as we pulled up....the crazy stuff you see at night never stops amazing me. We make quite a team and I remember saying that we are good at this. Hahah..

Tarpon was next on my menu. Casting in the dark at darker shadows was super new to me. It takes awhile to focus on what is actually happening at your feet. Again, this was not for the faint of heart, an average skiff driver or a novice fly angler. Ethan was an absolute pro pulling us from the eat into safety and running down the big girl. What a treat and after her flights; man were my arms tired..lol THANKS CAPT!!!

Captain Ethan Kiburz -captainethankiburz.com

Strip Strip Strip---Tim



Mike Nolan: Catch the redfish before the shark...

"...while standing in my kayak."



After chasing rainbows in Idaho it's nice to be back in Florida hunting for bigger fish.

I often kayak fish in the Weedon Island area and I've noticed two minor changes since returning - more redfish sightings and more shark encounters.



Mike's redfish. He rescued it from an approaching shark

The fish pictured was caught on a fly while standing in my kayak. I cast ahead of a small school of reds, saw him take it during a slow retrieve, and then noticed a large shark approaching.

Fortunately, the shark spooked when it saw me. I managed to keep my balance, land the fish, and release it after snapping a quick pic. In the end it turned out pretty well for all three of us!

Mike

Wally Vidal: Upper Colorado River Float Trip



Wally with a big Upper Colorado River rainbow.

Trout were eating the bottom fly, size 16 soft hackle, of the hopper and dropper rig. A nice brown trout started the action, followed by one mini brown, then two LDRs, another brown trout, and then, finally, a rainbow.

My audience that day included my guide Chris, a few trout, plus a sleek mink.

Wally



Wally's guide Chris took this selfie with Wally.

The state of Colorado is home to many great trout streams: Eagle, Roaring Fork, Frying Pan, South Platte, Arkansas, Gunnison and the mighty Colorado. A few weeks ago, I got the chance to test some new waters, the Upper Colorado River.

Located between Steamboat Springs and the Eagle Valley, the Upper Colorado River flows in a southwestern direction through unpopulated tracts of high country sage at an elevation of 7000 ft. The only signs of civilization are the dormant railroad tracks that are sometimes visible from the water.



Rigged and ready to float-fish the Upper Colorado River.



The Upper Colorado, elevation 7000 feet, flows through a remote and very scenic area.

Mike Frick: Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby on Martha's Vineyard

Editor's note; SFF member Mike Frick is/was in Martha's Vineyard fishing the annual, multi-day tournament until the derby ending on Oct 17.

I'm up on Martha's Vineyard for the 81st annual Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby. We took stripers out of the tournament to protect them so now it's a bluefish, albacore, and bonita derby.

There is a fly division as well as an all tackle division. I do both as the weather has been challenging. It started okay with a sunny three days of 75 degree temps, then we got some rain and 15 mph winds before the weather got nice again. However, wind started blowing at 15 to 20 mph and then went to 30 sustained with gusts of 40-plus.

And then, the infamous Nor-Easter struck us with heavy rain and gusts up over 60 MPH.

But we will be out in it. We are hoping the storm actually enhances the fishing. Tons of albies and bonita are down in Rhode Island and off Montauk and our hope was that the strong winds will push them farther up the coast toward us.

I did land an albie on the fly. It was about 24-inches, just short of the 25-inch minimum. One of the guys I fish with currently stands in third place for catching a bonita on the fly.

Two natural issues we are dealing with are the seals and sharks. Seals have taken multiple fish right off the hook. As we fish the sharks can be clearly seen cruising for fish in about nine inches of water just five feet off the beach. Wading in has become something we need to be very careful as to where and how far we wade in! A woman was bitten by a shark a few weeks ago.

Something needs to be done about the absolute devastation of the menhaden population and the effect that is having on the northeast fisheries. This is the number one main reason we have removed stripers from the tournament.

Mike



Mike Frick with an albacore. It was one inch short of the 25-inch minimum



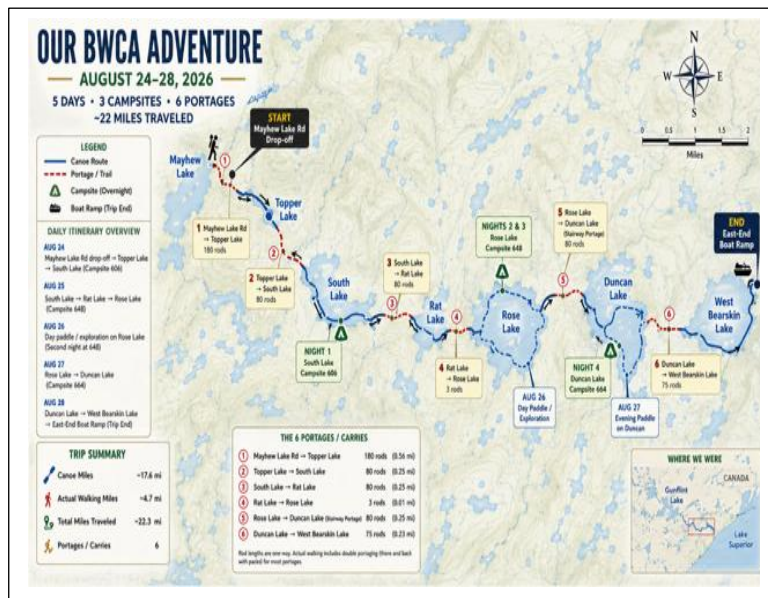
Fish-stealer -- Mike and his fishing buddies had to deal with seals like this stealing fish right off the hook.

Wes and Kelly Sobczak: Boundary Waters Canoe Area

Wes and Kelly Sobczak traveled to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) in Minnesota in late August. They used Clearwater Outfitters on the east side of the BWCA as recommended by Ted Rich and other club members.

The outfitter provided canoes and bear containers, and shuttles to/from the entry/exit points. It was definitely a strenuous trip, with six portages and six lakes to paddle across.

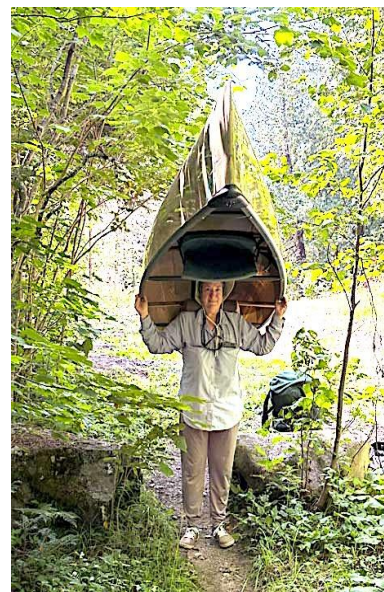
The smallmouth bass ate both topwater and streamer patterns throughout the week. It was peaceful, and they didn't see another person until the last day and a half of the trip.



Wes with one of many smallmouth bass



Kelly and one of her bass



Kelly does the hefty lifting



Camping in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area



Sunrise! Let's go fishing.

Wes and Kelly

New World Champion Fly Caster is only 14

Joe Mahler of the Sanibel Fly Fishers and a recent speaker for the Suncoast Fly Fishers, reports one of his long time fly casting students, 14-year-old Elias Blagojevic-Lilly, is now a world champion fly caster.

Elias and his mother Elizabeth Lilly flew to Italy in August and competed in the International Casting Sport Championships

Elias won the Men's Trout Accuracy category, plus he broke the distance record by 10 meters in the Youth Salmon

Distance category. Elias is a true champion and a big friend of our FLA Casting Games buddies. (He also ties a lot of great flies for Tim Elms 😊)



Elias Blagojevic-Lilly of Sanibel, just 14 years old, won the Trout Accuracy category at the International Casting Sport Championships in Vinadio, Italy. Elias started taking fly casting lessons from Joe Mahler of the Sanibel Fly Fishers when he was just seven years old.

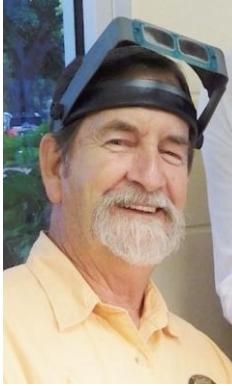


Joe Mahler demonstrates long casting form at one of his appearances at a Suncoast Fly Fishers practice session.



Elias with his mother Elizabeth Lilly who also competed and scored high in several categories.

Monday Night Fly Tying Sessions



Bruce Evensen

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

Troy Dillman: Flexo Crab

Troy led fly tyers through the steps for his fly on Oct. 5. Troy wrote that the Flexo Crab is one of the 10 FFI Saltwater Skills Award flies. "I chose the Flexo as one of my 8 fly patterns. I received a perfect score on it and several others. I was awarded the FFI Saltwater Skills Award (same as Jack Collins)."

Materials

Hook – Mustad S71SAP Salt Streamer #1 or equivalent. Google search if you're not sure. FYI, 34007 is not equivalent)

Thread - .004 Mono

Eyes: Medium Painted Lead Dumbbell Eyes - Black

Ice Dubbing - Pearl or Chartreuse

Body Tubing – ¼ inch - Tan

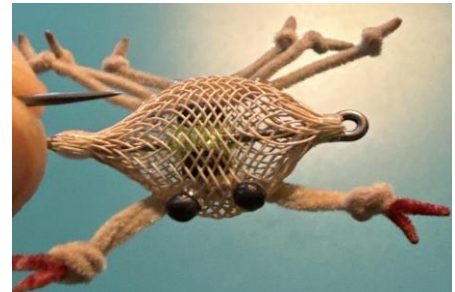
Micro Chenille - Tan

Sharpie Marker – Red

Mono/Shrimp Eyes - Black

UV Resin

Super Glue



Flexo Crab

Dennis Mincher: Kwan Shrimp



Kwan Shrimp

Dennis led fly tyers through the steps for his fly September 21.

Materials

Hook - Mustad S71SAP Salt Streamer #4 or Equivalent

Thread - Danville 140 denier - Tan or Equivalent

Bead Chain Eyes - Silver

Chickabou or Marabou Feather - Orange

Extra Select Craft Fur - Tan

Rubber Legs - Orange

Large Soft Hackle Hen Feather - Brown

EP Fiber - Tan

EP Fiber - Bronze

30lb Mono

Sharpie Marker - Brown or Black

Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



Bill AuCoin, editor, *On The fly*

Suncoast Fly Fishers are FFI members-- Matt Jockers has been a professor of data analytics, a college dean, founder of three technology startups, and a senior engineering manager at Apple. And, now, he will lead Fly Fishers International. ([EFI](#))

Lefty. Stu. Chico. Huff. Flip.--Flip Pallot RIP was one of those fly fishers who created a whole new category of fly fishing -- saltwater fly fishing. Author/editor T. Edward Nickens delivered a special tribute to Flip at the 14th Annual NYC Dinner & Awards Ceremony of Bonefish & Tarpon Trust. ([BT&T](#))

Where are the fish? Many thousands of people are relocating to saltwater areas and salty estuaries are feeling the pressure. We're losing fish habitat. Water quality is declining. Increasingly, fly fishers are asking each other...where are the fish? If there are no gamefish on the flats and nearshore areas-- *face it* --saltwater fly fishing is kaput. It's time to confront the future. Well, duh. ([Angler Sportsman](#))

He's a star--Pull the trigger now to own one of these Tom Rosenbauer signature Helios fly rods, fly boxes and nets from Orvis. 300 rods, 300 fly boxes, and 100 landing nets ([Fly Lords](#))

Are large arbor reels everything they're cranked up to be?--There are pros and cons. Like, yeah, faster retrieve versus loss of backing. But the tilt in this Buzz Bryson article is go for it...but choose wisely. ([Saltwater Sportsman](#))

Bill

A promotional poster for the Florida Cast Casting Games. The top left features a logo with a map of Florida and the text "FLORIDA CAST CASTING GAMES". The main title "CASTING GAMES" is in large green letters, with "Saturday, Oct 24th" and "Meadowlawn Park" below it. A group of people is shown on a golf course. The text "Second Annual St. Pete Open" is prominently displayed. Below this, it says "Bring your favorite rod and reel (8wt. suggested) Fly, leader and lunch are provided." To the right, the location "Meadowlawn Park 7501 14th st. N Saint Petersburg, FL" and time "8 am to noon" are listed. At the bottom left, RSVP information is provided: "If you plan to attend, RSVP to: tim@timelmsflycasting.com or: joe@joemahler.com". At the bottom center, a large orange hoop is shown with the text "Pro and Amateur divisions 8wt Game, Upright Hoop and Distance" and an arrow pointing to it.

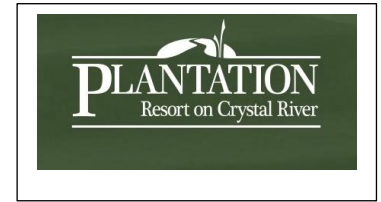
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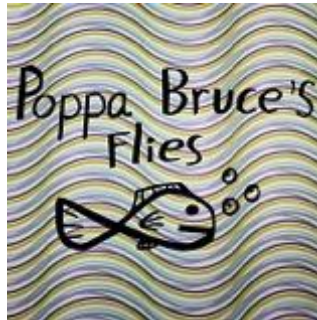
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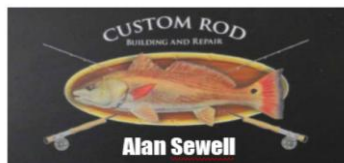


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