On The Fly

Newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers of St. Petersburg

Rainy Carl Hanson Hillsborough Outing P6



Outing "picnic" in Safety Harbor. P8



Ross Andersen's Salmon Trophy P14



Big Gun Shoot-Out winners P10-11



November Everglades Expedition P13



Middle Andros bonefish P15



President's Message -- November 2026



SFF President David Redd

It's hard to believe, but the end of 2026 is drawing near! However, Suncoast Fly Fishers still has plenty packed into the last two months of the year.

At this month's member meeting, we will once again hold our Fly Market. Bring any unused gear, flies, rods, reels, or other fishing equipment you no longer need and see if you can find them a new home while making a few dollars in the process. We will also have fly-tying demonstrations. Feel free to sit back and watch or join in on the fun. Bring a vise if you would like to tie, and materials will be provided.

Our November outing will take us to Upper Tampa Bay, followed by lunch at the Whistle Stop in Safety Harbor.

On December 5th, SFF will host our annual Holiday Party at St. Jerome's Church. The main course will be provided, and members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will also have a White Elephant gift exchange, so bring a wrapped gift if you would like to participate. And don't forget our annual Ugly Sweater Contest!

There will be no member meeting in December, but we will have our annual SFF Member Tribute Outing at Fort De Soto Park on December 19th. Of course, no outing would be complete without our Chili Extravaganza for lunch! Join us, bring your favorite chili if you would like, and sample some of the other delicious offerings. It's always a great time filled with good food and good fellowship.

I hope to see you at these upcoming events!

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 50I (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

Online Pay Portal: Pay dues, donate, purchase
https://suncoastflyfishers.com/eshop/

Welcome new members:

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, Tim Elms

FFI Liaison: Rick Warfel, President of FFI-Florida

Conservation and Scholarships Cliff Nigh

Fly Tying: Bruce Evensen, Bill Scarola, Dennis Mincher, Brian Henderson

Hog Roast: Jack Collins

Membership: Karen Warfel
Webmaster: Tim Elms
Facebook: Cliff Nigh, Anne Mitchell

Outings: Bob Burkard, David Redd, Bill AuCoin, Quin Berry. 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

BULLETIN: Founder/director Samantha Tallyn reports that the third annual Suncoast Fly Fishers Lady Fly tournament on September 12 earned close to $4,000 for our club. Tallyn is already lining up speakers for next two tournaments. The next Lady Fly tournament is: Sept. 11, 2027

Member satisfaction survey: Our Suncoast Fly Fishers Board members are planning our Outings, Meeting Speakers and Activities, and Events for 2027, and we ask that you take a few minutes to complete the following survey. It takes about 5 minutes. Suncoast Fly Fishers Member Satisfaction Survey

Thursday, November19 meeting with the annual "*Fly Market*"

- Sellers and buyers, please come to the November 19 meeting to enjoy our club's ~~Flea~~ Fly Market. Bring some outdoorsy gear to sell. Put a price tag on your items and display them on the tables. At the end of the meeting you can meet with members who are interested in your for-sale items.
- Also, come with a pocketful of cash to get some great deals. And if your gear doesn't sell, just donate it to the club for auctioning at January's Trash 'n' Treasures meeting.
- President David Redd opens the meeting at 7 but come earlier for pizza and cookies, etc.
- Sign up for the November 21 outing and picnic.
- Brian Henderson, Dennis Mincher, and David Redd will demonstrate how they tie their favorite flies.
- Hats and other items with the SFF logo can be purchased before and after the meeting at one of the back-of-the-room tables.
- Before or after the meeting members and guests can buy bucket raffle tickets for $1 or 6 tickets for $5 at the back of the room to win some fly tying materials and other items.

Saturday, November 21 Saltwater and Freshwater outing

- Fish Upper Tampa Bay north of the Howard Frankland Bridge. Gift certificates will be awarded to the members catching the longest snook, redfish, seatrout, and ladyfish.
- Also, fish Alligator Lake, Alligator Creek, or the pond at Cooper's Bayou Park. Gift certificates will be awarded to the members catching the longest bass and the longest panfish.
- Measure and take pictures of your longest fish. You could also take the lead in one of the longest fish categories in the annual outing trail competition. See the outing tournament trail leaders below.
- Meet up at noon for lunch at the Whistle Stop Grill and Bar, 915 Main Street, Safety Harbor

Leaders on the 2026 Outing Tournament Trail

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)**

Meetings, Outings, and More

Save the Dates

- December 5. Christmas Party, 5-9 pm, St. Jerome Catholic Church, Largo. Ugly Sweater contest and White Elephant gift exchange. Bring a wrapped gift if you want to participate. Cliff Nigh will donate a gift for the door-prize raffle. Bring a salad, side dish, or a dessert. The club provides the main course. Robert and Annie Mitchell will be returning as emcees.
- No meeting in December.
- December 19 Outing: Fort De Soto Park. Annual Outstanding Member Tribute outing. Chili cookoff. Gift certificate for the longest fish of any species caught on the fly.
- January 21 Trash 'n Treasures live auction meeting. This is one of our big fundraisers. Come early and donate gear you no longer use. Browse the other gear for sale that you might want to bid on. Auctioneers are Alan Sewell, David Redd, and Quin Berry.
- January 22 outing. Weedon Island Preserve and a Low Country Seafood Broil at member Bruce Evensen's house at 531 80th Ave. N. St. Pete.
- February. 6, 2027 casting skills clinic led by Dayle Mazzarella, MCI; Pat Damico, MCI; and Tim Elms. Location and clinic format to be determined.

Saturday morning casting practice sessions, St. Petersburg

- Meet up (almost) every Saturday at 7:30 am at Meadowlawn Park, 7501 14th Street N. Guests are welcome.

Florida Council FFI Expo will be rescheduled with 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.

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 details phone Cliff at 727-510-1467.

Year	Month	Meeting Date	Speaker / Meeting	Outing Date	Outing	Target Fish	Fresh or Salt	Lunch
2026	November	11/19/2026	Fly Typing Tables - Organized by Dennis Mincher & Brian Henderson Pizza Party, and SFF Fly Market	11/21/2026	Upper Tampa Bay and Alligator Lake	1. Longest Ladyfish 2. Longest Black Bass 4. Longest Trout	Salt & Fresh	Lunch at: https://www.whistlestopgrill.com/
2026	December		No Meeting	12/5/2026	Christmas Party - St Jeromes			
				12/19/2026	Ft DeSoto - Member Tribute Outing	Longest Fish on a Fly	Salt	Our Annual Chili Extravaganza
2027	January		Trash & Treasures	12/19/2026	Weedon Island	Longest Fish on a Fly	Salt	Low Country Boil

October 17 Carl Hanson Outing on the Hillsborough River

Rainy days and ~~Mondays~~ outing days don't always stop the fish from biting but they did at this year's Carl Hanson competition with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. We only had three fishers but only two fish were caught, both bluegills. Mark Hays won the longest fish competition. Mark and Mike Nolan shared the trophy engraving for catching the most panfish.



Mark Hays accepts the Carl Hanson drawing for catching the longest fish. from Ted Hagaman, last year's longest fish winner, a



Mark Hays' 7-inch bluegill was the longest fish of the day but he had to share the "most fish" award with Mike Nolan, who also caught one bluegill.



That's Ted Hagaman from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club fishing Trout Creek where it enters the Hillsborough River. Yeah those dimples on the surface are rain drops.



Mike Nolans' outing bluegill.

Mark Hays: Do I Have to Take the Trophy?

Where were you when the rain came down, when the skeeters bit, and when the spider attacked? Spider? Keep reading. You were probably sitting somewhere warm and dry just like our raincoats.

My daughter Annie and I were paddling up a lonely river. Water was dripping off of our paddles and our noses. We knew the weather was going to be iffy, but it's not often that we can relive the days of fishing the October outing on the Hillsborough River together.

This was the annual Carl Hanson competition with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. 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 gold trophy.

Annie joined me in the canoe this year. The family connection was good but my connection to fish was not so good.



Anne Hays Mitchell

Did you hear Annie scream?

We did have a connection to a spider, though. At one point Annie placed an errant cast into a spider web. Suddenly a spider larger than her floating fly attacked her foam decoy. The spider kept biting and stinging her fly all the way back to the boat. Annie is a grown woman and mother now, but her fear of spiders has not dissipated over the years. Her scream could be heard half a mile away as the angry arachnid neared the boat.



The spider (right) attacked Annie's little bug fly. Watch the video here.



Mark's name and Mike Nolan's name have been engraved on the Carl Hanson outing trophy for catching the most panfish (don't ask)) at the October outing.

As it turns out only two fish were caught at this outing, one by Mike Nolan and one by me. My bluegill was longer (two inches longer) so I get to keep the Carl Hanson sketch for a year.

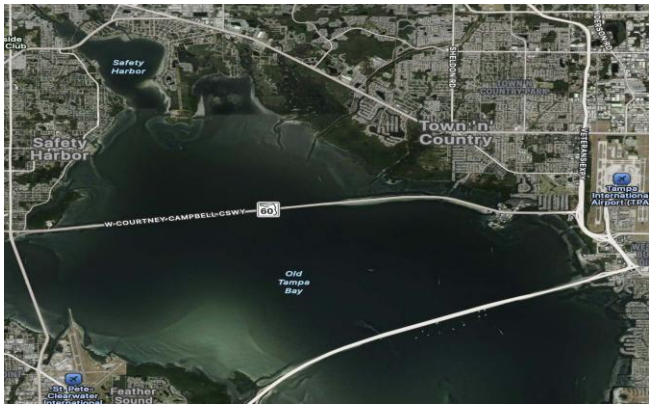
But, Mike Nolan and I tied in the most-fish caught category. Mike caught one bluegill. I caught one bluegill. In the spirit of fairness and Carl's vision for the club, our club directors decided that both of us should have our names engraved on the trophy as 2026 winners. Happily, the number of fish caught is not engraved on the trophy.

Well, only three SFF members and two Tampa members fly-fished this outing. Bill AuCoin picked up goodies from Publix and we all gobbled up fried chicken, cole slaw, potato salad, and cookies. A good time was had by all. So, despite the rain and poor fishing, we can call this Carl Hanson outing a success.

Mark

November 21 Outing: Upper Tampa Bay and Alligator Lake/Creek

Gift certificates will be awarded for the longest snook, redfish, seatrout, bream. and black bass. Measure carefully. Have a fishing friend verify it and/or take a picture if you can. Measure your Outing Tournament fishes, too. We'll have a nice incoming tide.



Fish saltwater north of the Howard Frankland Bridge



Catch bass and bluegill from your kayak on Alligator Lake. Put in at the Safety Harbor City Park. You can also fish the Alligator Creek ponds on the west side of McMullen-Booth Road in Clearwater.



Cichlids anyone? Cooper's Bayou Park Pond is on Bayshore Blvd. SW of downtown Safety Harbor. Catch bass, bluegills, Mayan cichlids. (Maybe) Fish from the walkway. Try not to hit walkers on your back-cast. Plus there's a nice kayak launch here with access to Old Tampa Bay. Don't wade-fish this area. It's too mucky.



Lunch is at noon at the Whistle Stop Grill & Bar at 915 Main Street, Safety Harbor. If the parking lot is full you can usually find slots at the city public parking lot on Main Street about a block east of Whistle Stop Grill.

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Suncoast Fly Fishers Share Their Bass and Bream Secrets



October bass and bream panel, l-r, David Redd, Mark Hays, Karen Warfel, Brian Henderson.

At the October meeting David Redd, Mark Hays, Karen Warfel, and Brian Henderson shared how they have caught the bass and bream. All four have their names Carl Hanson Hillsborough Outing trophy. The October outing is history but their tips are also helpful for catching bass and bream at other freshwater locations including Alligator Lake, a November outing location.



Brian's Gillgetter

Brian Henderson's name went on the Carl Hanson trophy last year for catching the most (39!) panfish on the Hillsborough River in 2025. He has a favorite fly that he created -- The Gillgetter -- a leggy spider he ties on a #6 hook. Brian casts for bream with a 3-weight, too.



Muddler Minnow

Mark Hays usually targets bass. His favorite fly of all is the muddler minnow but he also uses white poppers and the Carl Hanson glass minnow. Mark said he has found it extremely helpful to fish from the bow of a canoe or a jon boat and have another person with a paddle in the stern to keep the boat in position so he can make more fly casts to his target. And his favorite targets are shady shorelines with thick vegetation. Sharp hooks are critical, too, he said.

Karen Warfel agreed with Mark about the importance of having a stern paddler to keep the canoe in position to increase the number and accuracy of casts with her 4-weight rod. For bream she looks to place Smitty's Crystal Beetle or similar fly into the shoreline water behind cypress trunks and knees. She never fishes the sunny side of the stream.

Dave Redd likes to throw the black gurgler for bass. For bluegills he'll throw little spiders and bugs on a 3-weight. This is interesting: when the bluegills don't take the hook but just nibble on the Sili Legs David shortens the legs.



Former member Terry Kirkpatrick shared tips for catching "brim" in Alligator Lake in the April, 2021 issue.

Terry Kirkpatrick: Tips for fly fishing Alligator Lake

There's only one launch point on alligator lake. That's a public boat ramp on the north west side of the lake, next to the Little League ball fields. The street to the boat ramp is off 7th Avenue south, at the rail road tracks. The ramp is good but parking is limited.

Alligator Lake runs more or less north and south. Like an inverted figure 8. Alligator Creek comes in from the south and is fishable but not productive. (You might get one fish, and that fish could be a whopper, or a minnow.) I've always had success fishing the lower part of the lake.



Sparkle Bugger

Look for overhanging branches and fish the shadow line. Both the east and the west sides can be productive. Once again, fish the shadow line. My favorite fly is a size 10 Spider, or an olive Sparkle bugger

Terry

Tim Elms: Big Fun at the 2026 Big Gun Shoot-Out

Tangled Leaders , team of Joe Mahler, Tim Elms, and John Feyko won the Big Gun Shootout on Sunday, November 15, at Picnic Island with a total team accuracy and distance score of 1,222. Tim's total was 400, Joe's was 397, and John's was 425. Seven competitors cast more than 100 feet to qualify for the Long Distance competition.



Lisa Lowman won the Ladies Trophy with a score of 270. Walt Durkin, President of the DTBBC, presented the trophy.



Tangled Leaders won the team championship at the 2026 Big Gun Shoot-Out. L to R -- John Feyko, Tim Elms, and Joe Mahler.



Walt presented the longest cast award to Cas Summers. How far did he cast? 113-feet! Six other competitors cast longer than 100 feet to qualify..



Ed Matuizek's individual score of 479 crushed the field and may be one of the highest ever. Ed is a nationally-competitive caster from Ft. Myers.

2026 Big Gun Shoot-Out Scorecard

2026 FINAL — TROPHY WINNERS IN GREEN

TBFFC BIG GUN SHOOT-OUT 2026 | Date shown on original: 11/15/2026

Team	Competitor	Hanson	Hoop	V-Fish	Mangrove	Accuracy	Distance*	Total**	Indiv Rank	Team Name	Shoot-Out Dist
1	John French	20	0	60	40	60	85	265	18	Only Fins	
1	Scott Russell	0	40	60	20	40	65	225	26	Only Fins	
1	Brian Berry	0	40	60	80	85	82	347	11	Only Fins	
	TEAM TOTAL							837			
2	Tim Elms	0	100	60	60	80	100	400	4	Tangled Leaders	96.9
2	John Fenko	0	80	80	80	85	100	425	2	Tangled Leaders	90.2
2	Joe Mahler	0	72	80	60	85	100	397	5	Tangled Leaders	105.9
	TEAM TOTAL							1222			
3	Jim Stone	0	44	40	20	40	84	228	25	Maverick	
3	Joe Hobson	20	24	40	60	45	80	269	17	Maverick	
3	Eddie Matuzek	0	100	100	100	85	94	479	1	Maverick	
	TEAM TOTAL							976			
4	Bobby Lachtara	0	12	40	40	40	74	206	27	Misfits	
4	Jim Humphrey	0	72	40	40	40	73	265	18	Misfits	
4	Nichola Hazivasilis	0	16	60	40	40	77	233	24	Misfits	
	TEAM TOTAL							704			
5	Vince Ruggerio	20	92	80	60	40	100	392	6	Vince's Team	84.8
5	Colin Townsend	20	88	60	40	80	77	365	8	Vince's Team	
5	Rick McGee	0	0	40	40	80	86	246	22	Vince's Team	
	TEAM TOTAL							1003			
6	Chad Gollihher	0	56	60	80	80	87	363	9	The Outsiders	
6	Bob Bebout	0	76	40	40	85	100	341	12	The Outsiders	79.2
6	Will Klaus	0	20	40	40	60	78	238	23	The Outsiders	
	TEAM TOTAL							942			
7	John Collins	0	12	40	20	60	69	201	28	Long Cast	
7	Luke Coscia	0	0	20	0	20	72	112	30	Long Cast	
7	Jamie Bigelow	0	0	80	40	80	86	286	15	Long Cast	
	TEAM TOTAL							599			
8	Rick Warfel	0	92	60	60	85	92	389	7	Piano Keys	
8	Ernie Blum	0	68	60	40	80	92	340	13	Piano Keys	
8	James Davis	0	72	60	60	80	78	350	10	Piano Keys	
	TEAM TOTAL							1079			
9	Jay Wright	0	56	60	40	80	100	336	14	Sore Shoulders	96.8
9	Cas Summers	0	100	60	80	85	100	425	2	Sore Shoulders	113.1
9	Scott Zasrenchowski	20	48	60	20	40	72	260	21	Sore Shoulders	
	TEAM TOTAL							1021			
10	Lisa Lowmann	0	44	60	40	40	86	270	16	The Lady Fish	
10	John Foster	0	0	20	20	0	73	113	29	The Lady Fish	
10	Dave Boeckle	0	48	60	20	40	95	263	20	The Lady Fish	
	TEAM TOTAL							646			
11	Leigh West	0	24	80	60	85	91	340	13	The Last Cast	
11	Walt Durkin	0	40	60	60	60	72	292	15	The Last Cast	
11	Ted Hagaman	0	28	60	60	65	73	286	15	The Last Cast	
	TEAM TOTAL							918			

St. Pete Open Casting Contest

P/A	Caster Name	Round 1	Round 2	Distance	Notes	Hoop	Total	Place
Pro	James Davis	1600	2200	102	Long Pro 102	230	4132	1st Pro/Long Pro
P	Jim Stone	2100	1400	73		210	3783	2nd Pro
mateur	Scott Russell	2300	1700	72		0	4072	1st Am
A	Brian Berry	1700	1800	71		250	3821	2nd Am
A	Dennis Mincher	1300	2100	84		310	3794	
A/P	Rich McGee	1700	1400	84		0	3184	
A/P	Ernie Blum	1200	1600	93		170	3063	
A	Jack Collins	1500	1200	76		50	2826	
A/P	Bryan Perry	1700	700	92		270	2762	
A	Rick Warfel	1400	1200	71		70	2741	
A	Luke Coscia	1200	800	61		0	2061	
A	Bob Bebout	800	800	97	Long AM 97	120	1817	Longest Am
A	Jim Humphrey	900	600	64		110	1674	
A	Bobby Lachtara	1000	600	72		0	1672	
A	Bill Aucoin	800	600	78		120	1598	
A	Terry Dunne	600	700	59		0	1359	

Congratulations to SFF member James Davis for winning the professional division with the most points -- 4132 -- for accuracy and distance. And congrats to SFF member Scott Russell for scoring the most points -- 4072 -- in the amateur division. In addition to Suncoast Fly Fishers, competitors included members of the Sanibel Island Fly Fishers and the Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers.



Tim Elms and Joe Mahler explain the competition to competitors in the Second St. Pete Open on October 24 at Meadowlawn Park in St. Petersburg



St. Pete Open Founder Tim Elms sets up targets,

Jack Collins: Clewiston Group Fly Fish the Everglades Canals

We had a pretty slow three days of fishing in early November. A total of 48 fish were caught over the first two days with eight fishermen slinging flies -- Jack Collins, Bill Scarola, Tom Trukenbrod, Bruce Evensen, Tony Piazza, Tom Findlay, Luke Coscia, Dennis Mincher

Most of the fish were bass caught with weighted flies that were jigged along the bottom. A few bream were also mixed in but no exotics. We did have a few alligators visit us in some of the flat open water where we had our best action.

Our third day was a wash out due to the historic rainfall in the area last week. The Lake Okeechobee flood gates were wide open with a massive outflow to lower the high water. level. That flow created a strong current through the canals that overflowed out into the river of grass.



That's Trukenbrod holding his 15.5-inch bass, the longest of this glades trip.



Bruce Evensen and Tony Piazza share their fishing secrets.

Credits for the longest bass of the trip -- 15 and 1/2 inches -- goes to Truk and Bill Scarola. Tony caught the most fish in one day, 8 bass with the longest at 15 inches. The rest of the group had mixed action with lots of peddling, paddling and casting.

Each day ended after a shower and a hearty meal followed by adult beverages and shared memories of the day and previous adventures then we crashed for the night at the Roland Martin Marina and Resort.

Jack



Clewiston Group, L- R: Bruce Evensen, Luke Coscia, Truk Trukenbrod, Jack Collins, Tom Findlay, Dennis Mincher, Bill Scarola, and Tony Piazza. (Bill Scarola photo)

Ross Andersen: New York Steelhead and Salmon, too

I'll be back in Florida in the next couple of weeks. I thought this may be interesting for the members.

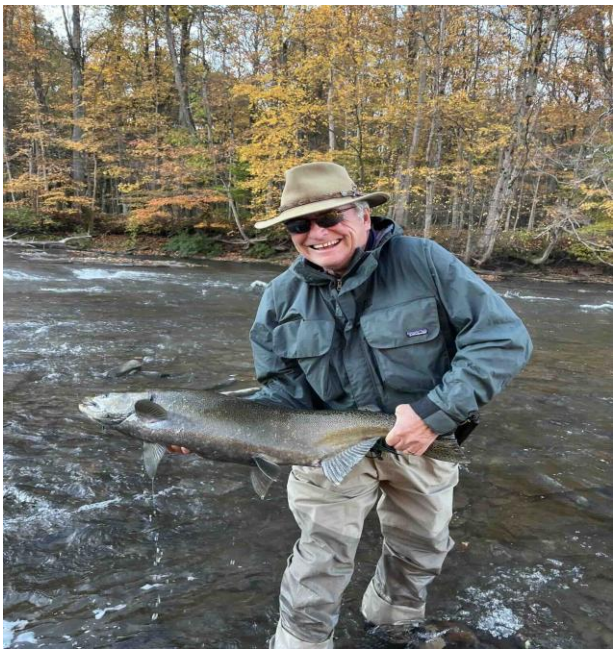
I recently was steelheading in upstate New York on the Salmon River and got a few nice ones. It was kind of the in-between season between salmon and steelhead.

I was drifting egg patterns through the salmon and typically the steelhead are behind them when they're letting eggs go. I hooked into a 25 pound salmon by accident. It was quite a tussle on my seven weight.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meetings when I get back to Florida. All the best



That's Ross with his 25-pound salmon caught on his 7-wt fly rod.



Ross with a Salmon River steelhead.



Ross with another steelhead on the Salmon river

Ross

Tony Piazza: Windy, Rainy Andros Island Bonefish

David Redd and I just got back form Andros Island in the Bahamas. Others in our group included Walt Durkin, John Lookabill, Dave Boeckle and John Foster from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers Club.

We spent a week at Frankie's Two Boys Lodge. Six days on the water offered highs, and lows and a confirmation of our need to become better fly casters.



Club President David Redd and bonefish.

We had two days of high wind and rain followed by just high wind and cloud cover . This made sight fishing difficult but we all still caught some nice size bonefish.



Tony and one of his bonefish caught around Andros Island in the Bahamas.

On the last day David hooked his largest bonefish and it went quickly into his backing. Then David heard a loud pop and suddenly off went the bonefish with 100 feet of fly line. David had replaced his conventional line-to-backing connection with a new hollow tube friction fit that worked okay until this big bone came along.. So much for the latest and greatest.



Andros group, left to right: John Foster, John Lookabill, Dave Boeckle, David Redd, Tony Piazza, and Walt Durkin.

Tony

Bo Brown: North Beach Snook

I was lucky enough to catch this snook at the north end of Fort De Soto Beach.

I had my seven weight rod with a small number six fly, a blue and silver pattern.

It was a great fight and I was lucky enough to have someone on the beach take some photos.

Bo



Bo Brown and a North Beach FDP Snook

Sean Pascoli: Bucket List Alberta Bull Trout

I spent a wonderful weekend on the Bow River and Upper Kananaskis Lake in Alberta.

I caught lots of whitefish on the Bow River and after a 15 minute fight on Upper Kananaskis Lake I caught my bucket list fish -- a Bull Trout! It was 26 inches long and was 5.1 pounds of post spawn beauty.

Knowing how much Claude Neidlinger hates small flies I should mention that this fish couldn't resist my tiny size 16 egg-sucking leech fly. That made my day even more memorable. (Just teasing, Claude.)

Sean



Sean caught this five pound Bull Trout on a size 16 leech fly.

David Putnam: World's easiest-to-peel hard-boiled eggs



David Putnam, fly fisher and chef

This page was in the April 2021 On The Fly newsletter. It's the easy-to-peel boiled eggs recipe from former member David Putnam who now lives in Maine.

Hard boiled eggs have sustained many fly fishers who leave early and return late. Here's the deal: the best hard boiled eggs are those that are easiest to peel.

Since hard boiled eggs are so vital to our existence, I emailed Suncoast Fly Fishers and asked them to share their recipes. Alas, no takers. Finally, I had to reach out to former member David Putnam, who now lives in Maine. He would win the Great British Baking Show but they won't invite him.

David said you can cook them the night before your fishing trip and bring them with you the next day. And he said it's okay to discard the egg shells in the water.

Directions: Easy to peel hard-boiled eggs



Bring one-inch of water to a rolling boil in a medium saucepan over high heat.

Place six eggs in steamer basket. Transfer basket to saucepan.

Cover, reduce heat to medium-low, and cook eggs for 13 minutes.

When eggs are almost finished cooking, combine two ice cubes and two cups of cold water in medium bowl. When the eggs have boiled for 13 minutes transfer eggs to the ice bath with a spoon or tongs. Let them sit for 15 minutes.

After cooling, put eggs in a grocery store egg container. For seasoning later include a Ziplock bag with a mix of salt, pepper, and perhaps a little paprika.



I usually peel the eggs before eating.

Putnam

COMMENTS

I like them sprinkled with Malibu seasoning. And I eat them with avocados (Tim Elms)

Keep 'em cool while you fish. I like to make it part of a meal along with a fat slice of summer sausage, an apple, and a Zone bar. (Bill AuCoin)

What are you laughing at? Summer sausage? Watch this short documentary. (YouTube, posted by "anonymous")

DID YOU KNOW?

Eggs are the only food source except for meat that have all of the essential amino acids. (aminoco)

Dennis Marquis: Find the birds...Find the fish

(Editor's Note: Former Suncoast Fly Fisher Dennis Marquis moved to Beaufort, SC a couple of years ago. He has been targeting tailing redfish in the low country. But who knew he'd also become the " tailing redfish" fly fishing poet, too?)



He eases the skiff to a stop at the edge of a hidden landscape of flooded oyster mounds peeking over the receding water line like an endless sea of tiny islands dotting some tropical paradise. He waits, says nothing; he lets me soak in its natural beauty; he thinks back and remembers his first time.

I step onto the casting platform, barefoot, eight weight in hand, balancing myself above the bow. My toes grip the front edge like another pair of eyes telling me where I am. *It's windy, maybe a bit too much. If the time comes, can I even make the cast?*

He climbs onto the tower standing tall over the stern with the push pole ready. Committed as a team we head into this aquatic moon-like wilderness, slowly, carefully, eyes peeled and full of anticipation. I expect him to get me there; he expects me to make the cast. We are disconnected and connected at the same time.

I get busy blind casting several times to stretch my line and test the wind. *The wind is rather stiff over my right shoulder. I'll have to play the swing.*

He navigates through what seems like an infinite number of water-filled canyons winding around, between, and through the shell-covered mounds providing no real destination yet full of unlimited possibilities.

I work on settling my nerves, organizing my line on the deck and rehearsing the shot in my mind. *You've been here before, you've made these casts, you've landed the fish – don't doubt yourself.*

He slips the skiff through dozens, no hundreds and hundreds of mullet of all shapes and sizes boiling the water like some aquatic stew peppered with shrimp jumping and darting about. We don't talk; the only sound made is the pole as it lifts, drips, then slides into the water.



I wait, perched like a Great Blue, laser focused, scanning the water, looking for signs of fish, poised to strike with a targeted cast. *Keep ready, it's going to happen – trust yourself!*

He says from above, "Find the birds and find the fish. Look ahead." More than a cast away, I see what he sees – birds dipping over shaking water where backs and tails are exposed, herding their prey.

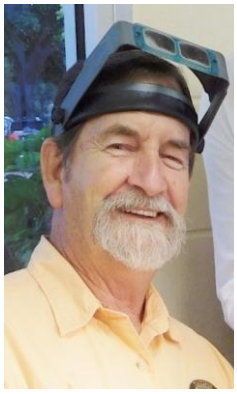
I feel the skiff suddenly urged forward, now with a sense of purpose, heading to intersect the approaching school. The birds keep dipping, almost touching the backs of the crawling redfish. "Wow, look at the size of those fish."

He agrees with a simple, "Yeah" like he and I are now connected in some long understanding way and then softly he commands, "Anytime you're ready, lay it out in front."

I respond automatically as the rush of adrenaline takes over, reacting as if it's been rehearsed time and time again, back cast and back cast again, it's measured and laid down.

He whispers, "Wait. Strip. Short. Longer, short again…"One eats, I strike the fly, and game on!

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

David Redd: EP Fibers Crab Fly

David led fly tyers through the steps for the EP Crab Fly on Monday, November 2

Materials

1 -- Hook - Ahrex SA 280 size 1/0 (AI suggested equivalents - Gamakatsu SC15, Tiemci 811S and Mustad S71SNP-DT)
2 -- Thread: 140 denier flat wax
3 -- Large bead chain eyes
4 -- Fibers: EP Fibers
5 --Rabbit zonker, in matching colors
6 -- Krystal Flash - pearl



The photo shows a chartreuse fly. However, choose the colors you want.

Bill Scarola: EP Bait Fish



Bill led fly tyers through the steps on Monday, October 26.

Materials

1 -- Hook 3407 Size 1 hook
2 --Body- Green and white macrame or EP fiber
3 -- Eyes- red stick on eyes
4 -- Thread- flat waxed in green or olive
5 -- Back: color of your choice

HOW TO:

1 -- Wrap hook with thread from eye to bend!
2 -- Add 2 or 3batches of light colored by material by rotating up side down on your vice. The ad 2 or 3 batches of the top color. Keep materials sparse.
3 -- Whip finish the fly.
4 -- Add the red eyes by first adding a dab of glue to each side and then pressing eyes on to the top colored material.

Bill AuCoin: Flyfisher Flyover



Bill AuCoin, editor, On The fly

Personalized fly casting lessons on the internet. Check out the new Linville Casting Academy. It's a subscribers-only skills improvement program from The Angling Company, a Key West fly shop. Thanks for the link goes to Suncoast Fly Fishers member Susan McCart. (Linville Casting)

Add a Sharpie to your fly fishing gear. Write your name on your fly boxes, boots, and more. This is especially important when you go on a fly fishing trip. (FF Podcast)

American Museum of Fly Fishing just scored a hole-in-one. Jack Nicklaus will receive a the 2027 Heritage Award from the American Museum of Fly Fishing (Fly Fisherman)

Will this become a partisan issue in the new congress? The movie *A River Runs Through It* is now 50 years old. And the movie title is the name on an environmental bill introduced by Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke. Worth the watch. (Midcurrent)

It's a global industry. Do you know where those $3.00 flies are tied? (Fly Lords Magazine)

PracticePracticePractice--We've got to the line unroll because that tells us how to make changes. The and other tips are from Fly Master John Juracek. (Hatch)

Is this sinful behavior? Do you spray your lies with fish scent ? Do you "tie" flies with jig-heads and soft plastics? St. Peter, don't you call me yet. ((Hatch)

Bill