

On The Fly

June 2014 Volume 24, Issue 6



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News 'n' Notes

June meeting highlights

SIGHT FISHING SPEAKER -- Our June meeting features Capt. Ethan Kiburz of Flint Creek Outfitters. He'll tie the Borski Tarpon Shrimp Fly and talk about sight fishing for tarpon. Trent Comer, Flint Creek Outfitters proprietor, will be coming to the meeting, too.

FLY SWAP -- Sign up with Myron to tie three snook flies to swap at the July meeting.



SFF Logo Hats are Ready

Bring a \$20 bill to the meeting and claim one of the new Suncoast Fly Fishing hats embroidered with our logo.



Capt. Ethan Kiburz

Who is George Haseltine? A helluva nice guy, that's who!

Your newsletter had it wrong in the Everglades coverage last month. The Gheenoe loaned to Paul Sequira and Tom Gadacz belonged to George Haseltine, not Mark Hays. Hays had an empty seat in his vessel so George took that spot, and that freed up George's Gheenoe for Paul and Tom so they didn't have to rent a boat. George towed the Gheenoe to the ramp, launched it, and then pulled it back to the hotel at the end of the fishing. Well done, George. You made us all look good. As Tom Trukenbrod put it, "This is what we do."



Paul Sequira (l) and Tom Gadacz fished from George Haseltine's Gheenoe in the Everglades Canal Outing

Welcome New Members

(New members: Introduce yourselves to fellow club members. Let us know about your interest in fly-fishing, how long you've been a fly fisher and how you got introduced to the sport. Email Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin@verizon.net. Send a picture, too!)

For sale

16' Bass Tracker set up for fly-fishing. 25 hp Johnson. \$1800. Contact Dusty Sprague in North Port, dsprague01@comcast.net or [941-468-1467](tel:941-468-1467).

Florida Fly Fishing Expo, Oct. 10-11

Crystal River-- The fifth annual Florida Fly Fishing Expo have selected world renowned fly fishing experts Bob Clouser of Pennsylvania and Wanda Taylor of Georgia as special guest instructors at the Oct. 10-11, 2014 Expo at The Plantation on Crystal River. Admission to the family-friendly expo is \$10, which includes both days. Admission is free to kids 16 and younger when accompanied by an adult. Bookmark and keep visiting the IFFF-FL website www.fff-florida.org for up to date information and to pre-register online.



Bob Clouser of The Clouser Minnow



Wanda Taylor, Master Casting Instructor

Clouser, an internationally respected fly fishing instructor and author, created the *Clouser Deep Minnow*, the most-used, most recognized fly in the world. He is renowned for his broad knowledge and experience in all areas of fly casting.

Taylor is the first-ever woman certified as a master fly casting instructor by the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF). Her programs include just-for-women workshops and clinics. She is known for her skills as an instructor and her fly fishing and fly casting skills. Taylor is also co-founder of *Casting for Confidence*, a retreat for breast cancer survivors.

Clouser and Taylor are just two of about 24 fly fishing experts who will lead how-to workshops and seminars. About 30 professionals will tie their best flies.

Ken Hofmeister is on top of new developments, He is secretary of the Florida Council, who participated in a conference call board meeting led by our own Tom Gadacz, Florida Council President, on Wednesday, June 11.

Ken writes that all of the presenters are lined up and several standby programs are on the bench waiting to get in the game. An exciting and diverse program schedule will be included in the registration fee.

Casting workshops will feature multiple tented locations and everyone will have a chance to improve skills with certified instructors offering tips and techniques. Youth programs are scheduled with premier tyers Oscar Feliu and Jack Neely teaching youngsters to tie three flies.

Vendors have signed up in numbers that exceeded previous years.

We are *Suncoast Fly Fishers*

Suncoast Fly Fishers

P. O. Box 40821
St Petersburg, FL 33743-0821
www.suncoastflyfishers.org

Club Officers

Pres: Kirk Burton, 727-631-3033
Vice Pres: Tom Trukenbrod
Sec: Ken Hofmeister, 727-521-1637
Treas: Karen Warfel

Board of Directors

Dick Miekka - Dan Bumgarner - John
Craig - Alan Sewell - George
Haseltine-David Putnam. Pat Damico.

Committees

Volunteers welcome. Please speak to
any director.

Casting Skills -- Pat Damico, MCI;

Dayle Mazarella, MCI

IFFF Liaison - Pat Damico

Fly Tying -- Myron Hansen

Membership -- Karen Warfel

Webmaster -Dick Miekka

Hog Roast 2015- OPEN

Club Outings and Lunches -- Alan

Sewell, Richard Oldenski, Mark Hays

Project Healing Waters -- John Craig,

Terry Kirkpatrick

Raffles -- Dave Barson

Programs -- Board of directors

Newsletter, publicity -- Bill AuCoin

Aims and Purposes

Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) is a non-profit 501(C) 3 organization and a charter member of the International Federation of Fly fishers.

Suncoast Fly Fishers are dedicated to sharing their total fly fishing experiences and to developing interest in fly fishing in both fresh and salt water. We promote and teach both fly fishing and related subjects of fly-tying, rod building, fly-casting and knot tying. Through collaboration, fellowship, conservation and sportsmanship we help members become more skilled, have more fun, and be more productive in the sport. SFF supports the conservation of natural resources, boating safety and fishing regulations.

Monthly Meetings are the third Thursday of each month except December from 6 to 8 pm, Walter Fuller Park Recreation Center, 7981 26th Ave N., St. Pete



SFF Club Calendar

- June 19 Capt. Ethan Kiburz of Flint Creek Outfitters will tie the Borski Tarpon Shrimp Fly and talk about sight fishing for tarpon.
- June 21 -- June Outing, Hillsborough River. Lunch at Trout Creek Wilderness Park.
- June 23, July 1, July 18, and August 4 -- Suncoast Fly Fishers will teach fly-casting at E. G. Simmons Youth Fishing camp. Volunteers are needed.
- August 5-9. IFFF Fishing Fair in Livingston, Mt.
- September 13-14, Florida Sportsman Show, Florida Fairgrounds in Tampa
- October 10-11 Florida Fly Fishing Expo, The Plantation on Crystal River
- Dec. 6 --Suncoast Fly Fishers casting clinic, Maximo Park.

Alan Sewell's Club Outing Reviews & Previews



May 17, 2014 - Emerson Point Outing

Our May outing was held at Emerson Point. This is usually a very productive site, especially for kayaks and wading. It turned out not to be the spot on that Saturday, maybe because of the 30 knot winds that blew every one away. Of course someone has to catch fish, and again that was Adam Hays. Lunch was nailed in place and those that did show had fun, food and no fish.

May 17, 2014 - Project Healing Waters Fishing Tournament.

That weekend was also the PHW Veterans Tournament held at Bradenton Yacht Club. It was a great event with many vets from across the state. The best local guides and volunteers took out the vets for several hours of really good catches. Vets landed trout, redfish, flounder and snook. If fly fishing did not work, then live bait was offered. Even Richard Oldenski caught snook using his fly rod. Another great event by PHW.

June 21, 2014 - Float trip on the Hillsborough River

This outing is one of our club's favorite trips. You can float from **John B. Sargeant Park** to **Morris Bridge Park** or Morris Bridge to **Trout Creek Park**. Both of these take two hours to float without fishing. Or you can launch at Trout Creek Park and fish in that area. Lunch will be served at Trout Creek Park's shelter #3, at 1:00 pm. Smoked chicken, ribs, pulled pork, macaroni, and beans will be on the menu. Members with extra kayaks will share, if you need one. If you don't fish, please come for the food.

July 19-20, 2014 - Night time Snook Outing: 10:00 pm until 7 am. Details to come.

2014 - 2015 Outing Tournament Catches

Largest Bass - Open

Largest Sunfish- Open

Largest Ladyfish - David Putnam - 21-1/2 inches

Largest Speckled Trout-Open

Largest Redfish-Open

Largest fish of other species-Open

Note: All fish entered in the yearly contest must be caught at a club outing, in the zone defined, and must be at least the legal size set by the Florida fish and Wildlife Commission

Alan

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Tournament

By Tom Gadacz, President, Florida Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers

The Annual Crosthwait Memorial Fishing Tournament and the Bradenton Yacht Club hosted the third annual PHWFF event May 17 which provided some 30 veterans a day of fly fishing on the water. Hell's Bay Boatworks and several Florida guides brought vessels and their expertise for the veterans. And local PWHFF at regional Veterans Administration facilities provided volunteers.



Captain Rachel Nobbe-Cato put Vet Al Mitchell on the fish, including this 26-inch snook.

Suncoast Fly Fishers provided excellent support. Don Manning and Tom Jones brought boats. Stephen and Betty Massey, Terry Kirkpatrick, Richard Oldenski, Alan Sewell and I served as volunteers.

Veteran Al Mitchell and Richard Oldenski had a great day of catching several snook -- the biggest was 26 inches -- plus an 18-inch jack and a 15-inch flounder. Captain Rachel Nobbe-Cato put them on some great fishing grounds. Meanwhile veteran Stephen Dorsey bagged a nice flounder with Captain C. A. Richardson and, later, C. A. and I were interviewed on the water by Bay News 9 reporter Randi Nissenbaum.

Larry Lurie, regional PHWFF director, organized the day's event from the 14 programs in the region. After a brief orientation by the captains, volunteers and veterans headed out to fish the Manatee River and Terra Ceia Bay for four to five hours. Despite the brisk wind, many veterans had that fly line out 30 and 40 feet. A few veterans have been in the process of building their own fly rod in VA programs. Several large snook and trout were caught and released.

Other species included flounder, jack crevalle, sheepshead, and redfish.

The vets returned to have lunch and tell stories of their experiences. It was amazing on how the size of the fish grew with each re-telling. The veterans were honored with a presentation of arms, a few speeches celebrating Veteran's Day, and a silent auction. Bay News 9 and Manatee Educational Television covered the event.

We appreciate all who volunteered their time and boats to honor our veterans and especially grateful to all the veterans who have served our country. Let's salute all our veterans all over the world! You are the individuals whom we honor.

Tom

More Tom Gadacz photos on next page



Bay News 9's Randi Nissenbaum interviewed veteran Stephen Dorsey (left) along with Captain C. A. Richardson and Tom Gadacz, not shown.

Continued...Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing



Dennis O'Brien, Larry Lurie and Tom Jones



Ben Rice and Deborah Brooks



Suncoast Fly Fisher Richard Oldenski (L) and veteran Al Mitchell with a spunky snook.



L-R -- Larry Lurie, Steve Parker, Frank Rhodes, Ben Rice. Lurie, regional director of the PHWFF program, organized the annual tournament.



Volunteers from Suncoast Fly Fishers and fly fishing vets from Pinellas County's Bay Pines VA Center closed ranks for a group picture at the Bradenton Yacht Club. Suncoast Fly Fishers provided excellent support. Don Manning and Tom Jones provided their boats. Stephen and Betty Massey, Terry Kirkpatrick, Richard Oldenski, Alan Sewell and Tom Gadacz served as volunteers.

Walt Ruda: Beach Tarpon on a Fly...From a Kayak

Walt offers special thanks to "UT and Mark" for photos and assistance. Tarpon exacts toll: a Sage rod

I have been testing a new kayak, the new Old Town Predator MX. I wanted a kayak with a basic, comfortable, open cockpit without hatches. It also had to accommodate the standing for blind cast fly fishing. This one seemed to fit the mold.



Indian Rocks Beach was a perfect place to put the kayak through its drills. We had been seeing rolling fish in the area.

I was scanning the beach markers that morning when good luck came upon me. A pod of 3-4 Tarpon rolled 30 yards in front of me. They were heading towards my area.

I positioned myself for a cast at the fish. I stood up confidently to begin casting. Hopefully

they'd stay on course to see my offering, a Purple Feathered Fly, a variation of the cockroach.

My cast was on target. Stripping the lure as well as I can and waiting for the take. My only concern was would I have time for another cast. I decided to use a slower retrieve. One chance is all I'd get. Was my sinking tippet fly now at fish eye level, maybe at 10 feet?

Then it happened – STRIP, STRIP, STRIP – BAM!!! GAME ON! I set the hook while still standing. I don't know when or how but I am sure I sat my butt down real fast. As she headed west, I remember just trying to make sure the 30 feet or so of line in the kayak did not get tangled in my feet or hands. The line shot out through the guides like a bat out of hell. 100+ lbs on pure adrenaline. I was into the backing in a heartbeat. After four or five beautiful jumps and 19 minutes on the reel, she was worn down, boatside, and lipped.

High fives, handshakes and photos followed. After a little reviving, the 'poon shook from my hand and was off, surfacing about 30 seconds later for some air. She seemed to be waving good-bye with her tail as she swam off. So glad to see that. I was blessed to catch such a beautiful fish on a gorgeous morning.

I broke my Sage fly rod -- that's the second time this has happened to me in a tarpon battle -- but it was worth it. The experience was priceless! *Walt.*

Robert Fischer: Huge rainbow runner in Abaco Islands

It could have been a world record

Robert Fischer emailed this photo and report on a catch that could have been a world record. Here's his report:



"Here's a photo from my recent trip to the Abaco Islands. I saw this fish coming down the beach and thought it was a very large bonefish. When he took the fly I was extremely excited because I thought I finally had my first double-digit bonefish. And I was glad I had my 9 wt instead of my 7. After twenty minutes when he came close by and I realized he was a rainbow runner I was extremely disappointed, even though it was a great fight. Later a friend suggested that it might be a world record. We looked it up and the record for 16# tippet is 12# 0 oz. We think this fish was bigger than that. I'm not disappointed any more.

Andy Constantinou: Bones and a foul-hooked 'cuda



Andy and his foul-hooked 'cuda

Andy Constantinou went to Xcalak, Mexico to catch some Caribbean bonefish -- he caught a lot of 'em -- but his biggest catch and battle was with a sizeable barracuda that was foul-hooked behind the dorsal fin.

"Wow, what a fight," said Andy who was fishing with an 8-weight rod. "He took out all my line and nearly all of my backing."

Tom Jones: Docklight trout with Myron's tube fly

"I went fishing Saturday night (May 10) on the spur of the moment, mostly to play with my newly rebuilt 9-weight rod. I prefer the safety and camaraderie of fishing with a buddy, especially at night. I made several last minute calls—but no one was available—so I went alone, which was a blast! There's a lot of freedom in being able to run all over the boat without worrying about imposing on a friend or getting a fly tangled in his hair.



Tom's no-flash selfie with a big trout. How big? Compare it to my head, Tom said.

"At the first underwater light I caught a 19 1/4-inch speckled trout. This fish was a handful but I managed to juggle the net and land it (boat it?). At the very next underwater light I ran into a tough tug-of-war with a 21-inch trout. This one was more than my tendonitis could bear. I couldn't spare my left arm to grab the net. When I finally got it up to the boat, even though I considered it a bit risky, I just grabbed the leader and hoisted it up over the gunwale—a really

husky trout.



Tom Jones says Myron Hansen's tube fly is a docklight winner. Myron will feature it in a future Tying Bench.

"I was heading toward the next light when I decided that I had enough fresh fish for several dinners. So, for a change I could just quit early. I turned around and headed back to the boat ramp. Lest you're thinking, "That took some will power," as I was about to pass the light where I

hooked the last beefy trout, I decided to test that light again; just a couple of casts, you know. I was surprised with another nice trout, this one 19 1/2 inches. **All three were caught on my #9 rod with a #8 sink tip line and a fly that Myron Hansen introduced to me several years ago.** "Tube Fly" is what we've been calling it but I couldn't find a photo of it by searching for "Tube Fly" on the Internet. It must be a misnomer because in my search, I kept running into a slew of flies tied using actual tubes which look nothing like it. I don't have time to tie a new one to photograph so here's a photo of my beat up fly. If anyone wants to know how to tie it they can ask Myron or myself. It's very easy to tie. I'm going to try to come up with a sensible name for it. "

May Meeting: FWC talks law enforcement

If your fly rod disappoints we have it on good authority that you can shoot a redfish with your bow

1-888-404-3922

That's the number of the dispatcher at the law enforcement division of the Florida Fish and Wildlife. Put that number into your cell phone contacts. Make it a favorite. And dial it the next time you see a tower boat guide or a crab potter racing around inside the no-motor zone at Weedon Island Preserve.



FWC officers Craig Baker and Robert Hoover III shared this and other points at the May meeting of the Suncoast Fly Fishers.

Baker said that FWC law enforcement may not be able to dispatch officers with every eyewitness account like this but don't be discouraged. The lawbreaker, typical of most, will break the law again. Eventually time runs out on people like that.

And don't worry about whether the lawbreaker is breaking a federal, state, county or city regulation. FWC is authorized to take care of it.

Do you keep undersized fish? Do you have all the required safety gear on your boat? Each officer has some discretion about whether to issue a warning or a ticket. But if it's a ticket, dig deep for a fine, probably \$250 but possibly as much as \$500. And, if the offense is serious enough, there's also jail.

Oh, there was an interesting exchange about onboard firearms. Duck hunting? No problem. You can fire that gun in Pinellas County if you're shooting at a duck. Just be sure you're shooting at a duck. And bow and arrow fishing. It's okay to release an arrow at a mullet or a redfish.

The thing is anglers don't always know who or what they might be confronted with out there on the water, especially offshore. (ie, druggies) So onboard guns are not as infrequent as you might imagine. Put it in the boat console or, if you have a concealed weapons permit, you may keep it on your person. Please, though, if a law enforcement officer asks to come aboard, tell him about the gun.

And then there is docklight fishing. You can fish the water but you may not get on somebody's private dock or other private property without permission. Oh, you have permission? Then make sure you have it in writing and can show it to an officer. Get a phone number for FWC to call for verification, too.

Framed Peacock Bass Photo for Adam Hays



It was a fight and a fish to remember and to help mark the occasion at the May meeting Suncoast Fly Fishers presented Adam Hays with a framed picture of him holding the peacock bass that he caught during the club's Everglades Canal expedition in April. Don't worry; he isn't going to forget it.



Alan Sewell (r) presents Adam Hays with a framed photo of him and his peacock bass.

Who owned that smiley face at the May meeting?



Layne (Smitty) Smith (l) and Ken Doty (r) meet up with an old acquaintance at the May meeting.

Several of our long time members recognized a familiar, friendly face at the May meeting.

Here's Smitty:

"By the way the "Special Guest" is Ron Nicholson ... He has been around a long, long time. He used to go to Carl Hanson's along with such notables as Don Coleman, Paul Sequira, Mark Hays, and others as well as your humble servant, Smitty). He also attended and taught at some of the Tuesday fly tying classes at John Homer's Saltwater Fly Fisherman in Clearwater. He is from Brighton, England where he has a home at the marina. He spends about six or seven months there then returns in November or December to winter in Florida. He is a most wonderful "bloke" so make sure you get to know him when he returns. He and his wife are returning to England the first week of June. He is a true friend and a wonderful fisherman. As a matter of fact, he was a

pioneer in getting saltwater fly fishing started in England. When he returns in the fall, ask him and he will teach you how to catch mullet on a fly.

"If you may not have noticed, I consider myself lucky to know him and able to call him my FRIEND. Thanks for asking."

Smitty

Tying Bench – HPU Weedless Fly ...Layne Smith's Adaptation of a Derrick Filkins Fly

You tie this fly on a shaft of hard mason mono, not the hook. Watch out snook.

A few years ago a fly tyer by the name of Fox Statler started tying flies on extra wide gap (EWG) hooks to keep the fly's hook point UP in order to decrease hang ups. The fly worked fairly well, but with the hook point exposed some hang-ups would still occur.



Photo: Salt Water Sportsman

This got Derrick Filkins thinking. After he stared at a rubber worm on an EWG hook long enough it dawned on him that he could tie a fly on a stiff piece of mono instead of the hook shank. He tied a few prototypes of the Hook Point Up (HPU) weedless fly and went fishing for snook in the mangroves of southwest Florida and caught the biggest snook of his life. He could cast this fly into and under the mangroves without fear of it hanging up.

The great thing about this fly is that it is easy to alter to suit any fishing scenario in which you don't want to get hung up. (Now you can even add foam to the monofilament to make a floating version.)

INTENDED SPECIES: Snook

Pro: Practically impossible to snag

Con: Getting used to tying on monofilament

Materials

Hook: Mustad 38106 or Gamakatsu EWG worm hook, sized 2 to 2/0

Thread: Danville Flat waxed nylon white

Shaft: Hard mason from 60# down to 16# for smaller hooks

Tail: White marabou blood quills

Flash: Holographic Silver Flashabou

Body: Pearl Crystal Chenille, Estaz or Estaz Grande

Eyes: 3D eyes of choice

Adhesive: Zap-a-Gap gel

NOTE: Steps 1 - 6 below are done in hand. Steps 7 - 9 are done with the hook in the vise

Tying Sequence

Step 1: Cut a piece of hard mason about 3-inches long and straighten it. Go ahead and cut several pieces if you'll be tying several flies **(*See note one.)** Then melt the tip to form a ball and let it cool. This keeps the material from sliding off the mono shaft. Measure and mark with a Sharpie the distance between the hook point and the shank, making sure to leave a small gap for clearance.

Continued on next page

Continued... Layne Smiths Adaptation of Derrick Filkins' HPU Weedless Fly

Step 2: Tie in a marabou blood quill approximately one hook length at the mono "ball" and trim off feather waste.

Step 3: Tie in 3 or 4 strands of Flashabou and splay half on either side of the marabou. Top with one more blood quill. Trim waste.

Step 4: Tie in crystal chenille or Estaz and create a loop. Place in dubbing. Twirl and spin to create a thicker body. (**See note two)

Step 5: Wrap furled body forward on mono to the mark you made with the Sharpie. Tie off with a few half-hitches or whip finish BUT DO NOT CUT THREAD.

Step 6: Place mono next to hook behind the eye and measure to make sure you have hook point clearance. Cut mono right behind hook EME leaving a tag the length of the short shank (about 1/4")

Step 7: Flatten the mono tag with pliers -- remember round will not tie to round -- and tie securely to that hook platform right behind the eye. DO NOT CUT THREAD.

Step 8: Wrap balance of furled body forward to hook eye and tie off. Cut away thread and excess body material.

Step 9: Glue on eyes with Zap a Gap gel. You can overcoat and head with UV resin or a light coat of epoxy to better secure the eyes.

***Note One:** To straighten hard mason take the 3-inch pieces and lay them in a saucer or shallow dish and cover with cover. Microwave for about one minute. Draw off water. Be careful; it will be hot. The pieces should be straight.

****Note Two:** Step 4 is used only if you are using regular Estaz. If you are using Estaz Grande or large crystal or cactus chenille you can skip this step as your material will have enough bulk to create a properly-sized body.

Smitty

PS: Smitty called to say that if any of this is confusing then chat with him at the meeting.

Capt. Pat Damico: Fly Casting Clinic. Tip # 54



By Capt. Pat Damico, Master Casting Instructor

Practice casting under docks, mangroves

As our casts become more horizontal, often necessary to cast under objects like docks, trees and other obstructions, must we change our technique? Yes, line speed must increase to compensate for gravity otherwise we will have collisions with earth or water. Experiment when practicing on your lawn. As you increase the distance of your horizontal false casting, apply more speed to the cast in small increments. You should notice that the line will better follow the straight line path of the rod tip. Increasing the rod's arc and a well executed double haul will also help. Another reason to practice.

Pat Damico, St. Pete Beach

A Salute to Suncoast Fly Fisher Guides and Casting Instructors

Nick Angelo	813-230-8473	http://shallowwaterflyfishing.com/	Tampa Bay
Dan Bumgarner	727-526-7565	http://www.tampabaycharterfishing.com/	Tampa Bay
Bryon Chamberlin	813-361-8801	http://barbedsteel.com/	Tampa Bay
Dave Chouinard	732-610-9700	http://www.chouinardoutdoor.com/	Palm Harbor
Pat Damico	727-360-8466	http://captpat.com/	St. Petersburg
Dave Dant	727-744-9039	http://sightfishtarpon.blogspot.com/	Tampa Bay
Steve Gibson	941-284-3406	http://www.kayakfishingsarasota.com/	Sarasota Bay
Rick Grasset	941-923-7799	http://www.snookfin-addict.com/	Sarasota Bay
Pete Greenan	941-232-2960	http://www.floridaflyfishing.com/	Boca Grande
Paul Hawkins	727-560-6762	http://www.flatsguy.com/	Tampa Bay
Ethan Kiburz	727-278-4707	http://www.tampabaynativefishingcharter.com/	Tampa
Ray Markham	941-723-2655	http://www.captainraymarkham.com/	Sarasota
Tom Reckenwald	727-254-9309	http://www.tampabaysightfishing.com/	Tampa Bay
Russ Shirley	727-343-1957	http://captruss.com/	Tampa Bay
Wayne Simmons	727-204-4188	http://www.captainwaynesimmons.com/	Tampa Bay
Jim Swann	352-567-6029	Call – fresh water guide, casting, fly tying	Dade City

Casting Instructors

Pat Damico	727-360-8466	http://captpat.com/	St. Petersburg
Dayle Mazzarella	760-703-0118	www.flyfishingwesternwyoming	Tampa Bay, Wyoming
Leigh West	813-971-8697	west123@tampabay.rr.com	Tampa Bay

Mazzarella: Drill # 4: False Cast Drill

By Dayle Mazzarella, Master Casting Instructor

Goals : Narrow loops kept in the air without touching the ground.

Principles : No slack, good timing, proper acceleration, straight line rod tip path.

Uses in Fishing : Feeding line, drying a fly, changing directions, measuring distance

Step 1 - Start with Grass Drill. Start with 35' of line. Stop and wait! Wait until line straightens.

Step 2 - Come forward with the water-on-a-paint-brush acceleration. Stop at about 10 am. Wait until line straightens.

Step 3 - Now backcast as in Step 1.

Step 4 - Repeat back and forth and gradually reduce the amount of rest you allow. Then gradually bring the rod up to vertical. If you have problems, start over with the line on the grass.

Need a Challenge?

Step 5 - See how much line you can hold in the air with tight loops!

Troubleshooting : [Once up in the air.]

Line doesn't straighten : a) you didn't wait for it to straighten on the previous stroke forward or backward. b) You didn't *accelerate* to a stop. c) Your rod path looks like a windshield wiper (too much arc)

Line hits the ground : a) you haven't accelerated with enough power. b) Your rod tip is dipping below 1pm in the back or below 10am in the front. (too much arc) c) You waited too long to begin the next stroke.

Line hits itself (tailing loop) a) You began the forward or backward stroke with too much power. b) You stopped the rod too soon. (not enough arc) c) You stopped the rod okay, but you 'crept' forward before beginning the next stroke. d) You didn't wait to start the next stroke. (You started before the line straightened)

Don't let real flies attack your fake flies



Hey, angler, seal that wound

While in the drug store recently I noticed a product called Wound Seal, a powder that can be used to cover small cuts like those we get when fishing. The pharmacist I spoke to is a fisherman, and he not only endorsed Wound Seal but told me that he keeps it on his boat at all times. Sound like it's worth a try. The great Dr. Richard Oldenski agrees.

Your fly line has enemies

Keep insect repellent, gasoline, and strong detergents away from your fly lines. These, together with certain fly line dressings and cleaners, can damage the finish on the line, reducing its performance and longevity.

Like flies to honey

More on going up north to fish for freshwater trout with those pesky little trout flies. These can get lost in the leaf litter at streamside should you happen to drop them. I have used the magnetic attachment on my net to sweep through the leaves for these hard-to-see flies, and with success. I have also learned that my cell phone is magnetic and strong enough to pick up several large paper clips. Try it if you need it.

Protect your flies from real flies

To protect organic fly tying materials such as fur and feathers from marauding insects, put some mothballs in a small metal box like an Altoids box. Perforate the box with a few small holes and pack it in with your materials. As an alternative to mothballs you can use whole cloves from your spice bin. These will do the job nicely, and they smell a lot nicer as well.

Go get 'em, and good luck!

Bob

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Al Pitcher: Just Thinking



My First Boat

In the winter of 1973 I attended the Cincinnati Outdoor Show. Now these shows take place when we fishermen have developed a serious case of cabin fever, spring is still several months away, and we are at our weakest point. The show's

main purpose is to separate us from our hard earned money while convincing us of our need of their latest offerings. That is when I met "Her."

She was a 14-foot Sears Gamefisher manufactured by MFG, powered by a Johnson 9.5 HP outboard, and it included an electric trolling motor. The package also included a trailer, gas tank, and all safety equipment. For an out-the-door price, after much haggling, of slightly under \$1100, I too could be fishing the reservoirs, creeks, and rivers come spring. Deal done, I went home dreaming of my first outing.

Because of the tremendous reception for this boat, I had to wait six weeks for delivery. During the first week of April, 1973, we had our first outing. It took place on Tanner's Creek, a feeder creek into the Ohio River located in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. The day was overcast, cold, and windy. As I was dropping her into the water, snow started falling but that was not going to deter us. The outing was less than stellar, but many more fine outings would follow in our almost 10 years together.

I fished her in many of the reservoirs, creeks, and rivers in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. She joined me on two trips to Florida where we fished the Kissimmee Chain. In 1976 we moved to Florida, and I found out she was perfectly made for the flats of Tampa Bay and the Indian and Banana River Lagoons. I guided her around the shallow flats with a 10-foot homemade wooden push pole. There was virtually nowhere we couldn't go.

Early in the spring of 1983 I attended a boat show in Tampa. That is where I met her replacement, but that is a story for another time. So I sold my first boat for \$600. And now I wish I had her back again.

David Putnam Fly Fisher Reflections



A Full Garage

I visit my son at his home in Aruba, where he has no garage. Practically no rain or snow down there. The wind blows 25-30 mph 24-7 and the sun shines 365.

He has a fly rod, but the wind takes the fun out of it. He uses mine when he comes for a visit; a four-weight if we're fishing for bluegills, or a seven if we go bone fishing, maybe one of the eight-

weights if we're after redfish or blind-casting for seatrout. I let him take his pick of the sixes for bass fishing at Okeechobee. We no longer fish for big tarpon or permit on the flats, so the nine-through-twelve-weight rods are in their cases, just memory tubes.

Our current boat, a super-light 16-footer, is in the garage, loaded, ready. The charger's hooked up nearby. The new Coffee Pot ramp is four minutes away. My wife— bless her—doesn't mind the short walk around the garage to her car, most days.

I showed her once a fly rod that cost \$28 at WalMart. Some of mine, stored on garage shelves, cost more than that, but when she looks at 'em she does the arithmetic times \$30...I think. We don't talk about it. Tip: don't leave Orvis catalogues lying around.

Flies, all perfectly tied, live in their own private boxes next to the vise, labeled. It looks like a lot of flies, but, remember, my son may come.

Fly *lines* are still in a chest in the garage because the big trash can is a few feet away. I've been planning to sort out the lines and reels. No, I don't own those little boxes with the winder in them to hold lines. Mine are in tight coils held with tie-wraps, drying nicely. What happened to the ID sticker that came on the new line box? I'd like to be sure. Those bums at line companies probably think I'll buy more lines if I forget what I own. I have very strong, vague opinions on each line. A sinking line I used once in Alaska may need trashing. A \$95 bye-bye. Tomorrow I'm going to take a bunch of rods and reels to the park and a big box of lines, and put 'em on reels and give 'em a try. A plastic trash bag will do the trick. It's too hot today, though, don't you think?

Bill AuCoin : Flyfisher Flyover



Ron Taylor has snook on the brain and that's a good thing.

When Ron Taylor was a kid he vacationed in the St. Petersburg area with his family and once he got to watch his dad catch a snook. That fish never left his mind. From then on, he said, he had "visions of snook on the brain." He became a biologist and later was recognized as the world's foremost authority on snook with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in St. Pete. Taylor will fly to Quebec City in August to accept the prestigious William E. Ricker Resource Conservation Award for his long-term contribution from the American Fisheries Society. ([The Fishing Wire](#))

Politicians and regulators genuflect for commercial fishing. Magnuson-Stevens is up for renewal. Federal fisheries regulators say they will pay attention to saltwater angling goals. Let's hope so because the bill that Congress is about to vote on rolls back conservation measures and still fails to take into account the huge economic contribution saltwater angling makes to the country with the purchase of boats, gas and gear. Sportfishing groups are not happy. ([TRCP](#))

Vote on Florida bass rules: Fish and Wildlife wants you to vote on whether to change the black bass bag limit so one of your five bass can be longer than 16 inches. I vote aye. ([The Fishing Wire](#))



Deep Water Cay: 14-lb bonefish on a fly:

Fly fisher Jim Easterling landed a 14.6-lb bonefish fishing with Deep Water Cay guide Meko Ginton. Big as it was, it wasn't the biggest Bahamas bonefish. In 1983 Jim Orthwein caught a 15-pounder and that fish stands as IGFA's largest fly-caught bonefish in the Bahamas. ([Salt Water Sportsman](#))

What time is it boys and girls? It's Howdy Tarpon Time on Suncoast beaches. Our own Capt. Pat Damico gives us the once-over-lightly in his newspaper column. ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

This is why I refuel with ethanol-free gas. Mercury Marine, which has a big dog in this fight, is calling on its dealers to be sure to tell customers to make sure they're not pumping E-15 (15% ethanol) fuel into their fuel tanks. It'll ruin the outboard motor fuel system and, also, void the warranty. It's the "Look Before You Pump" campaign. ([The Outdoor Wire](#))

Give a man a fish
and he has food for a day.



Teach a man to fish
and he has to buy bamboo rods,
graphite reels, monofilament lines,
neoprene waders,
creels, tackleboxes, lures, flies,
spinners, worm rigs, slip sinkers,
offset hooks, gore-tex hats,
20 pocket vests, fish finders, depth
sounders, radar, boats, trailers,
global positioning systems, coolers
and six-packs.

I'd like to join one of these exclusive clubs. All you have to do is catch a huge Florida bass. If it's more than 8 but less than 10 lbs you're in the Lunker Club. If more than 10 lbs but less than 12 you're in the Trophy Club. If 13 lbs or more you join the Hall of Fame Club. AND you win a bunch of goodies. ([MyFWC](#))