



**Come to the next meeting  
Tuesday, May 24 at Twin Lakes Park at 7:00 PM.  
Come early for casting and tying instruction.**

Speaker Program for May 24

### Tarpon Forum-

Experts Rick Grasset, Jamie Allen, Al White and Pete Greenan will hold an open question and answer forum on Tarpon Fly Fishing. All members and guests will be able to ask for any information they need for their tarpon experience.

Members will see the fly patterns, rods & reels, knots & leaders used by these professional guides. They will also learn how to entice tarpon to eat, how to fight big fish and how to land & handle tarpon.

Prior to the meeting we will hold a demonstration of the casts needed for tarpon. Come early and bring your pad & pencils.



Pete Greenan



Jamie Allen



Al White



Rick Grasset

**WIN A TRIP WITH CAPT. STEVE WARREN**  
**Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20**  
**Don't miss a chance to win!**

**Winning ticket will be drawn at the June meeting. You need not be present to win.**

Brief bio: Have been guiding in Sarasota since 1997, specializing in light tackle fishing adventures and flyfishing. Known for flyfishing at night for snook and creating many of my own successful fly patterns.

Also registered as a veteran Maine Guide.

You'll win a 6 hour fishing trip for 2 people, day or night, on a mutually agreed-upon day. Excludes holiday weeks, and March and April.



**Ken Babineau was last month's winner of trip with Capt. Pete Greenan.  
A great trip for the cost of a \$5.00 lottery ticket. Have a fun day Ken.**

## Capt. Rick Grasset's Fly Fishing Forecast for June 2011

Tarpon fishing will be in full swing in the coastal gulf this month. Look for snook in passes and in the surf. Reds and trout should be plentiful on grass flats and should be good options. You might also find Spanish mackerel or cobia lingering in our area this month.

**Tarpon** will be the main focus for many anglers this month. You should find them along our beaches as they migrate through our area to spawn. They may be moving either north or south, so keep a sharp eye in both directions. Once you've spotted fish, position your boat in that "lane" to intercept the next school that passes. When fly fishing for tarpon, I try to fish the shallowest water possible. It is easier to see fish and get a fly in front of them in that situation. In shallow water you need to be very quiet. Electric trolling motors will spook fish more easily in shallow water so they should be used sparingly. I usually anchor or stake out and use my push pole with an assist from a trolling motor if it's necessary to move my boat to get a shot at fish. I prefer an intermediate sink tip fly line for fishing shallow water.

In deep water, usually 15 to 20-ft, I use a full intermediate fly line and drift or hold my position with a trolling motor. If wind is moving me around a lot, I may anchor. You may find "laid up" schools of tarpon at first light in the morning, which are usually a good opportunity. I'll run offshore when traveling to the area I'm going to fish, so I don't spook fish, and ease into my chosen spot with a slow trolling motor after fly lines are stripped out and we're ready to cast. They will eat a variety of baitfish, crab and shrimp fly patterns.

**Snook** season remains closed during June, so any snook caught this month must be released. Use tackle heavy enough to catch and release them quickly. You might find them in the surf where they can be sight fished. You'll find them cruising in the trough, very close to the sand so if you walk along the beach about 10' from the edge of the surf, you may be able to spot them. A sink tip fly line with a small white fly, such as a DT Special or my Grasset Snook Minnow should work well for them.

You'll also find snook around docks and bridges in the ICW close to passes this month. The same flies used in the surf will also work around docks and bridges. At night, fish shadow lines with small white flies.

**Reds** should also be a good option this month. Due to plentiful baitfish and higher tide phases, they will spend more time feeding in shallow water. However, they may be affected by afternoon heat. It has been a very warm spring and with water temperatures already in the 80's during April, mornings may fish better. Incoming tides, early in the day will bring in the coolest water, which may be the most productive. I like to try to sight fish reds on top of sand bars when the tide is high. If I can't see them, I blind cast with lightly weighted flies focusing on seams where grass and sand meet or in mullet schools.

**Trout** should also be a good option during June. You'll find them in shallow water early in the day and they will drop into deeper water as the sun gets bright and the water warms. You may have a chance to catch a "gator" trout early in the day. The best time will be when the light is low. Focus on bait schools to find big trout. Cast fly poppers and Gurglers for exciting strikes! I release all trout over 20" on my boat, since most of these are females that are full of roe this time of year.

Continued next page

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Later in the day, trout will drop onto deep grass flats in 6' or 7' of water. I like to drift these areas and cast ahead of my drift to find fish. Fly anglers should score with intermediate or intermediate sink tip fly lines and weighted flies. I make a series of drifts on a flat until I locate fish, and then shorten my drift when I get dialed into them. You might also find **blues, Spanish mackerel and pompano** in the same areas and the technique is the same to catch them. You'll need to add heavy fluorocarbon or wire when toothy fish are around. I prefer heavy fluorocarbon, since it won't deter the trout or pompano bite. Some of my favorite deep grass flats in Sarasota Bay are the Middleground and Radio Tower flats, Stephens and Bishop Points and near Buttonwood Harbor. These areas have a good mix of grass and sand and good tidal flow.

You might also find **Spanish mackerel, little tunny, cobia and tripletail** in the coastal gulf. Spanish mackerel and little tunny may be feeding in baitfish near the surface so look for diving birds or baitfish being forced out of the water to find them. Cobia may be swimming on the surface and cobia or tripletail may be found around crab trap floats. I have even found cobia swimming with tarpon schools before and your tarpon tackle is perfect for them. An 8-weight fly rod with a crab or shrimp pattern should work well for tripletail.

This is a great month for tarpon, which is what I'll be doing unless west winds force me to fish inside waters. However, if pulling on a 100-pound tarpon isn't your idea of fun, there will still be plenty of other options in the inshore waters and coastal gulf. Whatever you choose to do, **please limit your kill, don't kill your limit!**

Tight Lines,  
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**Shale tarpon fly.**  
**Craig Smothers will be tying this fly prior to this months meeting.**

## Short Casts

### CCA ALL RELEASE TOURNAMENT

And the winner is!!! Justin Hamblet brings the CCA Tournament fly division club championship trophy home to MCFE. Way to go Justin.



### Secrets from Craig Smothers tying bench

I thought all of you might like to hear about what types of glues I use while tying flies. After the years of tying that I have done I've found a few favorites and can generally reason why I like them over others.

Likely the most important would be Dave's Fleximent. This is tying glue as opposed to head cement. Tying glues are most important to the durability of the fly rather than the final (fly) finish. By apply-ing this cement after each step of the production of the fly, they just won't come apart quite as easily. It is important to keep this glue quite thin in order to soak through the thread all the way down to the hooks shank. So having thinner is very important.

Dave's Fleximent can be easily made at home. The formula is sim-ple: Household Goop thinned with Xylene. Both can be purchased at your local hardware store quite inexpensively.

Head cements give the thread a final sheen or gloss. The most com-mon non-fly-tying head cement is Sally Hansen's Hard As Nails finger nail polish. I prefer Loon's Hard Head water based head ce-ment. Two coats of this stuff looks almost as good as epoxy. It also comes in colors as well as clear. It can be thinned with Isopropyl Alcohol (Yes I know I said it is water based, but trust me).

The tube of Goop you bought to make the fleximent can also be used to glue 3-D eyes or doll eyes on your fly's. I use Fletch Tite. Its nonnal use is for fletching arrows. It can be found in most hunt-ing mail order catalogs, and someone told me Wal-Mart has it. This stuff has just the right body to stick on eyes, has a great applicator,

.. "andean betlsnecrtnabOut twentYffiinutes ..

Epoxies on my bench come in four forms: one-minute, five-minute, twenty-minute and two-hour set times. One-minute is just to stick something on (then generally put another coat of slower epoxy over the top). Five-minute is thick and fast setting. Twenty-minute (Flex Coat) is normally used in rod building (for handles etc.); it's still fairly thick, but dries much clearer. Two-hour is what I use the most of. Flex Coat rod (thread) building epoxy is thin, fills all the gaps in smoothly, remains slightly flexible and is gin-clear forever (faster five-minute yellows in color in a few months).

And lastly, although it's for my fly lines rather than fly tying, Pliobond. It's a bit like rubber cement. I glue over all of the nail knots attaching my leaders or backing to the fly line: By building a few coats up around the nail knots (like a football in profile), when that Tarpon peels the fly line off the reel, the nail knot doesn't snag on you guides as it flashes by, stripping aU of the snake guides off you rod. Enough Said.

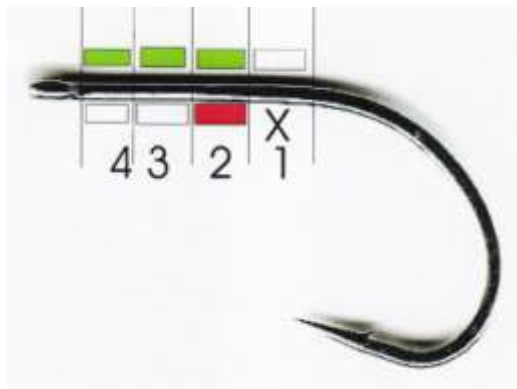
## Fly Of The Month



### Enrico Minnow vs Enrico Pinfish

There is a difference in the steps I outlined last month's Enrico Pinfish to his minnow style baitfish patterns. In this example I will be using a #2 hook rather than a #1/0. Again, the hook is broken down into 4- 1/8<sup>th</sup> sections. Again the entire top of the hook is covered in thread.

- 1.) At the back of the hook is the tail section (1). Move the thread forward 1/8" from the back to tie in the "white". Pull off a length of the white Enrico material and cut the length in half setting aside one of the lengths. Fold the other across the thread and tie it in on the top of the hook. Section 1 is complete after soaking the tie in with Fleximent.
- 2.) Move forward with the thread to about half way. Section 2 will have the same half-length of color on the top of the hook, with the red throat color just below it on the bottom of the hook. After completing both of these, glue the knot with Fleximent.
- 3.) Section 3 is 1/8" forward on the hook cutting the remaining hook in half. Cut both the color and the white lengths in half (making them 1/4 length). Fold the color in half and tie in on top of the hook. Just below it on the bottom of the hook, tie in the white. Glue the knot with Fleximent.
- 4.) Move the thread forward to the eye of the hook. Tie in the color and white as in the previous step. Finish the thread head and whip finish. Soak the head with Fleximent.
- 5.) Trimming this is also similar but different to the Pinfish. First, brush the fly on both sides with a stiff (hard) toothbrush. Gently pull the color and the white away from each other in the back, but keep them straight (a 'V'). On the color, (cut from the back) cut from the bottom of the color in the back to the top of the shorter fibers. The white is the opposite. Cut from the top of the white in the tail to the bottom of the short fibers in front. Do a final trim by rounding off the leading edge of both colors. Glue on a pair of 1/4" 3D eyes with Fletch-Tite at the leading side of the gills. Go fish.



## Capt. Rick Grasset's Andros South Bonefish Lodge Report for 5/15/2011

I hosted a group of friends and customers at Andros South bonefish lodge on South Andros, Bahamas for my annual trip last week. Norm and Francie Boardman, Joe Bursel, Norm Worthington and Marlowe Bowman, all from Sarasota, Les Fulcher from Longboat Key and Tony Johnson from Venice all were along on the trip. Most of us traveled together to Ft. Lauderdale and had an easy, 1-hour plus flight over to Congotown.

Except for windy conditions one afternoon and thunderstorms the following day, weather conditions were very good. We had sunny conditions most of the time which made good conditions for sight fishing. We spent most of our time fishing protected creeks, inside waters and the west side of the island. Some anglers headed south a few days and Les Fulcher and I had great action with big barracudas and sharks in that area one day. We landed a pair of big 'cudas to 23-lbs. I caught one on a fly popper with an Orvis Clearwater III 9-weight fly rod that I am field testing, which casts very nice and has a lot of backbone. Les caught another one almost as big on a plug. We also caught several smaller 'cudas and Les hooked up some sharks in the 40 to 50-lb class on flies. It was a nice change to do something different and the action was great!

Les and I fished together most days and had good action with bonefish. He caught and released a 7-pound fish on his first day! There was a slow day or two, but we averaged about 12 bones per day. We also had a shot at an estimated 12-pound bonefish later in the week. Tony Johnson and I fished together one day and caught about a dozen fish. Tony also fished with Joe Bursel for a couple of days and they had good action. They both caught and released numerous bonefish up to about 5-lbs. Norm and Francie Boardman also had good action with flies and jigs. Francie used a spinning rod and cast a light jig that I had tied a shrimp pattern on, which worked well. Fishing became a little more challenging towards the end of the week as tides got higher as we approach a full moon.

We fin clipped more than 15 bonefish for a DNA study for the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust, Bonefish Fin Clip Program. Marine biologists will perform DNA analysis on the tiny fin clip samples to establish a data base to study bonefish migration patterns. The tiny sample removed from the fish doesn't harm them and will grow back. Most fish averaged 2 to 3-lbs and several in the 4 to 5-lb class. Top producing flies were Mantis Shrimp, Peterson Spawning Shrimp and Gotchas.

This was my 5<sup>th</sup> trip to Andros South. The staff and guides do a great job and the food and fishing are great! One of the best things about the lodge is that it is only just over an hour flight from Ft. Lauderdale, but it seems like you are a world away. Watermakers Air out of Ft. Lauderdale executive airport makes it easy, you park right at the hanger for the easy flight over on a Cessna Caravan. A small customs office at the airport makes the return trip just as easy as the whole group is in and out in about 15-minutes. This is an annual trip for me, usually the first week of May, so if you are interested contact me for more information or look for info on future trips on my website.

Tight Lines,

Capt. Rick Grasset

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Les Fulcher, from Longboat Key, caught and released this estimated 7-pound bonefish on a fly while fish out of Andros South lodge.



Tony Johnson, from Venice, caught and released this nice bonefish on a fly while fishing out of Andros South lodge.



Les Fulcher, from Longboat Key, caught this big 'cuda on a plug while fishing out of Andros South lodge.



-Capt. Rick Grasset caught this big 'cuda on a fly popper with an Orvis 9-weight fly rod while fishing out of Andros South lodge.

**Meanwhile back home Pete Taylor fishing with Capt. John Hand**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Well, it's that time of year again – said goodbye to many of our members at the April meeting as they packed up and headed back North for the season. Come August I will envy them, but for now...with the Tarpon in full swing and the dead of summer still months away...I actually feel a little sorry for them. May is one of the best months of the whole year to be fishing in our area, so I hope those of you that remain are taking full advantage.

Speaking of taking full advantage of Tarpon, this month's meeting is one of my very favorites. The opportunity to have your questions answered by our panel of highly-experienced local Tarpon guides is not to be missed. Seriously – if you only come to one meeting this whole year, make it this one. Everyone from the rank beginner to the seasoned pro will learn something from these guys, guaranteed.

**Congratulations to CB's Saltwater Outfitters** who was named Orvis Outfitter of the Year at the 25th annual guide & dealer rendezvous in Casper, Wyoming . This is a very prestigious award that is earned by providing the high level of quality and service that Orvis is known for. CB's has been an Orvis dealer and outfitter on Siesta Key in Sarasota for more than 15 years. The winner is chosen from among numerous Orvis-Endorsed Outfitters in destinations around the US.

## Outings Report

### Outing Report May 14, 2011: Bean Point

Greetings,

The relentless SW wind ran the show last weekend, making sight fishing for snook off the beach an uphill scenario. Although a handful of optimistic anglers showed up at Bean Point, I am not aware of any hookups, let alone snook sightings.

On the bright side, tarpon were thick in the pass and tearing into schools of threadfin with abandon. Although these fish were out of reach for the shore-bound angler, those anchored in the pass were putting on quite a show, with multiple hookups at any given time, including a few doubles.

As I write this the wind is still blowing from the west but appears to be losing some of its "gusto." Hopefully by mid week the beach will be open for business, and although I have yet to see a snook cruising the surf I can confidently say it will be any day now.

Tight Lines,

Jeff Rasband

Outings Coordinator

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**Next outing will be at Point of Rocks, Siesta Key on June 11 from 7:00 –12:00. The details will be sent out shortly.**

**Jeff**

## RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE TYING BENCH

### By C.W. “Don” Coleman, *Chief Curmudgeon*

EP FLIES REVISITED – Professional fly tyers always develop quick and easy ways to tie flies—ways not always told to the public. Here is the way to tie a laterally compressed, saw belly type of fly to imitate small herrings, sardines and threadfins. Once tied, you can then trim it to any shape on the water to match the hatch.

Take a sparse bunch of Sea Fibers from a hank about 10 inches long. Cut it in two. Then cut one of the halves at the third point. You now will have a long, a medium, and a short section. Do this with white material and with whatever colored material you want for the top of the fly. Attach white 6/0 Uni-Thread at the eye and wrap down to the mid-point of the shank of a 1x short hook. I use Eagle Claw’s 254 with a Sea Guard finish. I don’t like stainless hooks or mono thread.

Tie a short, sparse bunch of red under the hook at mid-point of the shank to represent gills. I use bright red craft fur.

Drape the long white bunch across the hook at mid-shank and figure eight in place. Then pull both ends down and back on each side of the hook bend and secure in place, veiling the red gills. Then lay the long bunch of colored material along the top of the hook and tie down at mid-shank and fold back and secure. Gray, Tan, Sage, and Chartreuse are good colors for the top.

Repeat at a point half way between mid-shank ties and the hook eye with the medium length bunches. Then again immediately behind the hook eye with the short bunches. Form the head and apply a drop of CA glue. Comb out the material and trim to shape. Goop on molded eyes over the mid-shank tie in point. If you use Sea Fibers, they provide enough flash so that you don’t need to tie in mylar flash material. I trim so that the height of the top color is greater than the height of the white belly. The fly should be highest just behind the hook bend. If you are good you can trim with just two snips—I need to do more trimming.

Remember to always carry a comb and scissors with you when you fish. You will be able to reshape or straighten out the fly while fishing.

DECEIVER TAILS -- Instead of matching saddle hackles in praying hands or flared fashion, pick out six or seven similar hackles—as straight and nicely shaped as possible—from the bunch of strung hackles and bunch them together. Tightly hold the butts and roll them around with a thumb and fore finger while loosely holding the feathers with your other hand. Then, when twisted, tighten the hold with your second hand and release the butts. You should have a nice bundle of feathers. Cut to length and tie on at the bend of the hook. You may have to do a little more twisting or pull out an unruly feather, but the bunch should present a nice tail which has feathers oriented in different directions. Fish can’t count the actual number of feathers you use. Lefty now teaches this “down and dirty” method.

MAXIMS: We are in good company—all the Disciples were fishermen.  
 Have confidence in the fly you are using.  
 Wade like the predator you are—like a stalking bird—and keep your rod down.  
 If you put in enough time on the water you will catch fish—keep the faith.

## BOAT SHARING

These members will welcome other members for a day of fishing on their boats. Give them a call and hook up for some fun on the water.

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**MCFF Club Website:** <http://www.mangrovecoastflyfishers.com>

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**MCFF Mission:** To promote saltwater fly fishing and conserve, protect and restore Florida's coastal fisheries and habitats.

**Meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of the month 7:00 p.m. at Twin Lakes Park in Sarasota, FL.**

**The Board of Directors meet on the second Wednesday of each month. All members are welcome.**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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**Directions to meeting**

- **East of I-75 on Clark Rd**
- **Go about 1/2 mile**
- **Turn into Twin Lakes Park**
- **Take first right into the parking lot**
- **Meeting is in far right building**

**Member benefits**

**Monthly meetings with expert speakers.**

**Club outings and trips**

**Boat sharing**

**Casting instruction**

**Fly tying instruction**

**Fishing reports**

**Monthly news letter**

**Raffles for merchandise and guided trips**

**Tournaments**

**Fishy places**

**Make new friends with other fly fishers**

**Club web site: [mangrovecoastflyfishers.com](http://mangrovecoastflyfishers.com)**