



BFF Fly Lines

December 2016

Membership Renewal Time

Annual memberships are for the calendar year and are due now. Please bring a check to the next meeting or see <http://www.flyfishingnaples.com/membership/> for a form to send via snail mail.

- Annual Family Membership \$60.00.

Casting Classes

Casting Day-December 16, Pelican Bay Community Park, 9:00 to Noon, Levels I & II Fly Casting Classes – Hosts BFF Cls.

Casting Classes FAQ

Here are some frequently asked questions about our "Open Casting Clinics":

1) *Do I need to "sign up" for these "Open Clinics"?* Yes. We need to know how many members plan to attend so we can provide enough instructors. This is true for all our clinics.

2) *How do I sign up for these classes?*

a. Sign up at the "Education Table" at our Monday, December 12 General Meeting either before the meeting or during the break.

b. Send an email to Mike Z., Mike S., or Jim S. Make sure you ask us to "confirm receipt of your email"!

c. Or call or text us on our cell phones (listed above).

3) *How much do our casting classes cost?* All Casting Clinics are FREE to all BFF Members!

4) *I am a beginning fly caster and don't know where to start. Can you help me at this clinic?* ABSOLUTELY! This is a perfect venue for beginners!

5) *I attended your recent "Salt Water Quick Cast Casting Clinic" on November 18. I learned a lot but there are still some things I need help with. Can you help me?* YES, WE CAN.

6) *My casting is getting better but when I try to cast to greater distances my leader and fly line tangle and get knots in the leader. Can someone help me with this?* OF COURSE!

7) *I love fly fishing the mangroves but it's tough getting my fly under those mangrove trees. Is this something you could*

Next meeting:

Monday, December 12, 2016

6:30 pm Conservancy of Southwest Florida

"Fly Fishing Cuba Today"

Speaker: Larry Winston

BFF Member Larry Winston fly fished in Cuba this past June and is going to make a pictorial presentation at our meeting in December. His trip included a long bus ride "incountry" and six days on the pristine waters in that country in the Jardines de la Riena. He was 50 miles offshore on a "mothership" chasing Permit, Bonefish and Tarpon and can provide insight into the current situation in Cuba, the waters surrounding it and the fish and other things that make the place somewhere traveling fly fishers should go.

Presentation 2

"Preserving our waters"

Speaker: Tom James

BFF Member Tom James will share the video he produced "Preserving Our Waters". Preserving Our Waters takes a look at the 50 year history of the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve and the people behind the efforts to establish it as the first estuarine preserve in Florida. The video includes cleanup activities of a group of club members.

help me with? MOST CERTAINLY.

8) *I have been practicing my "double haul" whenever I get the chance, and it seems to be improving, but I still need some guidance. Is this something we can work on at the Open Clinic?* YES

9) *Do I have to be at the Casting Clinic at 9AM?* YES. We do ask that all participating members be at our clinics on time.

10) *Do we need to stay at the "Open Casting" class for the*

You Tube

Check out the BFF Channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRqeRI5zYAhQ59ZnhZ_PuA

duration? NO. Open Casting Clinics are more informal; therefore, you might find that working with an instructor for an hour that morning is all you want to do. And that is fine.

11) *I just bought a kayak and I would like to start fishing with the club on some of the upcoming outings. I am a neophyte to the sport. I have a rod/reel, but need help with basic knots, leaders, and even what type of fly to use. Can the instructors help me with this too?* ABSOLUTELY

12) *When I'm casting in the park with my yarn fly, my casting is pretty good and my leader seems to "turn over" pretty well. But when I go fishing and tie a fly on (especially those with the dumbbell eyes), my casting changes for the worse. My leader tends to tangle more easily and my leader collapses in a pile on my presentation cast. Can you help me?* MOST DEFINITELY!

13) *My buddy and I are planning a Bonefishing trip to the Bahamas next year. This is our first Bonefishing adventure. I am told to expect all kinds of conditions and especially "wind". Can you give us some "hints" on "casting in the wind"?* YES, WE CAN DO JUST THAT!

14) *I have booked a day with a fly-fishing guide in the Everglades next month. This is my first guided trip and I'm a little nervous. Can you help lower my anxiety level a little on what I*

should expect and prepare for? NO NEED TO WORRY. We can do that!

We hope these FAQ help you a little. Please do not hesitate to call or email one of us for more information. We look forward to casting with you soon

Backcountry Fly Fishers Casting Committee

Mike Franz (Mike. Z.), mikefranz5@gmail.com, 239-269-5016 (cell) Santangelo (Mike S.), mikeonthefly@gmail.com, 206-465-4032 (cell)

Jim Schneider (Jim S.), jimschneider1603@gmail.com, 443-235-1637 (cell).



Upcoming Outing

Isle of Capri – December 15

HOST: Alan Kuhre

When: Thursday, December 15, 2016, at 7:00 AM

Where: Isles of Capri paddlepark/isles of Capri Fish House/Collier County Boating Park on CR 951/Shell Island Road. These are 4 suggested launch sites to consider depending on weather and type of vessel.

What: Sunrise at 7:06 AM: Low tide (-0'9") at 7:57 AM, High tide (2'-3") at 2:33 PM

There is good territory in almost every direction from all the launch points. Johnson Bay, The Woods, Tarpon Bay & the mouth of the Marco River lie to the west. Bear Point Cove, McIlvane Bay, The Muddies, Unknown Bay, Addison Bay, East Marco Bay & Sanctuary Sound are to the east of the bridge. All areas hold plenty of Mangrove shoreline.

Members in need of boat space please sign up at the

meeting and try to meet captains on the sign up sheet offering a spot on their skiffs. If you are looking for a kayak outfitter willing to deliver a kayak or paddle board to the Isles of Capri Paddlepark, I can recommend Glen at Paddle Marco. His normal 1/2 day rate is \$60 for a single/ \$70 for a tandem. Group rates are available. For more info please contact Glen at (239) 777-5423 or WWW.PADDLEMARCO.COM.

LUNCH: Usual time, at the Isles of Capri Fish House off CR 952. You can choose to moor your boat or kayak there or there is room to park with boat and trailer.

There will be a signup sheet and additional info for both outings at the December 12th BFF Membership Meeting. Hope to see you there!

Questions or Concerns: Alan Kuhre (Host) @ 239 777-2497. Sign up at the November 8th Meeting.

All outings are intended for members only and are one of the benefits of membership.

Fishing Prospects for December

December is the beginning of the winter weather pattern. The cycle begins with a cold front followed by northwest winds that cause the fishing to be less productive. After a day or two the wind will shift to the east and the temperature will rise somewhat and fishing will improve or at least it will be more pleasant to be on the water. Then another cold front will arrive and the cycle starts over. With the cooling temperatures afternoons may be more productive than mornings.

This month as the bait becomes scarce finding pockets of clear water will be a key to success. The wind combined with the tide will frequently muddy the water in the bays making clear water scarce, but worth finding.

To summarize December the over-slot snook and giant tarpon will be gone from our waters, but they will be replaced by pompano, trout, sheepshead, redfish, small snook and juvenile tarpon.

SNOOK

Snook season closed on December 1. Catch and release of snook is permitted so minimize the handling of any snook caught and return them to the water as quickly as possible.

As long as the bait remains along the beaches there will be snook in the vicinity. As the bait disappears work the backcountry for snook. While the larger snook will be hard to find this month smaller snook should be plentiful.

REDFISH

Look for reds in the holes around the oyster bars. Shrimp and crab patterns are the most commonly used flies for redfish, but at times small baitfish patterns will also work.

TROUT

Check the grass flats for trout and do not over look the deeper water nearby.

TARPON

With December and winter weather the giant tarpon will be gone but juvenile tarpon may still be found in the creeks and in the back bays.

POMPANO

With the cooler weather and lower water temperatures pompano should begin showing up on the grass beds along with the trout.

OTHERS

If the weather stays warm and the bait remains along the beaches look for jacks, ladyfish, and mackerel to be there also. As the temperature drops try fishing the deep water in the rivers and creeks of the backcountry for jacks, ladyfish and sheepshead. Baitfish patterns will work well along the beach and try shrimp patterns in the backcountry.

Member Announcements

Boat For Sale

2005 Maverick, 16ft-9inch HPX Tunnel, Kevlar 60 4-stroke Yamaha engine, aluminium EZ load trailer, 293 hours total time

Includes poling platform, pole, power pole, remote front electric trolling motor, gps

New condition. Asking \$19,995

Scott and Rose MacArthur

207-745-8092

mail to:ssorcr@yahoo.com

One Spot Available for Andros Bonefishing March 2017

Leland and Marles Frankman, Rich Uhlig, Tony Kalbil, and Derek Betty are going to Andros Island to bonefish March 7 through 14, 2017. They are staying at Two Boys Inn.

There is one spot still open that week. The all-inclusive cost for the lodge is around \$2,300, with travel cost being extra. For information about Two Boys Inn go to their website www.twoboysinn.com. This is not a club sponsored trip, but none the less a great opportunity to chase bonefish with fellow club members. If you are interested in joining Lee, Marles, Rich, Tony, and Derek contact Derek at derek.betty@sympatico.ca for more information.

Sage Rod For Sale

Sage Method 890-4 8wt, 9', 4 pc rod for sale for \$575. The rod is in near new condition but does not come with a rod tube. All I have done is lawn cast the rod. The previous owner did use it on the water. Price includes shipping in the CONUS. If you need it to go to Canada, let's talk. The rod retails new for \$850.

Michael Santangelo, mikeonthefly@gmail.com, 206-465-4032.

If you have fishing equipment you would like to sell send the necessary information to bfinfo@flyfishingnaples.com and it will be posted on the website and added to future monthly announcements until you inform us via the same email address to cease publication.

Snook Season Closed

Gulf season closes Dec. 1; Atlantic closes Dec. 15.

Information: The recreational harvest season for snook closes:

Dec. 1 in Gulf state and federal waters, including Monroe County and Everglades National Park, and will remain closed through Feb. 28, 2017, reopening to harvest March 1, 2017.

Dec. 15 in Atlantic state and federal waters including Lake Okeechobee and the Kissimmee River, and will remain closed through Jan. 31, 2017, reopening to harvest Feb. 1, 2017.

Snook can continue to be caught and released during the closed season.

Link for more information go to MyFWC.com

BTT Naples Fundraiser 2017

Please join Jonathan Kukk and Wayne Meland on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 for an evening with the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust.

Enjoy a brief program by Jim McDuffie, BTT Executive Director, and JoEllen Wilson, BTT Scientist and juvenile tarpon expert. The evening will begin with cocktails and graduate along to a fabulous steak dinner prepared by Texas Cattle Company. All proceeds benefit BTT's tarpon acoustic tagging program.

BTT's Tarpon Acoustic Tagging project launched in March 2016. A five-year study, its objective is to gather information about tarpon movement, habitat use and other scientific data necessary to protect the species and conserve the fishery in Florida and across its range.

Date: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 6:00 PM

Location: Jon and Julie Kukk Residence

Tickets:

Single Angler: \$500

Signal Sponsor: Become a TAR (Tarpon Acoustic Receiver) sponsor for \$2,500 (includes four tickets) and receive updates on tarpon movements.

Go to the club website

<http://www.flyfishingnaples.com> for:

Educational Programs found on the Events & Program Page under the Programs tab.

Gallery Page can always use new photos. If you have any pictures you would like to share send them to me at the email address below. I am sensitive to the FWC current position about taking pictures of tarpon and proper handling of fish. Therefore, pictures of tarpon in the boat or pictures of fish held vertically will not be posted on the website.

Guide/Outfitter Page provides information about local and not so local guides. Do you know a guide that gives great service? Send me their contact information, preferably email, website, and phone number, and I will add them.

Other Announcements

Capt. Ken Chambers will be holding free periodic fishing seminars at Calusa Island Marina, Goodland on Marco Island this season.

Dates and subjects are:

January 13-Winter Species Roundup

February 10-Spring Warm up

March 10-Tarpon Techniques

April 7-Catch a Grand Slam

Contact Ken at Backcountry Guide Service, 239-289-0984 Ken@BackcountryGuideService.com for more information.

If you have any suggestions regarding the email newsletter please let me know.

Tight Lines,

Craig Winter, BFF newsletter Editor

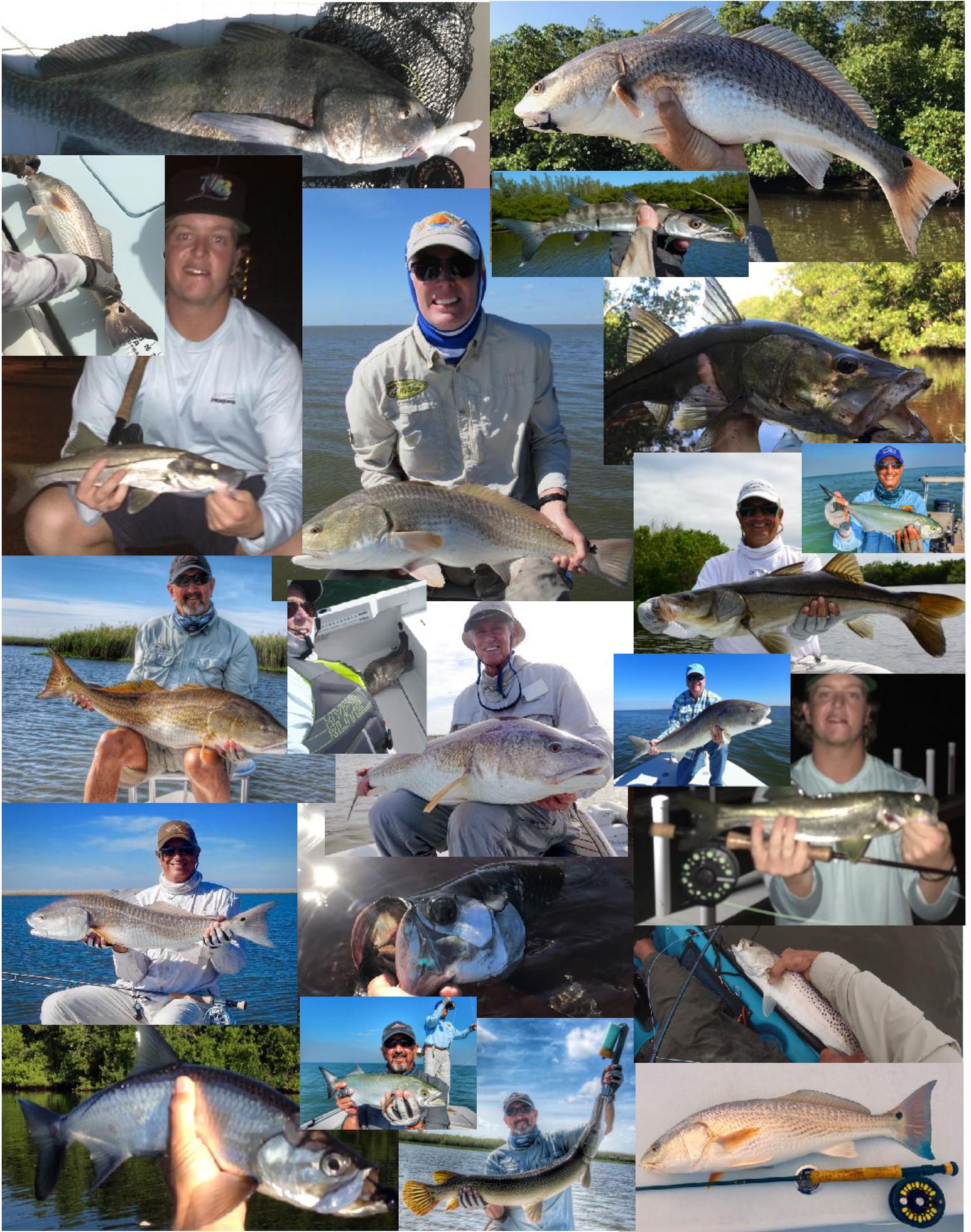
630 639-7675 cell • craigw601@me.com



Check out the BFF Channel: <https://>

Place	Angler	Species	Date	Length	Geographic Location	Rod	Fly
*** 10/10/16 through 3/31/17-Anglers can only receive one place winning per division ***							
TARPON - UNGUIDED - FLORIDA							
1	Alan Kuhre	Tarpon	10/17/16	33	Collier Seminole SP	8	Redfish Candy Shrimp
2	Carl Knobloch	Tarpon	10/13/16	20	10,000 Islands	7	Pink Fly
	Alan Kuhre	Tarpon	10/13/16	28	CR 92 Canal	9	Redfish Candy Shrimp
	Alan Kuhre	Tarpon	10/13/16	15	CR 92 Canal	9	Gurgler
TARPON - GUIDED - FLORIDA							
No Entries							
TARPON - UNGUIDED - OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA							
No Entries							
TARPON - GUIDED - OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA							
No Entries							
SNOOK - UNGUIDED - FLORIDA							
1	Alan Kuhre	Snook	10/17/16	29	Collier Seminole SP	8	Redfish Candy Shrimp
2	Mike Santangelo	Snook	10/30/16	22	Capt Bill Faulkner		
3	Zach Rose	Snook	10/17/16	21	Naples area docks	8	Glass Minnow
	Zach Rose	Snook	10/17/16	20	Naples area docks	8	Glass Minnow
SNOOK - GUIDED - FLORIDA							
1	Scott Silver	Snook	11/3/16	32	Capt Bill Faulkner		
2	Mike Santangelo	Snook	11/13/16	24	Capt Bill Faulkner		
SNOOK - UNGUIDED - OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA							
No Entries							
SNOOK - GUIDED - OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA							
No Entries							
REDFISH - UNGUIDED - FLORIDA							
1	Mike Haines	Redfish	11/25/16	26	10,000 Islands		
2	Alan Kuhre	Redfish	10/15/16	24	Goodland	7	Black/Purple Gurgler
3 tie	John Dowd	Redfish	10/29/16	22	10,000 Islands	8	DT
3 tie	Mike Santangelo	Redfish	10/13/16	22			
REDFISH - GUIDED - FLORIDA							
1	Mike Santangelo	Redfish	11/13/16	24			
REDFISH - UNGUIDED - OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA							
No Entries							
REDFISH - GUIDED - OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA							
1	Kevin Becker	Redfish	11/17/16	43.5	Venice, Louisiana	10	Black/Purple Streamer
2 Tie	Craig Winter	Redfish	10/30/16	41	Venice, Louisiana	10	
2 Tie	Jim Worden	Redfish	11/2/16	41	Port Sulphur, Louisiana	10	
3 tie	Dick Shafner	Redfish	10/28/16	38	Venice, Louisiana	10	
3 tie	Scott Silver	Redfish	10/31/16	38	Venice, Louisiana	10	
	Ralph Pike	Redfish	10/1/39	33	Venice, Louisiana	10	Yellow baitfish
OPEN - UNGUIDED - FLORIDA							
1	John Hand	Black Drum	11/3/16	34	10,000 Islands		
2	Mike Santangelo	Tripletail	11/25/16	26	Gulf of Mexico		
3	Steve Patton	Spotted Seatro	11/15/16	20	Rookery Bay		Soft body green popper
	Craig Winter	Barracuda	11/7/16	9	Marco Island	9	Tan, white, chartreuse baitfis
OPEN - GUIDED - FLORIDA							
1 tie	Scott Silver	Bluefish	11/17/16	19.5	Cape Romano Capt.Drew	9	Baitfish pattern
1 tie	Craig Winter	Bluefish	11/17/16	19.5	Cape Romano Capt.Drew	9	Baitfish pattern
OPEN - UNGUIDED - OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA							
No Entries							
OPEN - GUIDED - OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA							
1	Craig Winter	Alligator Gar	10/30/16	42	Venice, Louisiana	10	

Current
BFF Tournament
Standings



Snook Project Seeks to Assure Healthy Future Stock

By Kaitlyn Fusco, *The Fishing Wire*

On Tuesday, Nov. 29, Mote Marine Laboratory scientists released 320 hatchery-reared juvenile snook into Phillippi Creek as part of an ongoing research project focused on finding the most effective methods to replenish and enhance wild snook populations.

Snook are one of the most sought after catches in Florida's saltwater recreational fishing industry. According to the American Sportfishing Association, Florida is the top-ranked state in economic output from recreational fishing, which draws more than \$8 billion to the economy annually. Saltwater fishing alone generates about 80 percent — more than \$6 billion — of that income.

Increased fishing pressure and environmental concerns such as weather patterns and red tide contributed to a



serious decline in snook population, which placed them on the state's list of "species of special concern" in the 1980s. As a result, fishing restrictions and careful monitoring led to a rebound in snook abundances in the 1990s.

However, occasional environmental pressures such as red tide and winter freezes — in 2010 a winter cold spell resulted in the deaths of millions of snook and the closure of the fishery — continue to reduce snook stocks periodically. Thus, for more than 25 years, Mote and Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) scientists have partnered on research studies designed to evaluate whether stocking hatchery-reared snook can be an effective fishery management tool for rapidly replenishing snook stocks following the periodic mortality that red tides and cold weather can cause.

This most recent snook release study, as part of Mote's fisheries enhancement partnership with FWC and a new



privately funded Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Initiative at Mote, scientists will tag and release 10,000–15,000 hatchery-reared snook in several locations in Sarasota and Manatee counties, including Bowlees Creek, Whitaker Bayou, Hudson Bayou, Phillippi Creek, North Creek and South Creek.

By dividing fish among different pilot release experiments, Mote scientists can learn more about the local snook population.

For example, on Nov. 29 Mote released about 40 fish at eight different release sites to document, which shoreline habitat types juvenile snook prefer along Phillippi Creek, a 7-mile, estuarine tidal creek system that offers diverse habitats for young snook.

"These eight different sights are among shorelines that vary in complexity," said Dr. Ryan Schloesser, postdoctoral scientist at Mote. "We are releasing the fish at seawalls that are clear of vegetation, seawalls that have vegetation and completely natural sites. The goal is to determine how snook utilize these different shoreline types. We'd like to find out whether or not snook reside in natural habitats longer or do disperse more quickly from seawalls with no vegetation than those seawalls with vegetation. The ultimate goal is to provide this information to homeowners so that they can make fish-friendly decisions with their shorelines."

Results of this study will help reveal how well the creek shorelines supports native fishes and how resource managers might enhance creek benefits.



"One of the major goals of the Fisheries Ecology & Enhancement Program is to develop responsible guidelines to release hatchery-reared snook into the wild to help keep the population sustainable," Schloesser said. "What this project is doing is learning a little bit more about what snook need to be happy and healthy out in the environment."

Mote will monitor the released snook in Phillippi Creek using passive integrated transponders (PIT tags) similar to the microchips for cats and dogs.

"These tags communicate with our PIT tag antennae rays, which are placed at all eight release sites," Schloesser said. "Any time a snook with a PIT tag swims over a wire loop that we have under the water, an electromagnetic field charges this tag, which then gives out a little pulse that has the information regarding which individual fish was at that spot at that time."

With participation from area residents, Mote researchers and volunteers installed eight special antenna arrays along



Phillippi Creek to detect tagged snook within range.

A sister project that scientists are also working with these 10,000 – 15,000 snook into Phillippi Creek is to document how snook releases may impact the fishery, now that Mote scientists have identified optimal release strategies based on many years of research. By tagging most of the fish with coded-wired tags (CWTs), Mote scientists can identify Mote-raised fish recaptured later, and know where and when they were released.

Scientists are then able to identify how hatchery-reared fish impact the local fishery and if they are caught by fishers. Mote's William R. Mote Memorial Snook Shindig, a catch-and-release research tournament involving the community, is one method Mote uses to recapture snook and evaluate the success of releases.

Earlier this year, 2,175 released snook were coded-wire tagged and released into Hudson and Whitaker Bayous at the same time so scientists can compare their survival rates. If snook fare better at one site, the researchers can investigate why.

This research is funded in part through Mote's Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Initiative, which received tremendous support from philanthropists Carol and Barney Barnett, leadership donors to Mote's Oceans of Opportunity campaign. That project is coupled with Mote's partnership with FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, which also funds this research.



What Are You Throwing?



Here's my version of a BMF Baitfish. I tie them in several colors but this is probably the my and most fish's favorite. This color accounted for a 37" Snook caught in the dark, clear waters of the Southern Everglades last January and many other fish of a variety of species.

Craig Winter

Tail: Ostrich plume

Body: Marabou and or EP Anadromous wrap

Head: EP 3" Foxy Brush, Coyote in this case

Hook: Gamakatsu SCI5 2/0

What are you throwing? Send me a picture and recipe for your favorite fly for use in an upcoming edition of BFF Fly Lines.

Send to: craigw601@me.com