



Next meeting:

**Monday, March 13, 2017**

6:30 pm Conservancy of Southwest Florida

**Speaker 1:**

**Captain Al Keller**

**Topic: FL & LA Fly Fishing**

Captain Al Keller was born in Miami, FL and grew up in Tampa. In 1996 he received his U.S. Coast Guards License and started what he and many others dream about, fly fishing for a living. Captain Al migrated to New Orleans where he now spends the majority of the year chasing Louisiana redfish. He returns to Florida each spring for tarpon. In his free time, he hones his skill and feed his passion at fresh and saltwater tournaments throughout the year. His email is fishalkeller@earthlink.net or call him at 770-855-5785. His website is [www.nolaguides.com](http://www.nolaguides.com).



**Speaker 2:**

**Captain Scott Sommerlatte**

**Topic: Everglades & TX Fly Fishing**

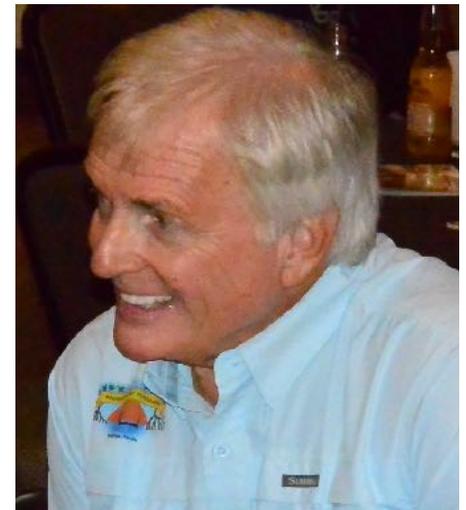
Scott Sommerlatte has been guiding sportsmen along the Gulf Coast for nearly three decades. From February through the end of May Scott, based in Marco Island, guides anglers throughout the Ten Thousand Islands and Everglades of Southwest Florida for tarpon, snook and redfish. From June through January Scott, based in Port O'Connor, Texas, guides anglers along the beachfront looking for migratory species such as tarpon, jacks, cobia, and mackerel and in the backcountry for redfish and trout. Contact Scott at 979-415-4379. His website is [www.mangrovefly.com](http://www.mangrovefly.com).

## Members enjoy BBQ, honor Ed Tamson at BFF Banquet last month

While a few lucky members snagged some great Silent Auction bargains on everything from guided fly fishing trips to custom, hand-tied flies, others came to the BFF 2017 Banquet for the Texas Tony's BBQ and socializing with other like-minded fly fishers.

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida provided a spectacular backdrop for the event held on Friday, February 24, 2017.

President Ed Tamson, who presided over the club for the past 5 years, was honored by the club via Scott Silver with a retrospective video slide show of Ed's tenure which saw the club double it's membership. Ed's enthusiasm, emphasis on casting and conservation efforts helped



solidify the BFF's place among the top fly fishing clubs in Florida. Ed will be devoting more time to his work with the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and has chosen not to run for President of the BFF again this year.

The evening's featured speaker was Jim Klug, owner of Yellow Dog Fly Fishing Adventures who highlighted exotic locations and species for fly fishing travelers.



## Red Tide Fish Kill on Marco Island

Red Tide Status (March 3, 2017)

According to the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, a bloom of the Florida red tide organism, *Karenia brevis*, persists in Southwest Florida from southern Pinellas to Collier counties.

Over the past week, *Karenia brevis* was observed at background to low concentrations in five samples collected from Pinellas County; background to medium concentrations in twenty samples collected from Manatee County; very low to medium concentrations in twenty-five samples collected from Sarasota County; very low to low concentrations in five samples collected from Charlotte County; background to low concentrations in twenty samples collected from Lee County; and background to low concentrations in eight samples collected from Collier County.

One sample collected from Bay County (Northwest Florida) contained background concentrations of *K. brevis*. Additional samples collected throughout Florida over the past week did not contain *K. brevis*.

**Fish kills were last reported at Marco Island (Collier County) on 2/24 and 2/27.**

Respiratory irritation has been reported in Manatee County (at Manatee Beach), Sarasota County (Lido Key, Siesta Key, Venice North Jetty), and Charlotte County (Manasota Beach and Placida).

### Dinner/Film Night Tuesday, March 28 features new video *Providence*

An evening of food, film and friends is planned for BFF members on Tuesday, March 28 at Buca di Bepo in Naples. After a dinner of Italian specialties we'll show *Providence*, a short film about fly fishing

the flats of Providence Atoll in the Seychelles islands off the coast of Africa.

Sign up at the March meeting next week. The cost is \$39 per person and members are encouraged to bring spouses or significant others. **Space is limited to the first 20 paid reservations.**

## Upcoming Casting Classes

All casting classes are held at Pelican Bay Community Park, Naples, from 9am to Noon unless otherwise indicated. Signup at the next BFF meeting.

Friday, March 17, 2017

### Casting Games

by Ed Tamson & Jim Schneider

Friday, March 24, 2017

### BFF Women's Casting Day

By Eileen Shaw

Friday, April 7, 2017

### Slack Line Casting & Trout Fishing

by Mike Santangelo & Mike Carpenter

## Upcoming Outing Matlacha – March 15

**HOST:** Alan Kuhre

**When:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017, at 7:00 AM

**Where:** Boats & kayaks can launch at the Lee County Boat Park on Pine Island Rd.

**What:** Fish the Matlacha, Pine Island Sound area on a rising tide.

**LUNCH:** 12:45 Mulletville restaurant adjacent to the boat launch parking lot.

There will be a signup sheet and additional info for the outing at the next BFF meeting. Hope to see you there!

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

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

## Fishing Prospects for March

March is the transition month from winter into spring.

The key this month is water temperature. As the water temperature moves up from the 60s into the 70s target species will change. This means no need to rush out early as afternoon fishing can be quite productive, the tide being more significant than time of day. Strong tides are needed to bring in clean water to the bays and creeks. Wind and low tides will equal dirty water and poor fishing in these locations.

For the latest information on license requirements, open seasons, sizes and possession limits check the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission website for at [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com).

### SNOOK

In our area (Everglades National Park, Gulf of Mexico, and Monroe County) the snook season opened on March 1. As the month progresses and water warms look for glass minnows and other baitfish. Then look for snook as they migrate from the backcountry to the passes. For snook you can't beat a DT or try a baitfish pattern.

### REDFISH

With warming water reds will be around the oyster bars. Reds are especially fond of the incoming high tide. Crab, shrimp and small baitfish patterns work well for reds.

### TROUT AND POMPANO

Until the water warms up trout and pompano will be found along outside points and over grass beds. Once the water starts to warm up check deep holes and trenches in the bays and backwater creeks. For trout and pompano go deep with your flies. Try size 2 or 4 clousers in any color combination as long as it is chartreuse and white.

### TARPON

Tarpon begin their migration from the south in March. Small tarpon can be found in the creeks and large tarpon will start showing up and rolling in the rivers. As the month progresses large tarpon will be found in the passes and along the beaches. For tarpon chartreuse toads are a good choice.

### SPANISH MACKEREL

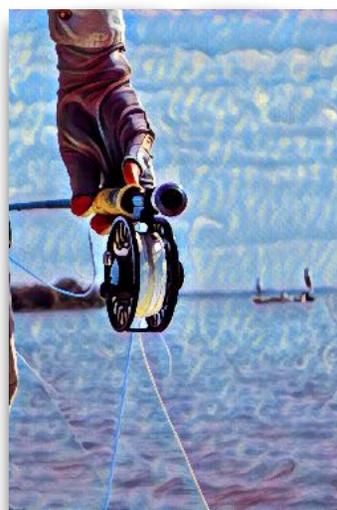
Spanish mackerel will start showing up along the beaches. Look for birds chasing bait. The mackerel will be under the birds. A baitfish pattern is hard to beat for mackerel.

## It's Not You, Saltwater Casting Really Is Different!

by Capt. Pete Greenan

Saltwater fishing, regardless of the location, presents a series of problems that require specialized casts. These are often overlooked by instructors from venues not associated with the salt. Knowing how to teach them and when they are needed requires only a little information. Here are some of the problems encountered;

**Wind** – it is unfortunate that the wind direction and speed are often working against the saltwater caster. An instructor needs only to remember the several wind casts



we already know well. The key to the application for these casts is power. The larger rods used in the salt help a great deal, but the caster still needs to learn to apply enough energy to create a good turn-over in either direction. Driving the back-cast into a strong wind dictates a longer, stronger translation and a powerful rotation. The devil in this is to not over rotate the back-cast. The trajectory of a cast into the wind is critical; I teach a

downward trajectory into a head wind. The same is true for the backcast. Power, speed and targeting handle the presentation effectively.

**Timing** – the timing of the presentation is important. Often saltwater species give us only a short window to get the fly into the right place. It helps if the angler can reduce the number of false casts, thereby taking advantage of the correct presentation. Many saltwater fish move at up to five feet per second when cruising and often turn unexpectedly. Being on target in as little as three seconds can mean the difference between a spooked fish and a great battle. To teach this technique, start with 60 feet of line off the reel and 30 feet out of the rod tip. Make a standard smooth backcast and on the forward cast slip about 10 feet of line. Continue to thenextbackcastwith-outslippinglineandthenshootontheforwardcast. When holding the line while looking for fish I teach anglers to start with an aerial roll cast before starting their backcast. I encourage casters to not slip much line in the backcast because it releases the tension on the rod at a critical point often causing loss of power.

**Distance** – Saltwater fly fishers often cast 60 or more feet of line. Although this is not always necessary, it is a huge asset when dealing with shallow, clear water. Here the double haul is important. Essentially, the hauls will help speed up the cast and make for more effective loading. Because speed is usually a component of power, distances become more achievable. Beyond the basics, teaching the haul warrants close inspection. The alignment of the hauls with the rod shaft is one key element because it gives maximum pull length for the least effort. Another aspect of the hauls needed in all casting, salt or fresh, is the smooth, slack-free line control. Allowing slack at any time reduces rod bend and, therefore, power. I always make sure my students use the full length of the possible stroke when double hauling.

**Line flash** – many anglers enjoy sight casting to saltwater species. False casting in the vertical plane will often spook shallow water fish. The angler needs to be able to lower the plane of the cast to prevent the fish from seeing the line in the air. Casting in the horizontal plane is the answer. By casting this way the angler can keep the fly line out of the fish's cone of vision allowing only the leader to enter into the strike zone. Surf casters have a disadvantage here because they are often launching long casts over breaking waves. To solve this most have resolved to use a fly line color that matches the sky color as much as possible.

**Leaders** – it is not unusual to cast 1/0 weighted flies with 15 foot leaders. Leader design is critical. Butt diameter is normally about 80% of the fly line tip and, hopefully, suppleness should be closely matched to the fly line. I have found through experience and speaking with well informed anglers that a very long butt section can be a tremendous advantage in turning over heavy flies. This, followed by a moderate step-down to the tippet will insure a good presentation. When the fly is collapsing at turn-over, shortening the leader often solves the problem. Kicking is solved by adding a longer or lighter tippet.

**Bigger rods** – rods from 9 wt. to 12 wt. need more power to cast well. Although you can make slow, easy casts with a big rod, fishing is a different story. The casts must be quick and accurate. Good salters conserve their energy so they can fish all day without tiring. Constantly blind casting with a 12wt. will wear you out in an hour or less. Cast only when you have a target, a fish or location that holds fish. Practice with the rod you will be using in the salt. If you are traveling to a destination, poor casting can be extremely frustrating and can ruin a trip of a lifetime.

**Hooking up** – Teaching the strip strike. It is frustrating to lose a good fish because the hook was not set tight. Saltwater anglers use the "strip-strike" to get tight to the

fish. It is amazingly simple. Capt. Jamie Allen, CI from Boca Grande, Fl., says simply separate your hands. He means if you move your left and right hands apart quickly, you have affected a strip-strike. Eric Cook, MCI from Atlanta area, at a CE event in Florida demonstrated the loss of pulling power as the rod moved away from a straight pull; from about 14 lbs. pressure when pulled with no rod bend to about 1 lb. when pulled at 90 degrees to the fish. I teach anglers to keep the rod in the horizontal plane with only the butt section under load unless there is an obstruction to deal with.



Check out the BFF Channel:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRqeRI5zYAhhQ59ZnhZ\\_PuA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRqeRI5zYAhhQ59ZnhZ_PuA)



Follow [BFF@backcountryfly](https://twitter.com/BFF@backcountryfly)

## What Are You Throwing?

Here's a **Little Black Fly** for use in skinny water and/or clear, dark water in the backcountry. Lands softly.



By Alan Kuhre

### Pattern...

**Hook** : Gamakatsu -B10 #4

**Thread** : Flat Waxed Nylon Black

**Body** : EP Foxy Brush 1.5" Black, palmered

**Tail** : Black over White bucktail followed by matching black and white grizzly hackles

**Head** : Black Deer Body Hair Spun and Clipped

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](mailto:craigw601@me.com)

Fighting big fish, like tuna and tarpon, is quicker and more successful this way.

**Weather** – everyone has trouble with weather. Fishing a river with ice in your guides and 15 knot winds is tough, but standing on a tossing boat deck in 95 degrees with 95% humidity is no picnic. Having 45 degree water crashing over your waders while you are trying to stand and cast is something else altogether. Surf casters have to fight for footing constantly as the water washes the sand away from their feet. For the tropics the angler needs cool clothing that covers them as much as possible, wide brim hats and sunscreen with no oil in it. We all need good sun glasses, amber for the back-country and grey for off shore. Drink lots of water and don't drink much the night before. Eat, we have ways of making you!

**Changing your mind** – Teaching the student to get into the game. Getting casters enthused about fishing salt-water means changing their mind-set. I try to get them to think tougher, think stronger, think faster and be more aggressive. I use analogies that make them more alert, daring and expansive. I want them to know they can hook and land a 100 lb. fish. I want them to challenge themselves to make an extraordinary cast to a once- in-a-lifetime fish. Saltwater fly fishing can be as euphoric as watching the roller coaster break over a pristine beach or scanning a crystal clear flat for cruising fish and all are punctuated by periods of hysteria. I want anglers to feel like they can be on the cover of Saltwater Sportsman.

*Fish Hard-Capt. Pete Greenan – MCI, CBOG - [www.floridaflyfishing.com](http://www.floridaflyfishing.com)*

## Member Announcements

### Loomis NRX 9' 4Pc 5Wt for sale.

I purchased this rod new and have rarely used it. The rod is essentially new; I am asking \$400. If interested, please call me @ **239 948-8438. Jim Baird**



### 2003 Action Craft 1720 Flyfisher Special Edition \$20,000 for sale

Made for skinny water. Carbon/kevlar material throughout. 2003 Yamaha 75 hp. 2 stroke motor with 203 hours. Many extras including Lenco TNT digital trolling motors with remote, power pole, 21 ft. Stiffy hybrid push pole, Garmin 545s chart plotter/gps/depth sounder, poling platform leaner. 20 amp dual bank charger. Single axle Boatmaster trailer with new wheels and diamond plate fenders. Original owner. Very, very, clean and ready to go. **Call Mike**

**Francis to see at 417-4211.** Pictures and video available upon request.



If you have fishing equipment you would like to sell send the necessary information to [bffinfo@flyfishingnaples.com](mailto:bffinfo@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.



**Go to the club website...**

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

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

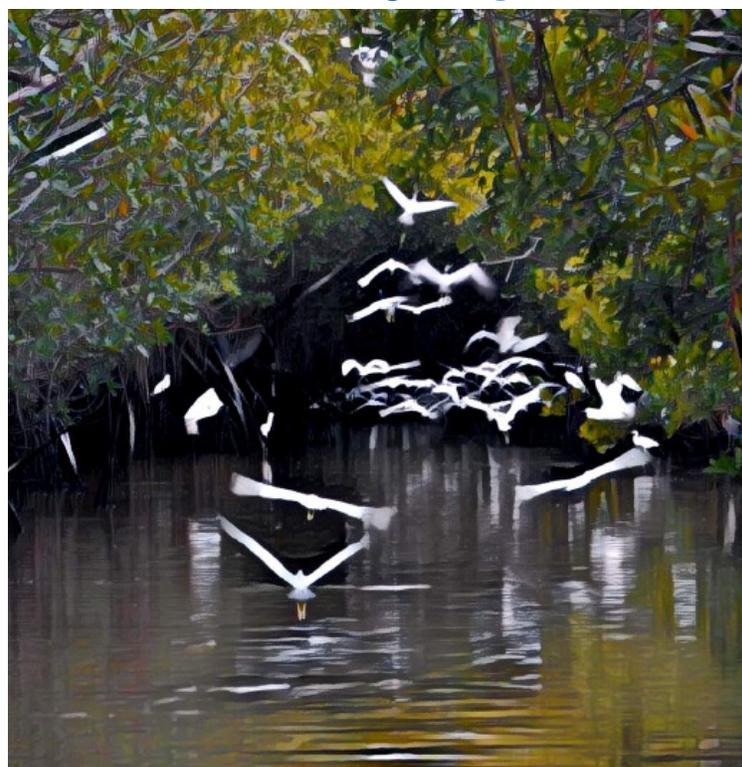
**Gallery Page** can always use new photos. If you have any pictures you would like to share send them to me at the email address below. I am sensitive to the FWC current position about taking pictures of tarpon and proper handling of fish. Therefore, pictures of tarpon in the boat or pictures of fish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

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](mailto:craigw601@me.com)**



Everglades Mangrove Tunnel

## **BFF Members Show Collier Kids the Magic of Fly Fishing at "Kids Love Fishing" Event**

Several BFF members were on hand for the 10th Annual "Kids Love Fishing" event held on February 18 at Camp Discovery in East Naples.

The Collier County Junior Deputies League hosts the event each year in an effort to get Collier County youngsters interested in fishing.

This year, BFF members including Ray Sliter, Al Kuhre, Jim Truchan, John Hand, Ralph Pike, Bruce Deventhal, Mac Hatcher, Dick Shafner & Scott Silver participated.

Several members put on a continuous fly tying demonstration and helped kids tie their own flies. Other members showed kids the basics of fly casting.

All of the BFF participants said they enjoy bringing the wonders of fly fishing to a new generation of future anglers and that the kids were very enthusiastic, particularly about fly tying.



# Current BFF Tournament Standings

Place	Angler	Species	Date	Length	Location	Rod	Fly
<b>TARPON - UNGUIDED - FLORIDA</b>							
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
<b>TARPON - GUIDED - FLORIDA</b>							
1	Buddy Ferber	Tarpon	12/27/16	120#	Everglades NP		Black/Purple EP streamer 3/0
2	Scott Silver	Tarpon	12/1/16	44	Everglades N.P.	8	Black Baitfish
<b>SNOOK - UNGUIDED - FLORIDA</b>							
1	Alan Kuhre	Snook	2/11/17	31	10,000 Islands	8	Black/Purple baitfish
2 tie	Ed Tamson	Snook	1/14/17	30	Everglades NP		White baitfish
2 tie	Craig Winter	Snook	2/10/17	30	10,000 Islands	8	White & Chartreuse baitfish
3	Dick Shafner	Snook	1/16/17	23		7	Light Bulb
	Alan Kuhre	Snook	10/17/16	29	Collier Seminole SP	8	Redfish Candy Shrimp
	Mike Santangelo	Snook	10/30/16	22			
	Zach Rose	Snook	10/17/16	21	Naples area docks	8	Glass Minnow
	Jim Snyder	Snook	1/2/17	18			
<b>SNOOK - GUIDED - FLORIDA</b>							
1	Craig Winter	Snook	1/30/17	33	Capt Kevin Mihailoff	8	Black Marabou Muddler
2	Scott Silver	Snook	11/3/16	32	Capt Bill Faulkner		
3	Bill Clutter	Snook	3/1/17	26	Capt Rhett Morris	9	White Gurgler
	Mike Santangelo	Snook	11/13/16	24	Capt Bill Faulkner		
	Craig Winter	Snook	2/10/17	30	Capt Bill Faulkner	8	White & Chartreuse BF
	Craig Winter	Snook	12/16/16	29	Capt Bill Faulkner	8	White & Chartreuse BF
	Scott Silver	Snook	12/12/16	26	Capt Kevin Mihailoff	8	Black baitfish pattern
<b>REDFISH - UNGUIDED - FLORIDA</b>							
1	Alan Kuhre	Redfish	2/8/17	30.5	Isle of Capri	8	Brown Mangrove Crab
2	Mike Santangelo	Redfish	1/6/17	29			
3	Craig Winter	Redfish	2/1/17	27	10,000 Islands	8	Black Marabou Muddler
	Alan Kuhre	Redfish	12/15/16	28	Isle of Capri		Brown Mangrove Crab
	Mike Haines	Redfish	11/25/16	26	10,000 Islands		
	Alan Kuhre	Redfish	12/17/16	26	Johnson Bay		Brown Mangrove Crab
	Alan Kuhre	Redfish	10/15/16	24	Goodland	7	Black/Purple Gurgler
	John Dowd	Redfish	10/29/16	22	10,000 Islands	8	DT
	Mike Santangelo	Redfish	10/13/16	22			
<b>REDFISH - GUIDED - FLORIDA</b>							
1	Jack Weber	Redfish	1/9/17	34	Capt Kevin Mihailoff	8	Black Bug
2	Jim Truchan	Redfish	1/9/17	29.75	Capt Kevin Mihailoff	9	Ebony Super Bug
3	Scott Silver	Redfish	1/16/17	29.5	Capt Ken Chambers		Little Black Dress
	Jack Weber	Redfish	1/9/17	29	Capt Kevin Mihailoff	8	Black Bug
	Jim Truchan	Redfish	1/9/17	25.5	Capt Kevin Mihailoff	9	Ebony Super Bug
	Mike Santangelo	Redfish	11/13/16	24			
<b>REDFISH - GUIDED - OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA</b>							
1	Jim Schneider	Redfish	12/11/16	45	Venice, Louisiana		
2	Lou Minghinelli	Redfish	12/11/16	44	Venice, Louisiana		
3	Kevin Becker	Redfish	11/17/16	43.5	Venice, Louisiana	10	Black/Purple Streamer
	Craig Winter	Redfish	10/30/16	41	Venice, Louisiana	10	
	Jim Worden	Redfish	11/2/16	41	Port Sulphur, LA	10	
	Dick Shafner	Redfish	10/28/16	38	Venice, Louisiana	10	
	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	Jim Schneider	False Albacore	12/17/17	29	Doctors Pass		
2 tie	Zach Rose	Jack Crevalle	12/26/16	28	Tampa Bay	8	
2 tie	Alan Kuhre	Jack Crevalle	2/20/17	28	Matlacha	7	Baitfish pattern
3	Mike Santangelo	Tripletail	11/25/16	26	Gulf of Mexico		
	Jim Schneider	Tripletail	12/2/16	22	Doctors Pass		
	Steve Patton	Spotted Seatrout	11/15/16	20	Rookery Bay		Soft body green popper
	Mike Santangelo	Barracuda	12/2/16	18	Doctors Pass		
	Ralph Pike	Ladyfish	12/15/16	17	Isle of Capri	8	White baitfish
	Bill Flowers	Bluefish	12/29/16	16.5	Pine Island		
	Dick Shafner	Largemouth Bass	2/18/17	15	Camp Discovery		
	John Dowd	Spotted Seatrout	1/31/17	13	Everglades NP		
	Mike Santangelo	Snapper	12/2/16	10			
	Craig Winter	Barracuda	11/7/16	9	Marco Island	9	Tan, white, chartreuse baitfish
	John Dowd	Jack Crevalle	12/29/16		Everglades NP		
	John Dowd	Ladyfish	12/29/16		Everglades NP		
	John Dowd	Mangrove Snapper	12/29/16		Everglades NP		
	John Dowd	Yellow Jack	12/29/16		Everglades NP		
	Manfred Schillinger	Jack Crevalle	12/29/16		Everglades NP		
	Manfred Schillinger	Horse-eye Jack	12/29/16		Everglades NP		
	Manfred Schillinger	Mangrove Snapper	12/29/16		Everglades NP		
OPEN - GUIDED - FLORIDA							
1	Craig Winter	Black Drum	2/3/17	23	Everglades NP	8	Redfish Candy Shrimp
2	Dick Shafner	Black Drum	2/3/17	22	Everglades NP	8	Redfish Candy Shrimp
3	Scott Silver	Bluefish	11/17/16	19.5	Cape Romano Capt.Dre	9	Baitfish pattern
3	Craig Winter	Bluefish	11/17/16	19.5	Cape Romano Capt.Dre	9	Baitfish pattern
	John Skiffington	Peacock Bass	11/30/16	18	Capt. Joe Mahler	6	Jr's Craftfur Minnow
OPEN - UNGUIDED - OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA							
1	Kevin Becker	Bonefish	2/27/17	26	Grand Bahama Island	9	#4 Gotcha
	Kevin Becker	Bonefish	12/27/16	23.5	Grand Bahama Island	9	#4 Gotcha
OPEN - GUIDED - OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA							
1	Craig Winter	Alligator Gar	10/30/16	42	Venice, Louisiana	10	
2	Kevin Becker	Bonefish	12/21/16	28	Grand Bahama Island	10	#1/0 Tan Permit Crab
3	John Dowd	Brown Trout	1/27/17	24	Neuquen Province, Argentina		#14 Adams Wulff







