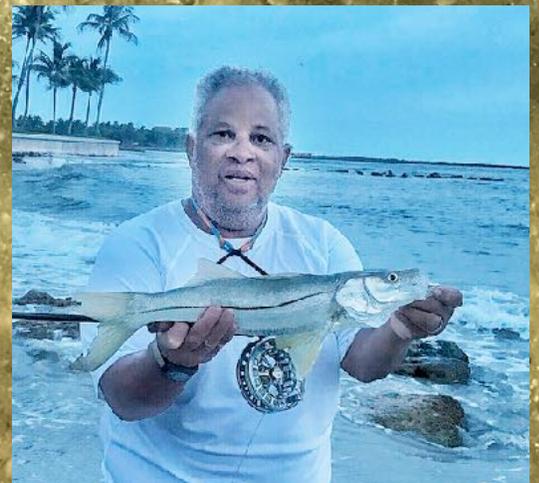


# Sizzling Summer Fishing



*Here are just some of the fish BFF members have been catching this summer. Gene Lee, bottom right, met up with other members to walk the beach in Naples & caught his 1st saltwater fish, a nice Snook, & on a fly he tied! Mac Hatcher sent a pic of just one of the baby Tarpon he has found kayaking around Marco Island. Scott Silver shows off a beautiful Delaware River Rainbow. Craig Winter found some big Snook around Marco while kayaking, this one, background, measured 34".*





Below, a nice Beaverkill River Brown Trout.  
Above, Dick Shafner bangs away at the Mangrove roots from the bow of Capt. Ken Chambers' boat and shows off a beauty of a Snook, below left.

Craig Winter, left, with a surprise baby Tarpon that slammed a fly tossed under the trees near Marco Island.

### **Keep us in the loop!**

Send us pictures of your catch & we'll use them in an upcoming **BFF Fly Lines**.

Email pictures to [bffinfo@flyfishingnaples.com](mailto:bffinfo@flyfishingnaples.com)



**Next meeting: Monday, October 9, 2017 6:00 pm Tiburon Golf Club, Naples**

## Fishing Prospects for July

July is the time for fishing early in the day and late in the day. Midday can get too hot for humans and for the fish, so take a break and go back out after the afternoon storms have passed through. This is also a good time of year to consider using bug spray.

Two factors affecting the fish and the fishing this time of year are the rain and the barometric pressure.

The rain can have a dampening affect on the fishing (pun intended).

Too much rain increases the fresh-water in the bays and reduces the salinity of the water. Not sure if this causes the fish to lose their appetite or they simply move out of the bays, but in either case fishing slows down. If there is a lot of rain this month try fishing near the passes during the incoming tide when salinity will be higher. In the summer the frequent afternoon thunderstorms cause significant variability in the barometric pressure. This variation in the barometric pressure results in unpredictable fishing. Significant change in the barometric pressure can cause the fish to stop feeding. On the positive side sometimes after the afternoon storm passes the cooler air and a slight change in barometric pressure will trigger an increase in fish activity.

Water clarity is usually good in July which means great sight fishing opportunities. When the fish are easy to see they are usually easy to spook. This is also another reason to fish early in the morning or late in the evening when the light is low and visibility is reduced. The wind is one factor that can impact water clarity. Normally in July the wind is out of the east and everything is fine. However, if the wind is out of the west it can make the surf rough along the beaches and muddy the water in the back-country.

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

The closed season for snook on the gulf and in ENP continues through August. So minimize the handling of any snook caught and return them to the water as quickly as possible.

Snook will be found in the backwaters and along beaches and islands whenever schools of bait are present. If catching giant linesiders is of interest consider fishing the passes at night. If you do wear lots of bug spray because there will be mosquitoes, lots of mosquitoes. White flies like a 'DT' or your favorite baitfish pattern will work well when going after snook.

### REDFISH

Look for redfish on the current side of oyster bars on the outgoing tide and likewise on the incoming tide. Shrimp and crab patterns are the most commonly used flies for redfish, but at times small baitfish patterns will also work.

### TROUT

Trout can be found schooling over grass beds on the higher part of the tide and also in the deep runs along the islands in the backcountry. Shrimp and baitfish patterns work well for trout. Chartreuse and white clousers also work well.

### TARPON

Juvenile tarpon can be found in the creeks in the backcountry and a few larger tarpon may still be found in the passes.

### Sharks

Sharks can be found in the passes and larger bays and in the near off-shore waters. Small ones make an exciting catch on a fly rod. Use a wire leader or they'll cut through your tippet.

## Pick Up & Lay Down Drill

The BFF casting committee encourages members to practice casting during the summer and provides casting drill ideas in this and upcoming editions of **BFF Fly Lines**.

You can contact Education Director Jim Schneider at [bffe-education@flyfishingnaples.com](mailto:bffe-education@flyfishingnaples.com)

**Purpose:** This drill focuses on rod tip path and loop shape.

**Goal:** a narrow loop front and back, line lands parallel to the rope.

### Casting Principles:

- 1) Smooth Acceleration to a sudden stop.
- 2) No Slack.
- 3) Straight line rod tip path.
- 4) Add pause.

Fishing Applications: This technique is used to smoothly lift a fly line off the water.

**Step 1:** Rod tip down.

**Step 2:** Yarn at 35 feet.

**Step 3:** Line straight (no slack).

**Step 4:** Lift without accelerating until you reach about 11 (eleven) o'clock. When doing this drill on grass, acceleration must be almost nonexistent until your rod tip gets to 11 (eleven) o'clock. At that point, increase your rate of acceleration until you get to 1 (one) o'clock and stop. If after you reach 11 (eleven) o'clock you bring your hand almost straight back to 1 (one) o'clock and fairly parallel to the ground, you will create a more narrow loop.

**NOTE:** An important key to watch is the thumb. When the stop is made, the thumb should be pointing straight up.

**Step 5:** After the stop, pause until the line is completely straight behind you.

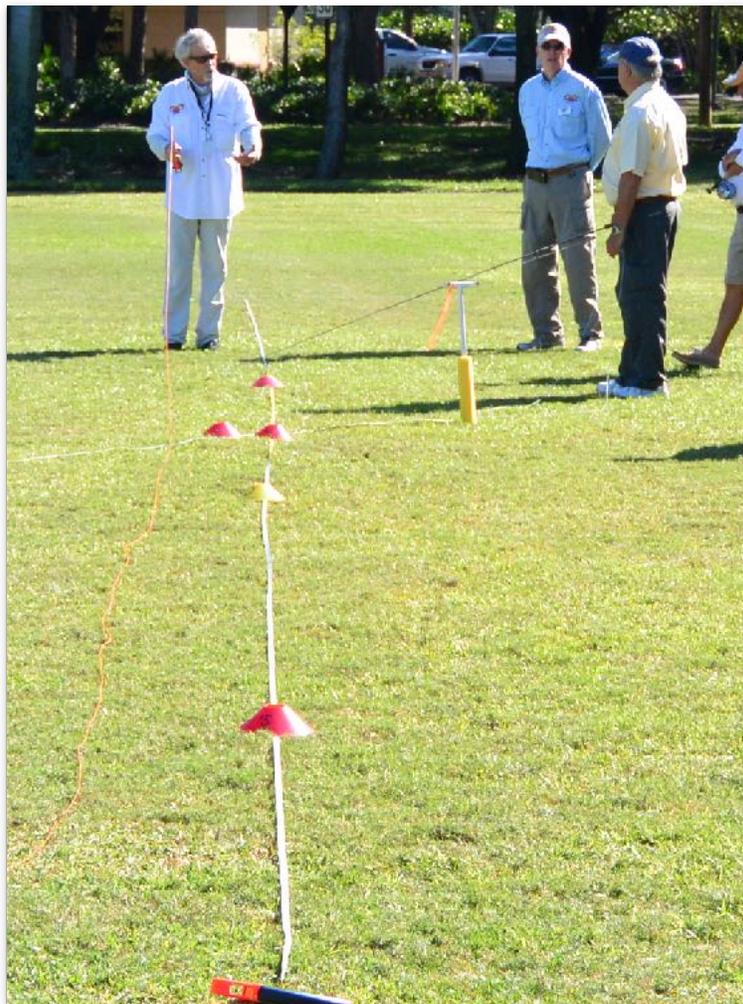
**Step 6:** Start forward while smoothly accelerating. Think of throwing water off a paintbrush straight into the wall in front of you! Pound a nail! Stop at about 10:30 or 11.

**Step 7:** After the stop, lower your rod as the line falls. Ideally, your rod tip, line, and leader should all land on the grass at the same time.

### Troubleshooting:

1. Wide Back Loop - a) Acceleration began too soon and/or the rod tip dropped too far in the back.

- Check your wrist for too much flex.



- Watch your backcast! (Basically reduce your casting arc.)

**NOTE:** Many wide loops are caused by too much wrist action causing a rainbow shaped rod tip path. (Too much casting arc) Keep that thumb scraping the ceiling, or use the forefinger instead of the thumb on top of the grip to help reduce over rotating the wrist. Put your rod butt in your sleeve. Have someone hold a noodle front and back to stop the rod in the right places in the stroke. Watch your wrist.

2. Line doesn't shoot all the way out.

a) Line did not straighten out behind — remember that in order to sufficiently bend the rod, there cannot be slack in the line.

b) Not enough acceleration on the forward cast.

3. Line appears to have enough speed on forward cast, but line "dumps" before it straightens.

a) Too much force causes line to "re bound"

b) Rod tip stayed high as line dropped. After the stop, follow your line down.

c) Not enough acceleration. Stay smooth but accelerate to a higher speed before the abrupt stop.

## BFF's Guide to Saltwater Fly Fishing in SWFL

Most of us here in Southwest Florida started fly fishing somewhere else.

Whether we fished 3-5wts for Greenback Cutthroats in the clear mountain streams of Colorado or 10wts for monster Stripers in the Atlantic waters of the Northeast, we probably needed a little help when we arrived down here in SWFL.

What rod should I use? What can I expect to catch off the beach? Is 20 lb tippet enough for Snook? What's a double haul? When should I fish?

Well, THE fly fishing club of Southwest Florida, Backcountry Fly Fishers, has got you covered with our complete guide to the unique challenges of fishing here in SWFL.

The BFF's new *Introduction to Saltwater Fly Fishing in Southwest Florida* is now available for download on the BFF website, [flyfishingnaples.com](http://flyfishingnaples.com). You can get your copy by clicking on the button below.

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## What Are You Throwing?

### Poppers

Poppers can bring fish up off the bottom or out from under the mangroves and nothing is quite as exciting as a topwater smash! One of the best patterns we've found is the one above. You can try to cut the foam cylinders by hand but a Gary Krebs jig makes it quick & easy.

#### Pattern...

**Hook:** Gamakatsu B10S, here a #1

**Thread:** Flat Waxed Nylon to match fly color.

**Tail:** A base of Steve Farrar's flash blend holds up a craft fur tail nicely so it won't wrap around the hook. Wrap the tail with a bit of flashy palmer chenille.

**Arms/fins:** Rubber legs help stabilize the fly in the water. The popper jig has a convenient guide for making a hole with your bodkin. Push your bobbin threader through the hole & grab the legs & carefully pull through. Hold the legs in place with a dab of glue.

**Head/body:** Foam cylinder cut to shape in a Krebs popper jig and super glued to a thread wrapped hook shank. Heads in 3/8", 7/16" and 1/2" are great sizes for saltwater.

**Weed guard:** Poke a hole in the foam head with your bodkin, put a bit of superglue on the end of a piece of 20lb Mason Hard Mono & insert it into the whole. Keeps the wide gapped hook from catching roots & branches.

### 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: [bffinfo@flyfishingnaples.com](mailto:bffinfo@flyfishingnaples.com)

## BTT 6th International Science Symposium Nov. 10 & 11, 2017

The Bonefish & Tarpon Trust 6th International Science Symposium takes place November 10-11, 2017, at the Bonaventure Resort and Spa, in Weston, Florida.

Register today and make plans to join other anglers, guides, conservationists, fishing industry leaders, and scientists for what promises to be the most comprehensive flats fishing event in the world.

Featured scientific presentations will spotlight BTT's ongoing science and conservation programs in the Florida Keys, Bahamas, and elsewhere across the Caribbean Basin, including recently completed studies on bonefish and tarpon genetics, the role of ocean currents in juvenile bonefish recruitment, a landmark effort to spawn and raise bonefish in captivity, and the role of water quality in ensuring healthy habitats.



*BFF members who have attended this event in the past recommend it highly.*

In addition to learning more about science-based approaches to conservation, Symposium participants will enjoy time with the legends of our sport--top anglers and guides who will be on hand to share their time-tested techniques for catching the iconic gamefish of the flats. Fishing and casting clinics (fly and spin) will be taught by some of the world's top anglers, including Andy Mill, Chico Fernandez, and C.A. Richardson, while other legends will join lively panel discussions. The 2017 Symposium also includes fly tying and photography clinics, an Art & Film Festival, and a Flats Expo, providing opportunities to learn more about fishing and travel-related products and services offered by industry leaders.

The Symposium concludes on Saturday evening with a banquet honoring conservation leaders, as well as silent and live auctions. Offerings will include destination trips, fine art, and fly-fishing gear, and a special 20th Anniversary trip to fish and conduct research with BTT-affiliated scientists.

For more information contact Ashley Siana: Phone 484-798-5902 or e-mail [ashley@bonefishtarpontrust.org](mailto:ashley@bonefishtarpontrust.org)



The **Backcountry Fly Fishers** of Naples, Florida was formed in 1993 to:

- Provide members a place to share fly fishing experiences in the interest of fun and fellowship
- Assist and educate members to improve their fly fishing skills and knowledge of the sport
- Promote conservation of natural resources
- Promote the sport of fly fishing in the community

Today the club has over 150 members. We have a monthly meeting featuring an expert speaker and fly tying demonstrations. Monthly outings provide an opportunity for members to fish in an interesting variety of area locations. Casting and fly tying classes are held monthly for beginners and advanced skill levels. Members receive a monthly the newsletter, the **BFF Fly Lines**.



The Backcountry Fly Fishers is affiliated with the **International Federation of Fly Fishers**, an international organization of over 300 clubs, whose purpose is to provide a strong voice in the state and national conservation movement. The Federation provides fly fishing education programs and teaching aids.



The Backcountry Fly Fishers is affiliated with the **American Casting Association (ACA)**. ACA is organized to foster national and international amateur sport competition in the sports of angling and casting.

### Meeting Information

Club meetings are open to the public and guests are welcome.

### Meeting Location

Clubhouse  
Tiburon Golf Club  
2620 Tiburon Dr., Naples, Florida

### Directions:

East or westbound Vanderbilt Beach Rd., turn north onto Tiburon Dr & follow to clubhouse. Free valet parking available.  
North bound on Airport-Pulling Rd., turn east onto Tiburon Blvd E then right on Tiburon Drive. Follow Tiburon Dr., through traffic circle, past Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, to clubhouse.

### Board of Directors

**President**-Scott Silver, [bfppresident@flyfishingnaples.com](mailto:bfppresident@flyfishingnaples.com)  
**Vice President**-Ralph Pike, [bfvp@flyfishingnaples.com](mailto:bfvp@flyfishingnaples.com)  
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**Programs**-Bruce Wilson, [bfprograms@flyfishingnaples.com](mailto:bfprograms@flyfishingnaples.com)

## Jim Schneider Becomes BFF's 2nd Master Casting Instructor

BFF member and Education Director Jim Schneider passed the Master Casting Instructor (MCI) Exam in April 2017 through the Fly Fishers International Organization (formerly International Federation of Fly Fishers).

Jim is now one of two MCI's in our club, John Hand being the other. The BFF currently has 11 Certified Instructors (CI's) and 4 other instructor candidates working on their CI.

We recently spoke with Jim about his experience:

**BFF Fly Lines:** *Why did you decide to get your MCI?*

**Jim:** Thanks to the initiatives of Mike Franz and Ed Tamson, BFF offered a course for casting instructors in October 2014.

I received my CI in April 2015. After I became a CI, I still wanted to become the best fly caster and teacher that I could be. I wanted to become a full steward for the CICP (Casting Instructor Certified Program) not only for the IFFF, but also for our fly club. I knew that just preparing for the MCI I would gain a great deal of knowledge and proficiency in both fly casting and teaching. As an MCI I will be able

to examine other candidates across the country as they pursue their CI or MCI. I can't think of a better way to help promote our great sport.

**BFF Fly Lines:** *What was the process like to get your MCI?*

**Jim:** The Master Certification program is difficult. You spend a lot of time casting and studying. I would suggest that whether you are pursuing your CI or MCI you need a knowledgeable and experienced "mentor". You cannot make this journey by yourself. You will have to depend on others for support, guidance and coaching. I was fortunate to have an excellent mentor in Dayle Mazzarella. I also spent more than 20 hours with Leslie Holmes, MCI, THCI, CBOG. Perhaps one of my biggest advantages was having other MCI candidates to work and practice with, and who shared the same goals. I could not have done this without their help.

**BFF Fly Lines:** *What was the MCI Exam like? How was it different from your CI Exam?*

**Jim:** My CI exam took about 2 hours. The MCI exam was 4 hours. I had 2 MCI's as ex-

aminers for my CI. I had 3 MCI's as examiners for my MCI exam. The loop tolerance for the CI exam is less than 4 feet, and less than 3 feet for the MCI. The distances and accuracy tasks are a little more challenging for the MCI. There is no written exam for the MCI but there is an intense oral exam. Since the examiners can ask you anything in the areas of teaching, equipment, fly fishing, casting and etiquette you need to read a lot of the materials that the FFI references in their MCI Study Guide. Having a broad background in



Jim Schneider

all areas of fly casting is beneficial.

**BFF Fly Lines:** *What do you feel were major factors that contributed to your success in becoming an MCI?*

**Jim:** 1) It was very helpful to have experienced certified casting instructors in our club that I could call on and who were always willing to provide support and advice. Ed Tamson, Mike Franz and John Hand were always available to inspire and encourage me along the way.

2) Whether you want to pursue the CI or the MCI, they are tough programs to do on your own. As I mentioned above, find an experienced Mentor that you are comfortable in working with. Remember that a good Mentor will not always tell you what you want to hear. BFF has a lot of good resources. Don't be afraid to ask a BFF certified instructor for help.

3) Having the opportunity to teach fly casting at our BFF classes on a regular basis was a huge advantage for my "fly casting teaching" experience.

4) As I mentioned previously, having 3 oth-

er CI's to work and practice with was extremely helpful. We eliminated a lot of inefficient "practice time" by working together. You can certainly use one of the video apps that are available today to critique your cast, but nothing takes the place of someone "watching your cast" and providing immediate feedback. It's also amazing how much you can learn about analyzing casting faults by doing this on a regular basis with other casters.

**BFF Fly Lines:** *What advice would you give any of our members that might be interested in becoming an instructor?*

**Jim:** Talk to any of the BFF's certified instructors about their experiences. Ask them for advice.

- Attend BFF's monthly Continuing Education classes during the season.
- Attend casting classes and see what the BFF instructors do. You might just find that teaching someone to fly cast might be almost as much fun as fly fishing.
- Attend a Fly Fishing Conclave or Fly Fishing Fair and attend seminars. Talk to CI's, MCI's, and THCI's (Two-Handed Casting Instructors) about their experiences.

- Attend BFF's new "Instructor Training Program" this fall. In November the BFF Casting Committee will begin a monthly "Casting Instructor Training" Program for any BFF member interested in becoming an instructor. Even if you have only a mild interest in teaching fly casting, I suggest you attend one of these classes to find out what is involved. It might be easier than you think! This program is free to BFF members. The pace at which you become certified will depend on your casting and teaching abilities and your own personal preferences. Even if you don't want to take the time to become a FFI Certified Instructor, BFF is offering instructor training that will enable non-certified members to teach fly casting at our casting classes. Look for more upcoming details about this program in our monthly newsletters or give me a call or email.

Today Jim Schneider serves on our Board as Director of Education. He also co-chairs the BFF Casting Committee. He can be reached at [jim@seabayhotel.com](mailto:jim@seabayhotel.com) or [bffeducation@flyfish-ingnaples.com](mailto:bffeducation@flyfish-ingnaples.com) or by cell at 443-235-1637.



*A late afternoon storm builds behind Caxambas Pass, above. June afternoon in the Everglades, below.*

