



The Salty Tippet

Volume 1, Issue 7

tarponcoastflyfishers.com

Spring 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



TCCF President
Frank Cuttone

Spring Fishing Is On!

Hello Tarpon Coast Fly Fishers! Hope everyone is doing well. I want to tell you that I'm extremely pleased to see our membership meetings are nearly full. Shows me that we have member engagement and that the membership is enjoying the club.

Fly Tying has been very productive as well. **Gene Andre** has been doing a great job educating us on

I would like to thank **Bobby Latchtara** for organizing three great excursions to **Alligator Alley** ([see page 6](#)). I was on the last one and we had an exceptional time, catching over **350 exotic fish**.

Accommodations were good at the **Seminole Reservation**, food was



Cobia in large numbers have appeared off the Nature Coast, especially on the Hernando Beach flats.

Saltwater Fly Tying with many great patterns. Also, we now have **Advanced Saltwater Fly Tying in New Port Richey at the Summertree Recreation Facility**. If you have any interest, please come and join us. The club has extra tying vise's and fly tying materials for your use.

reasonably priced, and the weather was great. I would love to see this become a club fishing outing in the future. We will see.

That's all for now, see you at the April meeting.

— Frank

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TCFF Club Officers

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Bob Bebout
(352) 485-9360

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Bob Bebout
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Secretary

Bobby Lachtara
(407) 267-4658

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Terry Dunne
(352) 999-1576

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TCFF Monthly Meeting

TCFF meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, at the **Coyote Rojo** at 5375 Spring Hill Dr, Spring Hill, FL 34606.

Fly Tying at Summertree w/Frank Cuttone

TCFF President Frank Cuttone has reserved the 1st and 4th Tuesdays of the month at the **Summertree Recreation Facility** for the TCFF Fly Tying group starting April 4th at 6pm. All are welcome.

We will be tying advanced Saltwater patterns, so come and learn some new techniques. We are located off Rt 52 on 11945 Paradise Point Way, New Port Richey Fl 34654.

Bob Bebout/Bobby Lachtara Assume New Duties as new TCFF Treasurer and TCFF Secretary

Former TCFF President **Bob Bebout** is the new TCFF Treasurer. Bob replaces long-serving TCFF Treasurer **Michele Humphrey**. Bob is also **Vice President** of TCFF.

TCFF member **Bobby Lachtara** is the new TCFF Secretary. Bobby replaces TCFF Secretary **Jim Humphrey**.

Fly Tying at St. Theresa's w/Gene Andre

Gene Andre holds his fly tying sessions the 3rd Thursday of the month at **St. Theresa's Church**, 1107 Commercial Way, Spring Hill, FL 34606, usually from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Fly Fish the Nature Coast

Capt. Nathan Fox

352-322-8179

captainfox.nate@gmail.com

BeBout Fishin' Time

Capt. Lowell Bebout

Fishing Charters 352-515-8824

USCG License & Insured

Tying the Schwimmer Minnow

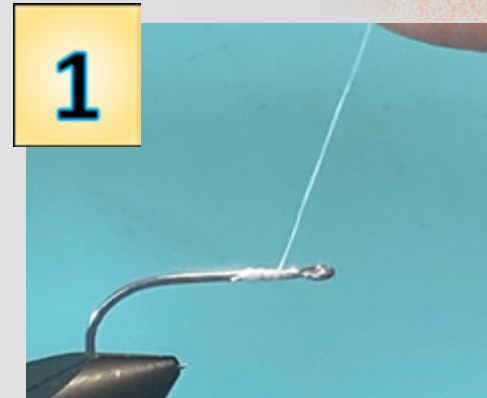


Great For Snook

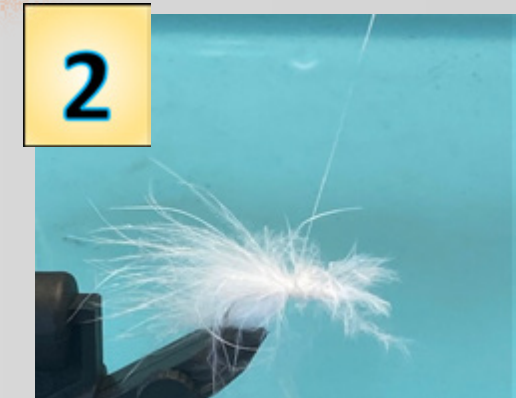


What you'll need:

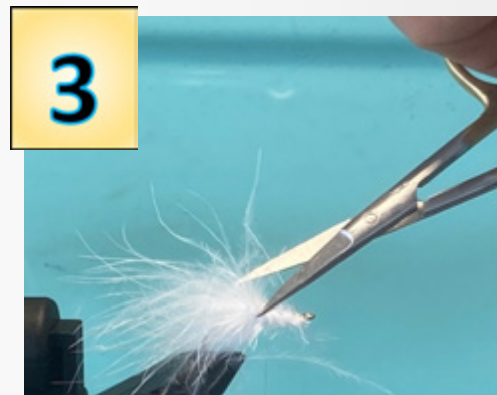
1. #1 or #2 Saltwater Hooks
2. White Marabou Feathers
3. Crystal Chenille
4. Black Eye Beads
5. Pearl Flash
6. White Thread



Start the thread midway down the #1 or #2 hook.



Tie on the Marabou feathers 2/3 of the way down the hook.



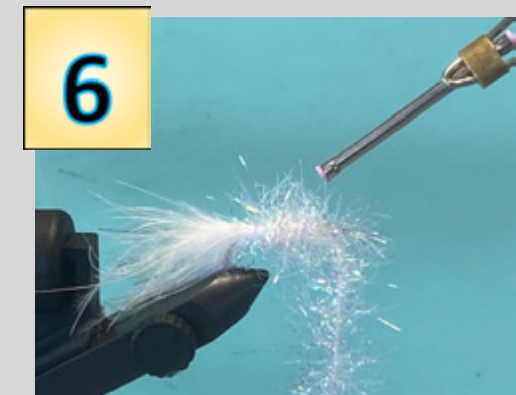
Trim the excess Marabou feathers forward of the tie-point.



Tie on a small amount of Pearl Flash.



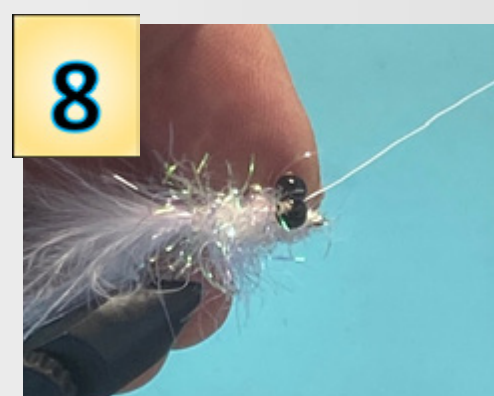
Pull the front part of the Pearl Flash back over the tie point and tie it down. Trim the Crystal Flash a touch longer than the Marabou feathers.



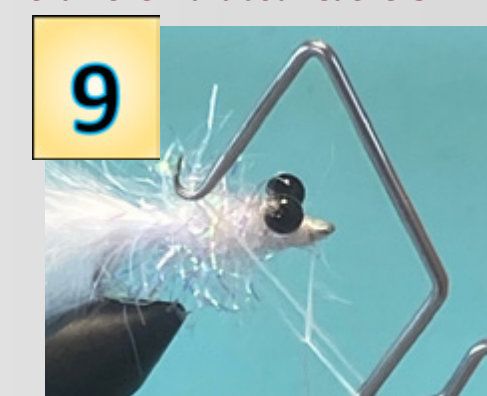
Tie on the Crystal Chenille at the Midway point and wrap it forward. Smooth the bristles upward as you wrap.



Trim the excess Crystal Chenille near the hook eye.



Tie on the Black Eye Beads



Whip finish the fly



Brush on Super Glue to set the eyes and final wrap in place.

Trip Report:

Alligator Alley

"We thought we were going to sink and spend the night with the alligators"



Bobby Lachtara
TCFF Secretary

It was windy and overcast skies with a few drops of rain now and then.

Stopped fishing after 150 fish, approximately 120 Oscars, the rest were fish of several varieties.

All on sinking flies. **Total for two trips was 635 fish.**

March 15th

Bobby Lachtara/Bob Bebout

Day 1

Bob Bebout and I drove to **Alligator Alley** and fished from 9:00 am-3:00pm with a short lunch break.

We stopped fishing to drive to the campground where we had a cabin for two nights. We totaled 150 fish that day, 120 Oscars and 30 other assorted fish. The weather was overcast and windy with an occasional spit of rain.

The next day we returned and fished from 9am-noon and caught 60 fish, then fished



Frank Cuttone
TCFF President

day was clear skies but a bit on the windy side. The next day we stopped at **Golden Gate Community** on the way home looking for a possible **Peacock Bass** but no luck.

Who: Bobby Lachtara, Frank Cuttone, Bob Bebout, a friendly Alligator
What: Two Fresh Water Fly Fishing Trips, 4/15-16 & 4/20-23
Where: Alligator Alley

late afternoon/evening and landed 92 more fish for a days total of 152.

Day 2

The weather for the second

Bob Bebout caught two **Largemouth Bass** but fishing was very slow so we packed up and returned home.

The majority of fish caught were **Oscars** with a nice mix of **Mayan Cichlids**.

We also caught a fair number of **Warmouth Bass** along with numerous **Shellcrackers**. Only a few **Bluegills** were caught. No alligators were harmed during the trip.



Our Alligator Friend

March 21-23
Bobby Lachtara/Frank Cuttone

Day 1

120 fish total, approximately 135 Oscars, the rest were mostly **Jaguar Guapote** and a few **Shellcrackers**.

Day 2

Two fishing sessions, one in the morning, another in the afternoon.

Morning Trip: 113 fish of the same variety.

Afternoon Trip: 56 fish but we had to leave after 65 minutes because **the plug in the boat came out and the boat was filling up with water**, so we quit early and made a



Sinking flies of different configurations and sink rates. Hook sizes mostly #6, a few #8. The flies at bottom right are Mayacan Minnows.



Jaguar Guapote



Mayan Cichlid



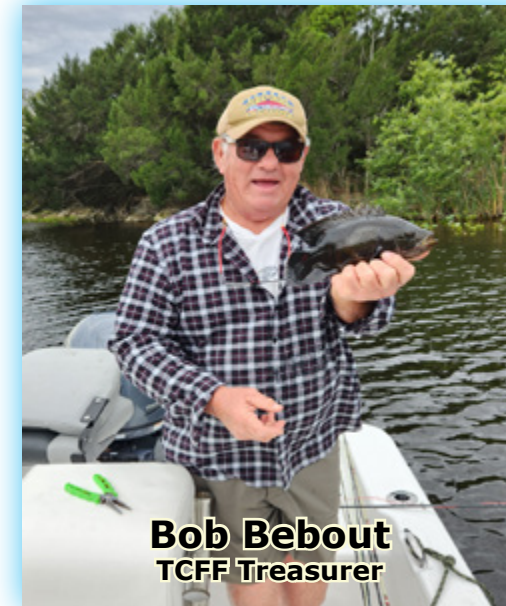
Oscar



Largemouth Bass



Shell Cracker



Bob Bebout
TCFF Treasurer

mad dash back to the ramp. Frank thought we were going to sink and spend the night with the alligators.

Day 3

Fished only two hours and caught 66 fish, then headed home due to the long drive ahead of us.

The cabin at the campground was very clean. It was perfect for two fishermen who wanted a comfortable bed after a great day fishing.

-Bobby Lachtara