

Punta Gorda Isles Fishing Club Newsletter

Volume 21

Issue 04

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PGI Fishing Club Newsletter

FEATURES

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April 2013

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www.pgifishingclub.org

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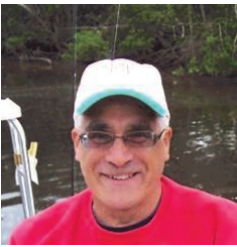
NEXT CLUB MEETING
Tuesday, April 9, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.



**Find us on
facebook**

Go to your facebook page, search for
PGI Fishing Club, join the group.

ON THE COVER—Nice photo of an Isles Trophy Race
leading spotted seatrout caught by Mark Storm while
fishing from a kayak in Pine Island Sound.



From the Helm

Aaron Wagner

Another month's gone by and I'm having a bit of a problem trying to figure out

where it went. Seems like only yesterday, I was writing March's column and now, here it's time for April. Even so, we're still getting in a few cold fronts to remind us that spring isn't here yet! At least not as far as the weather is concerned.

When we leave in the morning for a day of fishing, my buddies and I are dressed for fall – long pants, long sleeved shirts, jackets. Yes, I did say jackets. As the day progresses, the jackets come off but hey, in the morning, on the water, it really is chilly.

In spite of the chill, fishing hasn't been that bad. You'd think the cooler weather might chase some of the fish away but from what I see of the photos submitted, that's just not happening. Check them out for yourself.

It's also nice to see many more of our lady anglers braving the elements to catch those elusive fish. Whoever said fishing was a man's sport! In our club, that is just dead wrong. Each year, we have more women join and fish than the year before. Way to go, Ladies!!

Now that we're in the middle of our Fishing Club Seminars, what do you think? Having fun? Learning new stuff? And there really is a whole lot of stuff to learn! I want to extend a special thanks to Jack Spies for taking this task and making it work. Jack put it all together, got a special crew of instructors, set the schedule and it's a done deal! I know several folks really enjoyed these weekly meetings. In fact, I know several people who attended Jack's seminar last year and came back again this year. That really says something about the way Jack and his crew teach. You just can't get enough of a good thing.

As your Club's President, I try to give you as much information as I possibly can about a variety of subjects. In return, I'm pleased to receive input from our members. So, here is where I give you information and ask for your input.

Living in Florida offers the potentiality to experience hurricanes. Some are nothing more than a puff of air while others can become like Charley – a devastating smack in the face with a bucket of cold water. Checking the internet, I found that this year, the prediction of storms for the Atlantic is for 14 named storms (which included tropical storms), about 7 hurricanes with 3-4 of those being intense storms.

Don't misunderstand that information! Just because storms are predicted in the Atlantic doesn't mean they'll hit Florida. Anyone living in SW Florida for a number of years, knows that any storm can fly through the Gulf and slam into Louisiana, Texas or any of the other Gulf States. Yet, we are among the Gulf States that become vulnerable for hurricanes.

That said, in the past, we've had a few speakers talk on boat safety during a storm; how to secure your boat should a storm be approaching. Whether or not we ask someone to speak on this topic is up to you. If you feel this is something you need to know or just have a general interest in, please let me know and I'll ask our Programs Director, John Simonieg to look into it. Remember, this is your club and we aim to please.

Hey, speaking of pleasing, wasn't that a GREAT picnic? Sherry and her crew did an awesome job – as usual. From ordering the food, to organizing the games, all I can say is WOW!! It was really a lot of fun and I applaud Sherry and her crew for another job well done. Thanks, Sherry, et al.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3) .

And, by the way, congratulations to all our winners! They all left the picnic area wearing huge smiles and taking home some really nice gifts.

We were sorry to learn that our Treasurer, Rex Koch had to step down from the Board. Due to personal reasons, he found it necessary to leave the Board and ask that we find a replacement. As usual, our Membership Director didn't hesitate. Within a few days, she found a replacement and so, I'd like to welcome Artie Rosen to the Board as the newly appointed Treasurer. I know he'll do us proud.

Speaking of being proud, I want to reiterate how happy I am to serve as your President. I've had the wonderful opportunity to work with really great people over the last two years. But come December 31, my term will be over. Within the next few months, you will read which of our Board members will need to be replaced. Let's face it – no one really stays on the Board forever (with the exception of a very small few). Often people feel they've outgrown their usefulness or they feel new blood breeds new ideas. So as the positions become open, we'll be announcing which ones you can con-

sider taking on. It's not a big task but a task that's very worthwhile.

Okay, now on to fishing. I do have one pet peeve that I'd like to share with you. Our VP, John Lengauer is doing a really great job with his fishing reports but when he asks the membership for their input, very few of our anglers want to give theirs. I know it's not easy speaking into a mic and addressing a crowd but hey, isn't that part of what we do? Address the crowd and brag about our fishing experiences? I'd like to see more of you volunteer to talk about your latest catches (or almost-catches) at our meetings. Let's give the newbies in our group something to ask questions about. Let's let them know what we catch, where, using what and how much fun we have doing it. Deal? Good!

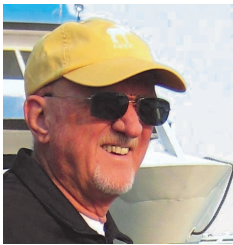
I know our seasonal members are or have already headed back to their northern homes for the summer. While you'll be missed, we do wish you safe travel.

So, have fun and I'll see you at the next meeting.

Aaron



17.5-inch sea trout?



Know the Fish, Know the Regulations

We sometimes receive fish photos from club members that are named in error. Sometimes the error is a result of attaching the wrong photo or no photo to the email. Easy to do. For example, one of your club board members (who will remain unnamed) recently sent in a photo of a small black drum and called it a 17.5-inch seatrout. He got some friendly static about that at the board meeting, but blamed it on his wife attaching the wrong photo! Other times, fish are just misidentified by the person who caught the fish and sent the photo. That's not an uncommon occurrence or a problem, and is easily corrected.

Or maybe, a photo is sent that is an inadvertent violation of state or federal fishing regulations. For example, there are fish that if caught are not to be removed from the water, even for a quick photo. If you happen to submit one of those, hopefully you'll not see it in the newsletter or on the Web site.

None of us know all the fish and I don't think anyone can keep current on the regulations as they change. But, if you have a "smart" cell phone, there is a simple way you can keep up, both with fish identification and fishing regulations.

Jim Hoffman attended a recent fishing regulations workshop put on by NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). He came away with some NOAA pamphlets with good information about fishing regulations, but the best was the information he passed on about the smart phone applications for iPhone and Android phones.

The app is called "Fish Rules 2013" and it lets you know at a glance if a fish is in season, how many you can keep, how big they have to be, and more. *Florida Sportsman* magazine says, "Need an on-the-water fish regulations guide? Fish Rules App provides instant access to state and federal saltwater fishing regulations from your iPhone." The app uses your phone's GPS to show only the regulations you

need. I put it on my iPhone and it is an amazing \$.99 tool (that's 99 cents) for saltwater fishermen.

When you open the app, it starts with an alphabetical list of all the fish and shellfish you might encounter in Florida Gulf Coast waters. You can display the list by name, by shape, by picture and by prohibited. If you select a fish it instantly shows you a picture of the fish, bag limit, minimum size, maximum size, how you measure it (total length or fork length), season open or closed, if it is prohibited, illegal methods of taking, and additional information such as edibility and aka names. If you catch a fish and don't know the name, you can display the list as pictures and find the fish with all the above information. The regulations are updated each time you access the app as long as you have a cell or wireless connection. The app has more information too numerous to list here, but you can keep a trip log, check on license requirements, purchase a license, and access links to full regulations, all through your smart phone.

An awesome app, and here's how you can find out more about it. Go to the fishing club Web site www.pgifishingclub.org and then to the Fishing Club Web Links page, scroll down to the Fishing Regulations App link for your type phone. Or, scan the appropriate QR code below with your phone. To buy the app, you can or go to the Applications Store on your phone.



QR code for iPhone



QR code for Android

Not a bad deal for 99 cents, and it could save you big bucks avoiding a fine for illegal harvest of undersized, oversized, closed season or prohibited fish. Beside that, it's just fun to scroll through the fish.



Fishing Events

John Wolfinger

I'm sure you have all heard the term "March Madness" and everyone associates it with the NCAA basketball playoffs, as well they should. I've watched many of the games over the last couple of weeks and especially enjoyed FGCU's progress. Well, in the month of March, the PGI Fishing Club had our own bit of March Madness as many members were in town and we had over 80 photo submissions made during the month. All I can say is WOW. Members are definitely getting on the water, catching fish and learning how to successfully fish the area. That is great!

We are now moving into April and I think we'll see more changes with fishing this month than many others. Things really start to pick up as the weather and water warm up. Many fish including tarpon, redfish, mackerel, snook and cobia all start to increase their presence and activity as the waters warm and bait schools show up. In addition, the season for red grouper opened April 1st so offshore fishing picks up too. I really start getting pumped up in April for what is to come with fishing!

Our Fish of the Month for March was the PGI SLAM: REDFISH and SPOTTED SEATROUT. We had many members catch one or the other but only 6 members caught both a redfish and spotted seatrout during the month. We finished the month of March with 3 winners:

- Ron Topper, First place (\$35 gift certificate), 53.5" total (29" redfish and 24.5" seatrout)
- Tom Hickey, Second place (\$25 gift certificate), 48.5" total (27" redfish and 21.5" seatrout)
- Aaron Wagner, Third place (\$15 gift certificate), 46.5" total (29" redfish and 17.5" seatrout)

Congratulations to all of the winners! Thanks go out to the members that submitted pictures of their PGI SLAM catches. If you caught a slam and didn't submit it, you may have missed out on a great gift certificate. It's easy to submit entries; just e-mail a picture of you with the fish along with your name, date caught, length and type of fish to the club's **NEW** e-mail address for submissions, fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org or drop off a picture with the same information at the PGICA office.

Our April Fish of the Month is SPANISH MACKEREL. These fish have already started showing up in the harbor and usually during April you will see the activity level increase dramatically. They are a lot of fun to catch and are big fighters but make sure you use the correct tackle since they can bite through your line like it was nothing. One difference when measuring a SPANISH MACKEREL; they get measured from the tip of the nose to the INSIDE FORK OF THE TAIL. Don't measure them to the tip of the tail. If you catch one, take a photo of yourself with the fish and submit it along with the length to fork, species, date caught and your name to fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org. As always, fish caught using a paid guide do not qualify for this contest.

The upcoming May Fish of the Month will be COBIA. These are big, strong fish that will make their presence known in the harbor and offshore. They are also very good table fare. So get ready to break out the heavy tackle next month.

As I mentioned earlier, red grouper season opened April 1. The size limit is 20 inches and you can keep 4. Don't keep any gag grouper though; they remain closed until later this year.

If you missed our general meeting on March 12, members voted to not allow the use of paid guides for any of the club's 3 contests: Fish of the Month, Master Angler and Isles Trophy Race. This makes inshore and offshore fishing contests equivalent: fish caught using paid guides will not be permitted.

These changes do not affect the Ladder of Achievement, which is your own personal progression; you may use paid guides for these submissions. So that we are able to keep the records straight, we are asking members to **identify any fish caught with a paid guide when submitting a photo**. That will allow us to make sure we categorize it appropriately.

The club rules were revised to reflect these changes and were posted this month on our website. The new rules are effective April 1.

Now take advantage of living in one of the best fishing areas in the country and GO FISH!

March, 2012
Fish of the Month Contest
Redfish & Spotted Seatrout



Ron Topper,
 1st Place (\$35
 gift certi-
 cate), 29-inch



redfish, 24.5-inch
 seatrout; 53.5
 inches total.



Tom Hickey, 2nd
 Place (\$25 gift certi-
 cate), 27-inch redfish,
 21.5-inch seatrout;
 48.5 inches total.

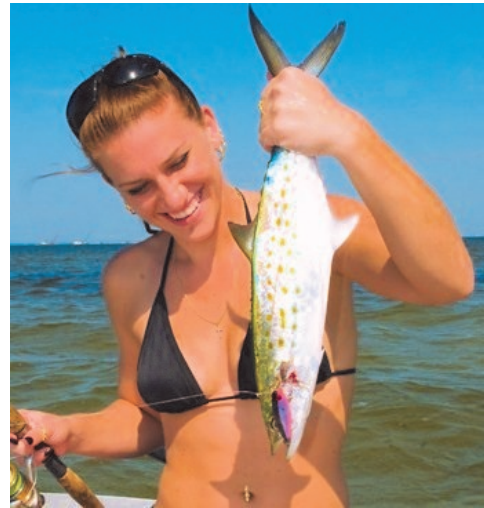


Aaron Wagner, 3rd
 Place (\$15 gift certi-
 cate), 29-inch redfish,
 17.5-inch seatrout; 46.5
 inches total.



Congratulations to our winners!

Fishin' Babe
of the Month
With an April
Fish of the Month



Fish of the Month 2013 Schedule

January	SHEEPSHEAD
February	SPOTTED SEATROUT
March	PGI SPRING SLAM: REDFISH & SPOTTED SEATROUT
April	SPANISH MACKEREL
May	COBIA
June	SNOOK
July	SHARK
August	MANGROVE SNAPPER
September	TARPON
October	REDFISH
November	GROUPE
December	BLACK DRUM



Programs

John Simonieg

Capt Jay Withers delivered his usual good performance. Some of the items he suggested :

- If you are looking to catch large trout, and you have caught several 15-16" trout, move to another location for the larger trout, since they tend to be loners.
- Large trout in Charlotte Harbor now can get to 10-12 lbs.
- Use a Sebile Stickshad 114 for large trout and redfish. The lure will cast a long distance. Also try 1/8 oz Jigs with Slayer Ink soft bait.
- Find the large fish in open water, sand bars, oyster bars or holes.

All in all an excellent presentation and we will look forward to having Jay back again.



Capt Jay Withers, our March guest speaker with John Simonieg, club Program Director

Our speaker for April will be Capt Rick Sechrist of Chaos Charter Services. Capt Rick has been fishing/guiding in Southwest Florida waters since 1992, specializing in flats fishing and back bay fishing for snook, redfish, trout and tarpon. He has had several top ten finishes in the Flatmasters Redfish Tournaments and has fished tarpon tournaments in the area. Rick has been on the radio on Saturdays on 1530 am for years until they moved it to Fridays and he dropped it. He was one of Greg Chestnut's favorite guides. Greg was our club president in 2011.

Be sure to attend our April meeting.



Ladies Liaison

Cris Scheib

Breakfast for lunch? Lunch for lunch? Hopefully that's the biggest decision you'll have to make on Thursday, April 11, when we go to John Ski's House of Breakfast at 11:30 am. If you want scrambled eggs with your Rueben or French Fries with your omelet, you can do it at House of Breakfast. Come hungry or you'll need a doggie bag, cause the portions are bountiful! They also have a "senior" menu with smaller portions and prices.

April might be the month for showers, but I'm hoping for a great night at the newly improved Slip Knot on Thursday, April 25. Meet at 6:30 pm for dinner, music and some partying out by the big boat. Their expanded menu includes delectable home-made soups and chili, as well as sandwiches, wraps, burgers and other goodies. Maybe we'll even see a few pirates hanging out!



In March we had a nice group at Tortuga's Seafood Restaurant for Out to Lunch. Everyone seemed to enjoy it!



We had to cancel Girls Nite Out at Pies & Plates when we didn't make the minimum for the class.

Lets have some fun! Suggestions of what you want to do or where to go, comments or need a ride to an event - just email me at pastadiva@comcast.net. Please put "Fish Girls" in the subject line.

Thanks,
Cris



Membership

Donnie Brennan

Is this a great club or what?

I can't begin to explain the positive attitudes of our members but what I can say is that so many of our members have actually thanked me for accepting their dues for this year. It really makes what I do so much more rewarding. Maybe that's why I strive so hard to help out where and when I can. What I do, I do for you, our members. So, in turn, I thank YOU for all your kind words and helpfulness.

One thing you can help me with is a pet project I've decided to work on. I'm creating a poster with photos of your catches to display whenever the PGICA has an event where clubs need to be recognized.

So far, I have only four photos. I really need a whole lot more so please either drop them off at the PGICA in an envelope marked "Donnie" or email them to me at membership@pgifishingclub.org and I'll be sure to add them to the poster.

That said, I want you to make welcome our newest members:

ALAN & KAREN HALL

KEN HARDESTY & MARY HEINS

RON & PATTY SCHALTER

GARY & SANDY AMEELE

BOB SCHUMANN

JIM & SUE TURNLINGTON

ROGER & BEBE DAVIS

Please remember, each new member will have a star on their badge. When you see them, go say hello. Play nice. Make a new friend. Remember, any NEW friend could turn out to be your BEST friend.

And in closing, as always, if you have a new neighbor, let me know. I'll do the rest.

Okay, I just heard thunder and normally, where there's thunder, you'll see lightening and I would really hate it if my computer got itself fried because I like to write. So, I'm outta here for today.

Have a great month and happy fishing!

Donnie

Note from Donnie

I'm in the process of making a nice LARGE poster using photos of members and their catches. If you'd like to have your photo (or two) on this poster, please email it to me (or leave it at the PGICA office in an envelope marked to the attention of 'Donnie.' Don't forget to add your name so I'll know how to mark the photos. Thanks so much.



Sunshine Lady

Donnie Brennan

I'm glad to say that March has been a slow month for your Sunshine Lady.

Not that I have any objection to sending cards. I LOVE sending cards; I'm just glad there was no need.

Only three cards went out in March. Nick Faello suffered a broken foot. Joe Longo had rotator cuff surgery and Cathy Engimann had knee replacement.

Everyone knows that old adage: "if you see someone without a smile, give him one of yours." Well, that's exactly what the job of a Sunshine Lady is...to spread smiles.

So, if you know of anyone who might need a smile, just let me know and I'll be more than happy to send a card.

You can call (575-8808) or email (L3th@comcast.net) me the name of the person you have in mind and I'll do the rest.

I can also send a humorous birthday card to someone who has just turned a huge milestone and isn't quite sure how he (or she) feels about that BIG birthday.

Just remember, smiles are free and I love to pass them along.

No smile is too small to share so just keep those emails and calls coming in.

((((((((((((((big hugs))))))))))))))

Donnie




PGI NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The Punta Gorda Isles Neighborhood "Marine" Watch program Is looking for a few good men and/or women.



YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE MARINE WATCH PROGRAM IS ONLY 2-HOURS EACH MONTH, AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CHOOSE FROM A SPREAD OF DAYS TO PERFORM YOUR PATROL. I WILL GO OUT WITH YOU ON YOUR INITIAL PATROL. YOU CAN ALSO ACT AS "CREW" DURING ANY OTHER MEMBERS PATROL.

If you are interested in volunteering a couple hours each month to this worthwhile program, contact: Bill Guenther — Neighborhood Marine Watch program coordinator — Home Phone: 941.505.5099 Cell Phone: 941.661.9702, or email at: (radioman3029@comcast.net)



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Social Events

Sherry
Moerke

Thanks to all the members who made the Fishing Club picnic a huge success. We had a great turnout with a total of 132 attendees.



We filled the pavilion ... and all the umbrella tables,

Fishin Frank donated many fishing items that were won by the following: Bob & Cathryn Mayes, Margo & John Kraybill, Hyrette & Bill Guenther, Pat & Tom Lengauer, Patty & John Gettinger, Mary Ann & Carl Leicher, Maureen & Bob Rand, Sandy & Art Rosen, Janice & Paul Anderson and Terry Bendel.

The two \$25 gift certificates to Tortugas Restaurant in Punta Gorda were won by Pat & Ed Nicholanco and Barbara & Fred Lamon.



Sherry and Sheree getting ready for the next course.

The 50/50 winners were:
Pat Lengauer - \$85
Ron Smith - \$60
Janice Creutzmann - \$45

The game winners were:

Donnie Brennan won hoop casting
Jerry Morningstar won the anchor toss
Marv Dyrstad won the bean bag toss
Each of them won a rod and reel for their effort.

A big thank you to everyone who helped with setup, serving and cleanup at the picnic. This includes Joe and Karen Udvari, Jim and Margie Hoffman, John and Marlene Vandehei, Rich Brennan, Carl Leicher, Terry Bandel, Karl Moeller, Dick Doster, Patti Topper, Cindy Johnston, Rose Anne McCaffrey, Cathy Engimann, Don Bergman, Rich Brennan, Tom



Parsons and John Wolfinger. Terry Bandel set up the music which was a nice addition to the picnic. Donnie Brennan designed and printed the tickets. Sheree Wolfinger helped in every aspect of the picnic from beginning to end. A special thanks to Pete Ferguson and Conrad Perry for running the anchor toss, Bill Guenther and Bob Rand for running the bean bag toss and Marty McCaffrey, Joe Udvari and Rich Brennan for running hoop casting. Thank you to Marv and Joanell Dyrstad for selling the 50/50 tickets.



... and finished the day with more great desserts than we could eat.

Recipe of the Month

(This recipe was given to me by Pete McGregor to try as "Sheepshead Cakes." He got the recipe from the local WaterLine newspaper and claimed it was delicious. I tried it using sheepshead, and Pete was right! Called Sheepshead/Fish Cakes here, because I'm sure you can use any good-eating local fish—snapper, flounder, redfish, etc.—in place of sheepshead and it will still be delicious. I mean, what wouldn't be good mixed with Ritz crackers, mayonnaise, onion, Old Bay and egg...then fried.)

Sheepshead/Fish Cakes

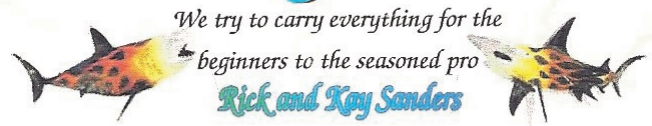


- 1 pound of boneless sheepshead (fillets or pieces)
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 tsp yellow mustard
- 1 tbsp salad dressing (Miracle Whip)
- 1/2 tsp Old Bay Seasoning
- 2-1/2 cups coarsely crushed buttery round crackers
- 1 egg
- Oil of your choice for frying

Place fish in saucepan with enough water to cover. Bring to boil and cook until fish flakes easily with a fork. Drain off water and mash the fish into small chunks. Stir in onion, mustard, salad dressing, Old Bay, cracker crumbs and egg. Mix until evenly blended. Heat oil in large skillet over medium-high heat. Form the fish mixture into patties and fry in the hot oil. Drain on paper towels and serve hot. Serves 8.

(You can easily modify the above to your taste. For example, add some olive oil to mixture, maybe a little hot sauce if you like spicy, form mixture into balls and before frying dip in egg wash and coat with flour or panko mixture (I did this with some of the mixture and it was great). If you don't like fried, you can broil the patties instead of frying, but drizzle a little olive oil or butter over them before broiling. Lots of possibilities with this one. I did the original first time, and will use it again. Hint: This recipe is supposed to serve 8, but that must mean 8 NFL linemen. We had lots left over!)

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Last Month's Drawing Prize Winners

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

FIRST PLACE	~	Tom Flak	Redbone Spinning Rod
SECOND PLACE	~	Peg Bonacuse	Calico Jack Spinning Rod
SECOND PLACE	~	Sherry Moerke	Okuma 30B Spinning Reel
THIRD PLACE	~	Marlene Vandehei	Fishing tackle bag
THIRD PLACE	~	Emil Martinez	\$25 Gift Certificate to Terminal Tackle
"EXTRA" PRIZE	~	Mark Storm	\$10 Gift Certificate to Fishin' Franks



FIRST PLACE
Tom Flak



SECOND PLACE
Peg Bonacuse



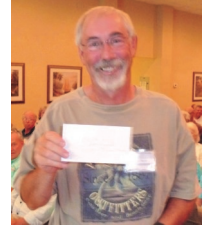
SECOND PLACE
Sherry Moerke



THIRD PLACE
Marlene Vandehei



THIRD PLACE
Emil Martinez



"EXTRA" PRIZE
Mark Storm



50/50 WINNERS

FIRST
PLACE
WINNER
Marv Dyrstad \$95



SECOND
PLACE
WINNER
Donnie Brennan \$55



THIRD
PLACE
WINNER
Margo Kraybill \$35



PGI Fishing Club Ladder of Angling Achievement Program

LEVEL	NUMBER OF SPECIES	SIZE LIMITS	POINTS NEEDED	EARNED AWARD
FIRST FISH	1	NONE	NONE	CLUB HAT
BRONZE	5	NONE	NONE	BRONZE PIN
SILVER	5	LEGAL	300	SILVER PIN
GOLD	7	LEGAL	700	GOLD PIN
LIFETIME	9	LEGAL	1000	SNOOK PIN
LIFETIME LEVEL II	13	LEGAL	1400	REDFISH PIN
LIFETIME LEVEL III	18	LEGAL	1700	TARPON PIN
GRAND MASTER	23	LEGAL	2000	CLUB SHIRT W/LOGO

For complete Ladder of Angling Achievement Program rules, detailed information on eligible angler achievement species and points earned based on length, please see the PGI Fishing Club Web site (www.pgifishingclub.org) Ladder of Angling Achievement page.

REVISED 4/1/2013						
BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	LIFETIME LEVEL I SNOOK	LIFETIME LEVEL II REDFISH	LIFETIME LEVEL III TARPON	GRAND MASTER CLUB SHIRT
Tom desEnfants	Marie D'Ambrosio	Mattie D'Ambrosio	Tom Lodge	Marty McCaffrey	Jack Spies	Donnie Brennan
Karen Lodge	Kathy desEnfants	Bill Guenther	Ed Verminski	Bob Rand	John Gettinger	Rich Brennan
Dick Nieberline	Pete Ferguson	Joe Longo	Jim LaRocca	Missy Becker	Pam Solinger	Bob Busler
Jessica Poe	Mike Gulvezan	John Simonieg	Marie LaRocca	Rose Anne McCaffrey	Tom Hickey	Jim Hoffman
Darryl Pricco	Christine Jordan	Ray Brunner	Carl Leicher	Dick Doster	Joe Udvari	Margie Hoffman
Ron Stafford	Larry Okray	Karen Udvari	John MacLeman	Bill Bonham		Kel Krotzer
Joe Tassia	Mike Sandling	Fred Bensen	Aaron Wagner			Joanne Landaker
Rodger Will	George Remick	Mark Storm	Marv Drystad			Steve Landaker
Sherry Moerke	Ron McKinnon	Ron Topper	Bill Bonham			Joe Maillet
Bill Stringer	Jim Qurollo					Pete McGregor
Mark Kline	Gary Moerke					Mike Quinn
Barbara Brunner	Joanell Drystad					Bev Rucker
Deny LaChance	Sheree Wolfinger					John Solinger
Fred Lamon						John Wolfinger
Bob Mayes						Tom Parsons
John Morehouse						
Janice Wiscombe						
Paul Land						
Alan Schulman						
Randy Hall						
Tom Lengauer						
Walt Zink						
Mike Gilger						
Bud Johnston						
Cindi Johnston						
Jerry Morningstar						

RED = Award This Month

Club Hat for First Fish Peter Meier





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(If you see an error, please contact the Fishing Events Director at fishing@pgifishingclub.org or Newsletter Editor at editor@pgifishingclub.org)

[illegible]



Isles Trophy Race 2013



PGI FISHING CLUB'S ANNUAL

ISLES TROPHY STANDINGS

REVISED 4/1/2013

MEN'S DIVISION

OVERALL CLUB RECORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH IN INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	MEMBER NAME	LENGTH IN INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF RECORD
X	Amberjack	John MacLeman	45.5	2012				
X	Cobia	Bob Busler	54.0	2007				
X	Grouper	Tom Hamilton	39.0	2003	Arron Wangner	30.00	01/30/13	76.92%
X	King Mackerel	John MacLeman	52.0	2012				
X	Redfish	Bob Busler	42.0	2005	Ron Topper	29.0	03/20/13	69.05%
					Aaron Wagner	29.0	03/08/13	69.05%
X	Seatrout	Rich Brennan	29.0	2009	Mark Storm	25.5	03/11/13	87.93%
		Arron Wagner	29.0	2012				
X	Snook	Jim Quorollo	44.5	2012	Ron Topper	27.00	01/07/13	60.67%
X	Spanish Mackerel	Carl Leicher	30.0	2012	Fred Benson	22.00	03/05/13	73.33%

WOMEN'S DIVISION

OVERALL CLUB RECORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH IN INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	MEMBER NAME	LENGTH IN INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF RECORD
	Amberjack	Margie Hoffman	33.0	2010	Cindi Johnston	16.00	01/16/13	48.48%
	Cobia	Joanne Landaker	50.0	2008				
	Grouper	Margie Hoffman	31.0	2006				
		Bev Rucker	31.0	2008				
	King Mackerel	Margie Hoffman	37.0	2007				
	Redfish	Donnie Brennan	38.0	2008				
		Missy Becker	38.0	2008				
	Seatrout	Joanne Landaker	26.5	2011	Pam Solinger	23.00	01/09/13	86.79%
	Snook	Missy Becker	41.0	2006				
	Spanish Mackerel	Missy Becker	28.0	2007	Sheree Wolfinger	23.5	03/30/13	83.93%

This Year's Leaders are in RED

New 2013 Records this Month are in BLUE

*PGIFC MEN'S and WOMEN'S records are based on eight of the "measured" points scoring fish in the Ladder of Achievement.

ISLES TROPHY RACE LEADERS FOR 2013

MEN

Mark Storm

WOMEN

Pam Solinger



Member Catches



Aaron Wagner with a 16-inch spotted seatrout.



Bill Damour and his "top of the slot" 27-inch redfish.



Bill Bonham with a nice snook. Should be a lot of these caught these coming months.



Tom Hickey and a great dinner...14-inch pompano.



Sheree Wolfinger with her Master Angler Contest leading 23.5-inch Spanish mackerel.



Roz Hickey and a just legal 15-inch spotted seatrout caught at the bridge.



Denys Lachance and a 17.5 inch redfish



Bud Johnson's 23-inch gag grouper. Too bad the season is closed.

Member Catches



Carl Leicher with an aptly named spade fish...



...and here's all the Leicher guys with a bunch of sheephead and one flounder.



Cindi Johnson and 18-inch sheephead.



Dick Doster and a great 27-inch gag grouper.



Jerry Morningstar with a small bonnethead shark.



Ron Topper and a pretty 28-inch redfish.
Just an inch over the slot.



Pam Solinger and a fun-to-catch 2-foot tarpon. Watch out for those night fishermen.

Member Catches



Mark Storm with a large, canal-caught black drum.



Karen Udvari with a grunt.



John Wolfinger and 19-inch Spanish mackerel. Should be a bunch of these caught in April.



Fred Benson with his 22-inch Spanish mackerel. He caught another one of 21.5 inches this same trip.



Denys Lachance and a 19.5-inch Spanish mackerel.



Here's Pete McGregor with a good eating gulf flounder.



John Solinger, 17-inch redfish.



Cindi Johnston with her 18.5-inch redfish..



Janice Wiscombe and a nice 21-inch spotted seatrout.

More fish photos on
your club Web site:
www.pgifishingclub.org
Photo Gallery page

Submit your fish photos to:
fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org

Member Catches



Jim Crawley, 20-inch bluefish.



John Simonieg and a nice sheephead.



Here's Joe Udvari with a hand-some "rat" red.



Janice Anderson with her 22-inch spotted seatrout.



Dennys Lachance again, this time with a 17-inch Spanish mackerel.



Joe Udvari and a 21.5-inch spotted seatrout.



And here's a good one to quit on: Gettinger's grand gang of grouper grabbers...bait for dinner tonight?

This past month has generally been described at our club breakfast meetings and in the local fishing papers as "not-as-good-as-usual" fishing because of the unsettled weather. But, our fish photo email, fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org, had over 80 fish photos submitted, so many they all aren't being published in the newsletter this month. Should get most of them into our Web page photo album though.

Local Area Fishing Tips

Cast Net Primer

By Jim Qurollo

To catch quantities of “white bait” (generally green backs or threadfins) around Charlotte Harbor, in most cases you need to be able to throw a cast net. If you don’t know how to do that, there are many ways to learn. Probably the best is from someone who has been doing it for a while and has perfected their technique, like some of our club experts. Another good way to start and also refresh, is to watch YouTube videos and practice with a net in your yard.

Learning to Throw. On YouTube you can find demonstrations and explanations of many different ways to throw a cast net...some might suit you and others not. Over the years I’ve used different methods but have settled on one that seems to suit me best. Here is one YouTube video that demonstrates that method:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOUkj2h2Ljl>

(Depending on what app you are using to read this, you can click on the above link, or you might need to copy and paste the link into your browser, or you can go to www.pgifishingclub.org, select the Fishing Club Web Links page and click on the “How to Throw a Cast Net” link.) You can also Google “how to throw a cast net” and see many other examples. Some things to consider when looking at throwing methods are: holding lead line of the net in your teeth prior to throw or not, net over your shoulder or not (you can get pretty wet after first toss), and just how complicated is a particular method. Often simple is better.

What Net to Buy. Once you have decided on a method you want to try when throwing your net, you need a cast net, and there are many different parameters to consider when selecting one. Things like size or overall diameter of the net, mesh size,

amount of weight per foot of circumference and of course price. Generally, as with most things you “get what you pay for.” Larger nets, finer mesh, more lead, higher quality material...all increase the price. You can buy cast nets that will work at Wal-Mart for less than \$50. These are OK to start with. But, if you use a cast net frequently, you’ll eventually want a better quality, more expensive net which you can get from most of our tackle selling sponsors for three to four times that much. These higher quality nets are easier throw well and usually catch more bait. If you become a real pro at cast netting, you can spend many hundreds of dollars on top quality cast nets. You can get nets of colors other than white/clear monofilament. There are camo nets, green nets and blue nets. I’m not sure that the color makes much difference, but some cast netters feel that the colored nets spook the bait less and even go so far as to dye their standard white nets before using them. (One good thing everyone should do before using a new cast net is soak it overnight in a fabric softener solution. Makes it mores supple and easier to throw.)

Parts of a Cast Net. If you’re interested, the basic parts of a cast net are:

- **Hand line**—a rope attached to the swivel at one end and the casters wrist at the other;
- **Swivel**—two metal loops that turn to keep twist out of the net and help let it spin on throwing;
- **Horn**—a ring, usually plastic, just below the swivel where the top or center of the net is tied;
- **Brail lines**—lines, usually heavy mono, attached to the swivel at one end and the lead line at the other. Their function is to pucker the net on retrieval and trap the bait;
- **Lead line**—a small diameter rope with lead sinkers attached. It is fixed to the outside circumference of the net to make it sink;

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Local Area Fishing Tips

(Continued from page 21)

- **Netting**—made from nylon multifilament or monofilament to form the net of the desired mesh.

Net Size. Nets are normally sized by radius. In other words, an “8-ft net” is 8-ft in radius or if thrown perfectly it makes a 16-ft diameter circle. Since the area of a circle is calculated using the radius squared, a 10-ft cast net for example will cover four times the area of a 5-ft cast net. So, obviously bigger is much, better, right? Maybe not. Bigger nets catch more bait per throw...provided you can throw them well and often. But sometimes, for many of us “older” folks, we’re better off with a net we can throw with confidence than one we can’t get to open consistently or throw more than a couple of times without wearing ourselves out.

You might consider “smaller” nets to be 5 to 6-ft, “medium” 7 to 9-ft and “large” 10-ft and above. I’ve found that I can throw my son’s 10-ft net and get it to open OK, but it weighs so much (the larger the net the more lead it has) that after a couple of throws I’m ready to quit. So, I settled on 8-ft as a good compromise for me. It covers a decent area and I can normally throw it as many times as necessary to catch as much bait as needed.

What about mesh size? Mesh size is the distance from knot to knot in the net. Typical bait net mesh sizes used in Charlotte Harbor to catch white bait are 1/4-inch and 3/8-inch, but sizes range up to over 1-inch if you are after large mullet or the like. Obviously, the smaller the mesh size, the smaller the bait you can catch without the bait escaping through the net or getting caught up in the mesh like a gill net (sometimes called “Christmas treeing”). Of course the small mesh will also catch larger bait, but the main disadvantage of too small a mesh is a slower sink rate, and they are generally more expensive since they use more net material,

have more knots, etc. So, for catching typical white bait in Charlotte Harbor the 3/8-inch mesh is a good starting size and is often better for throwing in deeper water since it sinks faster than the 1/4-inch. Ideally, you might have both 1/4-inch and 3/8-inch size nets available depending on the size of bait you are targeting or expecting. If the bait is running small (2 to 3 inches) the problem of having many bait fish stuck in the mesh of the 3/8-inch net when you retrieve it gets to be irritating when you try to remove them, and you lose bait that dies in the net.

Personally, I have three cast nets, and typically use two of them. One inexpensive small 6-foot, 3/8 mesh net that I keep onboard as a backup. One good quality 8-foot, 3/8 mesh and one higher quality 8-foot, 1/4 mesh to use depending on expected bait size and water depth I’ll be targeting.

One more word on mesh size: 1/4 inch and 3/8 inch are somewhat misleading. As mentioned, this is a knot to knot measurement. The small mesh squares are not really square except when the net is held in one particular position which you rarely see. The small “squares” actually turn into “stretched squares” when the net is held, thrown and retrieved, and the measurement across the longest diagonal is often near twice the mesh size (3/8 inch turns into 3/4 inch). So it is fairly easy for 3-inch long and less white bait to get heads and gill covers through the mesh and be entangled. No fun.

Where to Catch Bait? Good question, and I can only speak from my experiences the past three years of catching bait on Charlotte Harbor.

During the warm water months, I much prefer chumming for green backs (scaled sardines) over eel

(Continued on page 23)

Local Area Fishing Tips

(Continued from page 22)

grass in the 2-3-foot water just inside, outside and on the bars. Here are some spots to try:

- Both sides of the bar near Pirate Harbor entrance channel are often good;
- Inside the bar south of Alligator Creek can be good;
- Jug Creek Shoal north and west of Bokeelia usually has some of the best areas;
- Over grassy areas just outside the bar on the west wall;
- Around grassy areas with potholes anywhere there is moving water.

When chumming using the typical tropical fish food and menhaden oil mixture, it is important to remember that for the best chance to find bait you need moving tide to disperse the chum down-tide and attract the bait. Also, when chumming in the above listed areas during the warm water months, you will usually attract and catch pinfish, puffer fish, 6 to 10-inch ballyhoo, various other fish and cormorants. The pinfish you'll catch can be very good bait for both inshore and offshore, and they are one of the hardiest baits available. You can keep them in a "bait motel" at your dock for a lengthy period. They'll also eat your shrimp if you keep them in the same livewell. The ballyhoo are decent cut bait. Although chumming doesn't attract threadfins, you will sometimes net them at the same time as greenbacks when they happen to be swimming together.

You can also catch bait in somewhat deeper areas of the Harbor, mainly near some of the markers. During the colder water months these are probably about the only areas where you can reliably catch bait. The bait you catch in the 11 to 13-foot water near the markers like #1 and #2 will often be mixed green backs and thread fins of various sizes. But some seasons of the year you can fill your baitwell

with one throw of the net. Usually you don't need to chum around the markers, but sometimes it helps to concentrate the greenbacks. Throw near the marker and let the net sink to or near the bottom.

If you've been blind throwing around a marker and not having much luck, try using your sonar. The bait around the markers is usually pretty well "schooled up" and in the lower half of the water column. You can easily see and catch the pods of bait if you have a depth finder and get the hang of throwing your net where the pod is as you pass over it. I have caught large amounts of bait in the spring and early summer idling or drifting hundreds of yards from a marker, watching for pods of bait on the sonar and throwing my net. And always watch for diving pelicans which will mark schools of bait near the surface. Motor over near them and if the bait goes deeper use your sonar to locate them. Try it, practice and you can usually catch a decent amount of good bait.

Cast Net Cautions. A couple of words of caution, especially when throwing your net in the deeper water areas.

Near marker #1 I destroyed a cast net by snagging it on a bottom obstruction of some sort. I've not had a problem at marker #2 with bottom snags, but there must be some because once while pulling in my anchor, I snagged and recovered an old cast net near the marker. Letting your net sink to the bottom in deep water is always a risk.

Many experienced cast netters are careful about how they attach the hand line to their wrist prior to throwing. If you are drifting over bait, letting the net sink to the bottom and it snags, or even if you

(Continued on page 24)

Local Area Fishing Tips

(Continued from page 23)

are anchored and it happens to ensnare some very large fish, you can be pulled overboard if you can't quickly release the hand line. A good option is to use a Velcro strap instead of the loop at the end of the hand line to secure it to your wrist so it is easily released if necessary.

Finally. On the right are two of your primary cast net targets. They are easy to tell apart. The greenback (aka scaled sardine) has a larger head and eyes than the threadfin and is the preferred bait if you have a choice. The threadfin gets its name from the long, thread-like back ray of the dorsal fin. The greenback will stay alive in your baitwell all day, stay active on your hook, will come to chum and is like candy to snook. The threadfin is a good bait, is not as hardy or as active as the greenback, doesn't come to chum but often grows to a larger size than the greenback. Most Charlotte Harbor game fish like them both very much.

And if you have questions about catching Charlotte Harbor bait with a cast net, many of our experienced club members can help. Just ask.



Greenback or Scaled Sardine



Threadfin Herring

(A thank you to John Wolfinger, our Fishing Events Director, for reviewing this article. He caught some of my errors and had good content suggestions.)

Club Members Fishing Together and Sharing Expenses

John Gettinger
941.505.8186
22' CC

Mike Gilger
610.996.5375
22.5' CC

IN-SHORE:

Hans Gross
973.222.2211
22' CC

Bob Lunsden
706.817.0703
19' CC Bay Boat

Jim Quorollo
941.347.8467
22' CC Bay Boat

Here are some of our club members willing to take other members fishing on their boat.

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973.222.2211
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Jim Hoffman
941.575.7867
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