

Punta Gorda Isles Fishing Club Newsletter

Volume 20

Issue 9

CATCHING BAIT Part 2

NEW SUNSHINE COLUMN
Page 9

SHARK FISHING
Novice Style...pg 19

PGI Fishing Club Newsletter

FEATURES

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Volume 20, Issue 9

September 2012

BOOKMARK YOUR CLUB'S NEW WEB SITE

www.pgifishingclub.org

and add new email address for fish photos

fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org

3 ~ **FROM THE HELM**—Aaron Wagner—No snook to keep, check our Website

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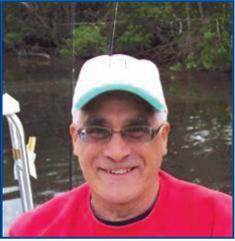
NEXT CLUB MEETING
Tuesday, September 11, 2012
7:00 p.m.



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

ON THE COVER—Beautiful 30-inch redfish caught on
Gulp Shrimp. See full photo on page 15.



As I write this, the sun is hot and bright over my house but thunder is roaring loudly and frequently over North Fort Myers. Can't help but wonder if we'll get any of that rain but someone told me not too long ago that PGI, especially our part of PGI is a bubble that rarely bursts.

Storms have been seen coming straight at us only to divide in half, go around us and then meet on the other side. I have seen storms racing towards us only to fizzle out when they get on the outskirts of the Isles. So maybe we are in a bubble. But hey, it's sunny outside and that means, unfortunately, yard work!

Speaking of yard work, it's a lot like fishing. You work up a nasty sweat and if you're not careful, dehydration can set in really quick. Be sure, whether you're on the water or cutting your grass, that you drink plenty of water and/or Gatorade. Actually, my good buddy told me Gatorade is the best because it replaces the electrolytes in your body that your sweat releases. So, drink up, my friends and stay healthy.

Hey, have any one of you seen Shark Week on the Discovery Channel? Since summer brings nothing but reruns of my favorite shows, I opt for something a bit more interesting (even if it is educational). The many biologists and scientist are the various shows all tell us that sharks really don't want to eat people. When they do bite, it's always a case of mistaken identity. Sharks are look for large sea life. Well, I don't care what they're looking for, but I'm staying clear of water where sharks inhabit. If I stay out of their way, I know I'll always be able to stand on my own two feet.

So, my word to all of you wading anglers, be careful and keep a keen eye on the water and what's swimming under it and near you. Don't take that chance that the guys on these shows are right...or for that matter, might be wrong.

Now, on to fishing news:

The FWC has announced that **snook season will remain closed** to us in SW Florida until "at least" September 1, 2013. So, if you're lucky enough to catch one of those beauties, let it go!

Can you believe that this is already September? Where'd the year go?

So, speaking of the year, since this is September, the remaining months are going to bring some events to our club that you won't want to miss. I'm not going to steal the thunder from our Board members but be sure to read their articles and find out what's going on. There is just so much I know you'll want to be in on.

Here is some kind of new news. I know I mentioned this last month but I'm going to say it again...CHECK OUT THE PGIFC'S NEW WEBSITE! Here's the link: <http://www.pgifishingclub.org>. Everything you need to know about the Fishing Club is there: newsletters, fishing contests and their rules, fishing information and how to contact the people you need to email. It's got everything you need. Check it out.

And while I'm speaking of the website, I want to give a special thanks to Jim Quorollo for setting this up and maintaining it. He's doing a really great job. Thanks, Jim.

And one more thanks before I end...thank you, Randy Hall for filling in for John Simonieg while he's away. The club really appreciates what you're doing.

Now that I'm just about out of words, I'm going outside to prune some bushes before we get any rain, IF we get any rain.

So, as I've often said, enjoy your fishing, stay hydrated and safe and send in those photos! We love getting them.

Aaron

Q-Tips

Editor's Notes

The response from club members to provide Newsletter content has been very generous. Last month we had two new Local Area Fishing Tips article submitted by club members. Again this issue we have another article from Tom Parsons expanding on his original "Catching Bait" from last month. Joe Udvari has provided an extensive and entertaining lessons learned type article describing his adventures in Charlotte Harbor shark fishing while winning the Fish of the Month for July. We do appreciate club member inputs, and look forward to future fishing tips and other articles of interest. I'm sure some of you have found great ways to prepare our local catches which you would like to share, and I know I'd like to try your recipes.

Our new club Web site, www.pgifishingclub.org, has continued to evolve into something more useful and user friendly to our members. Hopefully, with your help and suggestions, it will continue to do so. For example, one club member wanted to review our recently revised Club By-Laws, but couldn't find his copy. He suggested that it might be nice to have it available on the Web site. It now is.

Some recent Web site changes and additions include:

- Archived fishing tips with content links to make navigating the tips easier;
- Email addresses in the contacts menu which allow you to click the contact and open your email program to send an email to appropriate club officers or submit fish photos;
- Links to other Web sites which provide useful fishing information.

The Web site links could become a valuable reference. If you find good Web sites that have helped you find saltwater fishing information, send it to editor@pgifishingclub.org and it can be added to the "Fishing Info Links" menu to help other club members answer some of their questions.

So, keep checking your Web site. It is growing and changing, and you might find useful information there. As of last month, site has over 800 views.

Final note: We have a new column in the Newsletter now. Donnie Brennan has assumed the duties as Sunshine Lady (in addition to her Membership duties). See her [first Sunshine Lady column on page nine](#).

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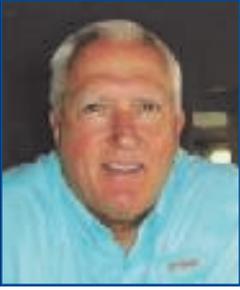
Hours:
Mon-Sat 8am-9pm
Sunday 12pm - 7pm

REMINDER

A photo is your entry form for all club fishing events (Master Angler Tournament, Ladder of Achievement Program, Fish of the Month Contest, and Isles Trophy Race). The photo of you with the fish, your name, fish species, length and date caught noted on the back of the photo, or in the body of your email will be your official entry form.

Eligibility for each program will be determined by the Club's appointed recorder.

All entries should be emailed to the Fishing Events Director at fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org, or dropped off at the PGICA facility for placement in the fishing club's folder, or handed in at one of the monthly club meetings.



It's really hard to believe that two-thirds of 2012 is already gone. August was a typically hot month and tropical storm Isaac kept us on our toes. We dodged a bullet when Isaac made a swing to the west and passed by us further out in the Gulf. Although we had

a couple inches of rain and some gusty winds, it was a minimal event for us in southwest Florida. Tropical storm Debby back in June had much more of an impact on us due to the flooding and heavy rains that occurred. One big impact that Isaac had on us was to keep the fisherman off the water!

August turned out to be a pretty good month for catching redfish. Although that was not our fish of the month, many of our members caught lots of redfish during the month. I was able to complete a Charlotte Harbor slam one day by catching a redfish, snook and seatrout in the same day; that was my first time to do that. Also, Bob Busler and Joe Maillet had a "10" of a fishing day catching over 65 redfish between them; that's incredible!

Our August Fish of the Month contest was MANGROVE SNAPPER. Catching any that were a decent size was tough to come by in August. We only had four submissions for the month but once again, we finished up the month with 3 winners. Congratulations go out to:

- Bob Busler, 1st place (\$35 gift certificate), 14.5" total length
- Kel Krotzer, 2nd place (\$25 gift certificate), 13" total length
- Jim Quorollo, 3rd place (\$15 gift certificate), 11.5" total length

Thanks go out to all of the members that submitted pictures of their MANGROVE SNAPPER catches. If you caught one 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.

The September Fish of the Month will be TARPON. Usually September is a good month to catch tarpon in the north end of Charlotte Harbor. They move up the Harbor and if the big schools of ladyfish show up, you'll see them feeding and rolling in many areas including the 41 bridges, mouth of the Myakka, Mangrove point, Colony Point and the 20-foot holes. They also don't get a lot of fishing pressure like they do in the spring. My favorite way to catch them this time of year is to look for the birds, catch some ladyfish for bait and free-line a ladyfish on a tarpon rod.

The TARPON contest this month is simple. The top three awards will go to the most caught and size doesn't matter. A "catch" must include a leader touch and a photo of the fish in the water. You don't have to be in the photo with the fish. Also, do not bring tarpon into the boat; keep them alongside the boat in the water if you are lucky enough to get that far. In addition, spend some time reviving them before you release them. This will probably be one of our toughest contests for the year, so the number of submissions we get won't be big. If you can find some schools of smaller tarpon, that would be the ideal situation since you may be able to catch several. My personal experience is one big tarpon is about all I can handle in a day especially if it is really hot.

If you are still working on your ladder of achievement, keep in mind that a tarpon of any size is worth 200 points!

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

Don't forget: The new email address for submitting fish photos is:
fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org

August, 2012
FISH OF THE MONTH CONTEST
MANGROVE (GRAY) SNAPPER



Bob Busler, 1st Place (\$35 gift certificate) with his winning 14.5-inch mangrove snapper.



Kel Krotzer, 2nd Place (\$25 gift certificate) with mangrove snappers, and one was 13-inches long.



Jim Qurollo, 3rd Place (\$15 gift certificate) with an 11.5-inch mangrove snapper.

Congratulations to all our winners!

Fishin' Babes
of the Month
With a September
Fish of the Month



Take your tarpon photos like this... ↑



...not like this (with fish out of the water)! ↑

SEPTEMBER	TARPON
OCTOBER	REDFISH
NOVEMBER	GROUPE
DECEMBER	BLACK DRUM

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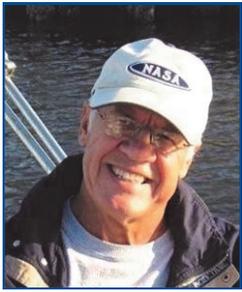
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CHUCK LISBY
 TIM LISBY

PROGRAMS

John Simonieg



Our speaker for August was Capt. Mat Haag, who has been a guide in Charlotte Harbor for 13 years. He spoke on mangrove snapper which is not often targeted by sport fishermen.

Capt. Mat pointed out the nine oyster beds near Burnt Store Marina, and a place near Captiva Pass to go when nothing else is biting. He also related that he had spent the day filming a segment for TV



encouraging youngsters to be better anglers. Must have worked, they caught about sixty snook that day. Our Master Anglers were caught up in the moment, and pressed Mat for his honey holes. His presentation was punctuated throughout by a passing August thunderstorm.

The September fish of the month is the tarpon and Capt. Robert Moore, our September speaker, is known by many as "The Tarpon Man." Capt. Robert is a lifelong resident and conducts tarpon charters in the upper harbor as well as night charters. This should be a good time to learn from a pro.

(Randy Hall is filling in for John Simonieg through the summer months, writing this article and setting up each month's speaker.)

LADIES WHO FISH

Also Do Lunch

By Gena Davis, Ladies Liaison



The Ladies Who Fish - and Also Do Lunch - enjoyed an Italian lunch at Donato's on August 16.



From the left: Gena Davis, Jessica Poe, Bev Rucker, Margie Hoffman, Linda Smith, Donnie Brennan and Mary Harucki (Donnie's mother).

The Fishing Ladies' Night Out on July 26 was at JD's Bistro, where the food and entertainment were great.



From the left: Bev Rucker, Marie LaRocca, Marie D'Ambrosio and Gena Davis.

All women in the Fishing Club are invited to join us for **our next lunch on Thursday, September 13 at 11:30 AM at Lashley Crab House** in Punta Gorda, and our **Ladies' Night Out at Benedetto's in Punta Gorda at 6:00 PM on Wednesday September 26**. If you plan to attend either or both, please contact Gena Davis at 941-639-5555 or email tinkffh@aol.com, or sign up at the general meeting on September 11.



You know, when you write an article for the newsletter, sometimes you wonder just how many people really read it. Now I know!

I want to thank my very, very good friend for my bigger plate and chocolate. What a great surprise! It really made my "week" since my summer was so lousy.

My bigger plate



has much less on it and the chocolate, well, who can resist chocolate? The reason my world is a bit brighter is because my son is finally home from the hospital after more than a month. He is recovering from emergency surgery that was performed on June 29th. He was finally sent home on August 10th. It was a very rough summer and a nightmare for my son's family. Now, he is home and on the road to recovery so I can also breathe a bit easier.

THANK YOU, JIM, FOR MY BIGGER PLATE AND MY CHOCOLATE. They really brightened my day.

From what I've been hearing at our Board meetings, there are a lot of things going on lately so you'll want to be sure to read the newsletter from front to back to catch the latest news. Now, I'll move on to Membership!

First, I'm proud to announce that we have a total of 231 memberships for a grand total of 447 people in our club. Now is that great or what??

At this time, I'd like to welcome our FOUR new members:

GARY & GAIL CAMERON
CHUCK & TRUDY MILLBURG

Remember, every newbie joins us to learn more about fishing in our waters, make new friends and have fun, so please play nice and go out of your way to make them feel comfortable. Don't forget, every new member will have a star on their badge so you'll know who they are.

Also, if you know of someone who has just moved into our area, hand them a brochure and invite them to our meeting or you can give me their names and addresses.

Well, that's all I have for this month. Just stay safe on the water, stay hydrated and most of all, have fun!!

Donnie

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Seeing double? Nah! It's me – again! I'd been told by the Islip (NY) Fire Department that I'm like a bad penny. You just can't get rid of me, either. That started with I took my first CPR course. Then I

signed up for the advanced CPR, Basic First Aid, Advanced First Aid and finally Certified First Responder courses. These courses were not given all at once but through the duration of one year and during that time, I had the same instructors for each one and many of the fire fighters who needed refresher courses, were in my class. Thus the joke (and I know it was a joke), that I was like the bad penny (but ironically enough, they are the ones who paid for my First Responder course and asked me to take it).

Anyway, I am your new Sunshine Lady. Due to personal reasons, Glenna felt it necessary to step away from this assignment and I offered to take her place. So, now, you're going to see a bit more of my nonsensical whimsy in your newsletter. Let's first get down to business.

The role of a Sunshine Lady is to send out cards to the membership for various reasons. Some being sympathy, others might be 'get well' or 'thinking of

you' cards and others might be whatever you might have in mind. It could even be a special birthday card or a silly card for nothing more than a hang-nail. Doesn't matter. That's what a Sunshine Lady does. She sends out rays of sunshine to brighten the days of others.

So, as your Sunshine Lady, please feel free to contact me with the name of someone in our club that you feel needs a card. Within one day of hearing from you, the card will be in the mail.

But you need to contact me. Contrary to what many people believe, I can't read minds.

That said, I can tell you that I've sent out two get well cards this month, so far. One went to Marty McCaffrey who had a triple by-pass and the other to Louie Rios who is having serious respiratory problems.

So, while I may be considered a "bad penny" (and as I said, I know they were joking), I'm going to try and make your smile a bit broader.

In closing, let me repeat, if you know someone who could use a card to brighten their day, just call (575-8808) or email (L3th@comcast.net) me.

Have a great day.

Walt And Marge Thompson
Owners

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Your PGI Fishing Club's new Web site:
www.pgifishingclub.org



The Fishing Club is sponsoring a sock hop on Friday October 12 at 7:00. Don't forget to sign up at the PGICA office for your tickets. It is free for all PGICA members and \$10 for guests. It is BYOB with ice and soda provided. Please bring a snack to share.

I want to thank Bill Guenther for a great job creating our announcement for the sock hop that is in our Newsletter (below) and the Commentator.

Our Christmas Party will be on Tuesday December 11th with the Uptown Express providing the entertainment for the evening. Tickets will be available at the Sept 11th meeting for \$10 each for members.

**Easy
Marinade for
Grilling Fish**



Fresh grilled fish is one of my favorite ways to fix our local Charlotte Harbor fish. It's often best when used with a good marinade and firmer fish like grouper, snook (when legal), snapper, cobia, redfish, shark and the like. The less firm flesh fish like trout and Spanish mackerel are good too, but you need to be more careful with your grilling technique. I tried the lime grilled cobia recipe from the April 2012 Newsletter again the other night and it was "out of this world!" It uses seasonings and a lime vinaigrette salad dressing for marinade. Here's an easy marinade you can make quickly and it works on about any of our harbor fish.

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup of extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 cup lemon juice (from bottle, but fresh is great if you have lots of lemons)
- 2 Tbsp of soy sauce
- 1 Tbsp chopped fresh garlic (or substitute garlic powder but maybe use a little less)
- 1 Tbsp finely chopped onion or shallots
- Pepper, Old Bay seasoning or other to your taste

Mix all ingredients and marinate your fresh fish fillets, chunks or steaks

for 30 min to 1 hr in refrigerator. Grill over high heat for 5-7 min/side. Baste with the marinade while grilling if desired.

Delicious!



PGI FISHING CLUB LADDER OF ANGLING ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

LEVEL	NUMBER OF SPECIES	SIZE LIMITS	POINTS NEEDED	EARNED AWARD
BRONZE	5	NONE	NONE	BRONZE PIN
SILVER	5	LEGAL	300	SILVER PIN
GOLD	7	LEGAL	700	GOLD PIN & CLUB BB CAP
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

THE FOLLOWING FISH AND POINTS EARNED (BASED ON LENGTH OF ENTRY) QUALIFY

SIZE IN INCHES AND POINTS EARNED				
	POINTS -	100	200	300
AMBERJACK		32-39	40-45	46+
BARACUDA		No points		
BLACK DRUM		No points		
BLUEFISH		No points		
BLUE RUNNER		No points		
BONITA		No points		
CATFISH (ALL)		No points		
COBIA		38-39	40-43	44+
CROAKER		No points		
FLOUNDER		No points		
*GROUPE		24-27	28-31	32+
GRUNT		No points		
JACK CREVELLE		No points		
KING MACKEREL		32-35	36-39	40+
LADYFISH		No points		
PERMIT		No points		
POMPANO		No points		
REDFISH		28-29	30-35	36+
STINGRAY		No points		
SEATROUT		21-22	23-24	24+
SHARK (Any species)		40-49	50-59	60+
SHEEPSHEAD		No points		
SNAPPER		No points		
SNOOK		29-33	34-39	40+
SPANISH MACKEREL		21-22	23-24	25+
TARPON (any size)		No points		
TRIPLETAIL		No points		
WHITING		No points		
YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER		No points		

***The Grouper classification is restricted to Black, Gag and Red Grouper.
Goliath Grouper may not be used as a "Species" catch for Grouper.**

LADDER OF ACHIEVEMENT GOALS REACHED

BRONZE/PIN:	Cunningham, Bruce; desEnfants Tom; Drystad, Joanell; Lodge, Karen; Neiberline, Dick; Poe, Jessica; Pricco, Darryl; Stafford, Ron; Tassia, Joe; Will, Roger; Wolfinger, Sheree; Moerke, Sherry; Moerke, Gary; Stringer, Bill; Kline, Mark; Brunner, Barbara; Caputo, Richard; Lachance, Deny; Lamon, Fred; Mayes, Bob; Morehouse, John; Wiscombe, Janice; Land, Paul; Schulman, Alan; Hall, Randy; Lengauer, Tom; Bonham, Bill
SILVER/PIN:	D'Ambrosio, Marie; desEnfants, Kathy; Drystad, Marv; Ferguson, Pete; Gulvezan, Mike; Jordan, Christine; Okray, Larry; Sandling, Mike; Remick, George; McKinnon, Ron; Bensen, Fred; Qurolo, Jim; Storm, Mark; Moerke, Gary; Bonham, Bill; McKinnon, Ron; Udwari, Karen
GOLD/with hat:	D'Ambrosio, Mattie; Guenther, Bill; Longo, Joe; Simonieg, John; Wagner, Aaron; Brunner, Ray; Udwari, Joe
LIFETIME/Snook Pin:	Lodge, Tom; Verminski, Ed; LaRocca, Jim; LaRocca, Marie; Doster, Dick; Leicher, Carl
LIFETIME LEVEL II: with Redfish Pin	McCaffrey, Marty; Rand, Bob; Becker, Missy; McCaffrey, Rose Anne
LIFETIME LEVEL III: with Tarpon Pin	Spies, Jack; Gettinger, John; Solinger, Pam; Hickey, Tom
GRAND MASTER: with club shirt	Brennan, Donnie; Brennan, Rich; Busler, Bob; Hoffman, Jim; Hoffman, Margie; Krotzer, Kel; Landaker, Joanne; Landaker, Steve; Maillet, Joe; McGregor, Pete; Quinn, Mike; Rucker, Bev; Solinger, John; Wolfinger, John; Parsons, Tom

Red = Awards this month

MASTER ANGLER TOURNAMENT 2012 STANDINGS

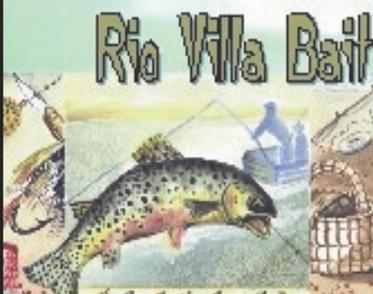
(If you see an error, please contact the Fishing Events Director at fishing@pgifishingclub.org or Newsletter Editor at editor@pgifishingclub.org)

<u>Grouper</u>	<u>Seatrout</u>	<u>Redfish</u>	<u>Cobia</u>	<u>Snook</u>	<u>Spanish Mackerel</u>	<u>King Mackerel</u>
<u>FIRST PLACE</u> MARTY McCAFFREY 33.5 INCHES	<u>FIRST PLACE</u> AARON WAGNER 29.0 INCHES	<u>FIRST PLACE</u> JOHN SOLINGER & BOB BUSLER 35.0 INCHES	<u>FIRST PLACE</u> ROSE ANNE McCAFFREY 43.5 INCHES	<u>FIRST PLACE</u> JIM QUROLLO 44.5 INCHES	<u>FIRST PLACE</u> CARL LEICHER 30.0 INCHES	<u>FIRST PLACE</u> GARY MOERKE 33.0 INCHES
<u>SECOND PLACE</u> JIM HOFFMAN & RAY BRUNER 32.0 INCHES	<u>SECOND PLACE</u> RICH BRENNAN 28.0 INCHES	<u>SECOND PLACE</u> PAM SOLINGER 33.5 INCHES	<u>SECOND PLACE</u> JOE MAILLET 43.0 INCHES	<u>SECOND PLACE</u> PETE McGREGOR 37.0 INCHES	<u>SECOND PLACE</u> JOHN MACLEMAN 27.0 INCHES	<u>SECOND PLACE</u> JIM HOFFMAN 31.0 INCHES
<u>THIRD PLACE</u> CARL LEICHER & ROSE ANNE McCAFFREY 28.0 INCHES	<u>THIRD PLACE</u> PETE McGREGOR 26.0 INCHES	<u>THIRD PLACE</u> TOM HICKEY 33.0 INCHES	<u>THIRD PLACE</u> ED VERMINSKI 42.0 INCHES	<u>THIRD PLACE</u> JOHN SIMONIEG & JOHN GETTINGER 35.0 INCHES	<u>THIRD PLACE</u> WALT ZINK 22.5 INCHES	<u>THIRD PLACE</u> TOM LODGE 26.0 INCHES

Certificate Award — Three awards will be given for each fish species. The first will be the first place angler with the longest length fish in species. The second award will be for the next longest and third place for the angler with the third longest. Important Note: Only pictures of the caught fish are accepted for entry into the Master Angler or Ladder of Angling Achievement competition.

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JUNE PRIZE WINNERS



DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

FIRST PLACE	~	Tom Lengauer	Redbone Spinning Rod
SECOND PLACE	~	Ed Verminski	Calico Jack Rod
THIRD PLACE	~	Randy Hall	Fishing tackle bag



FIRST PLACE—Tom Lengauer



SECOND PLACE—Ed Verminski



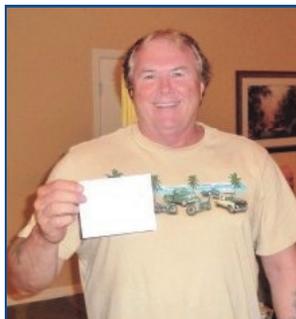
THIRD PLACE—Randy Hall



**AND
THE BIG
BUCKS
GO TO...**

50/50 WINNERS

FIRST PLACE WINNER CAROL KISSINGER \$35	SECOND PLACE WINNER BILL BONHAM \$25	THIRD PLACE WINNER CAROL KISSINGER \$16
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You're not seeing double. Carol won both 1st and 3rd place in the 50/50 drawing...hope she purchased a lottery ticket too that Tuesday!



ISLES TROPHY 2012



PGI FISHING CLUB'S ANNUAL ISLES TROPHY STANDINGS

MEN'S DIVISION

OVERALL CLUB RECORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH IN INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	2012 MEMBER NAME	2012 LENGTH IN INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF RECORD
	Amberjack	RICH BRENNAN	44	2008				0.00%
	Cobia	BOB BUSLER	54	2007	Joe Maillet	43.0	04/17/12	79.63%
	Grouper	TOM HAMILTON	39	2003	Marty McCaffrey	33.5	07/13/12	85.89%
	King Mackerel	TOM LODGE	50	2009	Gary Moerke	33.0	07/19/12	66.00%
	Redfish	BOB BUSLER	42	2005	John Solinger	35.0	01/25/12	83.33%
					Bob Busler	35.0	06/16/12	83.33%
	Sea trout	RICH BRENNAN	29	2009	Aaron Wagner	29.0	04/03/12	100.00%
	Snook	KEL KROTZER	42	2007	Jim Qurollo	44.5	02/21/12	105.95%
	Spanish Mackerel	GREG CHESNUT	29	2009	Carl Leicher	30.0	04/01/12	103.45%

WOMEN'S DIVISION

OVERALL CLUB RECORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH IN INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	2012 MEMBER NAME	2012 LENGTH IN INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF RECORD
	Amberjack	MARGIE HOFFMAN	33	2010				0.00%
	Cobia	JOANNE LANDAKER	50	2008	Rose Anne McCaffrey	43.5	06/12/12	87.00%
	Grouper	MARGIE HOFFMAN	31	2006	Rose Anne McCaffrey	28.0	06/12/12	90.32%
		BEV RUCKER	31	2008				0.00%
	King Mackerel	MARGIE HOFFMAN	37	2007				0.00%
	Redfish	DONNIE BRENNAN	38	2008	Pam Solinger	33.5	06/06/12	88.16%
		MISSY BECKER	38	2008				0.00%
	Sea trout	JOANNE LANDAKER	26.5	2011	Missy Becker	24.5	06/03/12	92.45%
	Snook	MISSY BECKER	41	2006	Pam Solinger	25.0	03/30/12	60.98%
	Spanish Mackerel	MISSY BECKER	28	2007	Missy Becker	22.0	04/28/12	78.57%

*PGIFC Male and Female records are based on the nine "measured" points scoring fish in the Ladder of Achievement

ISLES TROPHY RACE LEADERS FOR 2012

MEN

Jim Qurollo

LADY ANGLER

Captain Missy Becker

BEST THINGS ANYBODY EVER SAID

At a Wisconsin wedding reception the D.J. yelled, "Would all married men please stand next to the one person who has made your life worth living."
The bartender was almost crushed to death, but is expected to survive.

MEMBER CATCHES



Kel Krotzer with his cover photo redfish. 30-inches long and caught this summer on Gulp Shrimp.



Pete Ferguson with 30, 33 and 31-inch black tip sharks from the Harbor.



Bill Bonham with a 17-inch sail cat.



Looks like Joe and Karen Udvari have been shark fishing again. Here's Karen's 6-foot lemon.

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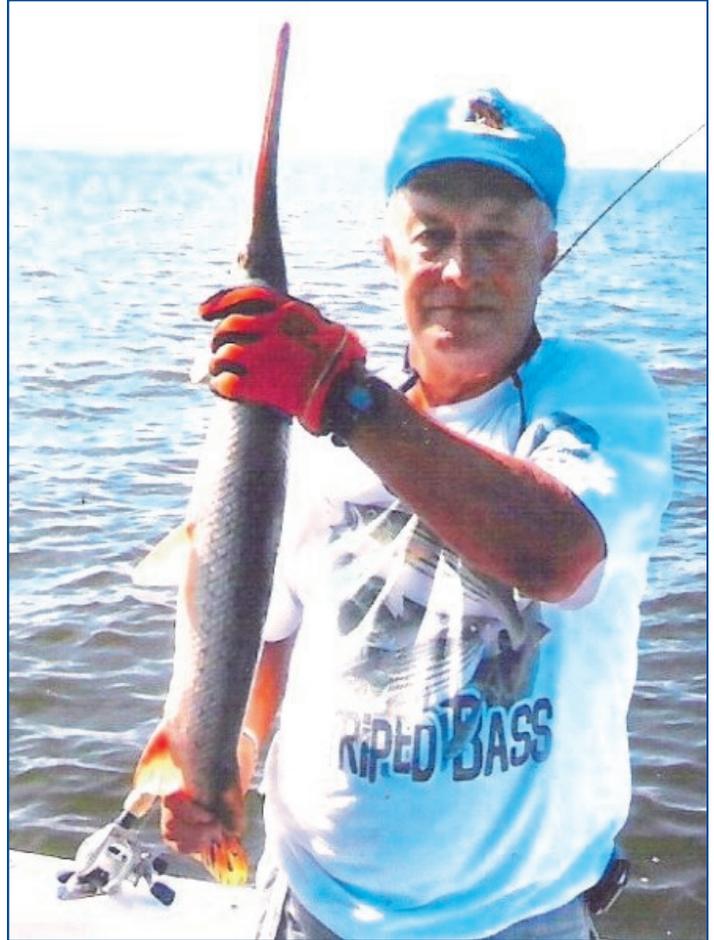
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MEMBER CATCHES



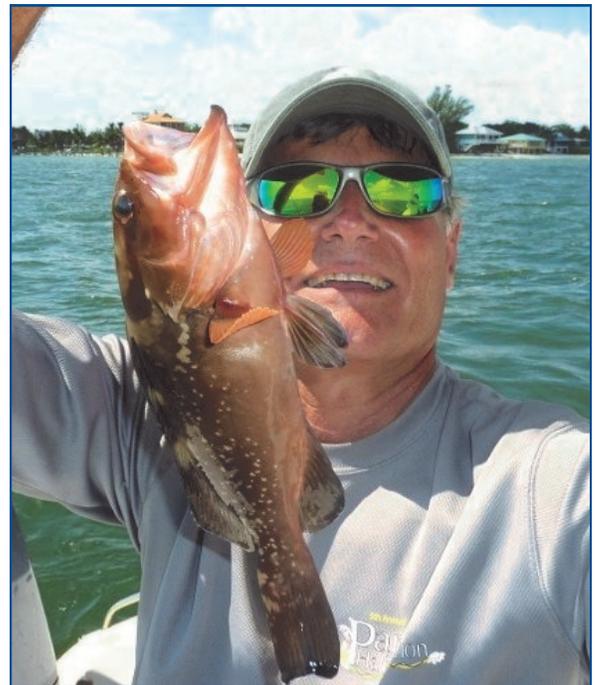
Bob Busler and Joe Maillet with a couple of nice slot reds.



Here's Mike Gilger with a larger than average gar from the Harbor.



Joe Udvari with a 10-inch grunt.



Joe Udvari with a 12-inch red grouper. From the photos this month, it looks like the Udvari's have been catching a real mixed bag.

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MEMBER CATCHES



Pam Solinger and her 27-inch snook. Looks like it was caught close to the mangroves.



Looks like a big one here, but Joe says it's 11-inches total.



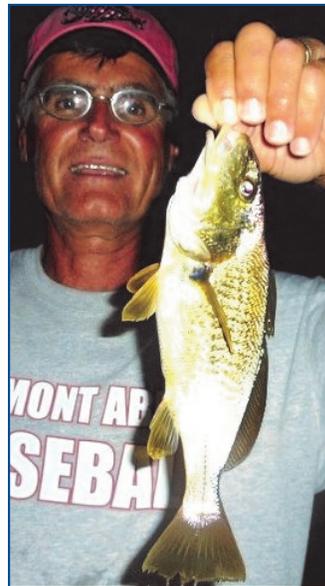
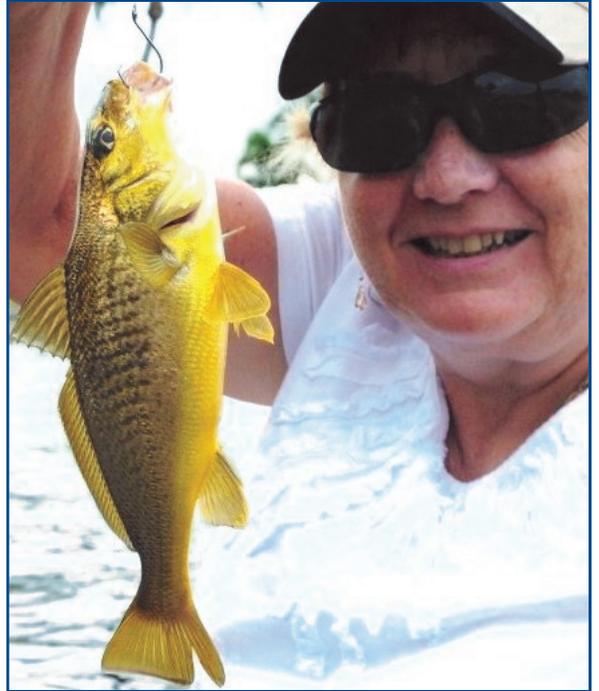
Karen Udvari and a good eating 10.5-inch mangrove snapper...from the canal?

	<p>VALVTECT MARINE FUELS NON-ETHANOL GAS PUMP OUTS FUEL DOCK OPEN DAILY</p>	

MEMBER CATCHES



Bob Busler with a great 24-inch trout. Only an inch short of making the Master Angler Tournament Standings.



Karen (above) and Joe Udvari (left) with a couple of 12-inch croakers. Looks like Joe might have caught his after sunset. If you didn't know, croakers are delicious.



Pam Solinger again, this time with a big 18-inch sheephead.



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Catching Bait *by Tom Parsons, Grand Master Angler* (Part 2)

To recap *Catching Bait* part 1 from last month's newsletter, I wrote about catching white bait using a castnet.

Another bait you may find in your castnet is pinfish which is great for large trout, redfish and snook. Pinfish live in the grassy areas of the flats and are also attracted to the tropical fish food. Since they are meat eaters, ground up ladyfish and mullet also make a great chum when you are targeting pinfish. You can chum them right up to the boat and throw a castnet, or my favorite way is to throw a Sabiki rig to them and bring in 3 or 4 at a time. You will generally get smaller pinfish in the net and bigger ones with the Sabiki rig. Pinfish are excellent to use on the near shore reefs.

Once you have a baitwell full of white bait and pinfish, go to your fishing area, shake up the bait to disorient them, and throw into the area you are fishing, they will swim around erratically, drawing attention to themselves and the attention of any fish in the area. One difference between a good angler and a guide is that a guide will chum up the area a ton to start a feeding frenzy, and are usually very successful finding fish.

One great way to disorient and throw bait out a distance is to buy a wiffle bat for a dollar at Wal-Mart and cut the wide end off at a 75 degree angle. Put your bait in the open end, put your hand over the opening and shake the bait around. Grip the handle of the bat and throw the bait into the area you want to fish. If you see the bait spinning around in the water they will attract fish. But if

you see the bait swimming back to the boat, then they have not been shaken enough. That's it for live bait!

Dead bait can be successful in certain times, and the most popular is ladyfish because they work and are readily available. The best way to catch ladyfish is with a silver spoon or my favorite, a "got cha." Cut the ladyfish in about 1" or 2" chunks. Redfish and sharks feed largely by sense of smell, so ladyfish is a great choice. Snook eat ladyfish and mullet chunks, but really prefer the larger pinfish. If you fish the mouth of a creek with a moving tide, it is best to cut ladyfish into nickel size pieces to chum for redfish, then bait your hook with a larger chunk. Redfish have a better sense of smell than a catfish, so theoretically the redfish should beat the catfish to the bait. Apparently, our catfish are faster. During colder weather snook are lethargic and do not chase live bait as readily. During hot weather redfish also do not chase live bait as readily, and dead bait is the way to go.

A large chunk of ladyfish fished under the 41 bridge is real attractive to a black drum. All of the cobia I have caught have been on cut Ladyfish on the harbor reefs and markers. Live ladyfish or crabs are the way to go for catching tarpon, but they will also pick up a chunk of dead ladyfish off the bottom. If you are not successful catching ladyfish you can buy them at Rio Villa Bait & Tackle or Fishin' Franks.

If anyone has any questions about bait, or where to get tropical fish food, see me at the meeting or call me at (941) 639-2360.

Shark Fishing Novice Style *by Joe Udvari*

(Editor's note: This article was written by Joe at the end of July after his numerous shark fishing trips trying for our July Fish of the Month. It wasn't submitted in time to be included in the August Newsletter. It is entertaining, and even though Joe is an admittedly novice shark fisherman, he makes good points that even some of our Grand Masters might appreciate. He must have learned his "lessons" well...he and Karen won 1st and 2nd place in the July contest.)

Our July guest speaker Robert Lugiewicz told us a lot about how and where to catch shark in Charlotte Harbor. He did a great job as far as I'm concerned, but

there's only so much information you can squeeze into 45 minutes without eyes glassing over. For me it served



as a foundation upon which to build, using both on-the-job training so to speak, and follow up visits to Fishin' Frank's Bait & Tackle for consultation with Robert and Fishin' Frank. Here are ten lessons

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(Continued from page 19)

learned that might help you in your quest for 'catching' shark, especially shark over 5 feet in length. I stress catching, since the hooking part is a lot easier than the landing part. You guys and gals wearing the teal Master Angler shirts can skip this read since you've already proven yourselves. Alternatively, you can read this and set me straight with constructive feedback and things you've learned over the many years of fishing in Paradise.

First some background on myself. I love fishing, but have little saltwater experience. I'm much more of an artificial lure than bait fisherman. I'm frugal (i.e., my son says cheap), but I do appreciate quality gear which I learned by fishing for Musky in the Canadian wilderness. I'm a pack-rat, so I tend to keep and use stuff I should have disposed of years ago. I retired to PGI about a year ago from Maryland, so I can't afford to just run out and upgrade all my gear.

I figured I'd give our July shark contest a shot by trying my luck. I fished a total of seven days over a 2 week span, including five days with my wife (quality time). We wound up catching 77 documented shark (forgot to or couldn't take pictures of about 6), and lost many others, including some big ones. About 9 shark or 11% were big ones (i.e., over 5 feet), but only one of those was 'caught'--the very last fish on the last day of the contest; a Lemon Shark with fork and total lengths of about 7 and 8 feet, respectively. I still can't figure out how anyone can measure a big live shark in the water with any precision, but I'm still a novice.

We fished the Middle Hole (two days with 6 shark--four of which were Scalloped Hammerhead and two Blacktip), the Pirate Harbor hole (1 day with one Blacktip shark), and points south, which I'll call the Harbor Triangle Area formed by Cape Haze, Bokeelia and Burnt Store Marina (four half-days with over 70 shark--47+ Blacktip; 21+ Atlantic Sharpnose; 1 Scalloped Hammerhead; 1 Lemon; and several 3 to 4 foot Southern Stingrays). Just like Robert said, the further down the Harbor the better due to the higher salinity. Winds were generally SE to SW at less than 8 knots. Tides were mostly incoming and water temperature was about 89 degrees F, or just a few degrees below air temperatures. It was hot and muggy!

We used a hodge podge of gear and tackle; some new, some old, some spinning; some conventional bait casters; 7 and 8 foot medium to heavy action rods of various makes; some old mono 40 pound test line; some 65 and 80 pound braid line; 40, 60 and 80 pound mono and

fluorocarbon leaders; some homemade single strand wire leaders with 5/0 and 6/0 hooks; some of Fishin' Frank's plastic coated multi-strand wire leaders with 7/0 hooks (highly recommended); and some cheapie multi-strand wire leaders from a big retailer (not recommended). You likely get the picture by now. Anything I had accumulated over the years I used; even 25 year old monofilament line and right handed bait casting reels (I'm a lefty).

Lesson #1: Murphy's Laws apply to shark fishing. Read them before you go at www.cis.gvsu.edu/~kurmasz/Humor/murphy.html. It may reduce stress, anxiety and frustration because you knew ahead of time what you were getting into. Examples follow:

- The worst rod and reel combo will get hit by the big ones. Out of 4 lines in the water, my worst spinning combo is the only one that got slammed by the big ones; the reel with the sticky drag. The spinning reel base even broke and I was considering retiring it. Instead I used a hose camp to attach it to the rod since it was attracting the big ones. Guess which combo caught (just barely) the Lemon.
- Your best efforts to remove potential weak links like line to line knots will fail.
- The 80 pound mono leader is necessary for abrasion resistance. The tail of a big one will cut 65 or even 80 pound braid tied directly to the steel leader like a hot knife through butter. Forty and 60 pound leaders won't work unless Murphy is sleeping, but he never does.
- A well tied triple surgeon's knot or a double uni knot will work just fine. Note that I said well tied. If you don't think it's a good knot and will hold up, re-do it until it's right even if you don't want to because of rough seas, wind gusts or adrenaline induced quivering hands.
- When using braid, double it, or it will cut through your mono leader when tugged on by a big shark.
- Fluorocarbon isn't necessary for shark, especially in stained water.
- Line to line knots between mono leader material and mono line were less problematic than those tied with braided line. The braided line also had a greater tendency to get buried in the spool under the pressure of big fish, especially with the reels having old or cheap drag systems. I'd say the old mono line performed better than the braided line in this situation, even though I consider myself mostly a braided line type.
- Cheap wire leaders will make you cry, as will weak

(Continued on page 21)

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hooks that bend/open like sesame. They will be bitten through or the wire wrap will pull out or unravel. Thin gage single strand wire will pull through big hook eyes. Two to three foot plastic coated multi-strand leaders with double crimped ends like those sold at Fishin' Frank's will hold up, period. Joined to a six foot 80# mono leader will get you 8 to 9 feet of protection for your line.

- Not flattening or depressing your barbs on the hooks is silly. You simply don't need them, and as Robert stated, if you don't, you'll have a tough time unhooking your catch. The one barb I forgot to flatten cost me multiple lacerations in three fingers, compliments of just a 3 foot Blacktip.

Lesson #2: Four rods in the water is a bit much for one person (if the fish are active). An OK number for two people, but there will still be tangles. One free line, one on a bobber and one weighted is doable. During slack tide or when sharks were near the boat, the bobber worked the best at about 4 feet above the bait whether in 10 or 20 feet of water. Otherwise, the free line worked best for shark, and the weighted line (3/4 to 1 ounce sinker) caught lots of gaff topsail catfish.

Lesson #3: Simplify and use quality gear, with quality tackle that is properly rigged. As noted above, the knots are important, as is the use of an abrasion resistant leader of at least 6 feet, and strong forged "J" hooks with barbs depressed. Get the best gear you can afford, and keep it as consistent or monochromatic as possible. When you do purchase gear, support the local shops, especially those that gladly spend countless hours educating us.

Lesson #4: You can't chum too much, but keep the tossed out chunks small or fine to serve only as teasers or appetizers or they won't bite your baited hooks. Use catfish by-catch as chum and bait, but cut off their spines before doing anything. Fish heads are dynamite bait for big sharks, perhaps even better than whole live fish. Remember, I'm a novice so I don't know what I'm talking about. I do, however, now know that cut-bait fishing is messy and kind of brutal, but also thrilling. Just keep the boat tidy as you go to not get grossed out too badly and to make the cleanup back at the dock a lot easier.

Lesson #5: Invest in a good anchor. After spending considerable effort and time to establish a nice chum slick, it's very frustrating to lose anchorage and drift away from your spot. Place a waypoint on your GPS and check your position regularly. That's a great reference point to

see if you're holding ground, and also an easy way to get back to your spot after tossing the anchor rode to chase a big fish.

Lesson #6: Allow one to two hours to catch a dozen live ladyfish or Crevalle Jack bait before shark fishing. Have some frozen baitfish along just in case. Murphy is also present while bait fishing. As for chum blocks, I developed a preference for the Professional grade blue box; it is a finer grind and has added scent. You'll need a mesh bag, however, since it doesn't come with one. It's also a good idea to salt down any leftover ladyfish for a few hours before freezing. That firms them up and they become way less mushy and are better for use as bait on your next trip (another great tip from Robert).

Lesson #7: Practice the fire drill that ensues when hooking a big one. Reeling in other lines, unhooking the anchor (make sure you have floats attached to your rode), starting the outboard or deploying the trolling motor in order to chase the fish before getting spooled, etc....I've never before seen 250 yards of line peel of a reel in less than a minute. That's not much time to think; barely just enough time to implement your well rehearsed drills.

Lesson #8: Shark have a mean streak, don't like being caught or handled, and are vindictive. After releasing the Lemon shark, it swam about 10 feet away, turned around and came back to bite my boat, leaving several gouges and puncture holes in the gel coat and fiberglass hull. I thought these weren't aggressive shark. Just glad it wasn't my arm while measuring it. You can never be too careful.



Lesson #9: Be very careful swimming in or around the Harbor Triangle Area. Yes, people were swimming off their boats near our chum line, likely to cool off. If the shark don't bite you, the huge jelly fish we saw could put a damper on your day.

Lesson #10: At an average of about \$60 per trip including gas, chum, tackle and supplies (excluding band aids, boat repair, a new rod and a soon to be purchased new

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)

reel), these lessons weren't cheap, but great fun. The trips provided us with beautiful scenery and encounters with dolphin, manatees, sea turtles and all kinds of birds. Oh yeah, also shark and time with the spouse, which we all know is priceless.

Hope this is of some use to a few of you and saves you a little time, money and aggravation. If not for fishing than perhaps to cure insomnia. I think this proves that novices can even catch shark with a little knowledge and a whole lot of luck. Happy fishing and be safe!

MEMBERS Fishing Together and Sharing Expenses

(Club members willing to take other members fishing on their boat)

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<u>OFF-SHORE:</u>				
	Hans Gross 973.222.2211 22' CC		Jim Hoffman 941.575.7867 33' Rampage Twin Diesels—Stand-up Head	



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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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