



Punta Gorda Isles

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

Fishing

club

Editor: Bill Guenther • radioman3029@comcast.net

Volume XII December 2006

PGI FISHING CLUB REEL'S IN THE "GOLD CUP"

See On Charlotte Harbor page 4

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The Final Cast

MASTER ANGLER AWARDS, ELECTION, AND MORE AT DECEMBER MEETING

Note this column is entitled "THE LAST CAST" since this is my final newsletter article as your President. A year ago, a large group of our members asked me to preside as your President since there was some concern over the direction the Club was taking. I agreed to accept the position, but for only one year. Now it is time to move forward with a new President, and new additions to the Board of Directors.

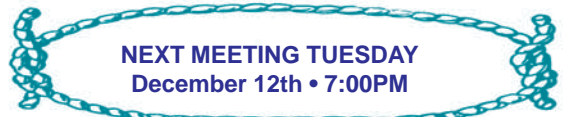
We launched 2006 with a "fresh look", offered a variety of programs, held instructional clinics, organized a number of group fishing outings, scheduled interesting and informative guest speakers, up graded our door prizes, and instigated budget controls which will serve the Club well in the future. None of this could have been accomplished with a dedicated team of Board

members who unselfishly gave of their time to make this a better Club.

Jack Spies, Jim LaRocca, and Rose Ann McCaffrey were newly elected to the Board in 2006. Jack was not only a sensational Secretary, but contributed in many other areas; the visual presentations and Ladder of Achievement record keeping to name just a few. Jim helped put together a detailed budget, and monitored it, on a monthly basis, through out the year. Rose Ann volunteered for the VP position, last year, when no one else would step forward. She has done every thing asked of her, and more. Fortunately, for the Club, both Rose Ann and Jim have agreed to accept nominations for their Board positions in 2007.

2006 was Bob Rand's 4th year as Membership Chairman. Bob does an exceptional job of keeping, and maintaining, our membership records. Everyone is pleased that Bob has

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**NEXT MEETING TUESDAY
December 12th • 7:00PM**

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PROGRAMS • Rich Brennan



Our guest speaker for the December 12th meeting will be Captain Mike Manis. Captain Manis has been fishing in Charlotte Harbor for six years he specializes in the use of light tackle. Although he is known to catch his share of the

various fish in the flats, his big target fish is the Redfish. He fishes in many tournaments and is sponsored by Sebile Baits and Bayou Buck Lures. Captain Mike discuss his favorite techniques for fishing the harbor during the colder winter months.

Captain Manis is also a featured weekly writer for the Waterline Newspaper. Don't miss out on our December meeting.



Club President **Kel Krotzer** and Program Chairman **Rich Brennan** present **Luke Clim** of Gulf Coast Marine the Fishing Clubs "Speaker Appreciation Award". Luke's presentation on marine engine/motor maintenance was well received by the membership. You can contact Luke at 941.473.9464.

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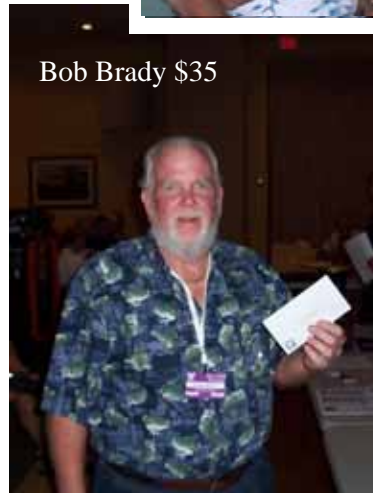
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SOCIAL EVENTS • Donnie Brennan



We are rethinking our Social Events for 2007—more on that later

Currently, I'm working on our annual picnic. Details are still incomplete so please

keep watch for further details.

Stay tuned!



Another Happy Winner!



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MEMBERSHIP • Bob Rand



PGI Fishing Club membership dues for 2007 are due January 1, 2007. A family membership (member, member & spouse or member & significant other) is only \$20 per year. If you have not already done so, please renew your membership now. Please renew your member-

ship at our regular meetings or by returning the renewal slip that was sent last month to each member. Don't miss out on the fishing club activities planned for the coming year.

PGI Fishing Club presently has 178 members but we are always looking for more. Please bring prospective members to our next meeting. PGI Fishing Club members must be a member of the PGI Civic Association. Membership for new members who join now will be good through next year.

Members that have paid their 2007 dues and new members that joined in October, November or December can pick up their 2007 (orange) name badges at our monthly meeting.



Marc Anthony • Terry Bandel
David Brower • Harry Creutzmann
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ON CHARLOTTE HARBOR • Bob Busler



PGI fishing club has won the Gold Cup Contest for 2006. These are the final scores, Burnt Store Isles 189.5, Isles Yacht Club 149, Burt Store Anglers 128, and PGI Fishing Club 246.5. This is the second consecutive year that our club has won this contest. Congratulations to all our anglers.

Coastal Conservation Association is an organization that every fisherman should join and support. Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) is a non-profit organization comprised of 15 coastal state chapters spanning the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic seaboard. CCA's strength is drawn from the tens of thousands of recreational saltwater anglers who make up its membership. CCA's grassroots influence is felt through state capitals, U.S. Congress and, most importantly, in the conservation and restoration of our coastal marine resources. CCA has hundreds of accomplishments to improve recreation fishing. One that you are familiar with is the net ban established in Florida. CCA is working on many issues at this time, but the one that I think is very important is shrimp trawl bycatch. For every pound of shrimp caught there are several pounds of bycatch dumped overboard. Bycatch is lots of little fish that don't get to grow to be big fish. Plan on attending a CCA meeting. Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7PM at the Port Charlotte Beach complex on Harbor Boulevard in Port Charlotte.

Here are some of the entries in the Master Angler Contest this month. Rich Brennan continues to catch and enter a lot of redfish. Rich turned in a really nice 28 in. redfish. It might be a good idea to start following him around the Harbor. Donnie Brennan also turned in some nice redfish. Joe Maillet entered a couple of redfish with the largest being 27 inches. Joe's 27 in. redfish had nine spots on it. I entered a 36 in. Snook.

Every Friday morning we have a fisherman's breakfast at Elena's restaurant at 7 AM. Everyone is welcome to join us whether they are club members or not. A lot of good information on fishing the harbor is exchanged each week.

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CITY WATCH • Bill Guenther



I would like to take this opportunity at years end to wish all our members a most Joyful Holiday, a Merry Christmas and a very, very Happy New Year.

I think we can all agree that 2006,

weather wise, was a most welcome change from what we had experienced the last few years. I, like many of you, will have a house full this season. This will be the first Christmas back in our home since it was gutted courtesy of Hurricane Charley. All of our children, grand children and great grand children will be together once again to share the holiday's.

In the coming year I would like to remind all our members that this newsletter is yours. You are welcome to send in articles that you think the Fishing Club's members would benefit from, and, of course, please send any and all photographs of your fishing experiences and those of your friends and relatives that will be visiting you this time of year.

See you all next year!



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PGI Fishing Club

Ladder of Angling Achievement Program

The New Fishing Club Angling Achievement Program DOES NOT replace the former “Master Angler Tournament”. The new program, rather than being a tournament linked to species and size of fish, is a well thought out program that simply recognizes, rewards and encourages Club members to get out and fish. All entries should be directed to Club Secretary, Jack Spies, who is keeping Ladder of Achievement records.

LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT	REQUIREMENTS	AWARDS
BRONZE	5 FISH OF ANY SIZE FROM THE PUBLISHED LIST	BONZE HAT PIN
SILVER	5 FISH OF LEGAL SIZE AND 300 POINTS FROM PUBLISHED LIST	SILVER HAT PIN
LIFETIME MASTER ANGLER	9 FISH OF LEGAL SIZE AND 1000 POINTS	HAND PAINTED SNOOK PIN

THE FOLLOWING FISH QUALIFY FOR ANGLER ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION:

Amberjack	Barracuda	Black Bass	Black Drum	Bluefish
Blue runner	Catfish	Cobia	Croaker	Flounder
Grunt	Grouper	Jack Crevelle	King Mackerel	Ladyfish
Mangrove Snapper	Redfish	Seatrout	Shark	Sheepshead
Snook	Spanish Mackerel	Tarpon	Tripletail	Whiting

Note: The Grouper classification is restricted to Black, Gag, and Red Grouper.



MEMBERS STATUS IN THE “ANGLER ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITIONS” PROGRAM

BRONZE PIN	SILVER PIN	GOLD PIN / CLUB HAT	LIFETIME SNOOK PIN
Donnie Brennan	Donnie Brennan	Donnie Brennan	DONNIE BRENNAN
Rich Brennan	Rich Brennan	Rich Brennan	RICH BRENNAN
Bob Busler	Bob Busler	Bob Busler	BOB BUSLER
Dick Doster			
Harold Hall	Harold Hall		
Jim Hoffman	Jim Hoffman	Jim Hoffman	JIM HOFFMAN
Captain Margie Hoffman	Captain Margie Hoffman	Captain Margie Hoffman	CAPT. M. HOFFMAN
Kel Krotzer	Kel Krotzer		
Joanne Landaker	Joanne Landaker		
Steve Landaker			
Joe Maillet	Joe Maillet	Joe Maillet	JOE MAILLET
Pete McGregor	Pete McGregor	Pete McGregor	PETE MCGREGOR
Tom Parsons	Tom Parsons		
Bob Rand	Bob Rand	Bob Rand	
Bevan Rucker	Bevan Rucker	Bevan Rucker	
Jack Spies			
Gary Sblendorio	Gary Sblendorio		
Ed Verminski	Ed Verminski		
Russ Brown	Russ Brown		
Jim LaRocca			
Karen Lodge			

FINAL CAST from page one

offered to serve another term.

All of the appointed chairpersons have turned in outstanding performances. Rich Brennan has done a terrific job, as Program Director, scheduling a variety of top-notch speakers; as well as organizing two offshore trips. His wife, Donnie, has been an enthusiastic Social Director, always willing to lend a hand with any project.

Bill Guenther publishes the best newsletter in the area. The club is fortunate to have someone with Bill's talents, who is willing to spend hours, each month, to put together an interesting, informative, and well presented publication.

Two years ago I convinced Bob Busler to take on the Special Fishing Event position. Bob, besides being an ardent and talented angler has been an active and consciousness leader in promoting the Master Angler and Gold Cup Tournaments, plus a great help in developing the new Ladder of Achievement program.

Again, a special note of thanks to all of our Board members for their many contributions, which helped make 2006 a banner year for the PGI Fishing Club.

Your nominating committee has presented the following slate of officers for 2007, to be voted on at the December meeting:

President-Jack Spies, Vice President-Rose Ann McCaffery, Treasurer- Jim La Rocca,

Membership Chairman- Bob Rand, Secretary- Margie Hoffman; other board positions will be appointed by the newly elected President.

Prior to the election we will present awards to the winners of this years Master Angler Tournament. And draw, from all Master angler entries, the winner of a half-day guided fishing trip with Captain Robert Moore. Plus, some lucky member will receive a gift certificate for correctly guessing, at last January's meeting, the number of different species of fish caught in the PGI canals since the first of the year. Door prizes will include, among others, Shimano, Penn, and Okuma rod and reel combinations.

Receipts from the 50-50 programs fund the door prizes. Because your response to the "up scale" door prizes has increased 50-50 revenues we want everyone, attending the December, meeting to go home a winner. All attendees will be given a **FREE SURPRISE GIFT** (one per family-please), plus the first 25 members purchasing 50-50 tickets will receive a FREE packet of Old Bay Side soft plastic lures.

From myself, and all of the Board members, best wishes for a happy and healthy Holiday season.

Kel Krotzer, President



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PGI FISHING CLUB MASTER ANGLER TOURNAMENT LEADERBOARD

Certificate Awards-Framed certificates will be given to all anglers entering fish equal to or exceeding the following minimum lengths: Redfish 25", Trout 22", Snook 30", Cobia 38", Grouper 26", Shark 40", and Spanish Mackerel, 24".

	Grouper	Trout	Redfish	Snook	Cobia	Shark (All)	Spanish Mackeel
1	Jerry Peal 33"	Russ Brown 25"	John Kasulaitis 34"	Mike Quinn 37.5"	Harold Hall 36.5"	Jim Hoffman 73"	Russ Brown 27"
2	M. McCaffrey 32"	J. Landaker 23"	Bob Busler 33"	Bob Busler 36"	Harold Hall 35"	P. McGregor 64"	Bob Busler 26"
3	M. McCaffrey 31.5"	Merle Wilts 22.5"	Ed Verminski 31"	Bob Busler 32.5"		Joe Maillet 63"	D. Brennan 26"
4	Margie Hoffman 31"	J. Landaker 22.5"	Pete McGregor 30"	Bob Busler 32"		Marty McCaffrey 60"	Mike Fauci 24"
5	Bevan Rucker 31"	Robert Page 21.5"	Rich Brennan 28"	Tom Parsons 32"		G. Sblendorio 54"	D. Brennan 24"
6	Bob Rand 30"	S. Landaker 21"	Tom Parsons 28"	Pete McGregor 30"		Rich Brennan 47.5"	Larrie Tisdale 23"
7	Bevan Rucker 29.5"	Russ Brown 20"	Donnie Brennan 28"	J. Kasulaitis 29.5"		Bob Busler 47"	M. Hoffman 22"
8	Margie Hoffman 29"	Dick Doster 20"	Rich Brennan 28"	Tom Parsons 29"		Rich Brennan 46.5"	J. Hoffman 22"
9	Bob Rand 28.5"	J. Landaker 20"	S. Landaker 27"	D. Brennan 29"		Rich Brennan 46"	G. Sblendorio 22"
10	M. Hoffman 26.5"	G. Sblendorio 20"	Dick Doster 27"	S. Landaker 28.5"		D. Brennan 46"	Dick Doster 22"
						Tony Geiser 46"	

Point Leaders: T=Ties: Bob Busler 32pts; Russ Brown 20pts; Marty McCaffrey 18ptsT; Harold Hall 18ptsT; Joanne Landaker 13pts; Pete McGregor 12pts; Donnie Brennan 10 pts; Jerry Peal 10ptsT; Jim Hoffman 10ptsT; Mike Quinn 10ptsT; John Kasulaitis 10ptsT; Ed Verminski 6ptsT; Joe Maillet 6ptsT; Merle Wilts 5pts; Tom Parsons 3T pts; Mike Fauci 3ptsT; Bevan Rucker 3ptsT; Margie Hoffman 3ptsT; Gary Sblendorio 2ptsT; Robert Page 2ptsT; Rich Brennan 2ptsT;

THE MIAMI BOAT SHOW BUS TRIP...

There will be a bus trip to the Miami Boat Show on February 16 (Friday) for members of PGICA and their guests. The price per person is \$25. Tickets will go on sale at the front desk December 27. The bus will be a deluxe 50 passenger touring bus. We will leave PGICA at 7 a.m., arrive show 10 a.m., depart show 4 p.m., return PGICA 7 p.m. The arrangements for the bus trip are being handled by the Civettes. To make an early reservation Call or e mail me.

Carol Rose

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David Tincher	639.1285			XXXX	

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John Perry	637.4775				XXXX
David Schall	639.6190	w4upv@hotmail.com	XXXX		
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Roger Will	637.7797	wyowill@juno.com	XXXX		
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Hyrette Guenther

ANGLERS AT WORKSHOP back commission's push to narrow Redfish slot

By Julio Ochoa

It may get harder to catch a legal redfish in Florida's waters next year, but local anglers who attended a public workshop on the subject Monday didn't complain. Research by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shows the number of redfish that escape capture in Florida's waters has been declining because of over-fishing since the 1980s.

To counter the trend, the commission is considering narrowing the legal slot for redfish, also known as red drum. The current slot is one fish per day between the lengths of 18 inches and 27 inches.

The commission will hold eight more public meetings across the state on the issue, then in April or June, a final proposal will go before the commission's board. If the board adopts the new limits, they will become effective in July.

Monday night, six local anglers who attended the workshop said they would agree with almost any measure that would increase the stock of redfish and keep more drastic measures from being taken.

"We need a long-term look at this," said Bob Leonard, a representative of the Charlotte County chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association, which has about 600 members. "We shouldn't be concerned about an inch today which will turn into no fish five years from now." The commission's current goal is to have 30 percent of the legal redfish fishery escape capture. It has met that goal every year, but the average has steadily decreased mostly due to an increase in the number of fishermen. There are five times more fishing trips being taken by anglers today than in 1989. That is an average yearly increase of 93,000 trips, said Jessica McCawley, a biologist with the commission.

"If this fishing effort continues to increase, then we will likely be below the 30 percent escapement by the time of the next assessment in 2008," McCawley said. Earlier this year, the commission gathered a group of 23 representatives from the fishing industry to recommend changes to current rules.

The group recommended raising the goal of legal redfish that escape capture to 40 percent by narrowing the slot of a legal redfish to between 20 inches and 26 inches. Anglers could still keep one legal fish per day and the season would remain open year-round. Leonard said he would prefer just lowering the upper limit to 25 inches and keeping the lower limit at 18 inches, which would essentially accomplish the same goal.

However, most of the 600 members of Charlotte's Coastal Conservation Association told him they would agree to whatever it takes to sustain a healthy fishery. "Raise it or lower it, if that's what it comes to make sure we have a redfish fishery 10 or 15 years down the road," Leonard said. "There is no question that the number of fish kept is going to go up. We have to get ahead of the curve on this."

Others at the meeting agreed that raising the goal of fish that escape capture to 40 percent gives the fishery the best chance of survival. "I think we're gonna have to get as close as we can to that on the gulf and live with (the restrictions) without closing the season," said Wright Taylor, a fisherman from Marco Island.

The commission proposed several other options, including different slot limits and closing the season for two months a year. The commission banned commercial harvest in 1989 and imposed a three-month closure and the current slot limits on recreational fishing. In 1996, the commission lifted the three-month closure.

Redfish is one of the most popular saltwater species to catch from the coast of South Carolina to Texas. They offer anglers a hearty fight and a tasty meal. Closing the season is a drastic measure that anglers at the meeting wanted to avoid.



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