



The Sanibel Island Fishing Club

PO Box 989 ♦ Sanibel, FL 33957

February 2009 Newsletter

Notes from the President

Fishing has been slow with the winds and cold water. On good days I've been able to find lots of small trout to keep my northern guests occupied. Bigger trout have been caught west of the causeway over good grass. Some of our members have been finding snapper and sheepshead in the canals, and the passes have yielded bluefish and "short" grouper. I've enjoyed watching big snook in the canals, but they ignore bait. The water will warm up soon and we will be back in business.

Offshore fishing has been limited by the winds, but it should be good for snapper and red grouper when we get a break in the weather. I'll try to have a report by our next meeting. Speaking of our February 10th meeting, we've invited Mike Valiquette (founder and chairman of PURRE) to bring us an update on water issues. We need to keep the pressure on to support longer term improvements in water management. Several members have noticed "snot grass" or slime around the causeway and in Tarpon Bay. Is this a result of more crap coming down the river?

Let's show some support for PURRE and work to keep our waters improving.

See you Tuesday,

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NEXT MEETING

WHEN: Tuesday, February 10, 2009

WHERE: Sanibel Island Community Center

TIME: 6:30pm Pizza
7:00pm Meeting

SPEAKER: Michael J. Valiquette
of
People United to Restore our Rivers and Estuaries (PURRE)

This month's featured speaker will be Michael J. Valiquette, Chairman of PURRE—People United to Restore our Rivers and Estuaries. PURRE is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization which was created in 2005 as a response to the dumping of nutrient rich waters from Lake Okeechobee, down the Caloosahatchee and into the estuaries surrounding Sanibel and Captiva Islands. These releases caused a massive red drift algae bloom that plagued our beaches for months. PURRE has been instrumental in pushing the State of Florida into purchasing the holdings of U.S. Sugar to help develop a southern (and the historical) outlet for the lakes' waters. Michael will be speaking about the current status of the U.S. Sugar purchase and other water quality issues



If you have not paid your membership dues for the 2008-2009 season you are overdue and on the inactive list. You can get a [Membership Form](#)

Here or at the meeting.

\$50 Member / \$75 Family

January Club Outing

Sunday, Feb. 22nd

"Dart Board Challenge"

The Club's third outing will be the ever popular Dart Board Challenge. Darts thrown at the board at the meeting will determine species and point value. The boat with the most points wins (ladyfish were worth ten points last year).

Remember, boat or no boat we'll pair everyone up and have fun and lively competition! Sign-up at the meeting.

Angler of the Year Top Ten Standings As of Jan 18/Outing 2

Bob Smith	39
Tom Butcher	37
Mary DeMik	37
Kevin Vertesch	37
Les Boyle	36
Ken Bergstrom	35
Lee Cosentino	35
Peter Kendall	35
John Carney	34
Kermit Simonson	34

2009 Outing Schedule

Sunday	February 22
Sunday	March 15
Saturday	April 25
Sunday	May 24

2008 Angler of the Year
Kevin Vertesch