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wood, Micco, Barefoot Bay, Snug Harbor, Grant. **VOLUME 26-NO. 21**



Who needs a boat to go fishing?

Gary Giles is a land captain, an unusual job considering the number of sea captains and charter boat operators on the Treasure Coast.

By Terry Galvin
staff writer

PALM BAY — His business card reads, quite simply: Backcast Fly-fishing, Land Capt. Gary Giles, fishing guide, land or wade.

H-m-m-m. A land captain! Yes, it is a highly unusual occupation hereabouts with the abundance of sea captains and fishing charter boat operators advertised in the local Yellow Pages.

But Giles swears by his method and, with the cost of gasoline nowadays, perhaps it is the best way to catch a free meal.

Giles gave away a handful of his trade secrets during the Brown Bag luncheon program Aug. 2 at the Lagoon House. The secrets, of course, were the hot fishing spots accessible by land, or wading, if you will, but not necessarily by boat.



Gary Giles talked about the hot fishing spots accessible by land, or wading, during a program Aug. 2 in Palm Bay.

One of the best, Giles said, was the North Fork of the St. Sebastian River, where plenty of snook and tarpon are available for the fly fisherman, Giles' preference.

"Basically, it had been a bad year for tarpon migration," Giles explained, "because of the early rains and a cold front earlier in the year and (too much) fresh runoff

Photos by MOLLY BARTELS staff photographer

tin Chieca, center, lead the Marching
or Eric Allen, right, monitors the group

Week Sharks band camp



ction dur-
chool on

pecially when it's
been this hot. But it
really is fun and I've
enjoyed it more and
more every year.

"I know I'll miss
this in college next
year. But it really is
like an oven out
there when we're
marching and some
people get pretty
tired. But I wouldn't
trade this experi-
ence for anything in
the world. It's been
so good for me.

We've got two great
band directors, Mr.
Allen and Mr. (Jona-

and they really don't care about
care about us and how we per-
we enjoy it. That's what makes our
eat."

Marci Dalton, a trombone player,
approach.

wasn't as hot as yesterday," Dal-
g. 5. "But I did start to get dehy-
it's certainly tougher than football
robably get in trouble with some
ng that, but they only practice for
at a time. We're going for four
st, you're running into somebody
the time. But now, after a week,
d you can almost do it in your
know what, I just love it."

senior Morgan Ainbinder, a
mber of the flag corps.

point of view, I think practice is

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water, there wasn't
much bait fish, but
they are there now and it's a great
place to fish from the shore.

"The easiest way to catch tarpon
in the St. Sebastian is to stay close
to the shore where you'll see groups
of them — three, four and five at a
time — rolling around near the sur-
face in shallow water. These are the
ones you want to target by getting
your bait in front of them just a cou-
ple of feet away. They're the ones
who are ready to strike anything.
There's a manatee sign near there
and a turkey house (where turkeys
are raised). You can't miss the spot
because it's near the railroad trestle
in the North Fork."

Though based in Brevard County,
Giles said he often fishes the St. Se-
bastian, but said there are plenty of
hot spots in Brevard as well. He rec-
ommended Snagg Harbour off
Woody Circle Road in South Mel-
bourne Beach and the Mosquito Im-
poundment near Honest John's in
the same area. Another spot is just
south of Longpoint Park where tar-
pon are feasting on crabs. Long-
point Park is off State Road A1A in
Melbourne Beach.

But, said Giles, get there early in
the morning, just before dawn, for
the best fishing.

Another good spot is Rum Cove,
off U.S. 1 and Malabar Road.

"You'll find tarpon, 40- and
50-pounders, there year around,"
Giles said. "I was there one day re-
cently and must've caught 40 tarpon
and my arms got so tired I couldn't
fish anymore."

Close by, Giles said there's a good
spot just 50 feet north of the rear of
The Shack restaurant on U.S. 1,
where there's a slight drop-off in
the water and the snook congregate
there in about 7-foot depths.

Some other Brevard hot spots,
according to Giles, all accessible by
land are Turkey Creek Wildlife
Sanctuary about one mile north of
Malabar Road and U.S. 1 and Till-
man Canal. To get to Tillman Canal,
take U.S. 1 to Malabar Road and go
west to Jupiter Boulevard and go
north, or right. Giles said the canal
is a gold mine for bass, crappie,
snook and tarpon.

As far as tackle is concerned,
Giles said to keep it simple. He rec-
ommends small minnows, white
grubs, finger mullet and 3D min-
nows. However, Giles said, if using
the 3D minnow plugs, be sure to
change the original hooks with
larger ones if fishing for tarpon.

Didn't get enough information?
Giles can be reached at (321)
956-4261 or (321) 258-0041.

- terry.galvin@scripps.com