

Press Release/Charleston Angler Bart Beasley wins prestigious Hawley Tarpon Fly Tournament!

The 43rd Don Hawley Invitational Tarpon Fly Tournament
June 4-9, 2017

Islamorada, Florida Keys

The 43rd Don Hawley Invitational Tarpon Fly Tournament kicked off with a full field of 25 boats in this prestigious five day tarpon on fly event. This tournament draws the best of the best fly anglers from around the world to chase tarpon known as the Silver King. The Hawley is an all release tournament for tarpon four feet and over with a 12 pound tippet requirement. The Grand Champion title goes to the angler/guide team with the most fish in this intense 5 day tournament.

This dedicated group of tarpon anglers and guides brought in fish each day despite tough fishing conditions. Angler Bart Beasley from Charleston, South Carolina, and Captain Perry Coleman, Islamorada, Florida Keys, put the heat on with steady action during the first 4 days. Even with no points scored on the last day, the Beasley/Perry duo screamed into first place with a 2 fish lead, totaling 16 tarpon released. Coming in second with 14 releases, was angler Thane Morgan, Amarillo, Texas and Captain Dustin Huff, Sugarloaf Key, Florida Keys. Morgan and Huff were the winners in 2015 and 2016. Coming in third place on time, with 13 fish released was Rand Holstead of Houston, Texas, and local Captain Brian Helms, also past tournament winners.

The Don Hawley Invitational Tarpon Fly Tournament began in 1974 as a way to raise funds for the Guide's Trust Foundation, a foundation created to help support the Florida Keys guides in times of hardship and disability. Its mission has remained the same for 43 years, to help the Florida Keys guides in need and to award scholarships to Florida Keys students.

For more information on the Guides Trust Foundation, please go to www.guidetrustfoundation.org