



Next Meeting: August 6, 2014

Speaker

Rick Grasset

Capt. Rick Grasset, owner of Snook Fin Addict Guide Service, Inc., is a full-time fishing guide and outdoors writer in Sarasota. He has been guiding since 1990 and is an Orvis-endorsed Outfitter and fly-fishing guide at CB's Saltwater Outfitters. Specializing in fishing with flies and light tackle, Rick fishes the bays, backcountry and coastal gulf waters from Tampa Bay to Charlotte Harbor. He also leads groups of fly anglers to remote fishing locations around the world. Rick's fishing articles have appeared in numerous publications, including *Saltwater Angler*, the *Tampa Tribune*, *Florida Sportsman*, *Sportfishing*, *The Fisherman* and *Fly Fishing in Saltwater* magazines. He plans to talk about local seasonal (fall) fly fishing.

Fly Tyer

Walt Durkin

Walt is the current president of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Originally from West Palm Beach, Walt has fished off and on most of his life, but finds a lot more time on the water now that he has retired from a lengthy career in the Army, where he served at MacDill Air Force Base. He plans to tie a Gangsta Gurgler. Instructions can be accessed on YouTube.



Directions to Our Meetings: **From I-75**--Take Bruce B. Downs exit from I-75; go west 2 miles to traffic light, turn left on to Tampa Palms Blvd., then left on Compton Drive, and right at Compton Park. **From I-275**--Take Bearss East to Bruce. B. Downs; then Bruce B. Downs east/north to Tampa Palms Blvd. Rt. on Tampa Palms, then left on Compton Drive and right at Compton Park.

AUGUST 2014 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fly-fishers and welcome to August. I hope you all are having a good summer, avoiding the heat and storms while finding a few fish. Fishing on the MacDill flats has been slow, but we did get a nice snook the other day. We've also found tarpon around Big Island by the west side of the Howard Franklin, but they have been hard to catch on fly. I look forward to fall fishing in cooler waters.

Reading the old magazines Smitty brought to the club last month brought back good memories. Seeing how fly fishing and tackle have changed over 20 years was interesting. It also mentioned the Miami Metropolitan Fishing Tournament, the "MET", now defunct, but noted our own Jack Hexter was president of the MET in 1995. Carl Hanson, who many of you remember, was also mentioned as one of the oldest fly-tying instructors around in 1995. Carl offered free lessons from his home in St. Pete for many years, and we remember him with our Carl Hanson outing each year. Finally, Charles Waterman was still writing an article on fishing at the end of the magazine. He was a wonderful fly-fishing writer who lived in Florida and wrote many great fly-fishing stories. I wish we had invited him as a speaker while he was still with us. I'll bring the magazines to the next meeting to pass along.

Our T-shirt project is moving forward and some members have expressed an interest in ordering a shirt from Cabelas with our club logo, so we will get that started. Finally, check the newsletter for events through 2014 and hope to see you at the meeting. We have a couple of good speakers lined up, but always welcome ideas on interesting speakers for the club.

Walt Durkin 🌞



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The next TBFFC Board of Directors meeting will be at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 13, at the Happy Fish Seafood restaurant.

NOT GETTING THE NEWSLETTER? Please call Mike Hodge, Editor, at 352-672-2975 or mhodge7021@aol.com



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CLUB EVENTS

2014 TBFFC MEETING DATES

This month's meeting is Aug. 6 followed by Sept. 3.
Please watch this space for any changes.

TOURNAMENTS OF NOTE

Flint Creek Outfitters is having a Docklight Fly Tournament on September 27. This is mainly a fun event with no stress. We will have many sponsors who will be giving us product to raffle off at the weigh-in. We really appreciate the support.

The rules:

Mandatory Captain's Meeting September 27, 6 p.m. at FCO, 1502 N. West Shore Boulevard, Tampa.

The weigh-in will be at FCO, at noon on Sept. 28.

This is a catch-and-release photo tournament.

Fly fishing only (no scenting, chumming, etc.).

Teams must present a measuring device and digital camera at the captain's meeting.

Two-person teams may fish from a skiff, canoe, kayak, paddle board, etc.

Anglers may fish anywhere on the west coast after the captain's meeting.

The total combined inches of one snook, redfish, and trout (to the nearest 1/4") will win the tournament.

Snook, redfish, and trout of any size may be measured.

FCO will provide a poker chip with a number to each team at the captain's meeting. The chip must be in the picture with the fish. If the chip is not in the picture, the measured fish does not count.

All boats must have required USCG safety equipment. There is a \$50 entry fee and 100 percent payback ---- first (60 percent), second (30 percent) and third (10 percent).

A raffle is scheduled during the weigh-in.

In other fishing news, CCA members are invited to the Thirtieth Annual Coastal Conservation Association of Florida's "Digital Photo All-Release Challenge" Fishing Tournament, sponsored by T.A. Mahoney Co. Inc., on Friday evening and Saturday, September 19-20. Tournament Headquarters will be at the Tampa Bay Watch Marine Center, 3000 Pinellas Bay Way, South Tierra Verde. Call Morgan

Lynch at (850) 345-6227 for more info.

Ethan Kiburz/Tampa Bay Watch/CCA 

TBFFC NEWS&NOTES

We're more than halfway done with 2014. Time flies. TBFFC, meanwhile, is keeping pace.

We've got trips and speakers lined up through this fall.

Next month, we've got the *Florida Sportsman Expo*, set for Sept. 13-14 at the Fairgrounds. After that, tentatively plan for the following: The FFF Florida Fly-Fishing Expo on Oct. 10-11, the Carl Hanson (Oct. 18), the Big Gun Shootout on Nov. 9 and Play Hooky on Dec. 5/12.

As for speakers, we've got Rick Grasset set for August. Terry Gibson, a former editor at *Florida Sportsman Magazine and Shallow Water Angler*, has accepted an invite for September and Dunedin guide Jared Simonetti is scheduled for Oct. 1 to discuss bonito on a fly rod. And Brett Fitzgerald will speak to TBFFC in early 2015 about the Snook Foundation and all of the work that conservation group does for line-siders and other gamefish.

If anyone has any connections to quality speakers, let the TBFFC board know. We're always looking for ways to make our meetings more informative.

Also, as far as the newsletter, submissions --- info, photos ---- need to be submitted by the 24th of every month.

EVENTS

- Club Outing, Aug. 1-3, Buchan's Landing.
- Florida Sportsman Expo, Sept. 13-14 (State Fairgrounds).
- Florida FFF Expo, Oct. 10-11, Crystal River.
- Carl Hanson Outing (TBFFC hosts), Oct. 18.
- Frank Rhodes/Club Mexico trip, Oct. 18-24
- Big Gun Shootout, Nov. 9, Picnic Island Park.
- Play Hooky Outing, Dec. 5/12, Port Manatee Hatchery.
- Don Coleman Outing (SFF) Dec. 13/20.

Tips for TBFFC: No. 73

Casting Tip: No. 56

Follow the Reel with Your Line Hand

A frequent problem with some long-time fly fishers is that while false casting, and especially when making a final delivery of the fly, the line ends up behind the reel seat. Bending the wrist while casting creates a large opening between the wrist and reel seat. Having the line hand low and against your body places the line in this opening. Following the reel with your line hand, especially on the backcast, will eliminate this problem and immediately improve your casting by also getting rid of slack line between your stripping guide and line hand. Remember, slack in any cast is detrimental.

Pat Damico, MCI 🍷

Editor's Note: Pat also has a story on saltwater flies in *The Online Fisherman*. Interesting stuff.

<http://www.theonlinefisherman.com/reel-news/item/flies-for-saltwater-fly-fishing>

More Tips:

How to Break a Fly Rod

I fished for nearly 25 years and NEVER broke a fly rod. Ever. Until now.

For the record, I've broken two in less than two months. The first was on a drift boat in Western North Carolina; the second was on the beach in Sarasota. Different states. Different types of water. Different fish. Same result.

The one common denominator: I was high sticking. For the uninitiated, high sticking means you lift the rod straight up, toward the heavens, either while hooking the fish, landing the fish or pulling line from the reel. I pulled off a combination of all three feats.

The first break came about when I tried to pull the leader through the guides in a drift boat. Space was limited, so I reached up and pulled the leader straight down.

Snap. The tip broke.

The second snap-crackle-pop happened while beach snook fishing. I hooked a snook in the foam and tried to make sure I released the fish in the water. I reached up to grab the line, and a wave pushed my quarry toward me simultaneously, forcing the rod to bow. The tip could only take so much.

Snap.

So much for that rod. Note: I still was able to land the fish.

Both breaks could have been avoided. In the drift boat, I

should have laid the rod down flat and then eased the line through the guides. On the beach, I should have applied side pressure and let the surf push the fish up on the sand. Rods can take side pressure. Vertical pressure applies too much force to the tip. With freshwater trout, the fish are small enough that high sticking is doable, but not always advisable.

The good thing is most rods have a warranty. Temple Fork Outfitters has a no-questions-asked guarantee. I paid \$25 to cover TFO's shipping and handling and about 10 bucks for my shipping. It could have been worse, much worse. It was a worthwhile lesson learned, but, fortunately, not a costly one.

Mike Hodge 🍷



FedEx, anyone?



Membership Application (New or Renewal) Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Mailing address: _____

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Type of Membership: (Ind., Fam., Corp.) _____

Please Check: One Year Five Year

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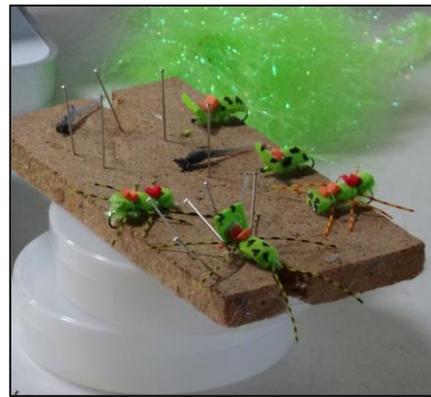
\$95 Corporate Single Membership (includes one membership and Ad Space)

\$120 Corporate Double/Family Membership

5 Year Dues: \$100 (Individual Membership) \$140 (Family Membership)

Please make check payable to mail to (or pay at meeting): ***Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club c/o Rick Valeri, 1404 Oxfordshire Ct. Brandon, FL, 33510***

Member Photos, July/August



Top: Mike Hodge and Steve Gibson fish for beach snook in Sarasota. **Middle:** Steve Rajeff shows how it's done at ICast in Orlando. A few of Jeff Janecek's flies from the July TBFFC meeting. **Logan Valeri** ties a fly for beach snook.

Fly of the Month



Foxy Baitfish

As tied by Logan Valeri

What you need/materials

Hook: Size 1-4 Standard J hook such as Mustad 34007; **thread:** 3/0 Red; **tail:** White Arctic Fox Fur
flash: Pearl Flashabou; **body:** White EP Foxy Brush

1. Begin wrapping the thread around the hook shank towards the bend of the hook. You want this fly to be mostly tied towards the bend of the hook.
2. Select a clump of white arctic fox fur and pull out the "fluff" or shorter fibers. Wrap this onto the hook shank right near the bend and trim the excess. You want the tail to be slightly longer than the shank.
3. Tie in two or three strands of pearl flashabou on each side of the fox tail. Trim them so that they are even with the fox tail.
4. Take the foxy brush and pull out a few of the fibers near the end of the brush wire so that you will only be wrapping the wire onto the hook. Wrap the wire on and begin to wrap the brush from the tail towards the eye of the hook about three or four times. Tie it down and use pliers or wire cutters to cut the brush because it is wire.
5. Make sure you push the wire down with your fingers so that it does not cut the thread.
6. Build a small thread head, whip finish and apply head cement. The majority of the fly should be tied toward the back of the hook, with much of the shank left exposed.

Fishing Report and Forecast

"What a great time to go fishing!"

August 2014

Don't Forget About Structure

What's hot: Early morning and moving water will offer great fly-fishing opportunities. Most bridges are loaded with baitfish as well as crabs. Predators such as baby tarpon, jack, snook, red and black drum and pompano have never been in larger numbers in these locations. Tarpon can be seen rolling and usually give you a location where they are concentrated. Snook make a telltale pop or scatter baitfish as they feed.



Pat Damico

Technique: Have one 8- or 9-weight rod rigged with a white surface popper and floating line. The second rod should have a clear sinking tip and a baitfish imitation similar to what you see in the water. Both should have 30- to 40-pound shock tippets to prevent breakoffs and give you some authority to keep hooked fish away from barnacle-encrusted abutments. If fish aren't sighted, cast to abutments allowing the current to swing your offerings to the fish's anticipated location. They will be close to structure.

Tip: Anchoring limits your ability to not only cover more water but also get larger hooked fish into open water to level the playing field. This is where an electric motor is valuable. As the sun comes up, the bridge also offers shade to keep you and the fish cool.

Members' catches/reports: The beach snook are here. The farther south you go, the better the fishing. Sarasota beaches, in general, produce better than those near Tampa and St. Pete. It's not even close in terms of quantity. Better water clarity and fewer beach walkers make a huge difference. It's worth the drive.

Pat Damico/Mike Hodge 🌞

Member Benefits

TBFFC is famous for its value and focus on the sharing of information, experience, and craftsmanship with its members. As a TBFFC member you will enjoy many benefits free or at nominal cost.

- Monthly Meetings with informative speakers
- Fly Fishing Outings
- Fishing Trips Sponsored by Members and the Club
- Group Clinics and Workshops
- Fly Tying Lessons
- One-On-One Fly Casting Lessons
- Shirts and Hats with club logo
- 80-page Beginner's Basic Skills Instruction Manual
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- Capt. Rick Grasset (941) 923-7799
- Capt. Pete Greenan (941) 923-6095
- Capt. John Hand (239) 842-7778
- Capt. Wade Osborne (813) 286-3474
- Capt. Frank Rhodes (863) 967-4258
- Capt. Greg Peterson (423) 432-1973
- Capt. Russ Shirley (727) 343-1957
- Capt. Keiland Smith (863) 944-7475

Fly Casting Coaches

Novice or advanced caster, one of the following coaches can assist you with your casting. Contact one convenient to your location to arrange a casting session.

Dade City,

Jeff Janecek.....352-588-3866

South Tampa

Steve Parker.....813-287-5583

Brandon

Neil Sperling.....813-655-5627

North Tampa

Jeff Abeles813-961-0097

Robert Fischer.....813-962-0185

Dan Lagace.....813-929-6605

Bill Murdich813-971-4764

Leigh West.....813-971-8697

St. Petersburg

Capt. Pat Damico.....727-360-6466

Polk County

Capt. Frank Rhodes.....863-967-4258

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These companies sponsored the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Some are members of the club. We urge you to patronize them.

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- SWANN'S FLY FISHING SHOP, Jim Swann, 13650 South 98 Bypass, Dade City, 33525, (352) 567-6029
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(includes one membership and Ad Space)

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