



The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club www.tbffc.org

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 5 2008, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Compton Park Recreation Center, Tampa Palms (See below for Directions)

Guest Speaker Leon Martuch

Leon Martuch has been a part of the fly fishing scene since 1962. Previously owner and President of Scientific Anglers, he knows many of the men and women who have become legends in the fly fishing world. Because of his long involvement in The American Museum of Fly Fishing he organized a round table discussion with several of these legends. He will present videotaped excerpts from this Oral History. He will tell a few stories about the participants, and answer questions about them. If available, he will leave a copy of the complete Oral History (two DVD disks) for our club lending library.

Featured Fly Tyer Byron Chamberlin

Capt. Chamberlin has been fishing the Tampa Bay area since 1993 and has been guiding for 5 years. He is a self-taught fly caster, minus a few tips from casting masters Dan Lagace and Leigh West. He has been fly-fishing for nearly 9 years and tying nearly as long. A graduate from USF, Bryon holds two degrees, a BS in Zoology and a BA in Interdisciplinary Natural Science/Chemistry. When not guiding, he works for Hillsborough County's Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program, or ELAPP for short, but rumor has it that he may soon become a full-time guide.

This time Bryon will be tying the Rusty Dubbed Bendback that is featured on his website @ <http://www.barbedsteel.com/flybox.html>

It's Time to Pay Dues Again--\$25 for single, \$35 for family, extra savings for 5-year membership

Directions to Our Meetings: **From I-75**--Take Bruce B. Downs exit from I-75; go west 2 miles to traffic light, turn left onto 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

FEBRUARY 2008 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March is here and we will soon be treated warmer waters and to the longer evenings of daylight savings time. Hope you **elected** to fish on February 29, as recommended last month by Walt Durkin.

Please note that our annual Big Gun Shootout, previously scheduled for March 9 at Picnic Island Park, has been postponed until November.

Thanks to **Frank Sargeant** for speaking to us in February, enlighten us with his vast knowledge of all things marine and piscatorial in the Tampa Bay area. Thanks also to **Ken Hofmeister** for showing us how to tie his unique Ada Potato and Bodacious Spider flies. See page 7 for tying instructions. When you get a chance, take a drive over to the St Pete side and attend a Suncoast Flyfishers meeting with Ken as its animated president. Location and dates are given on page 3.

When you see them, thank **Capt. Nick Angelo** and **Leigh West** for hosting the Tamiami Trail and Shad Fishing outings, respectively, for our members. Sincere thanks also to all members who helped TBFFC publicize the club at our booth in the Frank Sargeant – Tampa Tribune show. Your thoughtfulness and dedication are greatly appreciated.

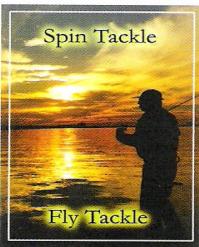
Our new fishing report editor, **Bob Gaulin** states that he is having difficulty prying fishing reports out of our members. We urge you to help him (and the club) by sending your fishing results to him via e-mail or phone, even if not directly contacted to do so.

Tight lines. Dick

The Fly Guy

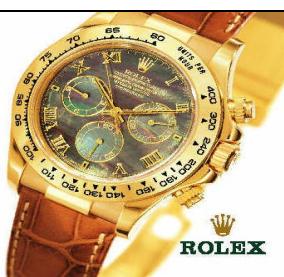
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The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 12, 2008; location TBD

NOT GETTING THE NEWSLETTER? Please call Dick Miekka, Editor, at 727-866-8682 or e-mail to dmiekka@cs.com

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TBFFC CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2008 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for the all of 2008: March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3 . **Please watch this space for any changes.**

BIG GUN SHOOTOUT MOVED TO NOV.

See Preview of coming events (below)

FFF CONCLAVE IN LAKELAND

The Expo will occur on March 28, 29th, and 30th in Lakeland. For more details of the Expo please see its website....www.nationalflyexpo.com. Capt Pete Greenan is the planner and organizer for the entire event.

FLY FISH ARGENTINA, MAR. 14-22 & 23-31, 2009

Capt. Pat Damico is arranging trips similar to the one he discussed as featured speaker at our January 2008 meeting. Here is what Pat has to say:

"After showing pictures from my dream trip to Patagonia, Argentina, several members asked me if I was hosting a trip. I have been in contact with Esquel Outfitters, www.esqueloutfitters.com , our excellent guide service, and the above weeks were selected for two trips. 2008 is almost full. The first is an exact duplicate of mine. Float fish the Rivadavia the first day, float/camp Rio Chubut the next four days, three nights luxury camping, sixty miles of river will be covered. Day seven, fish Rio Gualjaina, twenty miles of private water on a 80,000 acre ranch. Day eight, fish the most famous spring creek in Argentina....Arroyo Pescado, filled with large rainbows and browns. Second week, float fish Rivadavia, in Los Alerces National Park, day three, float fish the Rio Carrileufu, eleven miles; fourth day, float fish Rio Arrayanes and Lago Verde. Day five fish the private twenty mile long Rio Gualjaina, walk and wade; day six private spring creek Arroyo Pescado , and the last day Rio Gualjaina. Overnight flights to Buenos Aires and a short morning flight to Bariloche where guides will pick you up and return you at the end of your stay. If interested, contact me at pat4jaws@hotmail.com, or 727-504-8649.

I have some disks from Esquel Outfitters that you can review."

Contact Pat for details at (727) 504-8649

Note: early commitment is necessary if you want to be included.

PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS:

April: Select and purchase club shirts and caps at our April meeting. You pay for the shirt or cap, and the club pays for adding the club logo to each item.

November: We've moved the shootout to November after finding that the selected time (March 9) follows too close to the Frank Sargeant expo to be able to recruit workers.

BILL JACKSON'S EVENTS OF INTEREST

Call (727) 576-4169 for all items listed below.

Fly casting clinics each Saturday at 10 AM

Fly Tying Clinics; 6:30 PM every Monday for beginners and every Wednesday for advanced tiers.

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

www.suncoastflyfishers.com

Regular Meetings: 6:30pm on the Third Thursday of each month, **except December**, at Walter Fuller Recreation Center, 7883 26th Ave. N., St. Pete.

MANGROVE COAST FLY FISHERS

www.mangrovecoastflyfishers.com

NOTE: Newer Location for MCFF Club meetings - **Twin Lakes Park**. The entrance to Twin Lakes Park in Sarasota is located on Clark Road, just 1/2 mile east of I-75, on the south (right) side of the road. Contact website above for details and directions.





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RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE TYING BENCH - 36

By C.W. "Don" Coleman

YOUR LINE HAND – Most fly casting instructions seem to focus on what your rod and your casting hand are doing. But, your line hand can add to or ruin your cast. Your line hand can add line speed by double hauling during the short, final speed-up-and-stops. It can also help keep tension on the line throughout the stroke until the final acceleration to the speed-up-and-stop.

Slack line reduces the effective length of the casting stroke, and long casting strokes are necessary for making long casts. Each casting stroke must start with tension on the line. When the rod tip starts to move the fly must move. Start the backcast with the rod tip down to eliminate slack at the start of the backcast. Keeping the distance between the reel and your line hand constant throughout each casting stroke also eliminates slack. Not keeping your rod hand traveling on a straight line throughout each stroke produces slack. Avoid windshield washer type movements. Jerky movements during the casting strokes will produce waves (slack) in the line.

When you want to make a long cast, do not force your casting hand. Simply double haul and make a sharp—not longer just faster—haul with the line hand during the rod hand's speed-up-and-stop.

A FOUNDATION FOR POWER – I could not help but relate Tiger Wood's advice on "How to Smoke a Driver," which appeared in a recent issue of the *St. Petersburg Times*, with how to produce power during a long cast with a fly rod. Tiger pays close attention to the placement of his feet—his foundation for power. He spreads his feet slightly wider than his shoulders for stability and flexes his knees enough to make them feel alive and promote easy movement of his torso. He flares both feet out slightly—the right to allow a modest hip turn without straining his knee and thigh, and the left to prevent turning his hips too far during the back swing (back cast) and to allow rotating his upper body freely on the down swing (forward cast). He also angles his right knee in a bit to make it easier to shift his weight toward the target during the down swing (forward cast). Of course Tiger has a completely closed stance whereas long casts with a fly rod require a 45 degree open stance.

It goes without saying that a golfer (or fly caster) should not try to hit a ball (make a cast) with his arm muscles. The stoke starts with the hips turning, followed by the shoulders turning. This rotary motion is like loading a giant spring. By the time he reaches the top of the back swing (back cast) his hips and shoulders are primed to unload with tremendous speed. While he shifts his weight between his feet during the back stroke (back cast) and the down swing (forward cast) he does not allow his hips to slide back and forth because a sliding motion on the down swing (forward cast) cuts his power about 50 percent of what he can develop by the unwinding of his hips and shoulders. He turns his shoulders further than his hips for a gradual application of power. Tiger also extends the butt end of his club (fly rod) as far from his right hip as he can. Turning his shoulders make this possible. He believes in a big shoulder turn. Tiger starts his down swing (forward cast) by first shifting his weight, then turning his hips and finally his shoulders—all in a smooth sequence—followed by uncocking his wrists (speed-up-and-stop) at the very end.

MAXIMS: I suppose I would be a better casting instructor if I could cast better.

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Member Photos, March 2008



Like grandfather.....**Pat Damico** was so proud of the big sea trout caught by his grandson **Jonathon** that he posted it on his website!



Leigh West caught this handsome redfish on Christmas day -- one of several that succumbed to his Franke-Bell Bonefish Fly



Ed Bang had a great day of freshwater fishing recently. Here are his comments:

"No they were not caught on a fly rod, but they were big. The largest was 28 inches long, and it took two hands to lift him into the boat, I estimate his weight at 13 1/2 pounds"



Just another day (or two or three) in Paradise: **Denise Bruner** took these pictures at the annual shad outing on the St Johns River during the weekend, Feb 22-24. The fishing was good, the food better, and the camaraderie the best.

Snooking by the Dock's Early Light

By Capt. Mel Berman, Florida Fishing Weekly

(reprinted from the CaptMel.com website)



To say that Capt. Pat Damico is an early riser, understates the lengths to which he will go on his mission of catching lunker snook under the dock lights of Pinellas County. Awaking around two in the morning, Damico usually meets his clients before 3 AM. They fish the lights until the break of dawn, after which they switch over to nearby mangroves and spoil islands in pursuit of catch and release linesiders. Now if you don't think that's fun fishing – you don't know what fun is. Of course, when the sun is out, we can all easily spot snook under docks hanging in the shade.

"During the day, you see them around, but it doesn't mean you're gonna catch them," said Damico. "But at night, they're really on the feed. And that's when snook are drawn to lighted docks. Here's how that food chain works: The light attracts plankton. The plankton attracts baitfish. And the snook are attracted to the bait."

Damico, who specializes in fly fishing charters, discovered that linesiders seem to prefer certain size baits – and not necessarily the larger ones. "I toss out a few different fly patterns -- or lures for my spin fishing clients – so that I can get an idea of what size will attract the snook. And as a rule, that's all will they want."

How do you select a dock to fish? Damico believes that will vary with the season. "Certain times of the year, docks that are close to passes are very productive – like right now. Docks on mangrove points are also good locations. We look for areas that have a lot of structure and more current."

On the other hand, if you go back into residential canals where the water is relatively stagnant, he advises that you won't do as well this time of year. "Now in colder weather, the opposite is true, as the snook are there seeking their comfort zones. So docks that are way back in canals may be more productive in the winter time because of the warmer waters, which usually hold good populations of glass minnows at that time."

Damico contends that it's always a good idea to watch your depth recorder when cruising an area. "That's when you have a chance to locate lots of baitfish and mark them during daylight hours. And believe me, they're gonna be there at night -- attracted to the light."

The proximity of the light to the water is also an important consideration. If the light is relatively bright and close to the water, it's going to be better than one that's high. "When you're trying to pick out a dock to fish at night, you would prefer one that has the light on all the time. If the light is only occasionally turned on, it won't do you much good," he said.

"Also, if you're going to feed any animal and you had a regular feeding schedule, where say you did so at 5 o'clock -- you could almost set you watch to when that critter shows up. And the same is true with snook. If you have a light that is controlled by a timer, -- going on and off at certain times – the snook get accustomed to this – and they will start staging around the dock before the light comes on." As a result, Damico has found that in most instances you should have good fishing just before a dock is lighted. "And if you present a good bait to them at that time, you stand a good chance of hooking a nice fish."

Tides also are part of the equation. When the tide is low fish tend to move out. That's why Capt. Pat prefers longer docks where there's always good fishing depth. Another indicator that there's sufficient water is if there's a larger boat there, indicating that the water's going to be deep. "And of course, sometime you will approach a dock and see fish banging bait in the surface – and that's where you want to go."

We asked Damico what kinds of skills one needs to work docks. "Well, being able to cast accurately is probably one of the most important ones – because most of the docks have things attached to them – like boats and the lines. They may have davits with the boat hanging over a section of the dock – and always remember, those docks are owned by people, so you don't want to be decorating their property with hooks, lines, lures."

Damico begins fishing the lighted docks on the outside section first. "There's a lot of fish hanging in the dark area – and then they'll run up to the light to nail a bait. So work the darker area closest to your boat, and then gradually move in closer to the lighted waters."

The most difficult aspect about fishing at night for most novices is getting used to the altered depth perception, which is quite different when it's dark. However, Damico said that "if you do enough of this kind of casting, you can eventually become accustomed to fishing in low light conditions. Of course if you're having difficulties with casting accuracy during the day – it's gonna be a lot more difficult for you at night.

The ability to skip baits under a dock is one of the best ways to get where the snook lives - but you'd better have very strong tackle because the snook can easily break you off on the structure. "And in some areas, like the docks around here in Pinellas, the snook run relatively large – so heavier gear is required. Other areas where the snook run smaller, that won't be as big an issue."

If the tide is relatively low, there's usually enough of a gap beneath the dock and you can easily cast a light lure or fly by using a sidearm cast. If you're a beginner, Damico suggests that you should try casting under a vehicle sitting in your driveway. Attempting to get the bait or fly to skip under a car or truck is a good way to become proficient at skipping baits.

"The technique is making your cast very close to the water – it's pretty much like skipping a flat stone," said Damico. "The trajectory has to be flat and low – so once it hits, it will continue flying forward. The same applies when using a rod and reel. You hold the rod very close to the water--- then give it a quick snap with the wrist— providing a lot of momentum for that low trajectory. It takes a bit of practice. But once you can skip a lure under structure – you will definitely increase your catching skills."

Capt. Pat Damico -- aka "The Fly Guy" -- charters out of Pinellas County, Florida. He specializes in fly fishing charters, but also invites anglers using conventional tackle. For charter information; call 727-360-6466 or go to <http://captpat.com/>.

FLY OF THE MONTH

The Ada-Potato Fly

As tied by Ken Hofmeister



Ken Hofmeister was inspired to craft this fly while watching granddaughter Ada playing with her toy duster that featured fine green and blue 3-inch polyester fibers. Ken is always on the prowl for cheap fly tying material so he talked a three year old out of a toy and went to the vise. The finished fly works great on trout and ladyfish day or night.

Materials

- **Hook:** Mustad 3407 DT Size 4 sharpened
- **Tail:** Blue and green duster polyester fiber material 3 inches long, one strand each of fiberglass cloth and peacock herl. Either white, yellow, or pink 2-inch buck tail or hackle. Metallic braid.
- **Flash:** Orvis blue Flashabou.
- **Thread:** Danville flat-waxed nylon in yellow, white, or pink.
- **Eyes:** Bead chain or 5/32 brass eyes.

Tying Instructions

1. Be sure granddaughter doesn't see the desecration and mutilation of her cherished toy.
2. Pinch down barb and sharpen hook before securing it in vise and attaching thread from eye to bend of hook. Half hitch helps here.
3. Select a *sparse* amount of green and blue polyester fibers and place on top of hook with one end extending up to the eye. Attach to hook at bend. Attach a single strand of fiberglass cloth and peacock herl to top of hook at the bend. Select three strands of flashabou and fold over thread at mid-point and secure to hook with several wraps of thread.
4. Fold excess material from eye of hook over bend of hook and tie securely.
5. Rotate hook and tie *very sparse* 2-inch yellow, white, or pink buck tail or hackle flat against the hook shank on underside of hook.
6. Position bead chain or 5/32-brass eye against material near bend of hook against the folded excess material and tie on.
7. Wrap metallic braid from eye of hook over bead chain eyes and tie securely wrapping thread and tying off ahead of bead chain.
8. Whip finish and apply head cement to thread and a coating of clear nail polish to metallic braid to ensure that the fly will withstand at least 21 trout and a few ladyfish attacks.
9. Field test with intermediate or sink-tip line along edge of flats or under lighted docks.

BONUS FLY OF THE MONTH

Franke-Bell Bonefish Fly

As tied by Leigh West



The Franke-Bell has been attributed to the late Florida Keys guide, Capt. Jimmie Albright. It is considered to be one of the oldest and best bonefish patterns, as well as one of the first bonefish flies to have a grizzly saddle tip on either side of the wing (from *Salt Water Fly Patterns*, Lefty Kreh, 1st Ed., 1989). I tie a color variant of the original (the original has a white wing and chartreuse body). I have found that the subdued color combination of a tan wing and yellow body works better over the yellow sand bottom and grass encountered in areas north of the Keys while still allowing the fly to be highly visible to fish. This fly is relatively weedless, though the fly can be made even more weedless either by bending the hook shank slightly near the eye or by the addition of a weed guard. This simple, easy-to-tie fly is very effective for tailing redfish and tailing sheepshead, especially in the winter months when the water is clear. The fly can be delivered almost on top of tailing fish, as it lands on the water surface with a slight, attractive splash. - Leigh West

Materials

Hook: #4 Tiemco 811S

Body: Yellow chenille, medium

Wing: Tan calf tail

Thread: Danville flat wax nylon, fluorescent orange

Sides: Grizzly saddle hackle

Weed guard: 20-30 lb. monofilament line (optional)

Tying Instructions

1. Place hook in vise, and lay down a base wrap of thread ending slightly behind the shank on the curve.
2. Attach the chenille, and wrap the thread forward. Wrap the chenille forward until near the eye.
3. Tie down chenille and cut off excess.
4. Tie a small bunch of calf tail (bendback style, covering the hook point) extending just beyond the length of the hook.
5. Attach a small saddle hackle to either side of the wing, just a bit shorter than the wing length. Tie in a small piece of monofilament line above the wing for a weed guard, if desired.
6. Build up the head just slightly with thread and whip finish.



Fishing Report and Forecast

"What a great time to go fishing!"

Alaska's "Goodnews River Lodge" recognized Nick Colantonio twice in its 2007/2008 newsletter. First for a sockeye salmon that weighed in at over 10 pounds (river's average is 5 to 8 pounds), and second, as a recipient of "The Indian Love Stone Award" for landing a stone on a fly. "It fought like a St. John's River mussel," Nick reports.

I have received hardly any catching reports for this month. All I can report is that our February 9th outing in the south Florida canals proved to be just that-- an outing. **Robert Fischer** and **Lance Pocock** with **Alligator Bob Young** went ahead on Thursday, then fished Alligator Alley on Friday and hit a late afternoon mother load. They caught about 100 bluegills and oscars. For the rest of us that participated we were not so fortunate. But speaking for myself, I had a great time meeting members not met before, and we did have a great lunch at the Oyster House in Everglades city. This is a great place to visit and to fish also.

I am writing this report before getting the report from the Shad outing. I will report on that in the March newsletter.

February was not a very good catching month reported by several Captains in the area. March should be a lot better. Snook season opens again and I am told by Captain Pat Damico that fishing under the lights for these guys is great fun.

The monthly meeting in February was great with Frank Sargeant. I was amazed at the turnout. Let's keep it up and attend our meetings.

Get out this next month and do some catching and when you do drop me a line at rjgaulin@yahoo.com or 813-782-8605.

Tight Lines, Bob Gaulin



Casting Tips for TBFFC: 97

Castaway for Improved Back Casts ^{©2008}

The most efficient back cast is one that travels directly away from the forward cast target. A common fly casting fault occurs when anglers cast the fly line across their backs during the back cast. That is; where right-handed casters direct the back cast such that the end of the fly line crosses behind them and ends up to the left side of their bodies. This is detrimental because the caster must redirect the line during the forward cast to correct for the misdirected back cast. A mere 30-degree misdirection of the back cast will cause 50 feet of fly line to be misdirected by 25 feet!

Such misdirected back casts are commonly brought about by rotating the casting forearm causing the palm to face outward, breaking the casting wrist outward or simply by moving the casting hand in an arc rather than a straight line during the back cast. Here is a simple remedy to the problem, whatever the cause. The casting thought is to cast the back cast at a slight outward angle, perhaps one or two degrees, away from the body during the back cast. In doing so, do not reach away from the body to perform the castaway. Rather, simply stop the rod sooner in the back cast.

This is a self-teaching exercise, in that, by stopping sooner in the back cast, the fault (rotating the casting forearm causing the palm to face outward, breaking the casting wrist outward or simply by moving the casting hand in an arc rather than a straight line during the back cast) will not have had enough of the casting stroke to take effect. Keep adding more distance to the back cast stroke until your back cast causes the fly line to be thrown across the back of your body again. This additive casting stroke approach will cause evidence of the fault to become eminently detectable. Once identified, the fault can then be remedied.

Dan Lagace

Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club



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, plus enriching experiences.

- Monthly Meetings with Famous Speakers
- Fly Fishing Outings
- Fishing Trips Sponsored by Members and the Club
- Group Clinics and Workshops
- Fly Tying Lessons
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- Capt. Rodney Smith **(321) 777-2773**
- Capt. Tom Tamanini **(813) 920-7552**

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.

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

Brandon

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

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