



The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

www.tbffc.org

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 7, 2008, 6:00 p.m.

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

Guest Speaker and Featured Fly Tyer

Rick Redd

The month of May heralds the arrival of tarpon along the beaches of Florida's west coast. To coincide with their migration into our waters, TBFFC proudly presents this month's speaker, Rick Redd, an expert in catching these magnificent game fish on flies.

Rick moved to this area in 1957 and started tarpon fishing in 1959. In the 1960's he set two world records recognized by the International Spin Fishing Association and five world records on fly recognized by the Salt Water Fly Rodders of America. These organizations were the predecessors to the International Game Fishing Association, the current sanctioning body for sport fishing records.

Rick's normal fishing territory ranges from Chokoluskee to the south and Homosassa to the north. On his best day there while fishing with guide Al Dopirak, he landed five tarpon in excess of 150 pounds.

Currently Rick works as a manufacturer's representative for several fishing tackle companies. He is also a superb rod builder and has supplied customers with custom rods since the late 1960's. Because of their quirky nature combined with the immense fishing pressure upon these fish, tarpon are one of the greatest fly-fishing challenges. Their beauty, size and leaping ability make them one of the most spectacular catches on fly. Rick will share some of his tarpon fishing methods and fishing experiences with us this evening.

In addition to his talk, Rick will be our featured fly tier, and will demonstrate how to construct some of his favorite tarpon flies.

If you plan or hope to catch tarpon, this will be an important meeting to attend.

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

MAY 2008 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Fly Fishers,
 Welcome to May and the onset of good spring fishing. Please refer to our fishing report for details, but spring is a great time for tarpon and many flats species.

I will be at Andros South in the Bahamas fishing with **Frank Rhodes** and **Rick Grasset** the first week of May. We had a great trip last year and look forward to good bonefish action this year.

Thanks to our April guest speaker, **Woody Gore**, who provided many great tips on places and tactics. Also, thanks to **Pat Damico** for tying another great pattern for us (see pg 7).

Be sure to attend our May meeting to hear **Rick Redd** discuss best ways, locations and flies to use for catching tarpon in our area. Also, plan to attend the Casting & Fishing clinic on May 10 at Picnic Island, featuring **Steve Parker** with another excellent tutorial.

Please check within the newsletter for additional club information. Finally, we welcome input from you on outings, events, speakers, etc and please join us for a board meeting for a nice meal and discussion.

Take care and tight lines. //Walt 

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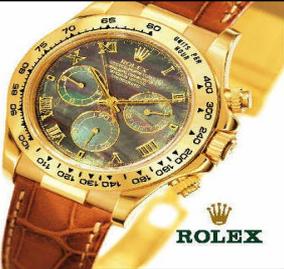
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The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at the Colonnade.

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: May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3 . **Please watch this space for any changes.**

PICK UP YOUR CLUB SHIRTS AT THE MAY MEETING

The folks at Cabela's have been busy customizing the shirt(s) you ordered at the April meeting, and we expect they will be ready to pick up at the May meeting. Club caps will also be available for purchase at that time.

TBFFC CASTING CLINIC

Where: Picnic Island Park (get the exact location when you sign up).

When: Saturday, May 10, 2008; 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

What: Come and improve you casting skills with our club's world-class instructors. Organized and led by **Steve Parker**.

Who: All skill levels are invited, but rudimentary materials will not be presented.

What Else: Lunch will be served.

These clinics are very popular, so be sure to sign up early at the May meeting.

SCALLOPING IN STEINHATCHEE

When: August 1-3, 2008

Join club members **Rick and Nanette O'Hara** for a fun weekend of snorkeling for scallops in Steinhatchee, a wonderful "Old Florida" fishing village about 3 hours north of Tampa in the Big Bend area. We'll arrive on Friday and snorkel Saturday and Sunday for the tasty treasures among some of the state's most beautiful grass beds. You'll need to bring your own boat, or hitch a ride with someone who has a boat. Make your own reservations at the Gulfstream Motel and Marina (www.gulfstreammotelmarina.com) by calling 352-498-8088. This motel offers free boat slips and launch privileges for guests and is located right on the Steinhatchee River. Call Rick or Nanette at (813) 238-6763 for more information about this outing.

CATCH GIANT LAKE TROUT IN CANADA

GREAT BEAR TRIP -AUGUST 8-17, 2008

After 43 years of traveling to the Arctic Lloyd Bull is inviting 3 or 4 people by "word of mouth" to join his group to catch record class Lake Trout and Grayling. There are several open categories for breaking records on a fly as well as superb fishing using his special methods for success. Did you see Frank Sargeant's article in the Tampa Tribune on March 14th on Lloyd's multiple world records? For information call 727-784-8410 or 315-376-7093 after May 13th. You must declare promptly to assure a spot and secure our special discount on airline reservations. 17-25# fish are common. Several 30-50# fish are hooked each year. Beat my last 72# record.

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. Contact Pat for details at (727) 504-8649

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

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 MCFE 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 - 39

By C.W. "Don" Coleman

AL'S KRAZY GLUE SPLICE – Al Caucci, showed me the easiest, strongest, and neatest way to connect a leader to the fly line that I have ever seen. The leader is connected to the braided core of the fly line instead of to the fly line coating. Al teaches the splice at his schools on the West Branch of the Delaware River and in the Bahamas. He not only uses the splice for freshwater trout fishing but also for tarpon, bonefish, and permit in the Keys and Bahamas. He has left the same splice on for over two years when fishing in saltwater. Bob Fischer of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club uses this connection exclusively for all his saltwater fishing. He suggested I include directions in these pages.

Pour finger nail polish remover (containing acetone) into the cap and put at least 3/8 inch of the end of the fly line into the liquid and let it soak for about 20 seconds before stripping the coating off the fly line off with your finger nail. Then trim the exposed core to about 3/8 inch and enlarge the hollow core with a larger than normal pin—I use an old hat pin. Push the butt of the leader up into the exposed fly line core and wipe a drop of Krazy Glue onto the connection. Wet your thumb and forefinger and roll the connection around. Wipe a second drop on the opposite side of the connection and again roll the connection around to thoroughly penetrate the connection with glue. Do not use too much glue. Caucci, who developed the splice, said to be sure to use the Original Formula Krazy Glue (with a K) in the leak proof, air tight case from Borden. Some other CA glues, such as Zap-A-Gap, have failed.

CIRCLE HOOKS – I do not use circle hooks. Sure commercial fishermen use them because fish cannot get off when they do not tend the line. Adhering to the "do not set the hook" idea can result in deeply hooked fish. Usually, if you keep connected to the fly and strike with a slip strike when you feel the weight of the fish, you will hook up in the corner of the mouth—even with a regular hook. A.H. Wood described this hook set in *Greased Line Fishing* back in 1903.

SPLITS – Some days fish are feeding in the upper part of the water column, and some days you have to go down to catch them. Weighting the fly can accomplish this. The Clouser is an excellent fly because the lead eyes take the fly down—like a jig. You can accomplish the same thing by wrapping lead wire around the front half of the hook shank before finishing the fly—just be sure to coat the lead with head cement to prevent staining the fly's body and wing. In either case you have to change flies when you want to fish at different levels. One solution is to use removable split shot attached between 6 to 8 inches in front of your favorite unweighted fly. I prefer size BB. Bob Clouser uses a wrap-around lead strip to take a fly down when he is not using one of his Clousers. A small container of "splits" limits the number of flies you have to tie and carry. Vary the location of the split to produce different actions. Experiment.

PAPER CLIPS – I make a small loop in each end of my fly lines to make loop-to-loop connections with the backing and the leader butt. I fold the end of the fly line back and secure the loop with a Speedy Nail Knot. Instead of using a nail knot tool, I use an ordinary paper clip with the outer leg straightened for a "nail."

MAXIMS: "Just because you are on a diet doesn't mean you can't look at the menu." – Feel free to interpret that anyway you want.
Hope is a virtue, but continuing to do the same thing and hope for better results is stupidity.

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Member Photos, May 2008



Working for the Club – Walt Durkin thanks Floyd Holder for his years of service to TBFFC as Fishing Editor/Reporter of the newsletter. Floyd displays the fishy plaque that he received (center). A group of members helps the club at the Frank Sargeant show. With dedication like this, how can we possibly fail?



Fishing Buddies – *Above:* Jeff Janecek and Ed Sunka acted as both photographers and companions to get these great shots of Jeff's monster bass (caught on one of his #8 poppers), and Ed's big speck, a "by catch" of the February Shad outing.

Below: Nanette O'Hara proudly displays a nice snook she caught recently while staying at their cabin in Everglades City in late March. Spring is a favorite season to fish there, and the snook were very hungry and happy. Meanwhile, husband Rick O'Hara looks both unhappy and fishless – but don't let that look fool you. Rick is secretly very happy, because he jumped two tarpon on this trip to the Glades -- a hefty 125-pounder along with a very acrobatic 50-pounder. Alas, they gave him the "fin-ger" (in the form of the fly rocketing back in his face at warp speed) after a few jumps, thus explaining why he is fishless in the photo.



How Fast Should I Strip My Fly?

By CAPT. PAT DAMICO, CapMel.com Fly Fishing Editor and Moderator

I am asked this question more frequently than any other by both new as well as more experienced fly fishers. They are asking for a key to make their fly more appealing to the fish. The question sounds simple enough, but the answer is rather complex. If I said use a six inch slow strip with a little pause, does that mean that the fly will move six inches and hesitate slightly? Maybe, but unless several rules are followed, the fly may not move at all or at a much more accelerated rate.

Good principles of line control will transmit movements of your stripping hand to the fly. Stripping is the term used to cause desired fly movement when the non-casting hand moves the line in a direction from the tip to the handle of the fly rod. In saltwater fly fishing, the rod tip is rarely used to give the fly action. What are some of these principles, and how do they work?

First, it is important to remember what pattern we are fishing and duplicate those movements. If using a crab pattern for redfish, a very slow movement of an inch or two may be all that is needed. Baitfish patterns may require long strips to mimic a small fish trying to escape from the jaws of a predator. These movements are very different. The crab imitation will always be close to the bottom, so immediately moving the fly in the upper water column is counter productive.

Let's begin by making sure that proper casting rules are followed. The better you cast, the more easily action to the fly can be transmitted. On the forward cast, with the rod properly loaded, a crisp stop is used to unload the rod and complete the cast. After the stop, the rod is lowered as the line settles to the water's surface. If you let go of the line with your non-casting hand, you are already in trouble. The line should slide thru your fingers and closing your fingers on the line at the proper time will give you control of accuracy, similar to when your thumb touches the spool on a baitcasting reel, or your index finger feathers the line on a spinning reel before touching the spool to stop the lure and direct where it will land. As the fly hits the water, is everything in a straight line? Is the rod pointed at the fly and is all slack eliminated? Is your rod tip close to the water, or several feet from the water's surface? To properly transmit intended movements to the fly, the rod tip must almost touch the water. The slack caused by having the rod too far from the water will prohibit any line hand movements from affecting the fly. If you are holding the rod tip a few feet above the water, a long strip will not move the fly at all. If there is slack in the cast and the line looks like a snake on the water, moving the line to give the fly movement will be ineffective. Of course, if your leader collapsed on the cast, you will get the same poor result. Keep everything in a straight line with slack eliminated.

Tidal movement and wind direction are other factors. If the tide is coming in straight toward you, and you have eliminated slack in the cast, a long strip may just remove line slack created by the advancing current with the result that the current only drifted the fly in your direction. The length of the strip may have to be two, or three times what is needed to get the desired result. Just stripping enough line to keep in contact with the fly may be adequate with a crab or shrimp pattern as it drifts into the strike zone of your intended quarry. Any slack present will prevent you from feeling the take. Having the wind at your back as the tide comes toward you will move the boat and further prevent the control you desire. When fishing from a boat with the wind in your face and the tide coming toward you, the drifting boat alone may give the fly enough, or too much movement. When the tide is moving away from you, casting at an angle, much the same as you would when fishing a river, may give even a baitfish pattern enough movement to trigger a strike. You can mend line, move the line close to the rod tip up current, or make a reach cast in the same direction to give you better control.

When you can't actually see the fly, which is frequent, concentrate on the end of your fly line to gauge how your stripping movements transmit to the end of your line and ultimately the fly.

Certain species of fish seem to prefer different actions. Colder water will make some fish more lethargic, preventing them from using much energy to chase a fly. Jacks, barracuda, and Spanish mackerel will lose interest if a baitfish pattern is not really moving. Trout, reds and snook will be more selective and often prefer a certain action that you must duplicate.

Give careful consideration to these recommendations the next time you go out with the long rod. Concentrate your efforts on trying to understand what your intended target is seeing at the end of your leader. I'm sure that observing these rules will increase the number of strikes and hookups to a level that will pleasantly surprise you.

A FFF certified fly casting instructor, Capt. Pat Damico, guides in lower Tampa Bay as well as surrounding water offering fly and light tackle trips. He can be reached at 727-504-8649, or through his website www.captpat.com

FLY OF THE MONTH

Synthetic Baitfish Pattern

As Tied by Pat Damico



This fly pattern offers a basic approach to tie any fly that will duplicate baitfish. You can use a size eight or 3/0 hook.

MATERIALS:

Hook: Mustad 9175 size 1

Thread: .004 mono thread

Body: EP fibers, white, brown, dark brown

Flash: Clear and yellow krystal flash

Eyes: 3/16" Hologram eyes

Adhesives/coatings: Daves Flexament and thinned goop

TYING STEPS:

1. Place hook in vise and crimp barb. Start jam knot with clear mono thread in middle of shank.
2. Secure about fifteen white EP fibers to top of hook shank with thread, length will be determined by size of baitfish you are duplicating. Bend rest of material over thread and extend to approximate length of first application while securing with thread.
3. Cut clear krystal flash two times longer than pattern, wrap around thread and secure to top of hook shank. Turn hook over and apply same amount of white EP fibers to bottom side of hook, extend a little shorter than previous application. More white can be added to top of hook in similar matter as thread is advanced toward hook eye. Occasional drops of flexament on wrappings will make fly more durable.
4. Use a comb to break bent fibers, stroking away from the hook eye. Additional clear and also yellow krystal flash can be secured to hook shank so that flash is now on side of fly. Some red EP fibers can be added to bottom of shank to duplicate gills if desired; this will be trimmed short.
5. Begin adding brown EP fibers to top of hook shank, bending other half of material toward tail section of pattern, each application will be a little shorter than the previous amount. If there are spaces on the side, add small amounts there.
6. Continue to add white to the bottom to complete the belly, and darker brown EP fibers to represent the baitfish back. Complete with whip finish and flexament.
7. Shape fly with comb and scissors to achieve final contour.
8. Thin a drop of goop with flexament and add a small amount to the back of hologram eye with needle. Hold eye where desired and press into place. Repeat on other side. 🍷

The article below was published in the Saint Petersburg Times on April 6, 2008, page 4c

Captain's Corner

What's hot: Snook have left cold-weather haunts and are on the prowl. Work the dock lights with your fly rod. Warmer water and the appearance of "greenbacks" have made snook aggressive. Incoming or outgoing tides are good, just as long as the water is moving. Some docks are better on a specific tide because fish are oriented away from, instead of under, structure.

Tackle: Use at least a 9-weight fly rod with some backbone. I prefer a clear sinking tip fly line because the larger fish are always deeper. Six-foot leaders with a 3-foot, 40-pound butt section, where the line is attached, and a tippet of 30-pound fluorocarbon secured to the fly with a loop knot will help keep snook away from barnacle encrusted pilings. White EP flies, **Pat Damico** bend backs and deceivers that duplicate the size of available baitfish work best.



Pat Damico

Tactics: A bow-mounted electric motor is preferred to position the boat and move you to deeper water after a fish is hooked. Cast to the darker outside areas first and keep your rod tip close to the water. Retrieve in long, slow strips. Strip set by pulling the line with your hand when you feel a fish. A strip strike will move the fly a short distance if you miss, allowing your missed fish, or another, to hit the fly.

Pat Damico charts lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at captpat.com or (727) 504-8649. 🍷



(photo by Jack Hexter)

Contact Me for your Freshest Fly Tying Materials

Fishing Report and Forecast
“What a great time to go fishing!”

April did prove productive to a few fly fishermen. Greg Peterson, fishing in the Anna Maria area, witnessed many snook busting bait. He got out his fly rod and caught 8 snook, all over 24 inches. He was hooking fish for 3 hours. Greg reports he had never seen so many snook in his life. He returned the following weekend and caught 12 more snook and a sheepshead.

Fly anglers fishing with Capt. Rick Grassett during the weeks of 3/16 through 3/26 caught and released snook, bluefish, pompano and Spanish mackerel. Trout were also caught and released.

Capt Pat Damico reported that Tom Scipien from North Carolina completed a dock light slam the first part of April. He and Matt Kelly caught numerous fish in synthetic patterns similar to the fly of the month Pat tied at the April meeting.

Jeff Abeles and Leonard Marks report that the Soque River in North Georgia produced several 20” to 25” rainbows and nice size browns also. They noticed that fish this year were taking dry flies, whereas in the past wooly buggers and nymphs dredged from the bottom were the bait that caught fish.

Member Rich Fender and friends fishing South of Everglades City in the 10,000 Islands did catch 25 or so snook with one 30” and one 31”. They were not using flies, but artificial lures with conventional rod and reels. One of his friends got a slam including a 25” red fish. Next time, guys, try the fly rods; it might be fun.

The month of May is when you should look for Tarpon on the beaches. Snook will be doing the same in the passes and the surf. Reds will feed along the mangrove shorelines. Deep grass flats should produce trout, bluefish pompano and other species. These are suggestions from Capt. Rick Grassett, so get out there and tight lines to all.

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Casting Tips for TBFFC: 99

Drift-Forward for a Longer, More Authoritative Back Cast ©2008

I had written an article for the TBFFC Newsletter in March 2002 titled “*Drift-Back for Greater Distance with Less Effort*” That article described the drift-back as a means whereby the length of the casting stroke is increased appreciably for greater casting distance. A longer casting stroke makes carrying more fly line much easier. The procedure calls for a normal back cast stopping at about 11:00; (observer’s clock watching a right-handed caster from the right side), and as the fly line travels backward, the casting hand drifts toward the rear without power until it is well behind the caster.

In like kind, drifting forward at the end of the forward false cast yields a similar advantage in preparation for a longer casting stroke in the back cast. After completing the forward false cast, drift farther forward by slowly extending the casting arm toward the target and by leaning forward as the fly line progresses to the end of the forward false cast. Adding merely a few extra inches to the casting stroke with the drift-forward will create an appreciable advantage in preparing for a longer, more authoritative back cast.

Dan Lagace
 Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club 

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- 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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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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Brandon

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

North Tampa

Jeff Abeles813-961-0097

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

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

Bill Murdoch813-971-4764

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- SWANN'S FLY FISHING SHOP, Jim Swann, 13650 South 98 Bypass, Dade City, FL 33525, (352) 567-6029

2008 member application

Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Hm. Phone: _____ Wk. Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Type of Membership: _____

Please Check: One Year _____ Five Year _____

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

Name: _____ Rel: _____

Name: _____ Rel: _____

Name: _____ Rel: _____

Annual Dues: \$25.00 Individual Membership

\$35.00 Family Membership

\$95.00 Corporate Single Membership

(includes one membership and Ad Space)

\$120.00 Corporate Double Membership

(includes two memberships or family membership and Ad Space in Newsletter)

Five Year Dues: \$100.00 Individual Membership

\$140.00 Family Membership

Please make check payable to: Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club
C/o Rick Valeri, 1404 Oxfordshire Ct. Brandon, FL 33510

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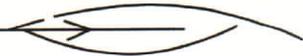


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