



The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

www.tbffc.org

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 2, 2008, 6:00 p.m.

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

Speakers

Walt Durkin and Dick Miekka

Former club president Walt Durkin grew up in West Palm Beach and has fished on and off all his life, including through a 24-year Army career. He returned to Tampa Bay in 1998 where he enjoys fly fishing and the TBFFC. Both he and Dick are currently members of the TBFFC board of Directors and share presidential duties along with Neil Sperling.

Newsletter editor Dick Miekka grew up in Michigan then moved to Massachusetts for graduate school, marriage, and a career in chemical engineering. Dick first tried fly fishing when invited to a salmon fishing camp during the 1970's. In spite of valiant efforts, though, he didn't become a proficient caster until moving to Florida in 1993 and joining the then-fledgling TBFFC.

Walt and Dick will present a slide show chronicling a fishing trip made in 1996 to the Miramichi River in New Brunswick in quest of "the fish of a thousand casts", the Atlantic salmon.

Featured Fly Tyer

Jack Hexter

Jack was born and raised near Valley Forge, PA where he fished for trout as a youngster. After college he was employed by the FBI and sent to Miami for the 1972 political conventions where, he says, the FBI forgot about him and left him in the best fishing hole in the world for 27 years. In Miami, he joined the Miami Sportfishing Club, the Miami Beach Rod & Reel Club and was on the Metropolitan South Florida Fishing Tournament (MET) committee for numerous years, serving as President from 1994 to 1996. He was honored by the MET in 1999 with the Henry H. Hyman Memorial Award for "commendable public service in recognizing, preserving and developing the economic importance of sport fishing opportunities in South Florida."

Along the way, he developed an interest in fly fishing, and fly tying, and his involvement with the MET Tournament brought him in contact with some of the legends in this field. Stu Apte taught Jack the basics of casting a fly and Chico Fernandez taught him the basics of fly tying.

The fly he will be tying was "hatched" one evening during the Youth Fair while he was manning the fishing gear booth with Chico. They experimented and eventually turned out the Bend Back Muddler, a great shrimp pattern on which Jack has caught about every flats fish except permit.

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

JUNE 2008 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings TBFFC Members,

With summer officially here, school ended, and the snow birds gone, this is a great time to get out and catch some game fish in the flats before the bay becomes a bathtub.

Be sure to read the first of our Tips for TBFFC on page 4. Appropriately, our inaugural article is by **Capt. Bryon Chamberlin**. This is the start of a new series that will include tips on all aspects of fly fishing in our area and will feature articles by several of our club members. It will even have a few cameo appearances by **Dan Lagace**, who completed his *tour de force* of 100 Casting Tips for TBFFC last month. If you have a tip to contribute (and I'm sure you do), please email it to me at dmiekka@cs.com.

The Club wants to thank our June Guest Speaker, **Capt. Jim Lemke**, for instructing us in the strenuous art of night tarpon fishing. According to our fishing report, club members **Nick Colantonio** and **John Cornacchia** already gave it a go with Capt. Lemke.

Thanks also to **Greg Peterson** for showing us how to tie his articulated Salmon Snake fly. Greg's instructions for tying the fly got lost (by me) in cyber space, so will be published next month

Have a safe and happy Fourth ...Dick 

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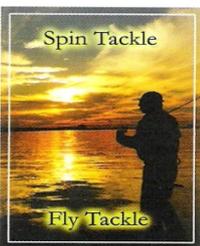
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The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, July 9, 2008, location TBD.

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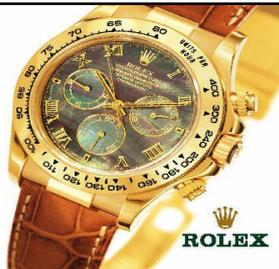
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TBFFC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2008 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for the rest of 2008: July 2, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3 . **Please watch this space for any changes.**

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-Loomis 9wt rod - willing to buy or trade for Loomis IMX 10 wt, or Thomas and Thomas 10wt.
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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 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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TIPS FOR TBFFC – No. 1

[Editor's Note: this is the first of a new series of articles designed to help our members improve their preparedness, safety, success, and enjoyment of our sport]

Common Mistakes While Transitioning Between Casting & Fishing

By Capt. Bryon Chamberlin

As a saltwater fly fishing guide, I see a lot of mistakes made on the bow of my boat that with a little training and practice, could have been averted and have given the angler a greater chance at hooking up. Here are a few tips that should help you on your next trip on the water.

- 1) **Line Management:** Make the first strip count!!! What I mean by this is that with the first strip of the fly line, direct where you want the retrieved line to lay, either on the deck of the boat behind you on calm days, or in the cockpit in windy conditions. Once you get a coil or two on the deck of the boat, the remainder of the retrieved line will generally play follow the leader and pile upon itself. By just making a mental note on where you are stripping the line at the beginning of the retrieve, you can avert many disasters such as having the line get out of the boat, wrapping around trolling motors, depth finders, feet, and various other things in and around the boat. Remember, fly line is alive and will find things to tangle on. I sometimes use an exaggerated throwing motion as part of my stripping technique on windy days to direct the line to where I want the retrieved line to go. By doing this, I can then concentrate on the fish and know with a relatively high degree of confidence that my fly line is where I intend it to be.
- 2) **Rod Position:** I've seen all kinds of rod position mistakes in my boat, and I believe most of these stem from transitioning from one style of fishing to another. Whether it is freshwater trout fishing on the fly or even saltwater spin fishing, it seems that old habits die hard. Anglers that love to nymph fish for trout seem to always want to hold their rod tip high. Spin anglers that dabble in fly fishing want to hold the rod off to the side to create an "angle" between the rod and the line so they can "feel" better. However, the correct rod position in the saltwater game is positioning the rod tip in or just a few inches above the water's surface and pointing the rod directly at the fly. You "feel" the bite in your stripping hand as well as the rod.
- 3) **Getting Tight To The Fly:** Slack line created at the end of the casting stroke as the fly line lays out on the water must be removed before the angler can manipulate or work the fly to entice the bite. Boat drift and current can also add to the amount of slack generated between the rod tip and the fly. To reduce the amount of slack introduced into the line, I like to use my stripping/haul hand as an additional guide on the rod. By not letting go of the line during the shooting phase of the cast, you can impart some last minute friction on the line to help straighten it as you follow the line to the water's surface with the rod tip. Now with the first strip of the line, you are tight to the fly and can tease that fish into striking.

Time is of the essence in the saltwater game. Things happen in a hurry. The playing field is in constant motion. The boat is drifting in the wind, the fly and fly line are being dragged by the current, and the fish are moving targets. The faster you can transition from being a caster to an angler, the more success you will have. When times are slow on the water, take a few minutes to practice your transition game. It will help you take your angling to the next level.

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Member Photos, July 2008



Tarpon Time! Bryon Chamberlin photographed hooked up companions Nick Angelo (inset top left), Russ Shirley (inset top right), Greg Stepanski (inset lower left) and Rick Redd (inset lower right). Bryon himself was photographed by Nick Angelo in the big picture. All of the action took place in June in local waters.

Member Photos, Continued



There is more to Life than Tarpon!

Jeff Abeles Traveled to Traverse City Michigan and caught this near-state-record 7lb 3 oz Smallmouth Bass (top left), then a 40 pound Golden Carp caught using an 8wt and casting a Dave Whitlock Carp Special fly.

Rick Fender (right) caught this 31 inch snook this spring while casting a top-water plug.



Rick Redd was photographed by Neil Sperling, while tying a demo tarpon fly at our May club meeting.

Alligator Bob was in his working clothes as he guided a happy group from Tampa Bay & Company on a nature tour.



This article is reproduced from Tampa Tribune OUTDOORS for Friday, 3-14-08

LAND OF THE GIANTS

Palm Harbor resident pursues lunkers at the Arctic Circle.

By Frank Sargeant

Outdoors Columnist

Fsargean@tampabay.rr.com

Most of us are lucky to get really good at anything during our lifetime.

Lloyd Bull of Palm Harbor can lay claim to being very, very good in at least two fields. After starting with nothing more than a GI-Bill education, Bull managed to build the largest oil distribution company in the nation. And along the way, he also made a lasting name for himself in his first passion, fishing.

The 82-year-old Bull holds the current all-tackle record for lake trout with a massive 72 pound, 4 ounce fish taken in Great Bear Lake in 1995. Most all-tackle records are 95 percent luck, but Bull was specifically fishing for giant trout with a tactic he devised, one that has produced countless lakers over 30 pounds and about two dozen over 50 pounds. In fact, he landed nine other record fish on his way to the current IGFA all-tackle record.

"I first went to Great Bear Lake because I had heard there were giant lake trout there, but the first year I discovered that the boats all trolled the shallows and the catches were typically 10 to 18 pounds. That was nice, but I was hoping for a lot bigger fish," says Bull.

On a subsequent trip, he and friends flying to Plummer's Lodge spotted a series of reefs far out in the 160-mile long lake, which sprawls across Canada's nearly-uninhabited Northwest Territories.

"That's where the big fish are going to be," Bull asserted. And he then managed to talk the lodge owner and his guides into sending a few boats out to the big reefs, where depths plummeted from as little as 20 feet to over 100 feet in the icy water. Bull's tactics include lead-core line and giant Husky-Devle spoons over five inches long and two inches wide.

"The big fish hang on the edge of the drop-off," says Bull. "We take along a portable depthfinder, and we work back and forth along these reefs, some of which are miles long. A lot of times, the fish hit just as we make a turn and the spoon drops."

Bull removes the factory treble and adds a big 10/0 single hook, with the barb filed away for easy release.

"We release all our fish except a small one now and then to eat," says Bull. "We learned that these lakers are very slow growing due to the cold, and the big ones may approach 100 years old, so we don't want to kill any of those if we can avoid it."

In fact, his record 72-pounder may still be swimming in the depths; Bull managed to keep it alive in a race back to the docks, where he revived it in a net, photographed it, and then released it.

Bull says fishing pressure on the lake is very low; ice goes out only around mid-July and returns by early September, so the number of fishermen who visit each year is limited. And all the camps, valuing the fish for their attraction to traveling anglers, have a catch-and-release rule except for a few fish used on the table.

Though Lloyd is well into his senior years, he has no intention of putting an end to the long trips to Great Bear.

"I honestly believe I have hooked and lost several fish that would approach 100 pounds, and I want to get one of them in while I'm still able," says Bull.

He and his wife Arlene also continue to fish across the country, with one of his favorite trips a spring visit to the Green River in Utah for trout. He also chases reds on the flats around the Bay area regularly during winter, and returns to his family home in the Adirondack Mountains of New York during the summers for more stream trout fishing.

"I like that quote that says God does not deduct from your life the days you spend fishing," says Bull. "If that's true, I plan to live forever."

SIDEBAR:

Though lakers are an alien species to Florida anglers, Lloyd Bull says that catching trophy class fish of any type shares some basic elements:

- Big fish hang with other big fish; if you're catching small fish, leave that spot and seek out different habitat.
- Fish edges between shallow and deep areas; the larger fish often prowl the edges looking for food.
- Fish the deep side of these reefs and edges with gear that puts your bait well down in the water column. Bull uses lead-core lines and heavy spoons.
- Use stout tackle, but keep the drag light to avoid ripping out the hooks.
- Expect to put in lots of time to find the biggest fish. Lloyd's all tackle record was caught after 11 p.m.; after fishing all day, he and a friend went back out after dinner and fished far into the Arctic twilight. He doesn't stop fishing for a shore lunch—"It wastes too much fishing time," says Bull.

Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

The month of June has been a month wherein many anglers have targeted the mighty Silver Kings. **John Cornacchia** and **Nick Colantonio** took a night tarpon trip with **Captain Jim Lemke**, our June speaker. Everything Jim said in his presentation was spot on. They witnessed a steady stream of happy, feeding tarpon cruising the shadow lines on the bridges of Tampa Bay. They managed to jump two big fish but lost them on the jump. One was at least five feet long. Later that same evening John nailed another big one that took him under the bridge and broke off.

As you can see from the photos on page 5, Captains **Bryon Chamberlin**, **Nick Angelo**, and **Russ Shirley** as well as **Dr. Greg Stepanski** and **Rick Redd** all had great success while tarpon fishing in June.

Jeff Abeles just returned from Michigan where he fished for golden carp and small mouth bass. 5 were caught the first day and 8 the second. All carp were in the 30 - 40 lbs class and the smallies were 5 - 7 lbs.

Last Saturday **Neil Sperling** and **Dr. John Millns** went bass fishing in a lake behind Dr. Millns home. They both hooked a few bass and released them. Way to go guys.

From what I read in the Tampa Tribune and emails from **Capt. Rick Grasset**, trout, redfish and tarpon are the main stay and should follow the same pattern for the month of July.

That's all I have this month but hopefully when I get back on my feet and able to get out more I should have more reports for you.

Robert

Rjgaulin@yahoo.com 🌞



A Proposal for Recycling Old Fishing Gear

Here is a fly shop that is trying to get more business, and will sell our old stuff on EBay, and use the proceeds to give the club purchasing credit (e.g., for our silent auctions) at their store. Your comments would be appreciated. Ed.

I'm reaching out to your club from Leland Fly Fishing Outfitters simply to spread the word to you and your membership about our Upgrade Program. In short, it's a unique program in which we take fly rods and reels you no longer use, want or need and resell them to give your club credit with our shop. We sell through eBay, and we take nothing from the sale. The sale amount, minus eBay and Paypal fees, is transferred into store credit.

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