



## The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

[www.tbffc.org](http://www.tbffc.org)

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 1, 2009, 6:00 p.m.**

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

### Invited Speaker

**Evan Jones**

Our speaker will be Evan Jones, author of the new guidebook, *Fly-Fishing in Patagonia: A Trout Bum's Guide to Argentina* (Amato Books). Evan will give a powerpoint presentation on fishing for trout and salmon in Patagonia, which will include fly patterns and techniques that are applicable anywhere in the world.

Evan is a former trout guide from Colorado who quit his "real job" in 2005 and traded in his cubicle and necktie for rivers and waders. Hearing of the incredible fishing in Patagonia and hoping to quench his appetite for big trout and a little adventure, he was irresistibly drawn to the exotic remoteness of this uttermost corner of the earth. Since then, he has spent two complete seasons wandering southern Argentina in search of wild trout and salmon, and has extensively covered (albeit slowly at times) the entire length of the peninsula - a road distance of over 6,000 miles. Fishing mostly independently and entirely self-funded, he camped most of the time, ate almost nothing but pasta, got punished by weather, went on countless grueling marches, and got stranded in the middle of nowhere more than once - all in the search for salmonids. Now he seeks to share photos, stories, tips and techniques learned along with way with anglers who dream of exploring this remote wilderness...or with those who simply enjoy fishing vicariously.

### Featured Fly Tyer

**Craig Smothers**

Craig has been a member of both the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishing Club of Sarasota. A Midwesterner from Iowa City, Craig once held an Iowa record for carp at 41 lbs-14 oz. Craig earned a bachelor's degree from Cornell and a master's from the University of Minnesota. After graduation, he worked for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as a Wildlife Specialist. He now works for Seascape Aquarium, taking care of large saltwater aquariums in homes and offices from St. Pete to Boca Grande to Arcadia.

Craig has tied flies commercially for over a dozen years, and has graciously tied for our club meetings on numerous occasions and donated fly collections to our fund-raising banquet.

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

**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

**MARCH 2009 PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Happy April Fools Day!

Be sure to attend our April 1 meeting to get a great story on how to live and fish in Patagonia on a shoestring.

Those who attended our March meeting received three major benefits. First, they were taught how to tie a superb new Puglisi-style fly from resident expert, **Bryon Chamberlin**. Next they learned everything they wanted to know about the life cycle of snook from our encyclopedic speaker, **Rick Roberts**. Finally, they got a chance to sign up for what most attendees claimed was our finest banquet ever.

Speaking of the banquet, we want to extend special thanks to **Alligator Bob Young** and his wife **Ellen** for an exhausting, marathon job of hosting this outstanding event. More details and thank-you lists can be found on page 6 below. Members who won the bidding contests for guided trips should promptly inform the donors of their successful bids, and begin arrangements for their trips.

Be sure to sign up for our April 4 outing at Fort Desoto Park. Members new to fishing in our area should especially enjoy the opportunity to learn about some of the best “secret” spots from our resident experts.

Remember, if you haven’t paid your dues, you will be dropped from the active membership list and will miss out on the attendant benefits.

Tight Lines// Dick 

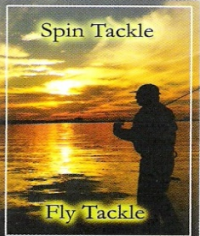
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	Alligator Bob Young	813-986-3008

The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, Location TBD.

**NOT GETTING THE NEWSLETTER?** Please call Dick Miekka, Editor, at 727-866-8682 or e-mail to [dmiekka@cs.com](mailto:dmiekka@cs.com)



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## TBFFC EVENTS

### 2009 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for all of 2009: April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2. **Please watch this space for any changes.**

### VALERI RECEIVES TBFFC SERVICE AWARD

Long-time TBFFC treasurer Rick Valeri was presented with a club service award at our banquet, in honor of his ten years of dedicated service. Congratulations, Rick!

### AN APRIL OUTING AT FORT DESOTO PARK

**When:** Saturday, April 4, 8:00 am until after lunch.  
**Where:** Fort Desoto Park, St. Pete; meet at the small picnic area adjacent to the main boat launch.  
**Lunch** will be served at the Arrowhead picnic area opposite North Beach.  
 This is an outing designed to acquaint newcomers to the many fishing areas in the park. When we first meet, we will pair up park fishing veterans with members who are new to that location. Fishing can be by wading or by watercraft (boat, kayak, etc.). We may even have a few prizes to hand out. Sign up at our April meeting or contact **Dick Miekka** at 727-866-8682 or [dmiekka@cs.com](mailto:dmiekka@cs.com).

### DISCOUNTS FOR FROG HAIR PRODUCTS

In recognition of the fine work that TBFFC is doing please use promo code "DBPGH" to receive a 15% discount on all Frog Hair products at checkout in the Frog Hair website ([www.froghairfishing.com](http://www.froghairfishing.com)). You may give this promo code to all TBFFC members as well. If any of your members do not have access to the internet they can call us toll-free (800-437-2971) to use the promo code.  
 Regards, Dave Bradshaw, GAMMA Technologies  
 200 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15222

--Note: we received this offer after requesting a donation for our banquet

### ADVERTISE YOUR HAND-ME-DOWNS HERE

If you have a fly fishing device or other item that you would like to sell to a fellow member, Contact Dick Miekka at: [dmiekka@cs.com](mailto:dmiekka@cs.com) with particulars. If there is room, we will list it here.

### CLUB FRIEND GINA RUSSO HONORED

The Florida Guides Association recently honored Gina Russo as the Captain Phil Chapman Conservationist of the Year. Russo is an environmental scientist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Division of Marine Fisheries Management. Since starting her employment with the FWC in 2000, she has managed the division's angler outreach programs and the Stock Enhancement Research Facility at Port Manatee.

"Gina has built an effective, professional rapport with stakeholders," said Mark Robson, who directs FWC's

Division of Marine Fisheries Management. "Her work ethic and hard work are great assets to the FWC and to Florida anglers."

The association presented Russo with a plaque for "exemplary dedication and outstanding service in education and outreach to Florida's anglers" during its March 1 annual meeting in Tampa.

Gina has helped many TBFFC members "play hooky for the holidays."

### 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](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com)

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

### MANGROVE COAST FLY FISHERS

[www.mangrovecoastflyfishers.com](http://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. 10**

### A Review of Local Wade Fishing Spots

#### **#1. Rocky Point Island Area**

Rocky Point Island is on the east end of the Courtney Campbell Causeway (Rte #60). Park your car on the southern access rd. just east of Landy's Steak House. Off the east shore line of the island is firm sand and there are several oyster bars, points, and coves that hold fish. At the end of the island you can head west and fish near the numerous posts sticking out of the water. If you continue south past the island you will find fishable grass flats.

#### **#2. The Hyatt**

Just east of location #1 are the flats between the Hyatt and Oyster Catchers channel. The same access road offers parking. During high tide there are flooded mangroves and oyster bars on the shoreline. Grass flats extend from the shore.

#### **#3. Cypress St.**

Head west from West Shore Blvd on Cypress. There are office buildings at the streets end. To park, turn left on last side-street before the road ends, go to the end of this street and park in the small lot. Straight off the western end of the beach are numerous deep holes They hold fish, particularly in the winter but they can also be a hazard if you step into one, use caution in this area. The flats, mangroves, and oysters north of the beach are popular areas to wade.

#### **#4. Picnic Island**

Take a right on Interbay Blvd from S. Westshore and follow the signs to the park. This area provides easy access to the flats between the park and McDill AFB. Wade southeast from the southern most end of the peninsula and fish the flats. It is possible to wade all the way to the mangrove shoreline; there are creeks and troughs worth fishing there. Early, before the swimmers arrive, park at the fishing pier near the entrance of the park and wade the grass flats just off the beach to the south.

#### **#5. Honeymoon Island**

North Of Dunedin and East of US#19 on #586 a long causeway with 2 bridges ends at Honeymoon Island Park. The park opens at 8.00 am. You can fish the pass from "dog beach" to your left or drive to the northern most parking lot and park near the last "beach house". The beach in this area has lots of rocks and troughs that hold fish. The area is fishable up the long beach to the point. This is a tough place to fish if there is much wind coming from the west and watch your back cast if there are people walking the beach.

#### **#6. Pinellas Point**

This area is at the southern tip of St. Petersburg. Drive south on 1-275 to exit 16 (old exit 3). Turn left at the end of the ramp, then go right on 16th Street S, left on Pinellas Point Drive, and right onto 14<sup>th</sup> Street S. Take the last right before the end of St and curve around to the left, which ends in a small parking area. You can fish anywhere in the large flat. Some grassy spots are a bit muddy, but soon give way to harder bottom. There are oyster beds to the right, and one or two shallow sandbars as you head outward. A walk to the left takes you to some good snook fishing around privately owned docks.

#### **#7. Tierra Verde / Ft. Desoto**

The southern most point in Pinellas County offers numerous place? to wade. They begin as soon as you get on the causeway heading south from the Bayway (exit 17 -- old exit 4 -- from 1-:275). There is a large grass flat surrounded by deep water on the west side, about halfway between the condos and the first bridge. Park in the grass and wade until you see the drop off. Another area is past the second bridge, opposite the entrance to the boat ramp. There is a narrow flat that ends at a deep channel that parallels the road. When the main road dead ends, a left turn will take you to a point in the middle of a very large grass flat. Wade south toward the middle of the bay and fish the area near the sand bar. Walk toward the island in the direction of the Sky Way and fish the grass.

*Note: Some of these need updating, and we would like to add to the list. Please contact me to contribute corrections and additions..... Dick. 🍷*



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Member Photos, April 2009



**Tarpon? We don't need no stinking tarpon!**

After fishing in the Gulf of Alaska last summer just for the halibut, TBFFC members **Jim Seegraves** and son **Cody** each display their new IGFA world record catches. Jim's is the 20# tippet world record at 138 pounds, and is the largest halibut ever caught on fly. Cody's halibut tipped the scales at 127# and is the junior world record. Congratulations to both father and son. 🎣



Member Photos, March 2009, Cont'd

**OUR BANQUET:  
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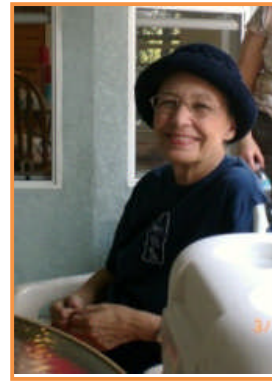
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**THANKS TO EVERYBODY WHO  
CONTRIBUTED AND ATTENDED**



OUR HOSTS HOSTED, AND WORKED HARD



THE WORKERS WORKED, BUT NOT TOO HARD



THE BIDDERS WORKED THEMSELVES INTO A FRENZY



WE ALL FEASTED ROYALLY – AND IT WORKED!

## Gator Trout Love Shallows

Reprinted from capmel.com Website



If large trout are your target, this is the time of the year to get your fill. Season closings make this a catch and release fishery. Recent outings have rewarded us with several trout over four pounds. A lot of boats have been put

away to await the spring warming trend. Those in the know are now enjoying some of the best fishing of the year. How can you increase your chances of finding a concentration of heavy trout?

Big aggressive "yellow mouths" seem to have different characteristics than their smaller brothers and sisters. In order to pile on the fat, they must find a good source of protein, requiring little effort to harvest. Finding schools of baitfish will lead you to these opportunistic predators. Besides baitfish, shrimp and crabs become an important source of nutrition. Finding schools of baitfish will lead you to these opportunistic predators. Besides baitfish, shrimp and crabs become an important source of nutrition. The 2005 red tide effects had devastated trout in some areas, while other waters harbor some very healthy trout populations. Clearer water is also one of the results of the prolonged exposure to the red tide.

Large numbers of smaller trout have been our reward when we start the day early fishing some deeper "holes" left at low tide. A few reds also seek this deeper water haven. As the tide starts to come in, the exposed flat, heated by the sun, will be a few degrees warmer. Depending on its location, a dark sun exposed flat away from direct wind can be at least eight degrees warmer than adjacent deeper water. A careful observer will see activity on this flat in the form of small baitfish looking for a comfortable place to seek food. Why do some flats have a lot of wading birds, while others have none? They eat the same things that fish eat. Skip the shallow water that is devoid of birds, and find a flat that is loaded with food. The fish that have been around awhile know where they are; you should too.

A diary that has entries after every trip is one of my most valuable tools. At the beginning of a new month, I review the notes made during previous years. This will give me a wealth of information not only where to fish, but also places to avoid. Every trip should begin with a plan of how to structure your day. Information you have entered in your own writing should contain weather, wind, water temperature, time of day, location, productive areas, as well as places that did not have fish. Flies that produced, depth fished and type of retrieve should also be noted.

In order to get to the shallows, you generally must cross deeper water. Probe these edges with a sinking tip line and weighted fly. A cut in the flat that leads to the shallows may be a migration route for fish. On more than one occasion I blew large fish out of such a place because I was a little early and in a hurry. Be very stealthy, use a push pole or slow running electric, and make long casts. When fishing the holes, I generally use smaller flies. A floating line with at least a nine foot leader will be used in the shallows. Since I am targeting larger fish, I will use big flies, size one, or larger. Bulky dressing is not needed. Barbs are always mashed down so that a dehooker, or long nose pliers, can remove the fish while in the water without the need to touch it. Materials that undulate in the current with minimum stripping will produce. Deceivers of the soft hackle variety as recommended by Jack Garthside will work and cast easily. They will land with a minimum of surface disturbance. Brown over orange is one of my favorite winter combinations. Darker colors will duplicate baitfish, other than greenbacks, that are a staple of a large trout's winter diet. A minnow type pattern will cover more water than a crab or shrimp fly. It is surprising how well a large trout is camouflaged. Sight casting to these big boys will have your knees knocking.

Most strikes will be very aggressive! In deeper water, they will often follow and take with a soft inhale. Not so in the shallows. I have often thought a large snook hammered my fly, only to have a gator trout as my reward.

If some of your trout spots have never produced large fish during warm weather, give them a try now. You might be in for a big surprise and a lot of excitement.

Capt Pat Damico 🌅



## FLY OF THE MONTH Puglisi Fly

As Tied by Bryon Chamberlin



### Materials list:

**Hook:** Tiemco 800s size 6

**Thread:** White flat waxed nylon or similar

**Eyes:** Nickel beadchain

**Tail:** White Enrico Puglisi Fiber

**Body:** Enrico Puglisi Sparkle Brush in Pearl Sparkle

### Tying Instructions:

- 1) Crimp down the barb on the hook before putting in the vice.
- 2) Near the eye of the hook, attach the thread and tie in the beadchain eyes.
- 3) Wrap thread back to the bend of the hook.
- 4) Take a pinch of EP fiber and fold in half around the thread and then tie onto the top of the hook shank.
- 5) Repeat step #4 and stack the fiber directly on top of the previous bunch.
- 6) Cut the tail to length and shape to your preference.
- 7) Tie in a strand of EP Sparkle Brush just in front of the tail.
- 8) Palmer the EP Sparkle Brush all the way up to the eye of the hook.
- 9) Tie down the EP Sparkle Brush and with OLD scissors or side cutters, cut the thin metal wire as close to the hook as possible.
- 10) Comb out the EP Sparkle Brush with a small wire brush or similar and give the material a hair cut to your liking.
- 11) With a few additional wraps, form the head, whip finish, and cement. Now you're finished. 🍷

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## Fishing Report and Forecast "What a great time to go fishing!"

Just days after our March meeting, new member **David Mullins** caught his first fish on a fly. The catch took place on the east end of the Gandy Bridge while wading and the prize was a very nice redfish. Way to go Dave!!!

**Chris Leus** from Texas, fishing with **Capt Rick Grasset**, caught and released a nice trout, while **Kirk Grasset** from Delaware caught and released a good red on a crab closer fly (olive, tan and white) in Sarasota Bay.

**Leigh West** and **Rick O'Hara** were out on the flats early in March, and saw several fish but they were very spooky. Leigh did get an upper slot red fish.

**Capt Bryon Chamberlin** reports that **Rick Redd** caught his first tarpon this year on a fly, **Brian Jill** caught his second tarpon, **Greg Peterson** caught a big redfish and **Greg Stepanski** caught a huge (honker) jack cravelle.

Fresh water fishing is picking up; **Dave Belanger** and I went to the ponds on Lake Bernadette's golf course and caught a few small bluegills. Later in the month I went out and landed 4 really nice bluegills. Things are looking up.

The bay waters are warming up that should increase the bite. So get out there and catch the big ones, and when you do, please report back to me.

For those that attended the banquet, what a great event. Personal thanks to **Alligator Bob** and **Ellen** for being great hosts and to all who helped setting up and cleaning up, good job.

Tight Lines

Bob 🍷

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- Monthly Meetings with Famous Speakers
- Fly Fishing Outings
- Fishing Trips Sponsored by Members and the Club
- Group Clinics and Workshops
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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

#### North Tampa

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

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Hm. Phone: _____	Wk. Phone: _____
Email address: _____	
Type of Membership: _____	
Please Check: <input type="checkbox"/> One Year <input type="checkbox"/> Five Year	
<i>Please list names you wish to include in family membership</i>	
Name: _____	Rel: _____
Name: _____	Rel: _____
Name: _____	Rel: _____
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