



The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

www.tbffc.org

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 4, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

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

Invited Speaker

Jack Hexter



Jack Hexter was born in Valley Forge, PA and fished in the creek in front of his Grandpa's home his entire youth. He gave up fishing for girls and cars. Jack started fishing again when the FBI transferred him to Miami in 1972, and fished South Florida and the Keys for 27 years before moving to New Port Richey 10 years ago. In Miami he was a member of several fishing clubs as well as a member of the MET Fishing Tournament and President of the MET for 2 years. He likes all types of fishing, but light tackle and offshore are his favorites. He will be showing a slide show of photos taken during a recent trip to South Africa and Zambia. This started as a photo safari at Zulu Nyala that his wife purchased at a CCA Banquet 2 years ago with added tours of Victoria Falls and Cape Town. Not a lot of fishing but Jack did manage to sneak in 1/2 day in where he caught a toothy Tigerfish (see insert).

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 on numerous occasions and donated fly collections to our fund-raising banquet. Most recently, he was a demonstration tier at the October 2009 FFF conclave in Orlando. Tonight he will be tying the Bay Whistler, one of his most successful flies.

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


NOVEMBER 2009 PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear fly fishers,

Welcome to the clear and cool November waters. Trout fishing will be good and snook will migrate to the canals and creeks. Get out and enjoy the good weather and fishing. Also take advantage of the negative low tides November and thru the winter by wading your favorite flats during the lows. You can learn the terrain and as the tide comes in the fish will follow the troughs and go to the potholes. This will be a great opportunity for sight fishing.

Thanks to **Rick** and **Nanette** for their talk and pictures from Argentina and to **Smitty** for tying.

We had a great outing with the Suncoast Fly Fishers and remembered Carl Hanson who gave so much to fly fishing in our area. TBFFC was host club, so **Ted Hagaman** supplied a superb chili, **David Mullins** added homemade corn bread, **Denise Bruner** brought dessert, and I carted in the soft drinks. The Suncoast happily took back the trophy for most fish – 53 by **Ken Hofmeister**. See Photos later in this newsletter.

Take care and tight lines. //Walt 

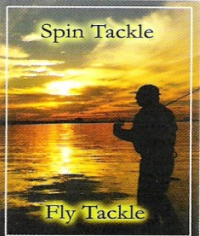
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The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, October 14, location to be determined.

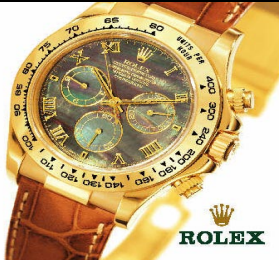
NOT GETTING THE NEWSLETTER? Please call Dick Miekka, Editor, at 727-866-8682 or e-mail to dmiekka@cs.com



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TBFFC EVENTS

2009 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for the restl of 2009: November 4, December 2. **Please watch this space for any changes.**

SWAP TABLE

Last month we had another swap meet with several members bringing items for sale or trade. We will again set up a table at the November meeting, and encourage all members to bring their excess items, or even useable "junk" for a friendly session of bargaining. **Bring your stuff and pawn it off on some needy (or gullible) member, and have some fun!**

BIG GUN SHOOTOUT UNCERTAIN

We have run into some difficulties in producing the Big Gun Shootout scheduled for November 15. If we are able to proceed, there will be a signup sheet at the November meeting. This outing has been traditionally held on a Sunday in November, with local clubs invited to compete for the trophies and to participate in the camaraderie. If it is necessary to cancel the meeting for November, we may elect to skip the event for 2009 and reschedule for 2010.

CLUBMEMBERS' EVERGLADES CABIN FOR RENT

The O'Hara Cabin is for rent in Everglades City in the heart of the Ten Thousand Islands. Fish in one of America's last true wilderness areas for snook, tarpon, redfish and a variety of other species. Cabin sleeps three in comfort with full kitchen facilities. You will have access/use of launching ramp, pool, laundry facilities, store and deli. Our fee is \$85 per night + one-time \$35 cleaning fee. Call Rick O'Hara at 727-410-0459 or e-mail flyguy47@verizon.net.

FUTURE CLUB EVENTS

- **Play Hooky for the Holidays** will be held on Friday, December 5, if we can generate enough sponsorship and member interest.
- **December 19 Outing** with Mangrove Club and Suncoast Club at Fort Desoto Park. Mangrove will host. Sign up at the December meeting.

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. 17

Tips from Pat and Dick

ARE YOU A SLACKER?

Improve your casting.....eliminate slack!

Start your pickup with the rod tip close to the water with the fly line in a straight line with the rod. Before your backcast unrolls completely, begin your forward cast. Waiting too long will unload the rod and slack will occur. Slack should never occur between your line hand and the stripping guide. Practice false casting while first watching the rod tip and then your hands.

Pat Damico

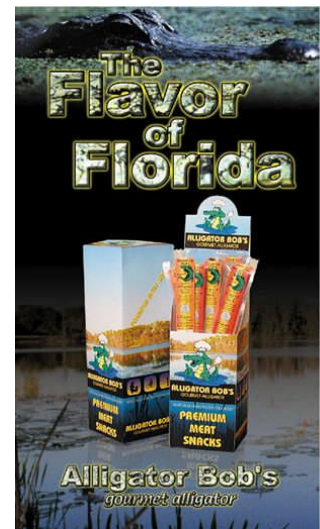
ALIGN YOUR RODS THE EASY WAY

After you assemble your fly rod, do you have to spend several minutes getting the guides lined up perfectly? Unless your rod has alignment dots, you probably twist each section a tad, and then sight down the rod to see if the guides are providing a perfect path for your fly line. Sometimes, if the sections are already fully pushed together, you risk distorting the guides while trying to make a small twisting adjustment. An easier way is to apply your own alignment dots to the rod sections. This is not difficult, and only has to be done once.

My method is to make two properly spaced small round holes in a short piece of plastic electricians tape using a leather punch. Then, having assembled and aligned the rod sections carefully by eye, I apply the punched tape straddling the joint on the side opposite the guides. I then apply a dab of paint or fingernail polish of contrasting color to the rod blank at each punched hole. After the paint dries, I strip off the tape and *viola!*...the problem is solved. If I am off a bit, I just remove the bad dots with a bit of solvent and redo the job. Usually, though, that is not necessary.

- It pays to make sure that the rod surfaces are cleaned carefully, so the paint will adhere permanently.
- I have used white and silver paint from automobile touchup pens, available at hardware or automobile part stores, but any paint that will adhere to the rod surfaces should work.
- Be sure to put the tape down firmly so there are no air gaps near the punched holes.
- Also, be aware that the tape adhesive can be attacked by solvents in the paint, so use only enough paint to do the job, or use a water-based paint that is not water sensitive after drying. A little experimentation will get you going, and you probably already have the necessary stuff at your workbench or in the garage.

Dick Miekka 🍷



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Member Photos



TBFFC contestants (above, left) were outnumbered by the Suncoast Flyfisher attendees at the October 17th **Carl Hanson Memorial** Outing held on the Hillsborough River. Our members were not only outmanned but also outgunned, as our **Jeff Janecek** (photo below right) had to pass on the trophy to **Ken Hofmeister**, SCFF president, who caught over 50 fish. All present were treated to some superb chili, stirred up by **Ted Hagaman**, who credits his wife with the recipe.



Member Photos, Continued

Our club members may have come in second at the Carl Hanson outing, but they won just about every other prize in sight!



Rick and Nanette O'Hara, guided by **Capt. Kevin Mihailoff**, won the Fly Rod Division of the RedSnook Tournament in Naples in October. The 2-day IGFA-certified tournament targeted redfish and snook, with the 3 largest of each species counting toward point totals each day. The trio fished the Ten Thousand Islands.

The 2nd RedFly was a complete success despite the lousy weather conditions. Winds were 15-30 all day long. Protected water was key. Only 3 total redfish were measured in. First place went to **Cpts. Bryon Chamberlain** and **Nick Angelo** who found two great specimens measuring out at 29.00" and 28.75" for a total of 59.75" and a \$300 first place prize.



Why Don't More People Fly Fish?

By Capt. Pat Damico

One of the comments frequently heard when discussing fly fishing with either a group or an individual is represented by the title of this article. "Why don't more people fly fish?" It comes as a genuine surprise that when out fishing our Florida waters, seeing someone using a fly rod is a rarity. Conversely, in the Keys, it is a very common sight. Even members of our local fly fishing clubs reveal that many primarily use more conventional tackle, and infrequently go to the long rod.

There are exceptions of course, but frankly this phenomenon is difficult for me to understand. In spite of these conclusions, saltwater fly fishing has become the fastest growing segment of our sport. Why? Because frankly -- it's fun.

Living in coastal Florida, where most have access to great shallow water estuaries, why do so few taking advantage of this resource? They spend Saturday mornings in front of a TV, loving every minute -- watching someone else do what is in reality, just minutes away from their door.

Unlike the many other sports that we love to watch, but can't participate in, saltwater fly fishing is available to anyone who can hold a spinning rod.

So, if location is not a factor, what else contributes to this dilemma?

"I tried it but wasn't successful." What does this mean?

If you are not a successful inshore fisherman with conventional tackle, taking up fly fishing will definitely not improve your success. That's why most experts will tell you that fly fishing without previous successful fishing experience is destined to fail. The only possible exception would be if every trip was with an experienced guide. Thus, you can conclude that knowing how to catch fish conventionally is a prerequisite to fly fishing success.

Knowledge of fish habits, location, tides, and stealth on the water should be the established basis for successful fly fishing. Whether you wade fish, paddle fish or use a skiff is really irrelevant if you are satisfied with your degree of fishing success. The fact of the matter is that many beginning fly fishers really enjoy the challenge of a new approach. And somehow, this ancient angling art is very compatible with nature, solitude, scenery, fellowship, and relaxation.

Age is not a deterrent. Some of our very best fly casters are in their early teens or senior citizens. Knowledge made you a good conventional fisherman. Now you can take that experience to the next level.

Where can one learn to start fly fishing? Just head to your local fly shop -- preferably a place that specializes in this pursuit. They should have the knowledge and equipment available to get you on the right track and accelerate your learning curve.

Find an instructor who is a good listener and will not talk down to you. I have seen an inept fly fishing teacher act like a cold shower to someone who was enthusiastic about getting started. Explain your concerns, and be certain they are addressed.

By the way, if their conversation begins with a 650.00 fly rod, head for the door. Improvements in technology have made some entry-level rods, reels and fly lines that are really great and quite affordable.

I began at a young age with hand-me-down equipment, but a few patient adults were willing to share their experience with me and create an atmosphere of understanding that helped me get started. A good fly shop will have equipment in your price range, free fly casting clinics, as well as books and videos that you can take home to continue your learning experience.

Our area has two great fly fishing clubs that meet monthly, Suncoast Fly Fishers, and Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. An hour before their formal meeting, which usually includes a speaker, qualified casting instructors will help you with anything you want to know about fly fishing, using the club's equipment. A lending library of books and videos, discounts on equipment, and monthly fly fishing trips to area waters are just a few other benefits of membership. Someone will usually be tying flies and willing to suggest patterns for your particular needs. Many members would likely invite you to be their fishing partner. Their reason for joining was to learn, just like yours. To find a club in your area, go to www.fedflyfishers.org, or check Capt. Mel's website.

Use your back yard to practice casting. Every evening after dinner, take out your fly rod for a twenty-minute session. Frequent practice will allow your muscles to develop memory and you should feel more comfortable as you become more familiar with your equipment. And remember -- a good caster seems to perform with minimal effort. You will eventually. Once your casting ability improves, leave that conventional tackle at home. Devote all your time and energy to this new pursuit. Your first fish with a fly rod will be a memorable experience. I can assure you that once you begin to reap the benefits of this sport, you will understand a wonderful dimension of fishing you never knew was there. 🌅

Capt. Pat Damico passed his oral and performance test for his FFF Master Flycasting Certification at the FFF Florida Conclave in Orlando, October 23-24. Many TBFFC members attended the gathering, tied flies, went to clinics, and browsed dealer booths. They also helped with a Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Exhibit.

To pass the Master's test, you must be able to do the following:

- Pass a comprehensive performance test
- Analyze casting faults (performed by testers)
- Demonstrate teaching methodology
- Pass an oral examination



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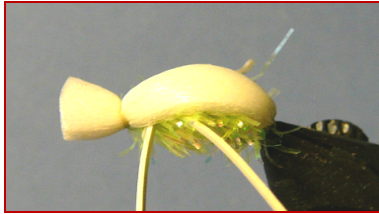
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FLY OF THE MONTH

Smitty's Crystal Beetle

As Tied by Layne "Smitty" Smith



HOOK: #10 Mustad 3366 -- Bend down barb
THREAD: White or Chartreuse Flat Waxed Nylon (Finer thread may cut foam.)
SHELL: 1/8" White, Closed Cell Foam, 5/16" W. by 1-1/4" L.
BODY: Chartreuse or Pearl Estaz
LEGS: Medium, White Rubber Legs

TYING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Attach tying thread behind hook eye and wind a thread base back to the hook bend
2. Cut a blunt point at one end of the foam strip and tie the point in at the hook bend, leaving the foam extending past the bend. Wrap the foam down a short distance around the bend.
3. Tie in the Estaz body and wrap up the bend and along the hook shank to a little beyond the mid-point of the hook shank and tie off. Do not cut off the Estaz or tying thread.
4. Fold a 3" length of rubber leg material in half and tie in the doubled rubber leg on top of the hook shank at its mid-point where the Estaz body was left. Cut the loop in the doubled rubber leg, producing four legs. Pull legs into position — two on each side of the body. Pack the body and legs back with a thumb nail or Brassie hair packer.
5. Continue wrapping the Estaz body by taking one turn over where the legs are tied in, then wrap forward to the hook eye ahead of the legs. Tie off the Estaz and pack the body back with a thumb nail or Brassie hair packer.
6. Pull the Foam shell taut over the top of the body and legs and tie down behind the hook eye. Hold the end of the foam up and form a thread head and whip finish immediately behind the hook eye and cut off the tying thread.
7. While pulling the end of the foam taut, cut off the foam leaving a lip of approximately 3/16". By pulling the foam taut while cutting off, the lip will automatically be slightly rounded. Using head cement on the head is optional. Some bluegill fishers claim that the odor of head cement turns off the fish.
8. Trim all legs to the same length.

NOTES:

- Alternative color combinations include Root Beer Estaz and Black Foam for dark days.
- This floating "Bluegill Bug" is a highly effective terrestrial imitation. Simply let it set for a few moments, then give it a slight motion to imitate life. The rubber legs wiggle seductively. 🌞

Fishing Report and Forecast

"What a great time to go fishing!"

Denise Bruner reports that ladyfish were abundant on the east beach of Fort Desoto. If one got off the hook, before the fly hit the water another was on. She did also catch a nice 17 inch or so flounder. She also said that bait fish were everywhere as were snook but no hook ups. Later she stalked a sheepshead by the boat ramp for a while and caught another flounder, more ladyfish and a lizard fish. That was a couple of good fishing hours.

Fishing the cockroach flats for the last couple of weeks I caught several trout to 18 inches and a couple of 24 inch snook. Bait was also everywhere and being chased by reds, trout and snook.

Member **Greg Peterson** went to his 10th high school reunion and prior to coming home had 4 hours to fish. In 29 degree weather using a nymph/egg combo hooked 8 salmon and one hot steelhead that got away. He did land 2 fish before his time was up and needed to come back to Florida.

The "Carl Hanson" outing was a success. 53 fish were caught by **Ken Hofmeister** of Suncoast Fly Fishers and they now have the trophy. Congratulation to Ken and Suncoast. I understand that the eats were awesome, chili by **Ted Hagan**, cornbread by **Dave Mullins**, dessert and chips by **Denise Bruner** and soft drinks, cheese and crackers by **Walt Durkin**. Sounds like a good time was had by all.

Summer travelers and members **John & Joan Willis** report fishing the J. Strom Thurmond in N. E. Georgia and catching was slow, but Joan did hook up to a small bass on a chartreuse wooly bugger. They will be back in November.

Friday night the 23rd of October **Greg Peterson** took yours truly fishing under the lights. I had a great time catching but not landing a really nice snook. Greg caught a snook and a baby tarpon about 15 lbs. I ended the evening catching 3 keeper trout to 18 inches. Had to admit to myself that with bad knees and old age night fishing is for the hardy fisherman but I will do it again out of my boat.

I do appreciate the fishing reports that some of you send me. I would rather tell those stories than mine since yours are more exciting than my dull fish catches. **Send those reports in to me as often as you can.**

Tight Lines, Bob
Rjgaulin@yahoo.com
 813-293-6561 🌞

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
- One-On-One Fly Casting Lessons
- Shirts and Hats with club logo
- 80 Page Beginner's Basic Skills Instruction Manual
- Annual Banquet with International Speakers

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- Capt. Bryon Chamberlin (813) 361-8801
- Capt. Joe Gonzales (305) 642-6727
- Capt. Rick Grasset (941) 923-7799
- Capt. Pete Greenan (941) 923-6095
- Capt. John Hand (239) 842-7778
- Capt. Wade Osborne (813) 286-3474
- Capt. Frank Rhodes (863) 967-4258
- Capt. Russ Shirley (727) 343-1957
- Capt. Keiland Smith (863) 944-7475

Fly Casting Coaches

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

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

Brandon

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

North Tampa

Jeff Abeles813-961-0097

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

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

Bill Murdich 813-971-4764

Leigh West. 813-971-8697

Saint Petersburg

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

Polk County

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

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2009 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

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\$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

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