

The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club www.tbffc.org

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 2, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

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

Fly Tying, Holiday Social and Skills Workshop

<u>Tie-A-Thon</u> Our December 2 meeting will feature one of our most popular events. We will have three tiers each tying one or more favorite patterns. Bring your tying tools, vise, thread, scissors, etc. Sit at one of the tables and tie your fly step, by step, as the guest tier guides you. He will provide all materials. You can change tables and at the end of the evening have several guaranteed fish producers! You can be a first timer or advanced tier. Several seasoned tiers are always there to assist our featured tiers. If you need tying implements, contact Pat Damico at 727-360-6466. Featured tiers and patterns are as follows:

Nick Angelo: Toad for redfish, size 4. This pattern that has been very successful throughout Tampa Bay.

Walt Durkin: Gurgler, a very popular surface "popper," used in saltwater as well as fresh.

Logan Valeri: *Humpy, Royal Wulff and Stimulator*, three popular fresh water trout flies,

<u>Food and Fun</u> Pizza and soft drinks will be supplied, but a favorite casserole or dessert would be appreciated. Engage in friendly conversation, improve your skills and meet more of your fellow members!

<u>Slides and Photos</u> Bring any pictures that would be of interest to the club. We'll have projectors for slides and computer files. This is a popular event. If you have 5-10 minutes worth of fishing or travel pictures, please bring them and share them with the membership.

Fly Fishing Flea Market Bring all of those fishing items that you no longer use to the meeting. We will set up an area for those interested buyers, sellers, and traders to get together. Bring rods, reels, fly tying materials, anything but old bait!

Knots and Rigging Learn how to tie knots, construct tapered leaders, and rig tackle. Bring your tackle to be rigged. One of the club's friendly and knowledgeable members will be glad to assist you.

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

DECEMBER 2009 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome, club members

Hurricane season came and went leaving us unscathed. Now we begin the winter season of low light but fine fishing. My personal experience has been that the best fishing of the year takes place when the water temperature is between 70 and 80 degrees. That includes now!

We give thanks **to Jack Hexter** for his fine descriptions of an African Safari with a bit of fishing thrown in. Thanks also to **Craig Smothers** for an excellent demonstration on tying the Bay Whistler fly. See tying instructions on pg. 8. Our Big Gun Shootout was a big success with 23 avid fly casters competing for the five traditional trophies. Special thanks to **Chris Homer** for organizing the event, a rather complex job. See complete results on page 7.

Be sure to pay your dues so you can continue to participate in the many benefits of the club. Dues may be paid at the meeting or by submitting your check along with the form on page 9.

Also, see page 3 for the two fine events that we will have in December.

Tight lines //Dick





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	Rick O'Hara	813-238-6763
	Neil Sperling	813-655-5627
	Alligator Bob Young	813-986-3008

The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 9, at the Columbia Restaurant

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 rest of 2009 and all of 2010: December 2, 2009; January 6; February 3; March 3; April 7; May 5; June 2; July 7; August 4; September 1; October 6; November 3; December 1, 2010. Please watch this space for any changes.



PLAY HOOKY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

WHEN: Friday, December 4, 2009

WHERE: Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission Stock Enhancement Program Research Facility and Hatchery, located at Located at 14495 Harlee Road in the Port Manatee area, east of Tampa Bay. (get map at the December meeting)

SCHEDULE:

ARRIVE 10:00 am for guided tour of hatchery and tutorial led by Gina Russo:

LUNCH at noon prepared by Nick Colantonio,

FLYFISH the holding ponds for baby tarpon, snook, redfish, etc.

This has become a favorite outing for many of our members.



DON COLEMAN INVITATIONAL OUTING

WHAT: 3rd annual outing sponsored by the Suncoast Flyfishers, with TBFFC and Mangrove Flyfishers invited to attend.

WHEN: December 19, 2009 WHERE: Fort Desoto Park

MEET AT: Boat ramp to pick up a partner, or just start

fishing wherever and whenever you wish.

LUNCH and CHILI COOKOFF: Noon at the Arrowhead Picnic area. Better plan to get there a little early—the food ran out just before noon last year. This is developing into a chili cooking contest. The TBFFC official chili entry will be by Ted Hagaman (remember his great chili at the Don Hanson?). Feel free to bring appetizers, baked goods or desserts to put on the buffet table. There will be plenty of hot coffee and cold drinks. If it rains, lunch will be at shelter #10 in the North Beach Picnic Area



O'HARA 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.



If interested in either of the great fishing adventures listed below, contact Lloyd at the December meeting or at (727) 784-8410. Hurry: Lloyd must make reservations soon.

- Great Bear Lake (his last) July 31-August 8 (approx)
- Also Green River, Early May.



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.



www.mangrovecoastflvfishers.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.





TIPS FOR TBFFC - No. 18

From Pat Damico

Casting Tips for TBFFC: 1

This is the first of a new series of casting tips by Capt. Pat Damico, FFF master casting Instructor—Ed.

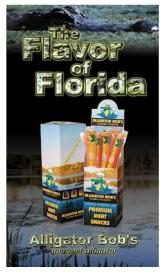
When watching a great caster do you have difficulty separating substance from style? This was one of my biggest problems. Substance could be defined as what the caster is doing that is essential to the cast and style as his way of getting there. Some examples of style are: gripping the rod with index finger on top, thumb to the side and thumb on top. A square stance, casting foot forward and line hand foot forward are also examples of style. The essentials of making the cast are practiced by good casters and do not vary as they are all needed to achieve excellent results. There are five essentials:

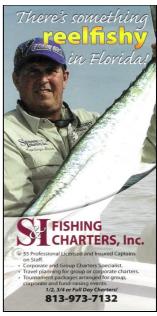
- 1. There must be a PAUSE at the end of each stroke which varies with the amount of line beyond the rod tip.
- 2. SLACK LINE must be kept to a minimum.
- 3. The rod tip must travel in a STRAIGHT LINE PATH.
- 4. The SIZE OF THE CASTING ARC must vary with the length of line past the rod tip.
- 5. POWER must be applied in the proper amount at the proper place in the stroke.

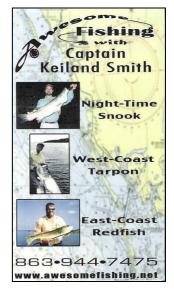
Our next tip will deal with each essential, discuss how it affects our cast and how to apply a solution.

Dan Lagace has contributed 100 casting tips to our newsletter, a monumental achievement. How many of us has he helped with our casting problems not only with these tips but also with his one-on-one personal attention? We have spent many enjoyable hours together. He continues to amaze me with his uncanny ability to instantly analyze a problem and then correct it with multiple solutions in his easy going manner. I'd like to offer my efforts to contribute to our excellent newsletter on his behalf. He has become a wonderful friend and will always be considered my "Coach."

Pat Damico, MCI 🗪











John and **Joan Willis** caught some small but nice freshwater specimens while casting some small Clouser minnows supplied by **Jeff Janecek**





Greg Peterson has continued his successful fishing odyssey with:

- a tarpon caught during a night fishing trip with Robert
 Gaulin in October,
- his first Bonefish, on a trip to the Keys with Capt. Bryon
 Chamberlin during late September,
- and even a salmon in the Muskegon River, while attending an early October class reunion in Michigan.



Member Photos, Continued



Bryon Chamberlin also roams far from home to practice his piscatorial skills. At left, he shows his versatility with a fly rod, joining **Pat Damico** in the PA mountains for some fall trout fishing.

After helping **Greg Peterson** catch his first bonefish (previous page), Bryon took a quick trip to the upper keys with **Leigh West** and **Capt. Dave Chouinard** in November. Leigh, below left, caught the only bonefish, even though Dave (lower right) made careful preparations before venturing out on the water.



Complete Big Gun Shootout Results for 2009.

Thanks and congratulations to everybody who competed in our Big Gun event held at Picnic Island Park, November 15, 2009. Scores are rising steadily over time, and this year, for the first time, 13 competitors made it to the final shootout by achieving a cast of at least 100 feet during the regular competition.

Special thanks to those who helped with the setup and/or judged the events.

Individuals who should be singled out for recognition include **Chris Homer**, who organized this very successful event, **Alligator Bob Young** who prepared another outstanding lunch, **Walt Durkin** for supplying the soft drinks, **Pat Damico** for tying up the special casting "flies" used by all competitors, and **Nick Colantonio** for again loaning us his setups for the various casting stations.

Here are the trophy winners

- 1. The Winning Team of **Leigh West, Nick Angelo**, and **Bryon Chamberlin** achieved an unusually high team total of 818 points.
- 2. The Top Individual High Score of 290 points, just 10 shy of perfect, was achieved by **Dave Olsen**
- 3. Longest Cast in the Shootout was also achieved by **Dave Olsen**, who squeaked out a 3-inch longer cast than Cas Summers.

Complete results are tabulated in the table below, with trophy winners highlighted in yellow. Remember, while it's nice to get a trophy, the main purpose of the event is to allow each competitor to track his/her progress through the years.

2009 SHOOTOUT														
(winners Hilighted)					Individ		Shoot-Out	S-Out	Team Results					
Competitor	Distance	Accuracy	Hanson	Ноор	V-Fish	Mangrove	Total	Rank	Team	Distance	Rank	Name	Score	Rank
Leigh West	100	100	10	23	20	25	278	3	NoSeeUms	123' 5'	5	No Seeums	818	1
Nick Angelo	100	95	0	21	25	20	261	7	NoSeeUms	124' 5"	4	Team Simms	786	2
Bryon Chamberlin	100	100	15	14	25	25	279	2	NoSeeUms	120' 6"	7	Riff Raff	773	3
Di yon onumberun	100	100		H-1	20	20		-	11000001110	120 0	· ·	Tailing Loops	742	4
Dan Lagace	100	100	5	4	20	15	244	11	Riff Raff	101' 0"		Misfits	723	5
Dave Olsen	100	100	15	25	25	25	290	1	Riff Raff	134' 3"	1	FI Fly Fishers	704	6
Enver Hysni	100	95	5	4	20	15	239	14	Riff Raff	104' 0"	10	Tres Equis	657	7
												Newbees	519	8
Caden Hjelseth	93	65	10	16	25	20	229	17	FI Fly Fishers					
Tiger Vertrest	100	100	5	8	20	15	248	10	FI Fly Fishers	119' 1"	8			
Chris Dakin	100	75	0	12	15	20	222	19	FI Fly Fishers	105' 0"	9			
Walt Durkin	77	95	5	6	20	15	218	20	Tres Equis					
Jack Hexter	73	85	5	3	20	10	196	21	Tres Equis					
Ted Hagaman	100	100	5	8	15	15	243	12(tie)	Tres Equis	85' 0 '	13			
Chris Homer	100	85	10	7	25	25	252	9	Team Simms	122' 2"	6			
Dave Chouinard	100	100	5	24	20	25	274	4	Team Simms	131' 5"	3			
Rusty Chinnis	100	100	5	10	20	25	260	8	Team Simms	100' 0"'	11			
Cas Summers	100	100	10	8	25	25	268	5	Tailing Loops	134' 0"	2			
Jay Wright	100	100	0	3	20	20	243	12(tie)	Tailing Loops	96' 0"	12			
Phil Triano	94	100	5	2	15	15	231	16	Tailing Loops					
				Ш										
Frank Rhodes	85	90	25	17	25	25	267	6	Misfits					
Greg Rogers	90	65	5	19	20	25	224	18	Misfits					igwdown
Tony Smith	92	90	0	15	15	20	232	15	Misfits					$igwdate{}$
				Щ		45	400		Newstreet					\vdash
John Budash	70	60	0	0	15	15	160	23	Newbees					\vdash
Dave Mullins	87	45	0	19	10	25	186	22	Newbees					\vdash

FLY OF THE MONTH

Bay Whistler

As Tied by Craig Smothers



I hate tying Seaducers. They never turn out. The back end is easy enough, but the collar is too short, too coarse, or doesn't look quite right. And then, try and find the correct collar feathers. Finally you get a fairly good looking one. You put it in your fly box. You open the box later, and it's mashed beyond recognition...

Seaducers are great for fishing slowly. The best part is if you see/feel a short strike—just stop striping. The fly suspends in the water.

The whistler started as a tarpon fly. It was a full tyed seaducer with a bead chain eye. The name came from the sound the large bead chain eye made when it was cast. It was made to suspend in the water. It was also made to push water so the fish could feel the fly if the visibility was poor.

The Bay Whistler is a variation on both the whistler and the seaducer. It has a synthetic (durable) collar material and mini lead eyes. It can be fished quickly, or dragged along the bottom. It doesn't quite suspend, but it sinks slowly and horizontally like a true seaducer. It's quick to tye, and uses easily acquired materials.

HOOK: Mustad 34007 size #2 or #4

EYES: Mini (4/32) lead eyes

THREAD: Flymaster 6/0 in chartreuse or white

TAIL: two matched pairs of chartreuse grizzly or white neck

feathers, splayed

FLASH: chartreuse or opal Flashabou Mirage Accent **BODY:** chartreuse, white, or light dun Body Fur

COLLAR: Red Fleximent, Loon water base Hard Head Finish

- 1) With the hook point down in the vice, thread back from the hook eye to the beginning of the bend in the hook. Tye in the two sets of splayed neck feathers on the top of the hook. Tye in three to six strands of Flashabou outside the feathers. Glue with Fleximent.
- 2) Tye in the Body Fur just in front of the feathers. Make sure that the Body Fur is oriented towards the rear of the hook. Begin palmering the material forward taking care not to cross over the previous wraps. Use caution not to twist the belt of Body Fur as you go, it will get unrulely. I stroke the material towards the back as I palmer it. About four to five wraps will do the trick. Thread wrap the material down to the hook in front and trim off the excess. Glue with Fleximent.
- Tye in the mini lead eyes on the top of the hook shank. Thread forward to the hook eye and whip finish. Soak the thread wraps and the lead eyes with Fleximent.
- Tye the metallic red thread in just behind the lead eyes.
 Whip finish, and reglue with Fleximent.
- Allow to dry, and then apply a coat of Hard Head Fly Finish—it looks just like epoxy without turning it.

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

The last week in October **Denise Bruner** fly fished at Crystal River. Lots of wind on Saturday but on Friday she caught mackerel that for some reason jumped out of the water to draw attention to themselves and to the birds. Beside the mackerel she caught black sea bass, trout, lady fish, bluefish and 18" grouper. "That," says Denise "was a lot of fun."

Early in November member **John Willis** fished with **Jeff Janecek** at a private pond of Fort King road. Caught a nice bass on a chartreuse wooly-bugger that he tied.

Fresh water fishing has been good for **Greg Stepanski** lately. Bass, large blue gills and a large bowfin were taken on a small chartreuse clouser with a deer hair nymph trailer on a sink tip line. Location unknown.

Second week of November I fished with **Bob Hinton** at Cockroach Bay. It was too windy to go in the flats and to use fly rods. So we decided to use spinning outfits and Bob caught his first slam. Snook, Redfish and Trout all under size but never the less a slam.

Wes Sobczak and Frank Rhodes caught snook and trout around the lights in St. Pete early Tuesday, November 17. Frank (aka Perils of Pauline) went for a 1am swim also.

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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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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North Tampa	
Jeff Abeles	813-961-0097
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	
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