



The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

www.tbffc.org

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 4, 2010, 5:30 p.m.

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

Special Guest Speaker and Tyer

Jim Swann

Jim, the proprietor of Swann's Complete Fly Fishing Shop in Dade City, has been our featured speaker and tyer on several occasions. Jim's presentations are always educational and entertaining.

Jim started fly fishing in the mid '50s with a rod he built himself from a kit supplied by Herter's. In 1961 he went to Alaska and started guiding around the Anchorage area. In the 1980's he quit going to Alaska in the summers and turned all of his guiding attention to Florida. He books fishing trips to Alaska and unguided trips into North Georgia (where he maintains a camp) and turkey hunting trips in Florida. Since he opened his fly shop 13 years ago, he personally guides fishing trips only in Florida, mostly for bream. Jim also supplies most of the goodies for our popular raffles.

Jim's topic will be *Staying Cool While Fishing* and he will also entertain us with some memories of the good old days. Come to the meeting and enjoy an evening with one of Florida's premier fishing icons.

As featured fly tyer, Jim will show us how to some of his favorite bream flies. He has some neat tricks for rapidly tying flies that are irresistible to the fish. Not content with just tying the flies, he will teach us how to use them properly in his talk (see above). As always, Jim will show us how incredibly simple it is to tie some "impossible" looking flies by using some clever techniques he has developed. Bring a pad and pencil and take a few notes to help you enhance your tying pleasure.

You

Our regular fly tying tutorial "Bull session" for members will begin at 5:30. Jim Swann will show members how to tie some of his specialty flies, and we will have materials for all to participate.

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

AUGUST 2010 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE


Dear Flyfishers,

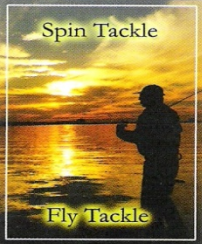
Welcome to August and the dog days of summer. Hope you are able to get out and fish despite the hot weather.

We had a great outing at **John Millns** cabin and lake in North Tampa. Blue skies, clear water and little wind made for good conditions to pursue John's local bass and blue gills. **Jeff Janecek** was top rod with thirty some fish and we all enjoyed a sandwich lunch on John's dock. Thanks to John for hosting and to **Bob Gaulin** for bringing our lunch.

Thanks also to John, his daughter and associate for our skin screening at the last meeting. Please be mindful of harmful sun exposure and take the necessary precautions.

I will miss the next meeting as eight of us are off to Alaska on a float trip to pursue salmon, trout and greyling. Check the newsletter for other items of interest and will see you in September with an update on Alaska.

Tight lines.....//Walt 



The Fly Guy

Capt. Pat Damico

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The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, August 11, 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

2010 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for the rest of 2010; August 4; September 1; October 6; November 3; December 1, **Please watch this space for any changes.**

CLUB SHIRTS AND CAPS

Unfortunately, some shirts are still on back order as of the date of this printing. Hopefully, they will arrive in time for our August meeting. Otherwise, hang in there.

CREATE YOUR OWN OUTING

There are a few snook around on Casey Key this time of year. If you've never fished there, never caught a snook on fly or never sight fished, this is a great spot to go. Just hop on I-75, drive south and get off on the Venice/Nokomis exit. Head south on US41 to Albee Rd W (follow the sign for Casey Key), drive west and park just over the bridge at Nokomis Beach.

Pick a summer day with a clear sky and light easterly breeze in the morning. These conditions are the norm in the summer. There is no need to get there earlier than eight because you won't be able to see fish in the lower light conditions. Don't bother going after 1-2 p.m. as the sea breeze and clouds will often make fishing impossible. Walk north along Casey Key/Nokomis Beach (I usually do 3-4 miles one way, but much longer/shorter trips are possible) and look for the fish right along the shore. Cast a small Clouser minnow or needlefish pattern (size 4 hook) on a 7 wt. rod with either floating or clear sink tip line. Use the latter line if there is any surf. A stripping basket helps. Watch your back cast and avoid fishing in areas with any swimmers or beachcombers around. Use 20-30 pound test fluorocarbon bite tippet. Most of the fish will be small. Bring some forceps as the fish have deep mouths. Don't expect a banner day every time- a good day might be 2-4 fish. It's not about numbers for this type of fishing but the fish are fun and it's a great way to improve one's fishing skills in advance of a bonefish trip, for example.

Be sure to wear a hat, polarized glasses and comfortable shoes with good support (it is tough walking in loose sand). Wear light, cool, comfortable clothing and protect yourself from the sun. Be sure to drink PLENTY of water during your drive down and just before your start, and bring a bottle of something in your pack (trust me- you will need it). There is a water fountain at the parking area, shower/foot wash and bathroom, but there are absolutely no facilities and nowhere to get water up north on the beach or to get off the beach without trespassing.

- Leigh West, TBFFC

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.

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. 26

Casting Tip for TBFFC: 9

“Don’t be a creep!” Tailing loops are caused when the rod tip travels in a concave direction. This results in the tip being lower in the middle of the casting stroke. A frequent cause is a casting fault called creep. Creep is defined as the movement of the rod tip without power in the direction of the cast. If a definite arc is needed to cast a prescribed fly line length, trying to make that cast with a shorter arc will cause a tail. When the back cast is completed with a crisp stop the caster will move the rod tip forward before beginning his forward cast therefore reducing the distance the rod tip will travel. This can be very subtle, but destructive.

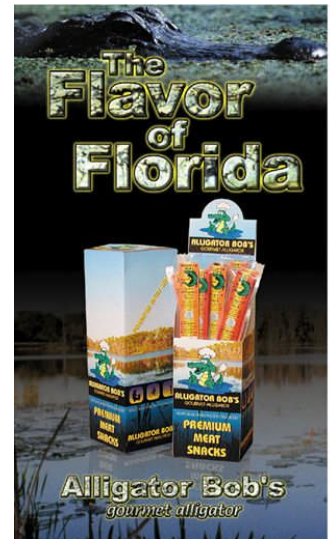
Pat Damico, MCI 🦁

Tips to help manage the release of your fish at the boat

1. Bending the barb- the first step in tying a fly- I typically use forged stainless hooks, so the barb is removed with a snap and there is seldom a trace of it. Other stainless hooks allow for the barb to be bent flat. I keep the pliers in alignment with the point of the hook to bend the barb rather than approaching the barb at 90 degrees. Leaving a flat barb or removal of the barb is all that is important. De-barbed hooks are far easier to remove from your fellow anglers.
2. Pliers- there are many super high quality pliers on the market today dedicated to fishing. There no longer a need to use rusty old steel pliers intended for automotive repair. Pliers are available manufactured from stainless steel, aluminum and titanium to withstand the corrosive environments that we fish in. Although I seldom use pliers for hook removal, they are always in my bag. I use them for bending barbs on the boat and even outboard motor repair. Removing a fly with pliers can be a bit rough on the fly. The most useful tool that I have found is the hook removal tool offered by Teeny Products: <http://www.jimteeny.com/indexMain.html?content=catalog&page=jtCatalog/catalog/cIntro.html>. Using this tool, the fish can be released next to the boat or wader only lifting its head up above the surface. The release is quick and super easy. The orange (middle size) is the best for flats fishing. The only down side to this tool is that it does not float. I will have more information on this tool at the meeting and will demonstrate how it is used.
3. Curved mosquito forceps are also a useful tool in hook removal. They are small enough that it is hard to put too much pressure on the fish yet strong enough to remove stubborn flies. They are made of stainless steel to hold up to salt water and can be easily carried by locking onto a fly shirt or lanyard. I have purchased 50 of these to be given to club members at the next meeting.

It is fair to say that the fish had a rough go of it based on very cold winter. Every fish we can save by taking a little extra care will benefit all of us.

Steve Parker 🦁



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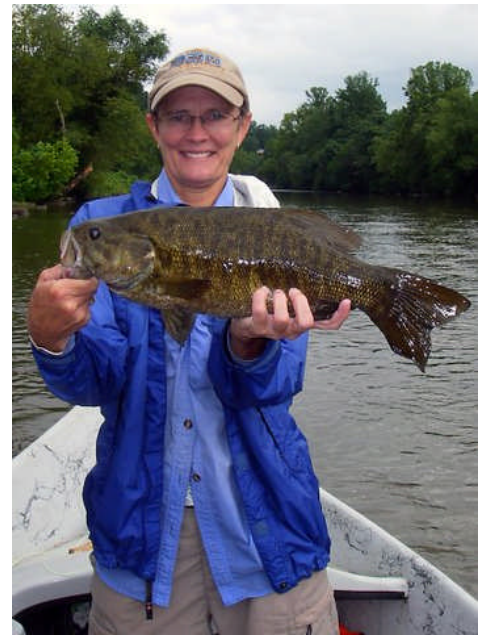
Night-Time Snook

West-Coast Tarpon

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Member Photos, August 2010



Denise Bruner and friend **Debbie Griffith** ventured north to catch these beautiful Smallmouth bass during late July. As you can see, they fished day and night for their trophies.



Here are fish pics taken by **Rick and Nanette O'Hara** during their recent vacation in Brevard, North Carolina, where they fished the lovely Davidson River and each caught a "South Appalachian Slam" of rainbow, brown and brook trout.

Member Photos, Continued



I just got back from Islamorada last night after fishing 2-1/2 days with my friend **Greg Peterson** . We mainly targeted bonefish, and we found quite a few of them tailing and pushing on the beginning of the incoming tide. Conditions were all over the road...calm and clear at times with extra spooky fish to windy with rain squalls the next minute. We did manage to each catch a fish, though they were on the small side. I went 1 for 2 and my buddy went 1 for 3. The tan snapping shrimp got all the bites. Any of the bigger flies got total rejection and sent the fish running on the first strip.

Overall, we had a great trip and I am looking forward to my next trip down in a little less than a month. Greg's fish is the one that has him in the shot. The bonefish that I caught is just the close-up of the fish.

Capt. Bryon Chamberlin 7/16/10

Do Flies Always Work?

When taking out clients, I often ask them about previous experience with guided trips. This information is very helpful and varies across the whole spectrum from very good, to poor. Recently, the answers were from clients telling me about two guided trips. In both cases they wanted to catch redfish on a fly. They started fishing with flies, but soon switched after being unsuccessful. One trip was in South Carolina, the other on Florida's west coast. Instead, they ended up fishing with shrimp and whitebait, and caught some fish. Why the switch? Is the reason there are times when fish will refuse flies and take only live bait? Yes, I'm sure there are instances when this is true. Could there be any other reasons why flies will fail? After getting more information, the reasons began to fall into a familiar pattern.

Most fly fisherman I know enjoy the challenge that fishing with the long rod presents. When they begin fly fishing they must also accept the journey that is necessary as they pursue success. What is success? Success to many fly fisherman I know is not measured in how many fish are caught, but by how they are caught. One nice fish on the fly could make the whole day a worthwhile event. Stalking the fish, making a perfect presentation with a fly that you have tied, seeing the take, setting the hook and finally bringing the fish to hand where it can be admired, and often released, all make for a successful outing. There are even times that fly fishing can outperform other fishing techniques. Catching freshwater trout in the middle of a mayfly hatch when the pattern is duplicated and well presented is one example. When snook are feeding at night on small baitfish, a fly that matches the hatch is very productive. The fly itself, many times, is a small part of the equation. When someone asks what fly pattern are you using, should he also ask how you are using it? Have you ever fished near someone, using identical equipment, who either outfished you or you beat them by a large margin? Let's look at some reasons why flies may not be productive. We will begin with the guide.

If someone calls a guide and says they want to fly fish, very few guides will not take them as clients. It can be a decision based solely on economics. The guide may prefer to fish live bait or scented plastic spinning lures primarily, but without telling you this agrees to take you out. He may have a fly rod, or you bring your own equipment. This is your first saltwater fly fishing experience and you are understandably very excited. You've watched Lefty, Flip and others on Saturday morning make that perfect cast which resulted in instant success. You expect to do the same. The guide shows up with a tower boat and a livewell full of scales sardines, and a bunch of spinning rods with corks on the leader. How do you fly cast from a boat with a large tower in the middle, and what is the live bait doing there? My first saltwater "fly fishing trip," about twenty years ago started similarly, with a well respected guide. I had several phone conversations with the guide before our trip telling him I wanted to catch fish with a fly rod. One fly rod rigged with a freshwater muddler minnow sat in the rod holder all day while we threw spinning outfits with live shrimp. We did catch fish, but it was not what I wanted to do. He did say, "Right now, this is the best way to catch fish." Why, if he believed that, didn't he tell me on the phone, or refer me to a fly fishing guide?

In another instance, the guide takes you out and after a couple fishless stops with you casting your fly rod, he suggests that maybe we should switch to spinning gear for awhile. Let's say your casting skills were adequate, but the fish were holding close to the bottom in several feet of water, and a sinking fly on a clear sinking tip line would have worked. The guide's inexperience was of no help here. Or, the fish were tailing in shallow water and his boat did not have a shallow enough draft to allow a stealthy, closer approach. He didn't have a poling

platform, or pole, which is needed under these circumstances, or you could have left the boat and approached the shallows by walking in the ankle deep water to get to the fish. A friend of mine who is a very busy live bait guide told me he never saw a tailing redfish. I frequently fish the same areas he does and we see them all the time. We usually wave to one another as he speeds by on his way to a "hole" where he anchors his boat and chums with stunned live greenbacks before beginning to fish his clients with baited hooks. I told him he never slows down long enough to watch the shallows for signs of tailers.

Under the above circumstances the guide may announce, "I fished a spot near here a few days ago, and we caught a bunch with shrimp." You go to the spot, anchor the boat, and instantly hook up with a live shrimp. We have some excellent fly patterns that duplicate shrimp. Why not use one of them? After catching several fish, you don't touch your fly rod for the rest of the trip. Was the fly pattern the reason for failure, or were your casting skills so poor that you couldn't get the fly close to where the fish were? Did you make sloppy presentations that frightened fish in shallow water, were you unable to cast in the wind, did you false cast over the fish and spook them, or a myriad of other reasons relating to your lack of casting skill? When fellow guides, that are also excellent fly fisherman, discuss recent trips with me, their success will always relate to how well their client could cast. They have some poor days when fish are scarce, but on some of their best days when fish are located, the casting skill of the client will determine how the day went.

If you are having some casting problems, and you are amenable to some helpful suggestions, can the guide analyze your cast and be of assistance? If your skills are so poor, how do you feel about spending most of your trip learning how to properly cast? The deck of a flats boat is not the place to learn to cast a fly rod. I have had clients who after a few minutes of instruction were able to improve their casting sufficiently to have a good day with the fly. Others were either so inexperienced, or couldn't admit that the problem was theirs, but rather some other reason, like the action of the rod, the brand of the rod, the rod's length, or weight, or something else.

What can we do to insure that a fly fishing trip will have the best chance for success? Research the guide thoroughly? Study their website, have some candid conversations, or written communication with him, or her. Get some references. Be sure to explain your experience level. If you need to prepare yourself, sign up for a saltwater casting clinic, or get lessons from someone who is skilled in the areas you need help. The Federation of Fly Fishers has a casting certification program that is rigorous and will help narrow your choices of where to begin.

I began fly fishing at the age of ten. I enjoy the sport now more than ever. Many people have contributed to my continual learning experience in both fresh and saltwater. Saltwater fly fishing will definitely provide you with the most excitement available in our great sport. Take advantage of it by doing your homework

Capt. Pat Damico. 



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FLY OF THE MONTH I

JJ Minnow

As Tied by Jeff Janecek



Materials:

Hook: Standard, size 8

Thread: Fine red thread

Tail: Blue Angel Hair topped with White (or other light color) Craft-Fur.

Body: Red Thread

Eyes: Holographic eyes

Instructions:

1. Place a #8 standard hook in a vice. Wrap red thread to the start of the bend of the hook and back to the starting point.
2. Wet a 1/16th inch thick strip of craft fur about 2 ¼ inches long and place 2-4 strands of wet blue angel hair under the fur, holding both between your left hand fingers. Snip ends clean and tie on.
3. Work the thread back and forth 1/4 back from the hook eye. Once built up about 1/8 thick, squeeze the thread with smooth pliers facing up from under the fly. Glue on holographic eyes with Flex Tite.
4. Dip fly in water and snip to preferred length.
5. Fill in gap between eyes with glue or sparkle glue from Michaels.

There are different colors to pick from ...chartreuse, yellow, white, etc. of craft fur. I like to use the white, because it becomes almost transparent once wet.

The least amount of material gives the fly life-like movement. I like to fish it in shallow water and watch the V wakes come up behind the fly. This Fly can be easily cast with a 3wt. 🌈

Project healing waters by Jeff Janecek 7/18/10

Wednesday's P.H.W. had 5 veterans and Nick, Bob, and I had our hands full. The veteran I was working with, had to use one hand. Pat is sending me a reel made for a one handed caster to overcome this problem in the future. We will continue casting until the weather doesn't permit it. We are ready for another outing, once James .A. Haley can accommodate our request. I would like to thank Jim Swann for donating many items to P.H.W. He also lets us purchase items that he knows he won't be reimbursed until the paperwork goes through. Volunteers are always welcomed. We go from 4:00 to 5:00, before the club meeting.

FLY OF THE MONTH II

Sand Shrimp

As Tied by Craig Smothers



During this time of year the larger shrimp disappear from inshore. Shrimp as well as smaller baitfish make up the primary diet of the local redfish and trout. The sand shrimp represents most of the smaller shrimp. Here is a fly which is quick to tie and easy to fish anywhere.

Materials:

HOOK: Mustad 34007 #4

EYES: XSmall 5/32 lead eyes painted red.

TAIL: Orange Arctic Fox Body Hair wrapped with 4 strands of orange Krystal Flash

BODY: Root Beer Estaz

WING: Brown Arctic Fox Body Hair

THREAD: Burnt Orange Flymaster+

MISC: Dave's Fleximent

Instructions:

1. Start with the hook in the point down position in the vice. Thread back from the eye to the beginning of the bend in the hook. Tie in a decent sized clump of orange fox hair at the back extending it back about half of the length of the hook. Tie in 4 strands of orange Krystal Flash on either side of the tail.
2. Tie in the end of the root beer Estaz just in front of the tail. Move the thread forward toward the eye. Tie in the lead eye on top leaving yourself room for the wing. Glue down the length of the hook.
3. Wrap the Estaz forward to just behind the eye.
4. Tie it off and trim the tag end.
5. Flip the hook over in the vice.
6. Tie in a decent clump of brown arctic fox hair in front of the eye. It should extend back about half the length of the tail.
7. finish and glue the head.

I taught a new, easy to learn whip finish at this meeting called the "two and through". It is SO simple!! If you missed it, please stop by my table next time I tie, and sit and actually learn this method. I will have an extra vice in front of me for you. Or ask one of the members who learned the method at the July meeting. 🌈

Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

July was a rainy and hot month.

Capt Rick Grasset reports that despite the tough conditions, fly anglers caught tarpon, snook, trout, blues and jacks during the period 6/20 through 7/3/10. Fly fishermen from MN, fishing the docks on Siesta Key caught and released several snook to 24” and numerous trout to 18” on Grasset Snook Minnow flies. A Sarasota fly angler tried his luck at Tarpon on 7/2 but the weather brought them back in to Sarasota Bay where he caught trout to 18” and blues to 2lb. To get a really good forecast for the month of August, see Capt Grasset’s at www.snookfin-addict.com

Greg Peterson Emailed me he casted at 6 tarpon but only had two to bite his fly and landed only one. Good job Greg.

The outing at **John Millns’** was great as usual. Few fish were caught with most being caught by **Jeff Janecek**. **Robert Fischer** and **Lance Pocock** caught a few. **Walt Durkin** and **Dick Miekka** also were in the catch mode. **Alligator Bob** caught 2 and **John Millns** caught three from his dock. Two new members were also there, sorry I forgot their names. **Mike Perez** fishing from his kayak also caught fish but I got skunked. We all enjoyed the fellowship while eating sandwiches and potato salad and cookies on the dock. We are all looking forward to next year’s outing.

Rick and Nanette O’Hara recently fished the Davidson, catching Brown, Rainbow and Brook trout in the same day. The trout were in 16” to 18” size with both Rich and Nanette catching several larger trout. As usual, Rick managed, after long fights, to subdue a couple of 3-4 inchers that will be mounted and displayed for all to admire.

Capt Bryon Chamberlin, while exclusively targeting tarpon along out beaches, is hooking 1–5 fish per day weather permitting. Black and purple flies are working in low light and dirty colored water. Using tan toad patterns on outgoing “hill tides” around the new and full moon has been very productive. These flies resemble the pass crabs that are being flushed out with the tide. Some of the bites have been vicious with the tarpon coming part way out of the water during the attack.

Tight Lines,
Bob Gaulin
Rjgaulin@yahoo.com
813-782-8605 🍷

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.

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- Capt. Keiland Smith (863) 944-7475

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: _____

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