



## **The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club**

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

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 1, 2010, 5:30 p.m.**

### **Special Guest Speaker**

**Neil Taylor**

Neil is a former professional baseball umpire who moved to the Tampa Bay area in 1993. He has fished Florida waters since 1975 and has concentrated on inshore fishing. Neil has fished exclusively in kayaks since 1998. A guide since 2005, Neil has refined his teaching style that is complete, comprehensive and valuable.

Neil Taylor is a graduate of the University of Arizona, with a business degree, formerly on the Board of Directors for Pinellas Coastal Conservation Association, an active supporter of Tampa Bay Watch, the FWC and Pinellas County Sheriff's office, outdoor writer and featured speaker on kayak fishing.

Neil is host of "Kayak Fishing School", the fourth Thursday of each month, and was a regular guest on the late Captain Mel Berman's radio show and featured speaking events. He has numerous other speaking and writing credits.

Neil coined the phrase, "Something violent is about to happen!" That might be the subject of his talk.

### **Featured Fly Tyers**

**Logan Valeri ---- and You**

Logan Valeri, a resident of Brandon, has been fly tying for almost a year now. He learned all of his techniques on his own and he specializes in trout flies out west. He enjoys fly fishing in Arkansas with his dad, Rick Valeri, and world renowned guide, Chuck Farneth. Although busy with schoolwork at Jesuit High School, Logan spends every other moment he has tying flies. You have probably seen him watching others tie during the meetings. He has a sponge for a brain and learns all the techniques the members have to offer. This month Logan will tie the stimulator fly. One of the most effective flies for trout, the stimulator represents many insects such as caddisflies, stoneflies, and even small hoppers. Techniques in dealing with elk hair wings will be discussed as well as ways to tie at a faster pace.

Our regular fly tying tutorial "Bull session" for members will begin at 5:30.

**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

**SEPTEMBER 2010 PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**


Greetings, members

Fall is almost here and we can expect cooler waters and better inshore fishing to start in late September, or sooner if a hurricane cools us quickly!

Thanks to **Jim Swann** for tying his amazing deer hair poppers, then giving us an informative and entertaining talk on keeping cool while fishing in our fresh water rivers. Thanks also to everyone who participated in our fly tying tutorial, including **Robert Fischer** who organized the event for August.

We are pleased to see that some of our best tyers have joined in on the lessons, showing their special techniques and helping out even though we have not featured them in our newsletter. “**Smitty**” **Smith**, **Jeff Janecek** and **Craig Smothers** are just some of those contributors. Thanks to you all, and please accept my apology if I neglected to mention your name here.

Cooler weather inspires all members to pick up their fly rods and head for the flats. To kick off the autumn, we have our regular Carl Hanson outing, and are planning a redfish outing at Simmons Park as well. See page 3 for more details.

Tight Lines --- Dick 

<u><i>In This Issue:</i></u>	<u><i>Page</i></u>
Monthly Meeting . . . . .	1
President’s Message.....	2
TBFFC calendar of events.....	3
Tips for TBFFC, No. 27.....	4
Member Photos.....	5
Bamboo Fly Rods.....	6
Fly of the Month.....	7
Fishing Report.....	7
Items of Interest.....	8
Membership Application, Guides, Casting Coaches, etc.	9

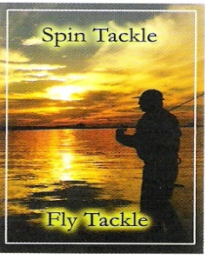
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	Alligator Bob Young	813-986-3008

The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 8, Location to be determined

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





**Capt. Pat Damico**

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## TBFFC EVENTS

### 2010 TBFFC MEETING DATES

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

### A NEW FLY SHOP IS COMING

"Tampa Bay On The Fly". The new pro fly fishing shop in Tampa is on schedule for mid-September. If you want to be kept "in the loop" about the Grand Opening and events, please email Enver Hysni at:

[enver-tboff@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:enver-tboff@tampabay.rr.com)

### TBFFC AT FLORIDA SPORTSMAN SHOW

**When:** Sat. and Sun., Sept. 25-26, 2010

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat., 10. a.m. to 4 p.m. Sun.

**Where:** Florida State Fairgrounds, Expo Hall I-4 and Hwy. 301, Tampa

#### Club Member Volunteers needed:

Once again our club will have a table at this show. We will be telling show visitors about TBFFC, demonstrating fly tying, and giving casting lessons at the casting pond. We need members to sign up for 2-3 hours each. We should have at least two members at all times. You will receive free admission to the show (normally \$8), and will have an opportunity to visit all of the exhibits and vendors. **Sign up at our September meeting.** For details, contact Neil Sperling at 813-655-5627

### OCTOBER "CARL HANSON" OUTING TO BE HOSTED BY SUNCOAST CLUB

**When:** Saturday October 30 2010, 7:00 am until Noon, followed by lunch.

**Where:** Rotary Park, Hillsboro River

**Includes:** Great Lunch, Beautiful Trophy

**Sign up:** At the October club meeting.

This annual outing gives us a chance to interact with our friendly rivals across the bay, and to compete for the Carl Hanson Trophy for the most fish caught. SCFF currently holds the trophy. Come help us get it back!

It is necessary to have a boat, kayak, or canoe to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Hillsboro River, and to fish for the many pan fish and bass in the river.

For more info call Dick Miekka at **727-866-8682**.

### FALL-WINTER EVENTS TO BE SCHEDULED

1. FFF Conclave—October 23 and 24
2. Club Outing at Simmons Park – Late fall or winter
3. Big Gun Shootout – Usually a November Sunday
4. Play Hooky for the Holidays – Maybe Fri. Dec. 3
5. Don Coleman outing at DeSoto Park (Joint with SCFF and MCFF) probably on December 18

### O'HARA EVERGLADES CABIN FOR RENT

Fee is \$85 per night + one-time \$35 cleaning fee. Contact Rick O'Hara at 727-410-0459 or [flyguy47@verizon.net](mailto:flyguy47@verizon.net).

### 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. 27

### Casting Tip for TBFFC: 10

What is Drift?

Tip 9 explained Creep and how detrimental it is to a good cast, especially causing a tailing loop.

Drift is beneficial and occurs during the pause of either the forward or backcast when, after the stop, the rod is moved the same direction as the line is moving. This increases the casting arc, the opposite effect of Creep. Why learn to Drift? It gives you more time. The rod tip is cushioned and in a better position to start the cast. Tailing loops are avoided because the rod tip travels in a straight line, and an intermediate caster will become a good caster immediately. Learn to Drift!

Pat Damico, MCI 

### Handy Items for More Fun and Better Safety

- "Me litl nippers" keeping nippers handy is key to an easy change of lies and splicing of leaders. I use a Motorola bluetooth earpiece lanyard. It does not have any metal parts to rust and it allows for the nippers to be unclipped and handed to someone for their use. Photos attached.



Steve Parker 

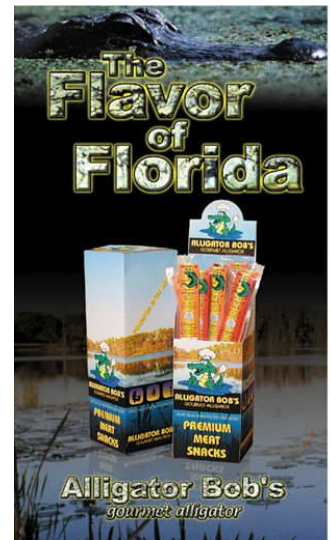
- That'll Ruin a Fishing Trip  
(From North American Fishing Club Website, 8/9/10)




Lightning, uh-uh, not to be messed with. But we've all pushed it further than we should — staying on the water for a smokin' hot pre-front bite. Those moments are electric with excitement, but terrifying and maybe even fatal when the charge in the air *literally* stands your hair on end.

To enjoy the excitement without the fright (or worse) check out the [Seeker Personal Lightning Detector](#) by General Tools. It's a unit that fits in your pocket and gives you an early [heads-up about storms](#) and

lightning as [far away as 40 miles](#).



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## Member Photos, September 2010



**BRYON CHAMBERLIN** took this Picture of **DAVE CHOUINARD** clearly enjoying a bonefish he caught in mid- August



**LEIGH WEST** wants to know if you can come up with better titles for these three photos, originally captioned “Chapel”, “What\_Is\_It”, and “Boat\_Warning”. He’s betting that you’ll succeed!

## Bamboo Fly Rods

Rods used to cast flies have been made of many types of material. Lancewood, Greenheart, Ash and Basswood each went thru a period when they were thought to be the ideal material for rod assembly. Before and after that, bamboo was used in Asia, Europe and in the mid 1800's found its way to America. Several builders here used split bamboo to build complete rods in the 1860's. Tonkin bamboo wasn't discovered as a rod making material until the 1930's. Today there are some very skilled craftsmen who still choose to use bamboo to build fly rods. They sometime refer to the composite space age materials we commonly use for our modern rods as, "plastic." Why has bamboo endured?

I hadn't used a bamboo rod in many years, having first used a three piece relic that some relative gave me when I was a teenager that had been broken several times. About ten years ago I was visiting a sporting goods and saw a used bamboo rod on the shelf. It needed some work, so my forty dollar investment seemed reasonable. I replaced the reel seat and fixed a couple guides and started to fish with it. Small trout streams, a double taper four weight fly line and some tiny terrestrials made me feel like some of the fly fishing legends were watching me. Short accurate casts were needed. I had to slow everything down a little to cast better, but I found using bamboo very relaxing.

Last summer I was walking the beach, fly rod in hand, looking for snook, and I watched a guy stringing what looked like a bamboo fly rod. When I saw that it was, I stopped to talk to him. His grandfather, a freshwater trout fisherman, had recently passed away and left him two of his rods. He was preparing to try it in the salt. It was not a very high end rod, but I told him I would put it back in its case and reserve it for freshwater, if he wanted to use it, or keep it as a memento. Even though many of the initial saltwater fly fishing adventures for bonefish, trout and tarpon were attempted with bamboo rods, most of this was done by people who understood the need for extreme care, and maintenance. My own feelings are that bamboo is for fresh water. In Florida, a few warm water fly fishers love to use bamboo for panfish and bass.

Our Suncoast Fly Fishers club in St. Petersburg has a member, Terry Kirkpatrick, who builds bamboo fly rods. One of Terry's, Fish Tested rods has accompanied me on many memorable trout fishing trips to some of my native Pennsylvania streams. When I take the rod out of its case, I always feel a touch of nostalgia. Terry has given clinics to both local clubs as well as at some large fly fishing conclaves. Recently I spent a couple hours with Terry as he showed me each complex step involved in the tedious process of selecting a large bamboo culm and eventually ending with a six pieces of triangular strips that would be glued together to form each section of a delicate casting wonder.

Terry's interest began years ago when he repaired some bamboo rods, rebuilt others and did everything but assemble a complete rod from start to finish. A lot of reading, talking with established rod builders and forum time prepared him for his first creative adventure.

The reason it is called a split bamboo rod, is because the first step is to select a culm of bamboo about two inches in diameter, and with a knife split this piece and many others. Nodes are marked and two sections are selected that are very close in configuration and coded. They are staggered to distribute stress. Three pairs of strips will eventually make the six equilateral triangular tapered pieces that will be glued together to form each rod section. Heat treatment is used to straighten all pieces. They are bound and placed in a special oven at 300 degrees. All nodules are flattened to help the future planning process. A machine is used for initial reduction, and then at least four different hand planning procedures are used. An adjustable jig is set up with micrometer readings to insure accuracy. The type rod will determine how the jigs are set up to get the desired taper. Rod action can be modified by adjusting the taper slightly. When all the individual pieces are accurately planed, they are cemented together with water proof glue. A special binding machine that he made, winds string around the pieces and the assembled rod section is hung to dry. After drying, string is removed along with excess glue without damaging the sections. If needed, more straightening may be done by carefully applying heat. Nickel silver ferrules and tip guide are fitted, and cemented; other hardware is selected. Eight to ten coats of Tru oil will be applied to the bamboo, allowing each to dry thoroughly. The grip and reel seat are cemented in place. Guides are placed with tape, and the rod is bent to check their position. After adjusting guides, some casting can be done for final location before recording each guides position. Guides are wrapped with thread and several coats of spar varnish are applied to wrappings. A special drip tube is used to varnish the finished rod so that all bubbles and dust are eliminated. After forty eight hours and a final inspection, the rod is waxed and hand polished.

A finished bamboo fly rod is a work of art. Many hours of labor and love go into each step in the process. Most fly fishers who try bamboo for the first time work too hard, forcing it to perform. The rod will do the work if you give it a chance. Modern rod builders like Terry have taken an old art form and continue to refine it. Every time I asked a question, Terry would answer it several ways, giving a detailed reason for each. The next time you see a bamboo fly rod, carefully examine it and know that you are holding a piece of history that will always be with us.

Terry Kirkpatrick's website is [www.fishtested.com](http://www.fishtested.com).

Capt. Pat Damico. 

## ***FLY OF THE MONTH***

### **Deer Hair Bass Popper**

*As Tied by Jim Swann*



#### **MATERIALS**

**Hook:** Mustad 37187, Size 1, or similar

**Thread:** Flat waxed nylon of contrasting color to body (so you can avoid cutting it when trimming the body).

**Tail:** Marabou

**Collar:** Saddle hackles

**Body:** Deer hair, spun and clipped

**Legs:** medium rubber

**Eyes:** Doll eyes

**Weedguard (optional):** 30 lb test monofilament

#### **TYING INSTRUCTIONS**

1. For the weed guard, secure thread to the hook shank, wrap back to the bend. Cut a five or six inch section of monofilament. Hold the mono against the hook so one end is halfway between the hook point and the bend, the rest extending beyond the bend. Wind the thread back over the mono, pulling it toward you slightly to keep it on top. Keep the thread wraps tight. Cement the wraps and let this dry.
2. Select two marabou feathers of the desired color (purple in the illustration) and tie them to the hook shank about 2/3 of the way back from the hook eye to the bend, forming the tail.
3. For the collar, attach 1-2 contrasting (black above) saddle hackle feathers forward of the tail, then palmer them with 2-3 wraps, stroking them back so they form a shroud over the start of the tail.
4. Place a modest quantity of deer hair fibers along the top of the hook shaft and loop the thread over the middle of the deer hair fibers. Wrap the thread over the middle of the deer hair fibers a second time while exerting some pressure on the thread. This pressure will cause the deer hair fibers to flare outward and form a bristling deer hair ball.
5. Use your thumb and forefinger to pull the bristling tips of the deer hair backward to compact the deer hair. Wrap the thread over the shaft of the hook directly in front of the compressed deer hair to keep the deer hair compacted. Compress the deer hair further using your thumbnail, or a compacting device if needed.
6. Continue adding more deer hair to the fly by repeating steps three and four. Add rubber legs between courses of deer hair wherever needed. Alternate the colors as desired.
7. When you pack and compress the last spun clump, you should have about half a hook-eye's width of space left on the shank. This space will give room to attach the front of

the weed guard and enough space for a clean whip finish knot at the end.

8. Bring the weed guard monofilament around; being sure that it will clear the trimmed body enough so that you will not cut it when trimming the deer hair.
9. Use your scissors or double-sided razor blade to shape the compacted deer hair into whatever form you desire. Be careful not to cut the thread, legs or weed guard. Note that the bottom should be trimmed closer than the sides and top in order to give clearance to the hook point.
10. Glue on doll eyes to both sides as illustrated in the photo above.

For more details on creating these flies, contact Jim Swann, or go to the internet and search under Deer Hair Bass Bugs 🐞

## ***Fishing Report and Forecast***

***“What a great time to go fishing!”***

**David Mullins** and **Esteban Celis**, impressed by **Jim Swann's** talk, launched a canoe at John B. Sargent park and targeted panfish. David reports there are tons of panfish in that part of the Hillsborough River, and they caught plenty. David also reported the canoeing is very easy.

**Nick Colantonio** again went to the Goodnews River in Alaska. This is the year for pink salmon (they only return in even years) and this was the best run in years. Pinks were caught everyday while trying for silvers that were just beginning to run. That said, Nick came home with 20 pounds of silver fillets. Chum salmon provided the heavyweight action whenever desired. Overall there were 9 Pacific salmon slams among 16 anglers that August week, including a camp record slam in 1 hour 19 minutes. Nick spent one day wading and floating one braid of the river, 20 miles upstream, for Dolly Varden, a.k.a. arctic char. He was on dollies all day with catches of 18 to 21 inches. Walking out of the river for the final time on the final day, he saw a brown bear to his right not 100 feet away. The bear was exiting the river and heading for the willows with a fish hanging from his mouth.

**Capt. Rick Grasset** reports, anglers fishing with him caught and released tarpon, snook, reds, trout, bluefish and Spanish mackerel during the period 7/18 through 8/16.

**Jim Swann** reports that fishing on the Withlacoochie and Hillsboro Rivers is the best in years right now, so encourages members to head out for some fresh water excitement.

Tight Lines,  
Bob Gaulin  
[Rjgaulin@yahoo.com](mailto:Rjgaulin@yahoo.com)  
813-782-8605 🐞

## *Items of Interest*

### Hardy bamboo rods for sale

#### The following e-mail was sent to us recently (nothing has been authenticated)

Hi Neil, Walt and Dick,

I saw your names as contact persons for the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing club. I live in Seminole, not a club member, but have two Hardy split bamboo rods. One, I believe to be 5 wt, the other a spinning rod. Both are new, and given to me, as a gift, by the widow of a man who won them in a sales contest, she guessed in the 60's. As I have no use for them, I do know new Hardy split bamboo fly rods sell for \$2000.00 and up, not counting the spinning rod. If you know of any one who might be interested in making me an offer, I would certainly entertain any reasonable offers. I want to sell the pair. They are in original hardy rod bags with tags, never used. Fly rod has two tip tops. I have pictures I can furnish, or meet someone in Tampa Bay area who might be interested.

Thanks for your time. Hugh Bell, cell: 727-204-3724



### Tampa Bay Watch is offering Memberships and Information.

Please take a moment to review all the benefits your club can take advantage of and individuals can benefit from too.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me. Also, if you would like for me to speak to your club I can try to accommodate you.

The best,

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### Random Thoughts for today

-- My 4-year old son asked me in the car the other day "Dad what would happen if you hooked a ninja?" How do I respond to that?

-- You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment at work when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.

--I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.





## 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. 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.

### South Tampa

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

### Brandon

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

### North Tampa

Jeff Abeles .....813-961-0097

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

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

Bill Murdoch ..... 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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- SNOOK FIN-ADDICT GUIDE SERVICE, INC. Capt. Rick Grasset, (941) 923-7799 [www.snookfin-addict.com](http://www.snookfin-addict.com)
  - SWANN'S FLY FISHING SHOP, Jim Swann, 13650 South 98 Bypass, Dade City, FL 33525, (352) 567-6029
- WALLACE B. ANDERSON, Jr. ATTORNEY AT LAW, 220 N. West Shore Blvd, Suite 220, Tampa.( 813) 639-4255 [wbataxlawyer@aol.com](mailto:wbataxlawyer@aol.com)

### 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

(includes one membership and Ad Space)

\$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

Please make check payable to: Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club  
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 President

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