

The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club www.tbffc.org

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 02, 2011, 5:30 p.m.

Invited Speaker Nick Colantonio

After a tour of duty in the U.S. Navy and a 34-year carrier in chemical engineering, Nick Colantonio retired in 2001 to pursue snook, trout and redfish on the flats of west central Florida. He joined The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club in 1995, shortly after taking up the sport. In 2004, the Club presented him with a plaque in recognition of his contributions to the organization. Nick is quick to point out: "My contributions had more to do with cooking than with fishing".

Nick's trip to the west of Ireland in early October was a sightseeing venture, but he wanted at least one day of fishing. Trout season had just closed and the choices were Atlantic bass in the salt or pike in a lake. High winds and heavy seas decided for him. Pike it was. Nick and guide Andrew Coxhead had initial success with a red and black bunny strip, and later switched to a Gray Yahoo that also got hits. Coxhead ties his flies on 4/0 hooks to keep the pike from swallowing the fly -- to minimize injury and facilitate release. They caught pike to 24 inches. Nick's ratio of hook-ups to strikes was his usual: 1 to 3 or 4. It was a day of good fishing and good craic.

Featured Fly Tyers Open House – All Tyers Welcome

This month we have not invited a specific person to demonstrate fly tying, but instead invite anybody with a desire to teach the building of their favorite flies. Come and show other members how to build that "killer" concoction that fish can't resist, or show a novel material or tying method that you have perfected in the quiet of your own tying bench. Who knows — you might become famous!

IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES—USE FORM ON WEBSITE OR PG 9

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 2011 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi to all TBFFC members,

It's fall already and Halloween & Thanksgiving are just around the corner. The Waters in the bay are cooling down and the Big Bite is ready to start. Get the fly rods ready to go and get out there with a friend or your children, and start having some fun out on the water.

TBFFC would like to thank **Capt John Hand** for being our Fly Tier and speaker last month. He did a great job tying, and put on a very good presentation with a Power Point.

Sorry about not having a raffle due to the lack of Items. I will be contacting **Jim Swann** to bring in more goodies for the Nov. meeting. Incidentally, the Club would like to thank Jim for giving the Club a discount on all the Items for our raffle.

Please Remember this month the TBFFC will be having the BIG GUN SHOOTOUT on Nov 6th at Picnic Island Park in South Tampa off of S. West shore. Please volunteer to help out at this event, it is a lot of Fun, and we will be serving lunch for those that participate and help out. So please join us for some casting fun and good laughs.

See you at the meeting, Tight Lines Neil Sperling



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, November 9, location TBD.

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 2011; November 2, December 7 Please watch this space for any changes.



TBFFC BIG GUN SHOOTOUT NOV. 6

When: Sunday, November 6, 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Where: Picnic Island Park, Exact location in the park to be determined...

What: This is an annual event in which our club hosts surrounding clubs in a friendly competition of fly-casting skills. There are five casting accuracy tests, including the infamous Hanson cup, and one distance casting test. The few contestants who manage a 100 ft. cast during the regular competition are invited to compete in the final event, a shootout for the top distance prize. Trophies are awarded for individual and team (of 3) performances, and a great lunch is served.

Judging: Please plan help with setup and to do a bit of judging (which is fun), so that everyone can participate in the event. For more information contact Walt Durkin at 813-476-7128



PLAY HOOKY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

When: Friday, December 2 or 9, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Where: Cockroach Bay

This year we will again play hooky at Cockroach Bay. This has become a favorite outing for many of our members. Take a day off, leave the holiday stress behind and join us for a day of semi-relaxed fishing for sea trout, redfish, and whatever else is in those fine waters. Lunch will be served, along with good fellowship and tall tails.

Sign up at the club meeting



XCALAK FISHING TRIP COMING UP

The recent trip was so good that Frank Rhodes is planning a repeat for those who were left out!

Fish for bonefish, permit, tarpon, and snook in Xcalak, Mexico (Costa de Cocos lodge) Nov. 26-Dec.3. Cost for 6 days fishing/7nights is \$1985 each, double occupancy. Price includes food, all drinks, lodging, and transportation (except air fare) both ways from Cancun.

Right now, Jet Blue has a direct flight from Orlando for \$325 round trip.

Come to my house, leave your car and I will provide ride to airport. I live 45min from Orlando airport.

Capt. Frank Rhodes 863-604-6505 Auburndale



FLATS BOAT FOR SALE

Jeff Abeles is selling his flats boat. It has not been used in 3 or 4 years and needs some TLC. Here are the specs: Key West hull with a 70hp Mercury engine. The boat has a trolling motor. It needs batteries and I'm sure the engine needs a tuneup. Trailer included. \$1000 as is.

Day 813-9610097 home 813-9204653



FUTURE CLUB OUTINGS AND EVENTS

1. Don Coleman Memorial (joint outing) Dec.17



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. 41

Casting Tip for TBFFC: 24

Using false casting, not allowing the fly or line to hit the water or grass surface allows us to see how well our loops form. The rear loop and forward loops should be identical. This can only be accomplished by duplicating the rod's movement in both directions. Using a discarded length of rope or old fly line that is easily seen, place the pieces parallel to one another about 6 feet apart. Casting horizontally, keep the rod leg, the line closest to the rod, and the fly leg, the line closest to the fly inside the parallel guides. Have the rod tip just inside the line closest to you. Moving the one further from you closer will give you a guide to make your loops smaller. When you can keep your loops within the ropes when they are 2 or 3 feet apart with a longer line, you will have accomplished your goal of "tight" loops. Move the rod more vertical during the exercise to develop good loops in all casting planes.

Pat Damico, MCI 🗪

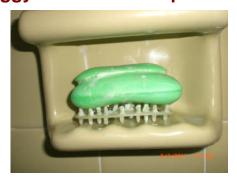
A Cool Way to Dry the Head Cement on Your Flies



On my latest Atlantic salmon fishing foray to New Brunswick, I stopped to pick up some freshly tied flies from our chief guide, Renate Bullock. She ties about a dozen flies every night during salmon season, which runs from May until mid-October. As the picture at left shows, she uses a household fan to quickly dry the head cement from all of her flies. The advantages are that the fan

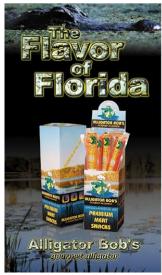
holds many flies and the moving air pushes the heads away from any fan parts as they dry. The method works equally well with both solvent- and water-based cements, but does not replace a rotating fly turner for epoxy coated flies. Give it a try!

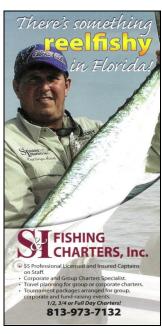
Piggy-Back Your Soap Bars to Save the Old Slivers.

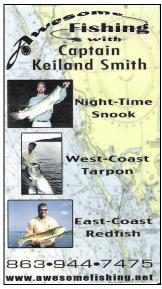


This is handy when you are staying at a motel with tiny soap bars, but also when your regular soap is almost gone. Before you throw out the old sliver, Get a fresh bar out, wet them both, and set the sliver on the new bar to dry. The next time you get into the shower, the bars will be welded together.









Member Photos, November 2011



Rick O'Hara caught this beautiful bronze redfish recently in Terra Ceia Bay on a Puglisi fly.

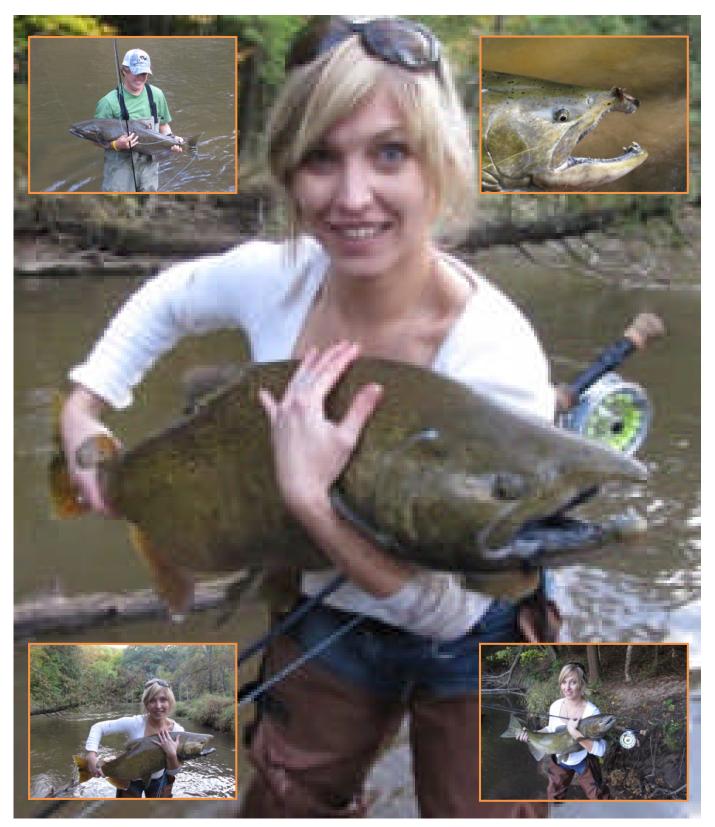
Not be outdone, his wife Nanette enticed this chunky bass to strike a topwater popper at a lake in Odessa, using the surefire bass fishing tactics she learned from TBFFC's Bassmaster, Jeff Janecek.



TED HAGAMAN with native Rogue River steelhead hen that measured 32" and weighed 12 lb

One that did not get away! **Denise Bruner** caught this Crystal River Mackerel, on Sat Oct 22.





Greg Peterson went to Michigan for a wedding and to see some old friends from high school. Fished for one day with **Amanda** for kings and got their fill. They hooked about 15 and landed 6 of which 5 were pushing or over 20 lbs. It pays to hike and get away from the crowd. After a few lessons Amanda even got the single hand snap T cast down pat. They ended the day with her hooking and landing a beast all by herself. All Greg did was take pics and tail the fish.

My Michigan King Salmon Fishing Trip

By: Wallace Ziprik III



I have wanted to take a King Salmon on the fly for a few years. It wasn't until October 2011 this would be successfully accomplished.

I have a close buddy named Dan who lives

in Grand Rapids MI which is roughly 100 minutes from the Pere Marquette River. One morning we drove up to Baldwin MI to try it out for ourselves.

After stopping at the Pere Marquette Lodge and Fly Shop, we confirmed the kings were indeed running and our chances of landing one were good, providing we did our part. Fly recommendations were given (egg patterns, etc.), so our next step was to find the fish.

We went to the Rainbow Rapids section of the river early that afternoon. Upon getting out of the car, we were both awestruck to observe these big torpedoes with fins swimming up river! I felt like a kid with buck fever. We put on our waders, Dan went downstream and I went upstream.

Unfortunately, these fish were traveling and showed no interest in our offerings! We tried two other nearby river sections. It wasn't until late that afternoon I had my first hookup. The fish ran down river and broke me off after a two minute fight. (Leader failure. Welcome to salmon fishing.). There were no other hookups that day, so we went back to Grand Rapids heartbroken.

I was exhausted after what could probably be best described as a scouting trip, so I used the next day to rest and regroup. The day after, I drove myself back to Baldwin (Dan had to work.) and got some better information from the fly shop. This time, I would be working out of the public access point off of 72nd Street.

I was in the river around 8:45 with no other anglers in sight. Heading east, I saw lots of torpedoes with fins, but not one wanted to eat. I kept moving forward until I finally found a hole where the fish were stacking and proceeded to fish it and the nearby gravel bars as if this were a steelhead trip.

Around 10 AM it happened, but it would not be an easy fight. A nice king was hooked in the back of his tail with an egg pattern fly. A great exchange took place with me and my 9 wt. and this fish. There weren't too many places to beach him as water depth varied from several inches to several feet, but I FINALLY got him to shore after a 45 minute fight. Pictures were taken, the fish was resuscitated, and then I resuscitated myself and basked in the reflections of the first major fight with a king salmon that I had just won.

Back to work! Within the hour, a second king would eat my fly, and this fish only took five minutes to land. Unfortunately, my 9 wt. snapped, so I had to pull out my backup TiCr, which was an 8 wt. That afternoon, there were about eight good hookups, but no more fish. Some fights lasted for 10-15 minutes, and the airborne stunts

(360's midair) were incredible! I left for the day determined to get one more quality fish the next morning before calling the trip.

Fortunately, God saved the best for last! The next morning I went west and was in the water not much after 8AM. Eventually, I found a gravel bar next to a bend in the river with several good holes and LOTS of kings! For the first two hours, there were no quality hookups, so I decided to change flies. An egg sucking leech with an egg dropper was the combination of choice, so back to work I went.

I'm not sure how much snagging vs. catching exists with salmon fishing, but almost immediately things started happening. After casting diagonally into some stacking salmon, I hooked into one that did all kinds of airborne acrobatics before it went down river and busted me 15 minutes later. After rerigging my 8 wt., I hooked into a second one! This fish did even more stunts than the previous one, but came off in the middle of a second airborne flip, again some 15 minutes later.

I thought I would be under gunned with only an 8 wt. but the fights I experienced had gone well with the equipment I had thus far. The third time would be the charm. After casting into a stacking school of fish, I hooked yet another king salmon that fought me as the others had, then the fish decided to take me upriver.

Then something never experienced before happened to me. This fish took me into my backing. Deep into my backing! Soon, I had more backing out than fly line. A couple of kayakers passed by and one offered to help, except he told me he thought the fish had wrapped me around a log and essentially, I was screwed.

Soon the fish stopped. I tried several times to turn it, but couldn't get it to budge! I REALLY wanted my 10 wt., but it was back home. That left me with the unfortunate conclusion there was nothing left to do but to point the rod at the fish and snap the leader off.

Scripture teaches us if you continue to do the right things when everything around you is going in the wrong direction, you will be rewarded. This same truth sometimes applies to fishing as I was about to find out. I pulled on my backing and nothing snapped or moved. I reeled down and lost control of the handle as the line tension was so great.

I cranked down hard on the reel a third time and the unexpected happened. Instead of my line snapping, the fish moved...back to me! I started to retrieve my backing and eventually, my fly line. It was as if the fish had said "I give up. You win!" Soon I would see I had hooked into the biggest king I had seen on the entire trip (and I had seen lots) and beached him a few minutes later.

I got my trophy on the bank and was able to take one decent picture of him before he flopped himself back into the river and swam off. Oh how I wished someone was around to photograph me with my prize! I called the trip after all this. The people at the fly shop later told me a good Michigan king could run from 20-30 pounds and close to three feet in length. While I was not able to take actual measurements, I am reasonably confident I didn't miss these numbers by much.

God REALLY blessed me on this trip.



FLY OF THE MONTH

Flash Golden

As Tied by Capt. John Hand



I call this pattern the "Flash Golden" it was designed by Dr. Ben Estes for Savannah redfish. This pattern is excellent for shallow clear water where the fish are spooky. With this estaz head the fly lands quietly. The marabou and gold flash gives the fly maximum motion with minimum movement.

Hook: Mustad 34007, #2 or 4

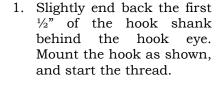
Weight: Wire wrap

Tan Marabou / Gold Angel Hair Tail:

Head: Estaz large, Root Beer

This fly is tied bend back style.







2. Wrap weight behind eye of hook, followed by tan marabou. Note that the marabou covers the hook point.



3. Top the marabou with gold angel hair as shown. Secure with thread wraps.



4. Attach and wrap the Estaz as shown. Leave room for head wraps.



5. Form a neat head, secure thread with half hitches, and apply head cement (if desired) to complete the fly.

Fishing Report and Forecast

"What a great time to go fishing!"

NOVEMBER 2011

Member Greg Peterson went to Michigan for a wedding and to see some old friends from high school. Fished for one day with Amanda for kings and got their fill. They hooked about 15 and caught 6 of which 5 were or over 20 lbs. It pays to hike and get away from the crowd. They were eating lunch on a bluff and found a bunch of fish that were not spawning and holding in a deep shady slot. After a few lessons, Amanda even got the single hand snap T cast down and hooked a couple by herself. They ended the day with her hooking and landing a beast all by herself. All Greg did was take pics and tail the fish.

Steve Parker gave a great report about the recent group trip to Mexico. Numerous bonefish were caught, the largest being around 7 pounds. Several tarpon were landed, with the largest being 35 pounds. The loop on Steve's knot broke at the boat on an estimated 22 pound permit

The following report is from Ireland, by Nick Colantonio. Nick fished for pike on Lough Inchiquin, Countuy Clare, Ireland. A pike to 24 inches took a Gray Yahoo and black bunny strip fly. The lake, with its fifty resident swans, is surrounded by mist-shrouded hills and guarded by vinecovered castle ruins. Drifting with the wind and casting from a lake boat maneuvered by a ghillie using wooden oars mounted on tholepins-plus some hungry pikemade for a picture perfect day. Get the whole story from Nick, who will be our November speaker.

Sam Bowers reports from Nova Scotia that he caught about a dozen small mouth bass on flies he tied.

Neil Taylor, the kayak guide reports taking two fly fishermen on an outing. They caught redfish on a pinfish pattern and a 22 inch trout. They also caught jacks and flounder on flies they tied.

Capt. Rick Grassett reported that, while fishing in the Gulf with Gene Mayberry from the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishing Club, they caught and released 8 or 10 albies on Grassett's snook minnow fly.

Tight Lines, **Bob Gaulin**

Rjgaulin@yahoo.com 813-782-8605



Capt. John Hand. 🗪

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
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- Fly Tying Lessons
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