



**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 7, 2012, 6:00 p.m.**

### **Invited Speakers**

**Leigh West, Bryon Chamberlin, and Denise Bruner**



Leigh, Bryon and Denise were part of "group 2" that recently traveled to Xcalak Mexico (flag A on map) to fish for Permit, Bonefish, and whatever else might attack their fly offerings. Group 1 had been there one week earlier to test the fishing conditions, and perhaps we will hear from them as well. The trips were arranged by Frank Rhodes, who will not be able to participate in the presentation because of a prior commitment.

### **Featured Fly Tier Bryon Chamberlin**

Bryon is a full time, saltwater fly fishing guide and operates his own fishing guide service, Barbed Steel Charters, Inc. He has been guiding for 9 years, mainly on the waters of Tampa Bay. As one of the presenters of the Mexican extravaganza described above, he will no doubt tie some of the flies that successfully caught fish on the trip. Few things are more fun than catching a fish on a fly you tied yourself.

**IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2013 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 2012 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Fellow Fly Fishers,

Happy Halloween, Big Gun Shootout, Election Day, and Thanksgiving. Above all, have happy fishing, because this is about the best time of the year to cast those flies.

We didn't have many participants at the Carl Hanson outing, but those who went had a good time. Many more have signed up to participate in the Big Gun Shootout on Sunday, November 4, and so far the weather forecast looks favorable. Since the Big Gun will take place before our November club meeting, you may just come to Picnic Island Park for the event. If you don't have your own team of 3, we will assign you to one.

Look on page 3 below for the events that will occur in December, including the "Play Hooky for the Holidays" outing on Friday November 7, just 2 days after our next meeting.

Attendees at the October meeting were treated to a fine presentation as **Ted Hagaman** and **Walt Durkin** described their family trip to the boundary waters in Minnesota for camping, smallmouth bass fishing, hiking and scenery watching. Ted's instructions for tying the foam hopper GFA fly can be found on page 7, below.

We are planning a traditional members' night for our December meeting. In addition to the regular tie-a-thon, swap table, and food fest, we plan to have a gift exchange and all participants in the exchange will be eligible for a highly desirable prize drawing.

Hope to see you at the November meeting  
Dick 



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The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 14. Location TBD.

### NOT GETTING THE NEWSLETTER? Please call

Dick Miekka, Editor, at 727-866-8682 or e-mail to [dmiekka@cs.com](mailto:dmiekka@cs.com)



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## TBFFC EVENTS

### 2012 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for 2012; November 7, December 5. **Please watch this space for any changes.**

### TBFFC BIG GUN SHOOTOUT NOV. 4

**When:** Sunday, November 4 2012, 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Picnic Island Park, Exact location in the park to be determined (follow the signs).

**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 7, 8:00 am until 2:00 pm.

**Where:** Cockroach Bay area (exact location TBD)

This year we will again play hooky at the private ponds of the Port Manatee fish hatchery or nearby private waters at Cockroach Bay (**not** the public access area). 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. Attendees will be treated to a genuine Alligator Bob Lunch, along with good fellowship and tall tales/tails.

**Sign up at the December club meeting**

### DON COLEMAN INVITATIONAL OUTING

**What:** Annual outing sponsored by the Suncoast Flyfishers, with TBFFC and Mangrove Flyfishers invited to attend.

**When:** December 15, 2012

**Where:** Fort Desoto Park: just start fishing wherever and whenever you wish.

**Lunch and Chili Cook-off:** Noon at the Arrowhead Picnic area. Better plan to get there a little early—the food ran out just before noon at least once in the past.

**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

**Sign up at the December club meeting**

### FUTURE EVENTS

- Annual Overnight Shad Outing, **January or February**
- Casting Clinic, **Time to be determined.**

### 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)

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## TIPS FOR TBFFC – No. 52

### Casting Tip for TBFFC: 35

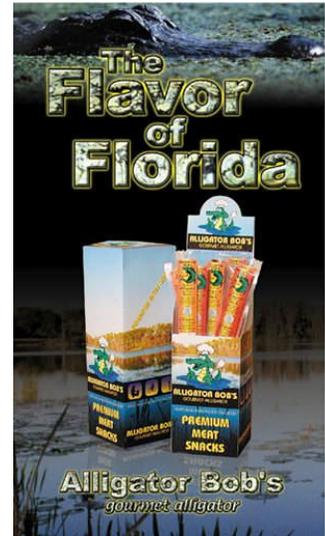
One of the advantages when using a fly rod is that when you recast all the line does not have to be reeled in before starting as with a spin or bait caster. Missing your target by a few feet when sight casting will allow a repeat accurate cast by slowly starting your backcast so as not to disturb the water, thus scaring the fish. Changes in line length and position of cast are corrected while false casting before delivering the fly. Another application of this principle is when missing a fish, especially with a subsurface presentation; a repeat cast can be immediately made to the same spot while the fish is still there by not changing the line length and minimizing false casting. This is especially useful when fishing wet flies or streamers.

Pat Damico, MCI 🌅

### Amazingly Simple (Tongue in Cheek) Home Remedies

1. Avoid cutting yourself when slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold the vegetables while you chop.
2. For high blood pressure sufferers, simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure on your veins. Remember to use a timer.
3. A mouse trap placed on top of your alarm clock will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.
4. If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives. Then you will be afraid to cough.
5. You only need two tools in life – WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.
6. If you can't fix it with a hammer, you've got an electrical problem.
7. If you have some practical tips for TBFFC instead of silly ones like these, send them to me.

Dick Miekka 🌅



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## Member Photos for November, 2012



“Bottoms up at Latimer” is the title member **Andy Constantinou** gave to this photo he took while staying and fishing in England. The inset photos (left to right) show a 5 lb rainbow trout that took him into his backing, a close up of the same fish showing his #16 Green Buzzer fly in its mouth, and a nice blue trout he caught on another day. Andy awaits his new green card and a January return to our area.

## Member Photos for November, continued



**Bryon Chamberlin** and **Pat Damico** had a couple of great days catching brown and rainbow trout in PA on small streams for wild trout. They used October caddis dry flies with a small pheasant tail nymph dropper and cone head wooly buggers on larger streams that were a little high.

Photo at right shows Bryon releasing an average PA Rainbow.

**Leigh West's** Brother was traveling in Maine when he came across this unusual mailbox. There must be rednecks up north as well as down south!

Does anybody around here have a 150 horsepower mailbox?



## THE FALL BITE IS HERE

By Capt. Pat Damico

The summer doldrums are definitely over. Cool evenings have managed to gradually drop local water temperatures. Larger baitfish are becoming scarcer, and inshore species are keying in on small hatchlings, gorging themselves in preparation for the winter.

Recent trips to the flats have become increasingly more productive, not only in numbers of fish caught, but also in size of local shallow water favorites. Several key signs of this phenomenon are presently happening.

Increasing numbers of snook are staging at the mouth of most rivers, providing excellent catch and release fishing. Linesiders are present wherever small baitfish dimple the surface. Higher tides, accompanied by moving water, have placed these fish close to mangrove shorelines, residential docks, oyster bars, and other structures that are closest to deeper water. Night Snook fishing around lighted docks close to passes has been very productive. Fish will be close to shore when water is high, but as the water becomes shallow, longer docks that extend into deeper water will still continue to produce. Baitfish patterns, such as Deceivers, Clousers, and Bendbacks in white and chartreuse and white, in smaller sizes, will work. When fishing tannin stained water, around the mouth of some rivers, some brown and gold used as a toping match the natural baits more effectively.

Trout have been increasing in size every year. Several guides in St. Joseph sound area have told me that three pounders are common and most trips have been rewarded with some five pound fish. Flats adjacent to the many spoil islands have been the place to be. Further south, along the Intercoastal Waterway, grass flats, especially those with irregularities and potholes hold schools of nice Trout. Most of these fish will be close to the bottom. A clear sinking tip fly line with a weighted fly will be more productive when the water is deep. Some of the largest trout will be found very shallow as the afternoon sun warms the water. A floating line with a baitfish imitation will not get the numbers, but will get the lunkers that are loners. At daybreak try some poppers.

Reds are schooling and I have seen some increasing numbers tailing in the shallows. Several times these Redfish turned out to be nice Sheepshead that act exactly like Reds, except you will find them even more challenging in shallow water. Crab imitations are preferred in very shallow water where accuracy and short strips will be rewarded. If you catch a Sheepshead on a small crab or shrimp pattern, give yourself a big pat on the back, you have accomplished a very difficult task.

Jacks are making a comeback after our harsh winter a couple years ago. They are great fun on poppers. Move the popper quickly with short pops to get their attention. Try seawalls and docks on points during a moving tide to locate large schools of these tackle busters.

You can't use hot summer conditions as an excuse for not getting out on the water. The best fishing of the year has already begun.

Get out and enjoy it! 

## 2012 MCFF/CCA "Fall Fly Fishing Challenge" Results

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual MCFF/CCA "Fall Fly Fishing Challenge" was held on Sunday, Oct. 29th. The tournament was rescheduled from Saturday due to windy conditions. Despite windy conditions on Sunday many fly anglers still had good action. The tournament, put on jointly by the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers and the Sarasota chapter of Coastal Conservation Association was held out of the Ken Clark Auditorium at the Sarasota County Fairgrounds. Anglers could fish any water on the west coast of Florida with flies only in a catch, digital photo, release format fishing tournament for reds, trout, snook and more. All fish were photographed and immediately released. Winners were awarded handsome plaques, gift certificates and Orvis fly rods. Donors to the event were Orvis, Redfish Landing Guide Service, CB's Saltwater Outfitters, Economy Tackle, Discount Tackle Outlet, Flying Fish Outfitters, G. Loomis, Simms, New Pass Grill & Bait Shop and Andy Thornal Company. Tournament participants were treated to a homemade BBQ meal donated and prepared by Capt. John & Leslie Hand.

**Open Division**-based on total inches (guides, anglers fishing with guides and any other angler wishing to compete)

Slam (largest snook, redfish and trout) Brent Wilson, Sarasota, FL	59.5"
Trout Steve Gibson, Sarasota, FL	67.75"
<b>Redfish Leigh West, Tampa, FL</b>	<b>77.25"</b>
Snook Jay Wright, Orlando, FL	19.25"

**Fly Angler Division**-based on a point per inch format for redfish, snook, trout and multiple other species (no guides allowed in this division)

1 <sup>st</sup> place-Fred McClendon Lithia, FL	431 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> place-Justin Hamblett, Sarasota, FL	405 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> place- Walt Plasson, Sarasota, FL	342 points

### Notice: Termination of Newsletter Mailings

If you have been receiving this newsletter by U.S. mail instead of email, please note that the **December 2012** issue of the newsletter will be the last one to be sent out by conventional mail. By now, only a few members still rely on "snail mail" for their monthly newsletters and the costs for printing and mailing these few copies are becoming prohibitive. Also, we restrict the size of mailed copies to ten pages to avoid extra postage charges. To avoid missing any future issues, please send your current email address to [rmiekka@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:rmiekka@tampabay.rr.com).

## ***FLY OF THE MONTH*** **GFA (General Foam Attractor)**

*As Tied by Ted Hagaman*



I discovered this fly on my trip to Yellowstone this summer. It was originated by Walter Weise at Parks Fly Shop in Gardiner Mt. You can see Walter tie the fly if you go to their website at [Parksflyshop.com](http://Parksflyshop.com) and click on custom flies, select dry flies, and scroll down to GFA-Weise and click on the youtube link and scroll to the GFA video. This is a very effective hopper imitation and there are also many other very innovative patterns on the website.

### **Materials:**

**Hook** Dairiki 280 size 10

**Body** 2mm foam in color of your choice. Foam cut in 2" strip the width of the hook gap

**Wing** Natural deer hair

**Legs** Barred sili legs

**Thread** Contrasting color to foam (ie.tan with brown foam)

**Super glue** in bottle with brush (get at Michael's or Home Depot)

### **Tying Instructions:**

1. Start thread at eye and wind to hook point, then back and forth several times to the eye to build a good thread base for the foam.
2. Round the back end of the foam and extend the foam 2/3 the length of the hook shank past the bend and tie in at the eye with 4 tight wraps. Leave the rest of the foam extending over the eye of the hook for now.
3. Wrap the thread over the top of the foam and make three body segments (one large and two small) The last segment should end right over the hook point with the measured 2/3rds of the foam extending to the rear.
4. Work the thread back over the top of the foam to the wrap creating the first large body segment.
5. Turn the fly over and super glue the thread wraps on the bottom of the fly.
6. Cut a clump of deer hair and clean and stack it and tie it in at the first body segment with two loose turns of thread. Clip the butts.

7. Apply super glue to the butts and the top of the foam of the first body segment
8. Fold over the foam extending over the eye and pinch into the super glue creating a bullet head.
9. Clip off the excess foam leaving a foam collar.
10. Tie in a small piece of bright contrasting foam as a strike indicator and trim.
11. Tie sili legs at first body segment and whip finish at the same tie in point and apply super glue to threads

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

*"What a great time to go fishing!"*

**NOVEMBER 2012**

**Capt. Pat Damico** and **Capt. Bryon Chamberlin** had a couple of great days catching brown and rainbow trout in PA. On small streams for wild trout they used October caddis dry flies with a small pheasant tail nymph dropper and cone head wooly buggers on larger streams that were a little high.

Member **Sam Bowers** from Nova Scotia is still having fun catching a lot of small mouth bass.

**Capt. Neil Taylor**, the kayak guy reports amazing action for trout in many locations. Redfish are good and getting better. Flounder on every trip. Huge bluefish have been available. A very large tippet is necessary to prevent cutoffs.

**Ted Hagaman** was up at Cape San Blas and fished St. Joe Bay. Caught a mixed bag of trout, redfish, and mostly flounder.

**John** and **Joan Willis** reported that John caught a nice keeper sized rainbow on Deep Creek in the Smokies and John caught three small mouth bass on Nantahala Lake from his kayak. John also reports that He and wife Joan taught an intro to fly-fishing class in September, thru Young Harris College Institute for Continued Learning, with the help from their Trout Unlimited Chapter.

**Capt. Rick Grasset** fishing with brothers **Joey** and **Kirk** caught and released stripers, trout and a few reds. They were fishing Tangier Sound in the Chesapeake Bay area. Locally, he found and had shots at Triple Tails around the crab traps. Trout, snook, reds, mackerel and false albacore are being caught by his clients.

Unfortunately, I received no reports from the Carl Hanson outing.

Bob Gaulin 🐝

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Please Check:  One Year  Five Year

*Please list names you wish to include in family membership*

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