



**Next meeting 5 July 17  
0600 PM to 0900 PM**

### **Free Skin Screening and Fly Tying**

Please join us for our every other year skin screening during our club meeting. Dr. John and Laura Millns will offer a private screening for each club member who wants a checkup. They will advise you if you are good to go or need a follow-up with your dermatologist. Now that we are in the dog days of summer we need to be more mindful of potential sun damage. We will also hold a tie-a-thon while the screening is ongoing. Please bring materials to tie several of your favorite flies for the evening. We will put a selection of those flies in club boxes and raffle them off to lucky winners.



**Directions to Our Meetings (0600pm):** From I-75---Take Bruce B. Downs exit from I-75; go west 2 miles to traffic light, turn left on to 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.

## June President's message

Welcome to July and warmer weather and water. Check out our fishing report for the latest spots and techniques. Try to fish early in the morning to avoid the heat and afternoon thunderstorms.

Thanks to **Dr. Liz Wallace** for her informative presentation on the movement of tarpon. Her research will help us to better manage our fisheries. Please remember our fishing license dollars pay for this research, so keep your license up to date.

We have set 5 November for our Big Gun this year at Picnic Island. Please join us for this fun competition to test your casting skills. We also need help setting up and scoring.

We have no outing scheduled for this summer. Please let me know if you have an idea for a good place to go.

// Walt Durkin 

## EVENTS

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Walt Durkin 813-476-7128

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Denise Bruner 813-989-2909

Bryon Chamberlin 813-361-8801

Pat Damico 727-504-8649

Robert Fischer 813-962-0185

Bruce Anderson 813-960-8523

Rick O'Hara 813-238-6763

## TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

**Club Flags Ready to Deploy.** Patty Anderson has completed our club flag project and we have six flags ready to travel the world on your next fly fishing adventure. Take pictures showing our flag, your location and a great catch on the fly. Request a flag at any meeting to borrow for your next trip.

**Lake Calm Outing Report:** About 11 club members fished Lake Calm in Odessa on 17 June. **Jeff Janacek** even brought his Dad to celebrate Father's Day. We all had a great time and caught good numbers of bass and bream. I fished a black slider on a size 4 hook and caught fish all day. One big bass busted me off. Puglici minnows also worked, as well as top water spider-type flies with rubber legs. Weather was good with sun and mild winds. The lake was a little low, which may have helped the fishing. Lake Calm is a beautiful clear lake with plenty of fish. Thanks to **Dr. John Millns** for letting us use his property. We ate Subs and chips for lunch. **Nanette O'Hara** made us a super key lime pie with fresh fruit for dessert.



**Fishing Recipes.** I would like to put a recipe in the newsletter each month. Many club members gave me recipes in hard copy, which I have. I will add them to the newsletter, but I would like pictures to go along with the recipe. To start us off, I have included a recipe for smoked fish (page 10) that I use quite often. It's a simple way to smoke any fish and works particularly well on mullet or salmon. Take a look at my example and then get to work in the kitchen with your camera and email me pictures and instructions. Or, if I already have your recipe, just make it and send me the photos.

**Chattooga River Outing .** We will travel to S. Carolina 12 -16 Nov for our annual trout fishing trip. We stay in log cabins at the Oconee St Park. This is a wild and scenic river with good numbers of rainbow, brown and brook trout. Please let us know if you would like attend.



## Tips for TBFFC

### How to improve your casting and catching using your line hand:

Like so many fly fishermen, I get caught up in focusing on my casting stroke and forming good loops and pay little attention to what my line hand is doing. The benefits of proper line hand control are many and can make you a better fisherman.

The most obvious mistake made by casters is letting go of the fly line with the line hand when making your presentation cast. This can cause many bad things to happen.

1. The uncontrolled fly line can get wrapped around the fly reel or rod.
2. Releasing the fly line too soon can prevent the rod from fully loading, and thus robbing the cast of distance and preventing the line and leader from turning over properly in a straight line.
3. Accuracy suffers because you have lost control of the line.
4. Your ability to move the fly after it lands on the water is delayed as you fumble to regain control and remove any slack in the line and leader.
5. You miss the fleeting opportunity to set the hook because you have no control of the line.

All these common errors can be corrected by maintaining control of the line with your line hand. As you release your presentation cast, make a loop with your thumb and index finger of your line hand away from your casting side and allow the shooting line to flow through in a controlled manner. This will keep the line from tangling on the rod or reel. The slight drag on the fly line will cause your line to lay out in a straight line and your leader to turn over properly. Additionally, you have the ability to instantly adjust your distance and accuracy. As your cast lays out, lower your rod tip to the water and immediately place the fly line under your stripping finger of your rod hand and you are ready to fish.

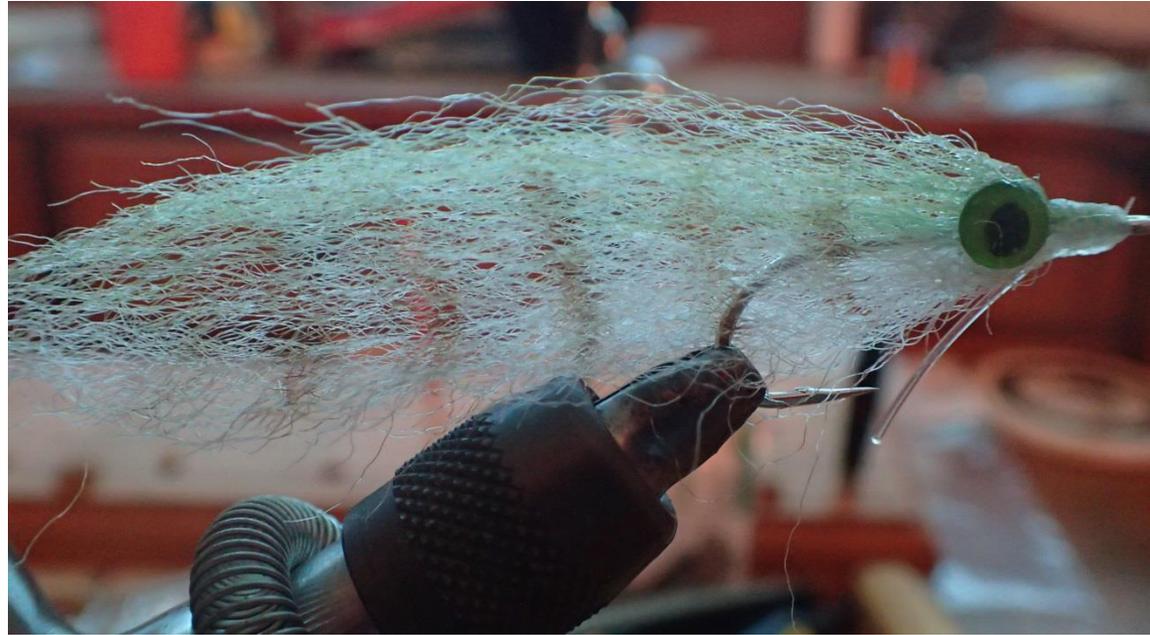
Focusing on and forming good habits with your line hand can make you a better caster and you will catch more fish.

Good fishin' **Ted Hagaman** 

## Conga Minnow

### Materials

Hook:	Size 2 or 4, 2X long
Thread :	clear mono
Body:	conga hair
Flash:	minimal or none
Eyes:	3-d
Head:	tapered mono
Marker:	brown or black Sharpie



### **Tying Sequence:**

1. Put the hook in the vise and attach thread at the hook point and wrap back to the eye.
2. Tie in a two-inch piece of lead wire and wrap around the hook about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch behind the eye. Tie in optional flash about half way down the hook. Use only one or two strands as it will really stand out. Dark flash can represent a lateral line.
3. Cut a two pieces of conga hair (one light, one darker) about the size of a pencil and divide them into four equal, sparse bundles. Use less than you think you need. They should be twice as long as the length of your fly or about six inches.
4. Turn your fly point up and tie a white bundle about halfway down the shank so that it goes down each side evenly. Turn the hook over and tie a dark bundle on top at the same place and fold back over the top. Repeat this process six more times with the remaining bundles, working to the eye of the hook with the last bundle.
5. Add a Mason (20 lb.) weed guard. Flatten the end of the mono with pliers, bend to 45 degrees , tie in and trim.
5. Comb out with an old tooth brush to straighten out your fibers; trim to a minnow shape.
6. Add eyes with a good glue; Goop or Fletch
7. Place the eye in the vise, pull on the end of the fibers and bar the body with the marker.
8. Finished fly should have a body you can see through; sparse is best.

You can buy conga hair at the [www.flytyersdungeon.com](http://www.flytyersdungeon.com). It's a great value at \$2.00 a package with multiple colors. Also, Smitty gave me this site for eyes: <http://lisaandedseyes.ipage.com/>. One hundred eyes for about \$2.50.



Lake Calm outing: Walt, Rick, Ted, John, Nick



Club members **Bryce Whittlesey** (left) and **Rich Gorden** enjoyed good action along the beach. This is a good bet in the summertime for snook and tasty pompano.



British club member Andy is in the UK for the summer (lucky him) and avoiding our hot and humid weather. He switched from carp to trout and got a nice rainbow and brown. His winning fly is pictured on the upper left.

**Capt Rick Grasset's** clients  
with good tarpon action in June.



## Smoked Fish on the Grill



This is a simple way to smoke fish on your grill. You need an old baking pan and a smaller aluminum pan with holes in the bottom. Place wet smoking chips in the big pan and spread them out. Season your fish as you like it. I use a Cajun spice mixed in olive oil that I brush on. **Zatarain's Creole Seasoning** is great. If your fish has skin on, place it skin side down in the small



pan and set this pan in the big pan as shown. Cover the aluminum pan with foil and place both pans on a hot grill. The chips will start to smoke and fill the aluminum pan. I smoke a mullet about an hour as I like it a little dry. Salmon will be done in 20-30 minutes depending on thickness. This combines baking and smoking and your fish will have a smoky flavor. I chill the mullet and eat it cold with crackers. It makes a great dinner or appetizer.

## Fishing Report and Forecast

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

**Capt Pat Damico provides this report from his Captain's Corner.** If early morning trips have not been productive, weak tides may be the reason. After checking weather, head out to some of your usually productive shallow water locations. One close to an inshore bridge, with improved tidal flow, would be a good choice. The absence of normal-sized baitfish that help concentrate predators may have trout, pompano, redfish and other shallow water fish scattered. Have an 8-weight fly rod rigged with a floating line and a popper that imitates a baitfish. White is the best choice, switching to darker colors in low light. Make sure your tapered leader does not have fluorocarbon components as this will sink and pull the floating popper's nose under the surface, causing it to not work properly as well as making casting more difficult. The noise of the popper disturbing the surface will attract gamefish similar to a popping cork used by bait fishermen. Don't let it sit too long. This will make it seem like it is trying to escape from the large fish. Put an artificial eye on the side that floats instead of on each side of the head. This more clearly represents a struggling baitfish lying on its side. Fly fisherman **Pat Damico** charts lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at [captpat.com](http://captpat.com) or (727) 504-8649.

**Capt Rick Grasset** reports weather was again a factor for anglers fishing with him, out of CB's Saltwater Outfitters on Siesta Key, during the past week. However we were able to tarpon fish a couple of days, jumping a couple of tarpon and catching and releasing one on a live crab with spinning tackle. Despite a big swell and dirty water, fly anglers had a few shots on Monday, but conditions deteriorated quickly and we were forced off the water early due to a severe thunderstorm. Tarpon fishing should improve next week as sea conditions return to normal. Snook season is closed on the west coast of Florida until Sep 1st, so please handle them gently and release them quickly. Fishing lighted docks and bridges in the ICW for snook with flies and DOA Lures continues to be a good option. This is also a good time frame to sight fish for snook in the surf.

**Kayak guide Neil Taylor** reports during the dead of summer, the action has remained good overall. It isn't easy like early spring, but we are catching great fish every time out. Pompano rule and they are easy and fun. After pompano, we shift to trout and redfish and both are cooperating. Client Neil Taylor used custom pompano flies (heavy on gold, some pink and lateral scale) and connected six times. That's great on fly rod and shows how many are here. The pompano have increased in size, going from small fish to pretty good size. Fish water 9 to 10 feet deep and use heavy eyes to help get the fly down to the bottom, where pompano eat. That same trip Neil caught a 22 inch trout, which are tougher to get in the summertime

**Walt Durkin** fished MacDill and found reds and snook. The snook will eat a minnow pattern and the reds are spooky as usual. We also found good numbers of reds out of Courtney Campbell, fishing a good incoming tide along the mangroves.

Our new traveling club flags are on the move! **Bruce and Patty Anderson** took one to Colorado and **Walt and Frank** took one to the Amazon. Lower right with our trout gear in **Oconee St Park, S. Carolina**.



## 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 13-15 Jan Shad Outing St John's River
- 23 Feb – 3 Mar Brazil Peacock Bass trip
- 25 Mar – 1 Apr Two Boys Inn, Andros Island, Bahamas
- 1 Apr Suncoast Fly Club banquet
- 8 Apr Cypress Park outing
- 13 April CCA Banquet
- 7 May Club Banquet, Hunter's Green
- 17 June Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- 7-8 Oct Florida Sportsman Show
- TBD FFF Enclave
- 21 – 28 Oct Mexico: Costa de Cocas trip
- 21 Oct Carl Hanson Outing, Hillsborough River
- 5 Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island
- 6 Dec Members Year End Party
- 8 Dec Play Hooky at the Hatchery
- 16 Dec Don Coleman Outing, Ft Desoto

## 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.

- Monthly Meetings with informative speakers
- 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

## Fly Fishing Guides

- Capt. Nick Angelo (813) 230-8473
- Capt. Pat Damico (727) 504-8649
- Capt. Bryon Chamberlin (813) 361-8801
- Capt. Rick Grassett (941) 923-7799
- Capt. John Hand (239) 842-7778
- Capt. Frank Rhodes (863) 967-4258
- Capt. Greg Peterson (423) 432-1973

## Fly Casting Coaches

### Dade City

Jeff Janecek.....352-588-3866

### South Tampa

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

Walt Durkin.....813-476-7128

### North Tampa

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

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

Leigh West .....813-971-8697

### St. Petersburg

Capt. Pat Damico.....727-504-8649

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Capt. Frank Rhodes.....863-967-4258

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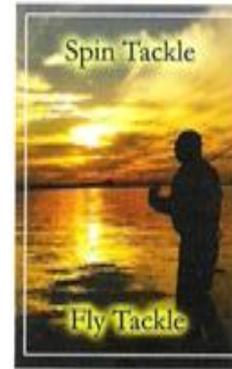
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Please list names you wish to include in family membership

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