



**Next meeting 6 Jan 2016
0600 PM to 0900 PM**

Fly Tying and Leaders



Jeff Janacek will be in charge of this event which is always popular. In addition to our cast of, "Usual Suspects," we are asking any and all fly tiers to bring equipment and tie their favorite pattern. They will bring additional materials so other members can tie along with them. The patterns will be simple. If you aren't tying yourself, bring a vise and rotate from table to table and enjoy the fun. This is an opportunity to go home with custom flies that work in our waters. Anyone caught standing around, hands in pocket, will be fined by Frank Rhodes our Sergeant at Arms! If you wanted to get started tying, this is a perfect opportunity. We will also have a table to demonstrate making your own leaders. This will include must-know fly fishing knots.

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2016 and a Happy New Year. I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and are ready to settle down for good winter fishing in Tampa Bay. Look for low winter tides in the morning for sight fishing opportunities on your favorite flat. The latest issue of the Florida Sportsman has very good tips on fishing our area in their Action Spotter. I'll bring my copy to the next meeting.

Thanks to all who attended our holiday party and contributed gifts and food. Our gift exchange got a little out of control, but we still had fun. Thanks to those who came to our outing at the hatchery. Special thanks to Ted who bought a great pot of chili and to Denise for desert. Also, to Gina Russo who hosted us with her usual charm and gusto!

We will work on our 2016 Club Calendar and post it in the February newsletter. We welcome your ideas for club outings, other activities and speakers. Please email me or speak to a board member at our meeting.

We will also collect annual club dues in January, so please bring cash or your check book to the next meeting.



Please note my new email: walt.durkin@aol.com

// Walt Durkin

EVENTS

- Annual Shad Outing: 8-10 January
- FWC Snook Symposium, Orlando on 13 Jan, register online by 6 Jan (free)
- Christmas Island trip, Feb?

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Rick O'Hara	813-238-6763

2016 TBFFC MEETING DATES

This month's meeting is 6 January from 6 to 9 PM.

TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

11 Dec: Play Hooky at the Hatchery Report. About 19 club members attended our annual event this year. Gina Russo gave her interesting and informative talk about the great work at the hatchery for the first hour. We then moved to the natural pond to fish for wild snook, trout, tarpon or whatever fish favored our flies. We saw a few tarpon, but did not catch any. Redfish were the cooperative species and Ted landed more than a dozen. Jeff Janacek caught the biggest, about 22 inches. We also got a couple of small snook. Ted provided a great lunch of chilli with all the fixings and Denise brought desert. I got the catch of the day by snagging an old spin fishing outfit that had found its way into the pond. After Andy snapped his Orvis rod, he sent them a picture on his phone and they agreed to ship him a new rod! Good customer support from Orvis.

St Johns River Shad Outing: 8-10 Jan. This is an annual trip for club members. We will camp out on a beautiful private site near Sanford, FL and fish Friday through Sunday. You may also stay at a local hotel. Bank fishing is an option but small boats, canoes or kayaks are best. We will provide sign-up and details at our next meeting. This is a unique and very enjoyable club event you should not miss. Google shad fishing on the St Johns for more general info.

13 Jan: FWC 2016 Snook Symposium

Caribe Royale, 8101 World Center Dr., Orlando; register by 6 Jan on-line. Free day-long public discussion in Orlando focusing on snook management and research in Florida, including the results of the soon-to-be-released 2015 stock assessment, population recovery following the 2010 cold kill, and opportunities for improving snook management.

Feb/Mar: One Week Trip to Christmas Island.

Christmas Island fly fishing has historically had a reputation as an incredible international bonefishing destination. What most people don't realize is the sheer number of species opportunities that a fly angler can expect during a week. From big bonefish to giant trevally to a myriad of triggerfish, and even milkfish, there is something new for everyone to check off their list. The interior, back country islands and ocean-side flats of Christmas Island are a mix of hard white sand, coral, and turtle grass, making Christmas Island truly a saltwater fly anglers nirvana. **Specific date not set. See Capt. Frank Rhodes or myself at the next meeting. Airfare and lodge is about \$4000.**

New Winston Boron II-MX, Nautilus reel and line, all 10 wt for sale at half retail: \$700. John Presner
jpressner0207@gmail.com



Tips for TBFFC

Tom Gadacz, Dick Miekka and I went to the Renzetti show last in December. Lefty, Bob Clouser, Nick Curcionni, David Olsen, Steve Parker, Cas Summers, Rick Santos, Mark Benson and many other great casters/teachers were there and presented one on one opportunities for instruction. I tried a number of rods with different lines and was astonished at the improvements in technology. This further reinforces my suggestion to put the rod you are interested in to a test making sure that you are technically on the right page. Hearing things like, "The rod doesn't load, the rod is too stiff, the rod is too soft, the tip isn't right," etc., are often not an accurate description of the rod/line combination, but rather a self-induced error with your casting. Correcting the casting error all of a sudden makes the rod perform better. **Capt. Pat Damico**

Random Thoughts from the Tying Bench

By C.W. "Don" Coleman

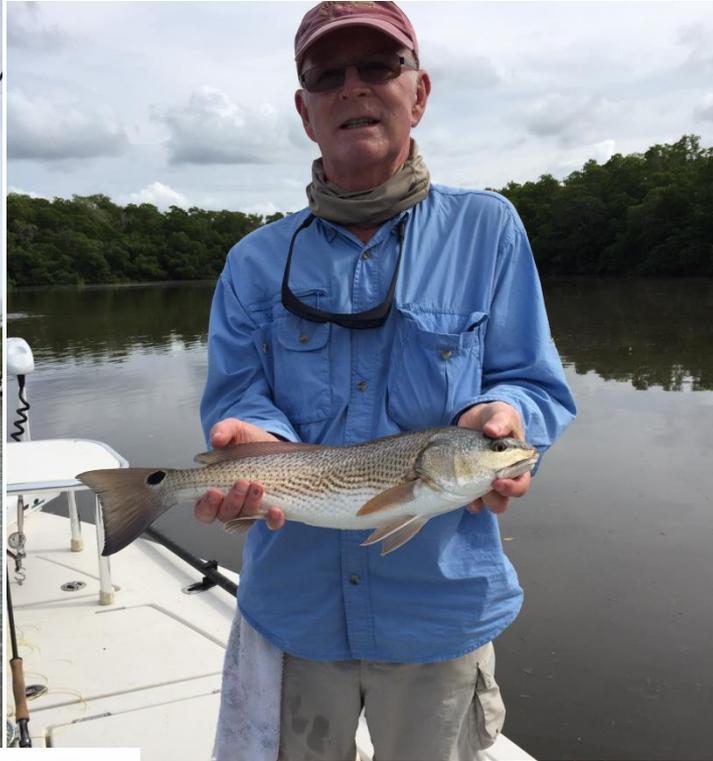
Ken Abrames--artist and saltwater fly fishing guide--reminds us that chartreuse exists as a color in many baitfish when viewed underwater, even though it disappears when the baitfish is out of water where it can only reflect white light. Underwater photos show this color quite often. Mixing a lot of yellow with a little blue bucktail gives the impression of chartreuse. Varying the proportions of yellow and blue bucktail will result in various hues of green. You can give the impression of any color or hue using only White, Red, Yellow, and Blue bucktails. Blend bucktail hairs by finger stacking. Hold the colored hairs you want to blend in the middle of the bunch and pull out small numbers of hairs by the tips and realign the hairs until the colors are thoroughly mixed. Blending colors is a very old technique, not a new experiment. Witness the old Spectrum fly. You don't have to stay within the lines, although it's best to use pastel colors.



Pictures from our Holiday Party: Kim, Brenda, Kathy; group shot; four amigos



Hooky at the Hatchery: fishing and eating on a beautiful day!



Top, Rick and Ed with a couple of nice fish on their trip to the Everglades in Dec; Pat with a snook from Tampa Bay and Capt. Rick Grassetto with a big red (27.5 lb) in Hopedale, LA on a bunny fly.





Captain Brandon Keck guided captain's Frank Rhodes and Bryon Chamberlin in Louisiana for big redfish. "He's an awesome guide and worked hard to put us on fish". Bryon even poled him for a while and he caught the biggest fish of the trip. Bryon caught two that were close to 30lbs and a black drum that was 30+lbs.



Ted with two sheepshead sight-fished on a small Avalon shrimp fly. Do the same this winter on a low tide, fishing a small crab or shrimp and a light leader. They are very spooky up on the flats. Imitate a great blue Heron and wade slowly and carefully to increase your shots.



Captain Rick Grassetto guided his anglers to another mixed bag last month on the fly.

Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Capt Pat Damico provides this report from his Captain’s Corner: Low tides and fly fishing are a combination that can produce extremes in both success and failure. Trout, snook, reds and sheepshead prowl skinny water looking for shrimp, crabs, baitfish and their other favorite morsels. As the tide carries the water off the flats, feeding fish must follow or be left exposed. The same fish will follow the tide as it comes in to continue feeding. Find a protected area free from boating and people activity. Look for disturbances in the shallows that indicate the presence of your quarry. Nervous water, wakes, scattering baitfish, slow waving exposed tails, and schools of mullet deserve your attention. Feeding birds will show the area that has the best concentration of fish food as they have the same diet. Stealth is the key. A boat may have to be abandoned. Canoes and kayaks will get you shallower and keep your profile and shadow low, and wading is often the best option. Tie a line to your waist to bring a paddle craft with you and save a hike back to an anchored boat. A floating salt water taper on a 7 weight fly rod with a fast action will present your fly with little disturbance and allow you to pick up line off the water easily. Leaders over 9 feet in length tapered to 15-pound test provide an edge. Use a loop knot to allow the fly to give more action when stripped. Weedless flies with the hook pointed up resist snagging. Bead chain eyes in the shallows are preferred over heavier weighted eyes to avoid frightening fish and assure a soft presentation. You want to get their attention, not scare them. Your favorite crab or shrimp pattern in size 4-6 in a color that matches the bottom is ideal. Cast close to the fish, in a straight line and without slack. Avoid lining the fish which will scare your target and his friends.

Fishing Report and Forecast, cont.

Kayak guide Neil Taylor reports a lot of fishing in the wind both November and December made things tough. For the fly guys, we connected on five species on a Neil Taylor fly (chartreuse and white, probably closer to a Clouser than anything else). The action has been pretty good and should get even better with a couple of cold fronts. Hopefully January gives us a few more lower wind days than we have had in previous months.

Capt Rick Grasset reports with water temperatures in the mid 70's, false albacore, tripletail, cobia, Spanish mackerel, blues and more should still be a good option in the coastal gulf when sea conditions are good. Catch and release snook fishing around lighted docks and bridges with flies and DOA Lures should also be a good option. Look for reds, snook and big trout mixed with mullet schools on shallow flats and edges of bars in Sarasota Bay and backcountry areas of Charlotte Harbor and lower Tampa Bay.

For local fishing I suggest you seek good wade fishing opportunities during January and February. There is nothing more fun than wading a crystal clear flat looking for cruising or tailing fish. For spooky sheepshead try a small Avalon fly or crab fly. Sheepshead are a real challenge and also great eating if you get one. Don't be afraid to fish cold days with a strong North or NE wind as this will produce super-low tides. Look for flats protected from the North so the wind will be at your back. Game fish will be cruising along the edge of flats and in pot holes. Watch for schools of mullet, which will be key to finding reds and other species. Fish the last couple of hours of the low and the incoming tide. Fish will be a little sluggish and bottom oriented so fish smaller flies (shrimp, crab, clousers) slowly along the bottom. Fish will be spooky requiring longer and lighter leaders (12 ft, 10 lb flouro). If sight fishing, cast well in front of the fish and just bump your fly a little as the fish come close. The Cypress flat to the north or south is a good choice as well as the Legion flat off south Westshore or around Picnic Island. At Picnic Island try the area all the way close to, but not past the MacDill signs. This is a good area to wade and sight fish and easy to get to via kayak. I've also heard Cockroach Bay is producing many red fish.

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 8-10 Annual Shad Outing, St Johns river
- Jan 13 FWC Snook Symposium
- Feb Christmas Island one week trip
- Mar Annual Banquet
- Jun Lake Calm Outing
- Oct 29-Nov 4 Xcalac Mexico Trip
- Dec Play Hooky at the Hatchery

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

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- 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
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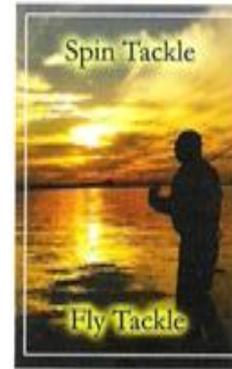
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