



**Next meeting 6 May**

**0600 PM to 0900 PM**

**Speaker: Brett Fitzgerald of the Snook Foundation**  
**Snook Biology, Behavior and Conservation**

The Snook and Gamefish Foundation's mission is to aid in the protection and preservation of current fish populations for future generations by facilitating coordination among anglers, researchers and policy makers. It supports unbiased and responsible fishery and marine regulations and conservation, preservation, restoration, and enhancement of estuarine and coastal water habitats. Brett is looking forward to our club being the first to hear the news about angler data being used. He'll talk about snook biology and how it relates to fly fishing. Additionally, Brett will go over neat aspects of a snook's vision, body hydro-dynamics and how they relate to the concept of 'matching the hatch,' and some on-the-water conservation practices fly fishermen can participate in.

**Tyer:**

**Lane "Smitty" Smith**

We are very fortunate to have Smitty tie for us almost every month. This month Smitty will feature a Mangrove Snook fly to go with our presentation. Smitty is a long time resident of St Pete and a world class tyer recognized for his skill and innovative patterns. This fly is a must for your fly box this summer.

**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.

## MAY 2015 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to May and hope you are finding time to get on the water and bend a rod.

Thanks to Pat Damico for organizing our fly tying meeting last month and hope you all enjoyed the experience. Thanks also to our expert tyers who showed their stuff!

Ted and I had a good trip to Abaco Island in the Bahamas where the bonefish got the best of us. We saw many big fish and look forward to a return trip next year. We will get with Capt Bryon, who also went to Abaco and do a joint presentation on this super destination.

Our treasurer Rick reports we made about \$1800 at our banquet in March. Thanks to all who attended and we welcome ideas from members on how to spend club funds.

If you come early to the meeting, please do not enter the room before 05:30 PM. Other patrons may be using it.

// Walt Durkin 

## EVENTS

- 13 June -Lake Calm (Odessa) Outing
- July Meeting – Free skin cancer screening and gear swap
- Mexico trip – 17 to 24 October

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Vice President: Ted Hagaman	813-920-8473
Treasurer: Rick Valeri	813-681-9143
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Robert Fischer	813-962-0185
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Rick O'Hara	813-238-6763

## 2014 TBFFC MEETING DATES

This month's meeting is 6 May from 6 to 9 PM followed by 3 June.

## TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

**11 April: Operation Bayfest MacDill AFB.** MacDill opens up their exclusion zone to boats and fishing once a year to the public. Robert Fischer joined me this year and we caught two reds, a snook and jack on the fly. About 50 boats participated and despite the crowd we saw lots of reds. I will try to alert club members early next year for the sign up. This is a unique and fun opportunity to fish waters with happy fish.

**9 April: Fly Fishing Film Tour.** About a dozen club members attend the show and we won many of the raffle items! The Bar Fly in Safety Harbor did a great job sponsoring this year. We saw many interesting films and I was struck again by the attendance of about 200 fly fishers, including many women. Next year I suggest we advertise our club with a few donations to their raffle.

**Club Facebook.** Please visit and like the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club on Facebook to keep up-to-date with club meetings and events. We also share tips about what's biting now, advice on casting and fly-tying, and news about fisheries conservation. And, we love to share your fishing photos, so don't be shy! The Facebook page is also a great way for members to connect with one another and share knowledge about fly fishing. The page is at [Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club](#)



**CCA STAR Tournament.** STAR anglers will compete for a total of nearly \$500,000 in prizes and college scholarships during the summer long tournament which runs from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. Entry fees are just \$30 for current CCA members and \$60 for non-members, which includes a one year CCA membership. Have an angler age 6 to 17 that would enjoy participating? CCA New Tide members fish the STAR for free for a chance to win a share of up to \$100,000 in college scholarships. Talk to any of our CCA members for more details.

**Project Healing Water Event 16 May.** Bradenton Yatch will host this event again this year. We are looking for boats and volunteers to help out. Tom Brineger will attend the May meeting with a sign up sheet and have more details.



**13 June - Lake Calm Outing.** Join us for freshwater fun on Dr. John Millns' property at Lake Calm. The club will provide lunch and we will fish from 06:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Bring your small boat (Gheenoe, canoe, kayak) or fish from the bank for bass and pan fish on this beautiful, crystal clear lake.

## Tips for TBFFC

Watching a client fishing this morning reminded me of a very useful cast that is simple but not often used. If you are in a position where your rod is almost vertical and the fly relatively close to you, trying to make a back cast may end up causing the fly and/or line to hit you. Move the rod rearward and get some line behind it forming a "D" loop, now execute a roll cast. As the line almost straightens in front of you make a back cast then finish with a forward cast to deliver the fly. The fly and line should not hit the water in front of you on the roll cast. This is also very useful when using a sinking tip or weighted fly. **Pat Damico MCI**

## Random Thoughts from the Tying Bench

By C.W. "Don" Coleman

LET THE FISH DECIDE – Dropper Rigs. Dropper rigs have fallen out of favor except for a few knowledgeable freshwater and saltwater fly fishers. Although the possibility exists that more than one fish may be caught at a time, the primary advantage of a dropper rig is that it lets the fish decide which fly they want. For saltwater dropper rigs, connect sections of leader material with Surgeon's Knots about 20 inches apart. Cut off the tag ends pointing toward the leader butt and tie the dropper flies to the tag ends pointing toward the tip of the leader so that they extend out only about 3 inches. Use different flies for the Point Fly, the Dropper Fly, and the Hand Fly. Dropper rigs have been used for centuries, in saltwater and freshwater, by fishermen who fish for food. Be sure to use strong enough monofilament in case you hook more than one fish. You may need to make 3 or 4 wrap surgeon's loops if the fish are large. Attach the point fly with a Lefty's knot (non-slip mono loop knot) and the droppers with clinch knots

## Fly of the Month



Bob Veverka's Mantis Shrimp Fly  
Tied by Leigh West, instructions on  
Youtube

# Cherokee Sound, Abaco, Bahamas



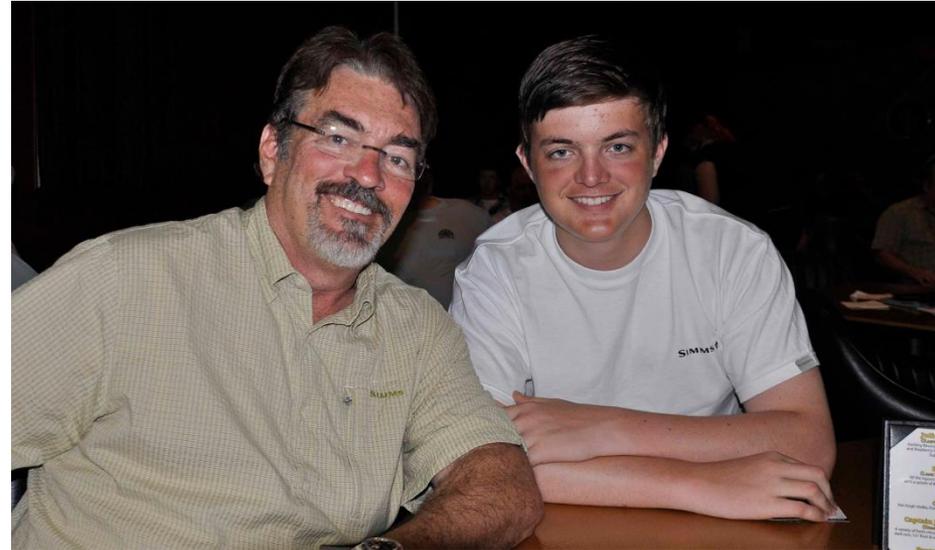
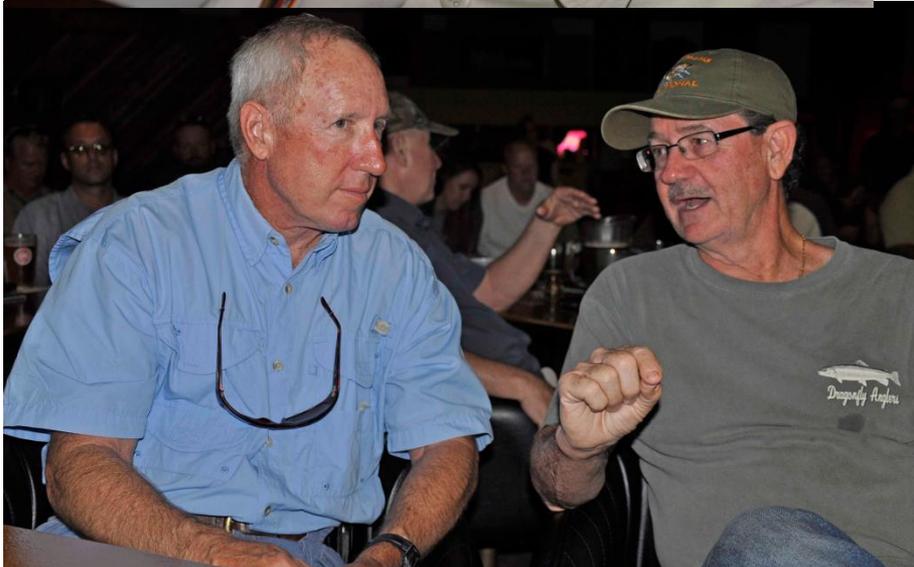
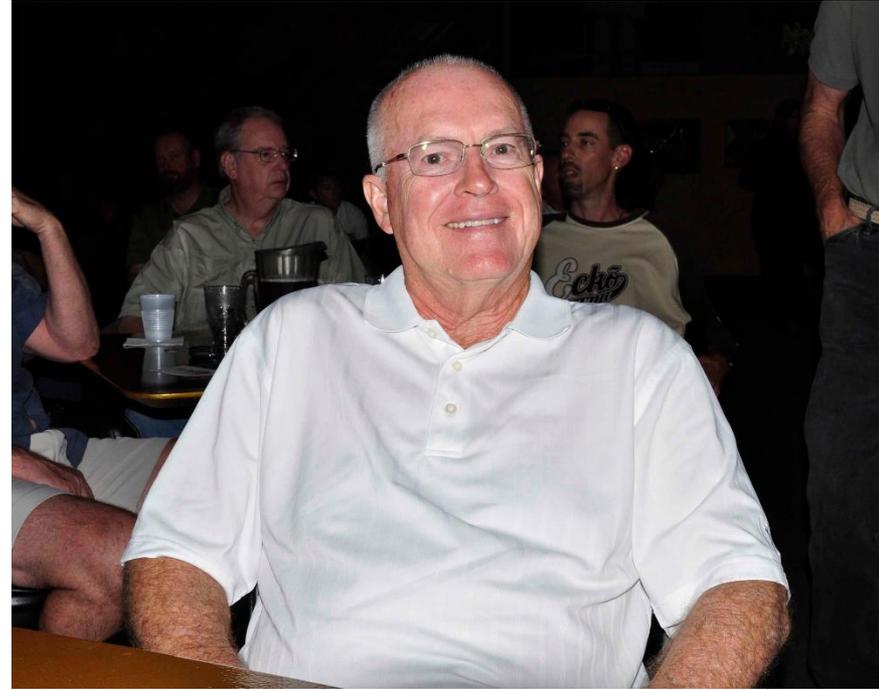
Above left: Ted walking the flat in front of our house, a shot from the end of the long pier (774 ft), looking back to our house and our skiff in the water, Walt with a bone fish, Pete's Pub in Little Harbor and Ted with a bone fish.



Top left: Ted with a Tampa Bay red, his wife Kathy with an Ever-Glades snook, Dr Greg in center, Tony Smith with a MacDill snook, and Capt Rick Grassett guided his angler to a nice fly-caught red.



# Fly Fishing Film Tour



Six of the usual suspects at the Fly Film Tour in April

Photos by Nanette O'Hara

## Fishing Report and Forecast

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

**Capt Pat Damico provides this report from his Captain’s Corner:** The best chance of catching a fly rod slam is now. Catching a trout, snook and redfish on the same outing is a challenge for any fly angler. Add a tarpon, making it a grand slam, and you have fly-fishing nirvana. Lighted docks provide this opportunity now in local waters. Become familiar with the area during the day so you can plan your trip, often combining several lights in proximity. Obstacles to navigation or casting should not be a surprise in the dark. Tidal flow and deeper water set the stage for actively feeding fish. When you approach a light, fish chasing bait will guarantee success. Have all equipment in the same place to save time and for safety. A head lamp is needed to land fish, remove hooks, and tie on flies and leaders. Fly rods of 8 or 9 weight are preferred. A clear sink tip fly line will get your fly deeper where the larger fish are found. A 6-foot leader with a 30-pound fluorocarbon shock tippet will prevent abrasion and breakoffs. Any synthetic baitfish patterns in white, with a dark back, will produce as long as they have the profile and size of the prey you see fish chasing. It's best not to anchor; use a bow-mounted electric motor to keep the boat in position as well as help get larger fish into open water where they can be more easily landed. 

**Dr. Greg Stepanski** reports luck fishing for big Spanish Mackerel with white poppers and snook with shiner patterns off Captiva Island. Snook were not on the beach yet, but, they were around structure in the canals near the beach.

**Sam Root** on Saltyshores.com reports this is prime season for "laid-up" Tarpon. Tarpon are starting to come out of the rivers and work their way onto the flats and stage in river mouth basins. Keep a safe distance and cast a very subtle fly to these wary fish. These fish want the fly just inches away from their nose to exert the least amount of energy possible. Start throwing about 2.5' in front of their face and if they don't react try the next cast about half the distance until you get a strike.

**Capt Rick Grassett** advises to look for reds, snook, flounder and big trout mixed with mullet schools on shallow flats and edges of bars. You may find trout, Spanish mackerel, blues, flounder or pompano on deep grass flats, particularly close to passes. You may find early arriving tarpon in the coastal gulf.

# 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jun 13 Lake Calm freshwater
- Aug Scallop Outing
- Sept 12-13 Florida Sportsman Show
- Sep CCA
- Oct FFF Enclave, Miami, FL
- Oct 17-24 Mexico: Costa de Cocas trip
- Oct Carl Hanson Outing, Hillsborough River
- Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec Members Year-End Party
- Dec Play Hooky Outting
- 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
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- Capt. Keiland Smith (863) 944-7475

## Fly Casting Coaches

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### 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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- 3-WAY CONSTRUCTION, Robert Fischer PO Box 342774, Tampa, 33694, (813) 495-5685.
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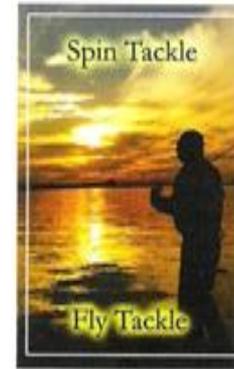
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Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

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Type of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check: One Year \_\_\_\_\_ Five Year \_\_\_\_\_

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

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

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Five-year dues: \$100.00 Individual Membership

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