

TBFFC-11-2014



Next Meeting 5 Nov

Speakers: Walt Durkin and Ted Hagaman

Walt is a native Floridian who moved to Tampa in 1998 after the Army stationed him and his wife Lou at MacDill AFB. He retired from the Army in 2002 and retired full time in 2012. Walt fishes the MacDill flats and surrounding Tampa Bay waters. He takes several trips a year to Mexico, the Bahamas and Alaska. This year he and Ted traveled to Juneau, Alaska to fish the road system via rental car. Ted has lived in Tampa many years and is an avid salt water and fresh water fisherman. Fishing runs in the family and his son Jeff is a professional guide in the Tampa Bay area. Ted's wife Kathy accompanies him on many outdoor adventures. Join Walt and Ted for a slide and video presentation on their trip to Juneau with additional photos on a follow-up trip to Glacier Bay at Gustavus, Alaska. You'll come away with all the info you need for an inexpensive fishing adventure in Alaska.

Tyer: Mike Perez

Mike started fly fishing in the Tampa/Dunedin area in early 1970's fishing for bass in the Hillsborough River and speckled trout in the Ozona area. He started fly tying shortly thereafter using a Thompson A fly vise and fly tying material purchased from a Herter's catalog. Following medical school, Mike moved to Baltimore for surgical internship and to fly fish for fresh water trout, small mouth bass, speckle perch and various sunfish. He joined the USN in the early 1980's and completed General Surgery training in the Washington, D.C. at Bethesda Naval Hospital. Mike fly fished extensively for small mouth bass in the Potomac River, Brown and Rainbow trout in the central Pennsylvania area. He was later stationed in Orlando Naval Hospital during which time he joined the the Back Country Fly Fishing Assoc. He then transferred to Jacksonville Naval Hospital 4 years later, joining the First Coast Fly Fishing Club. Mike held various board positions at these 2 fly clubs and learned to fly fish the Jacksonville/St. Augustine areas as well as Indian River/Mosquito Lagoon areas. He moved back to his hometown of Tampa in 2004 when retiring from the USN. Mike will be tying the Mirrolure hair bug.

Directions to Our Meetings: 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.

NOVEMBER 2014 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to November and cooler water and weather. Sight fishing is improving and will get better with the low winter tides. Fish the north or north-east winds after the fronts for the super lows, which really concentrate the fish.

We are looking for speakers for next year and have some prospects. However, we welcome your ideas and input on interesting folks to come and talk to us. Please email me (waltdurkin@aol.com) or mention names to any board member.

I have picked up the newsletter from Mike Hodge who did a great job. I am seeking a volunteer for this exciting club job, so let me know if you are interested.

Our new club shirts are in and are for sale (\$30). They look great and thanks to Ted for doing all the work. And, thanks to Dick Miekka for club hats available in Nov for \$10.

// Walt Durkin 

EVENTS

- Big Gun Shootout, **9 Nov**, Picnic Island Park.
- Play Hooky, Dec. **12 Dec**, Port Manatee
- Annual Shad outing to the St John's – **TBD in Jan or Feb**

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2014 TBFFC MEETING DATES

This month's meeting is 5 Nov followed by 3 Dec and 7 Jan. Please watch this space for any changes

TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

9 Nov: Annual Big Gun Shootout. We will host this casting event at our usual spot on Picnic Island in South Tampa. Look for a sign on the right about ¼ mile into the park after the boat ramp. Arrive at 0800 hours to help set up. The event will start about 0900 hours with three person teams. This is a fun way to improve your casting skills and meet new folks from around the state. We will provide lunch and drinks. Bring a fly rod of your choice and a positive attitude. We will use an 8 weight Sage Method rod with a distance taper line for the long cast portion. Sign up at the Nov meeting for a general head count or email waltdurkin@aol.com.

3 Dec: Annual Club Christmas Party. Please join us for a fish fry provided by Robert Fischer and helpers. Bring an appetizer, desert or other tasty food of your choice. We will also exchange gifts of \$15 or less if you desire to join in. Additionally, we will set up swap tables to sell or trade gear. The club will provide water and soda's.

12 DEC: Play Hooky at the Port Manatee Hatchery. Arrive at 0800 hours to start fishing their ponds. Gina Russo will provide a lecture and tour starting around 1000. Bring 4 to 8 weight rods and small flies to fish for tarpon, snook and reds. Alligator Bob will provide lunch and the club will provide drinks. Sign up at the Nov meeting.



25 Oct Mexico trip. Eight of us traveled to Cancun and on to Xcalak and Costa de Cocos for our annual outing organized by Frank Rhodes. We all had a great time and caught multiple species including permit (3), bonefish (too many to count), tarpon, snook and barracuda (served as Ceviche). Weather was mixed with wind and rain, but two pristine days made up for it. We have enough photos for a future presentation. First timer Lynn Skipper is now a certified bone fisherman, but still has work to do on permit.



The 2014 FFF Expo in Crystal River was a success and attended by many club members. The Florida FFF will likely hold next year's Expo in Miami at the IGFA headquarters. Mark your calendar to support this great organization and event.



Several club members enjoyed the Carl Hanson outing on 18 Oct on the Hillsborough river. Our own Jeff Janacek won both trophies for most and biggest fish. Way to go Jeff!



Flig 'n Jig by Layne Smith

This is my fly version of the “Pig 'n Jig” used by Bass angler's when fishing heavy cover. Tying it with the longer tail, as it hits the bottom, the foam tag on the tail sways enticingly! If on the other hand, you are after saltwater species, use the short-tailed version for Redfish and the like ... just swim it! The use of this particular hook style allows for better hook-ups since it swims hook point up. Good luck on which ever style you use !!!

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 34184D 60 degree bend Jig Hook size 1/0 to size 2

Thread: Danville Flat-waxed Nylon, choice of color to match

Head: Large Brass or Tungstun cone

Weight: .025 lead wire

Tail tag: Paddle-shaped foam strip

Tail: Medium Ultra Chenille (Vernille) in choice of color

Body: Estaz, color to match or contrast

Collar: Strip of “unseparated” rubber leg material *

Fly of the Month

Step 1: Measure and cut length of vernille tail you will be using (long tail 5-6” /Bass ... short tail 3-4” for Reds) and then prepare tail assembly by tying the foam strip on to one end of the vernille ... whip finish and cut thread. Set aside until step 6. **Step 2:** Wrap a dam of thread on the hook shank just behind the eye of the hook at the 60 degree bend and cut (this will stop the cone from sliding over the bend). **Step 3:** Mash down the hook barb to allow cone to slide onto hook. Slide cone on (pointed end first) up to thread dam. **Step 4:** Wrap approximately 15 wraps of .025 lead wire tightly around hook shank. Push wraps forward into cavity of cone (this will center cone and solidify head). **Step 5:** Reattach thread and overwrap lead. **Step 6:** Measure tail to desired length (about 5½” from hook eye to tip of tail for long version and about 3½” from hook eye to tip of tail for short version) and tie in just behind lead wraps. Advance thread toward cone (leave about 1/8” gap behind cone) and then palmer excess vernille over lead wraps to the 1/8” gap. Tie off and cut away any excess vernille. Back-wrap thread to the original tail tie in point. **Step 7:** Tie in Estaz and overwrap vernille and lead to the gap left between body and head. Tie off and cut away excess Estaz. **Step 8:** Place strip of “unseparated” leg material on top of fly at the 1/8” gap so that 2” lays back over body and 1” lays over cone head. Pinch leg material so it wraps completely around fly and tie in with about 6 to 8 tight thread wraps. **Step 9:** At this time, separate legs on back 2/3rds only (when done, loose legs should completely encompass hook shank). **Step 10:** Now fold back remaining 1/3rd and tie off (thread wraps should fall between leg material and cone disappearing behind cone head). Whip finish and cut thread. **Step 11:** Separate last bunch of leg material as you did the first. These should also encompass hook shank as the first set did, though slightly shorter. **Step 12:** Coat thread wraps on tail and the dam in front of cone with SHHAN... and **GO FISHING !!!**

Tips for TBFFC: No. 76

Practice Suggestions: During our recent IFFF Expo in Crystal River, we had an area to help anyone with casting issues, from beginner to advanced. A universal problem was that most participants were using an excessive amount of energy (power) to accomplish their cast. After watching them, my first instructions were usually to shorten the line, pinch it against the grip and then place the line hand in a pants pocket. All casts begin with a simple pick up and lay down cast. It should be performed with good form and nice small front and back loops. Do this with a short length of line, 30 feet from reel to fly. When satisfied, add a foot of line and continue casting and false casting. Do it as slowly as possible. Adding line in small increments requires minimal changes in the essentials needed to cast well and will build confidence.

Pat Damico, MCI



RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE TYING BENCH

By C.W. “Don” Coleman

POLARIZED LIGHT-- Scientific studies have proved that fish can see polarized light--a particular characteristic of Ultra Violet light which humans cannot see. Nearly all insects, zooplankton, crustaceans, and baitfish reflect polarized light. Many marine species use this ability to navigate and detect prey. The amount of polarized light refracted into the water is greatest when the sun is about 30 degrees above the horizon. When polarized light is reflected by baitfish or crustaceans it causes them to become luminous and more easily seen and identified as food by predator fish. Incorporating materials that can reflect polarized light in our flies may be as important as behavior, size, and shape to our success as fly fishers. Thomas J. Sholseth, in his new book *How Fish Work*, shows us how to determine which fly tying materials are capable of reflecting polarized light.

Tape a linear polarizing filter (from a camera shop) over a flashlight lens. Wear your polarized sun glasses (a must) and go into a dark room with the materials to be tested. Wait until your eyes become adjusted to the dark. Then shine the flashlight on the material to be tested. Rotate the flashlight to see if the material “lights up” at 90 degree positions. If reflectivity remains the same in all positions, the material does not reflect polarized light. There are not many materials suitable for fly tying that can reflect polarized light. Peacock Herl and Polar Bear Hair are two materials that do. Saddle Hackles, Bucktail, and most Mylar flash materials do not. Unfortunately, polar bear hair is illegal in the U.S. and when it can be obtained from Canada is very expensive. Fortunately, Peacock Herl is readily available and makes an excellent topping on baitfish imitations. **Look at the success of Leigh West’s Green and Gold.**

Buddy's Photo 's from Mexico





Alaska pics: Top: Ted's Alaskan cutthroat, Walt at the mouth of Cowee Creek north of Juneau
Center: One of many critters in Alaska and Ted with a nice silver salmon.
Bottom: Walt and Alberto with a permit in Mexico.

Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Redfish and snook (which are in season until December 1st) are around grass flats and mangrove shorelines. They are schooled up this time of year and you may find bigger fish. Use minnow patterns, gold spoons or gurglers. Jacks may be mixed in as well. Also watch for black drum and sheepshead. The black drum will tail and readily eat a crab fly. Sheepshead are tricky, but a small crab will work and try to catch them tailing or mixed in with other fish.

We have lower tides in November in the morning starting around the 20th, which will provide good opportunities for sight fishing. Picnic Island, The Legion Flat and Cypress Park will be good areas to try. Exploring a flat on low tide is a good way to learn the terrain while the fish are concentrated. Watch for nervous water, birds diving, pushes and especially schools of mullet along sand bar edges. I also found two nice reds following a big ray the other day; not common, but something to watch for.

I am soliciting input to this fishing report from our great club guides who are on the water a lot or other club members. Please email me your input at any time, but especially mid-month for newsletter updates.

Additionally, email photo's of your catches for inclusion in the newsletter.

//Walt (waltdurkin@aol.com)

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

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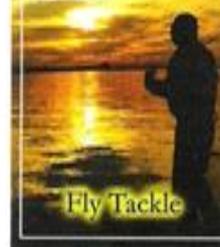
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