



The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

www.tbffc.org

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 6, 2007, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Compton Park Recreation Center, Tampa Palms (See below for Directions)

Special Guest Speaker

Rick Grasset

Capt. Rick Grasset, owner of Snook Fin-Addict Guide Service, Inc., is a full time fishing guide and outdoor writer based in Sarasota, FL. He has been guiding since 1990 and is an Orvis Endorsed Outfitter fly fishing guide at CB's Saltwater Outfitters in Sarasota. Specializing in fishing with flies and lures on light spinning tackle, Capt. Rick fishes the bays, back country and coastal gulf waters from Tampa Bay to Charlotte Harbor in his 18' Action Craft flats boat. He also leads groups of fly anglers to remote fishing locations around the world including the Bahamas and Venezuela. He is a Federation of Fly Fishers certified fly casting instructor.

Rick's fishing articles appear in numerous publications, including Saltwater Angler magazine, the Tampa Tribune, Florida Sportsman, Sportfishing, The Fisherman and Fly Fishing in Saltwater magazines. Many of these articles can be accessed on his web sites, www.snookfin-addict.com and www.flyfishingflorida.net.

His talk will be on western Montana trout fishing and will include the Beaverhead, Ruby, Jefferson, Big Hole and Madison rivers out of Crane Meadow Lodge in Twin Bridges, MT.

Featured Fly Tyer

Craig Smothers

Craig is a longtime member of both the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishing Club of Sarasota. A Midwesterner from Iowa City, Craig once held an Iowa record for carp at 41 lbs-14 oz. Craig earned a bachelor's degree from Cornell and a master's from the University of Minnesota. After graduation, he worked for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as a Wildlife Specialist. He now works for Seascope Aquarium, taking care of large saltwater aquariums in homes and offices from St. Pete to Boca Grande to Arcadia.

Craig has tied flies commercially for a dozen years, and has graciously tied for our club meetings on numerous occasions and donated fly collections annually to our fund-raising banquet. Tonight, in honor of the season, he will focus on tarpon flies.

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

JUNE 2007 PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

HELLO Members TBFFC,

Hope everyone had a good Memorial Day Weekend. Well here we are, in the month of June already. Where has the year gone? Now we look to summer vacations, the start of the rainy season, and hopefully some good fishing days!!!

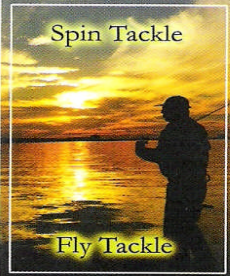
We had a very good turnout at our last meeting, and I want to THANK **Rusty Chinnis**, our May Speaker and **Nick Angelo**, our Featured Fly Tyer. You guy's did a Great Job. I am looking forward to **Rick Grasset** and **Craig Smothers** for this month.

I was unable to be at May's outing at **John Millns'** cabin in Odessa, but heard that everyone had a very good time, and just about everyone caught fish. I even heard that John went into the water to cool down..... Sorry about that John. We need to do this outing again next year. Thank You **Alligator Bob** for the Lunch...

If you have anything to donate for our November banquet, please bring it to a meeting soon. Or, if you know of a company or store that would be willing to make a donation, please tell any board member. ALL IS WELCOME... it does not have to be Fly Fishing related.

I want to welcome Dick back home from France, and look forward to seeing all members at our June Meeting.

Tight Lines, Neil Sperling 



The Fly Guy

Capt. Pat Damico

2981 E. Vina del Mar Blvd.
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
Tel: 727-360-6466
Web: <http://captpat.com>
Email: flyguy@captpat.com

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The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, June 13, location to be determined.

NOT GETTING THE NEWSLETTER? Please call Dick Miekka, Editor, at 727-866-8682 or e-mail to dmiekka@cs.com

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TBFFC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2007 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for the rest of 2007: June 6, July 4???, August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5. **Please watch this space for any changes.**

PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS:

August: Steinhatchee fishing and scalloping overnight outing.

October: Annual joint outings with the Suncoast and Mangrove Coast clubs.

November 10: Our annual banquet with **Tim Borski** as keynote speaker

November 11 or 18: TBFFC annual Big Gun Shootout

HELP TEACH CUB SCOUTS TO FISH

I am the Program Director for the Timucua District Cub Scout Twilight Camp from June 4-8, 2007, at Medard Park in Plant City. One of the events/sports that we offer these Scouts (parents and siblings) is fishing. Would anyone (or several of you) be interested in helping 2nd-5th grade boys with fishing around 7:00 p.m. June 4-7? Any assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated. E-mail to annshepherd96@hotmail.com.

Thank you, Ann Shepherd

BILL JACKSON'S EVENTS OF INTEREST

Call (727) 576-4169 for all items listed below.

Fly casting clinics each Saturday at 10 AM

Fly Tying Clinics; 6:30 PM every Monday for beginners and every Wednesday for advanced tiers.

SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

www.suncoastflyfishers.com

NOTICE: THE MEETING PLACE HAD CHANGED!

Regular Meetings: 6:30pm on the Third Thursday of each month, **except December**, at Walter Fuller Recreation Center, 7883 26th Ave. N., St. Pete.

MANGROVE COAST FLY FISHERS

www.mangrovecoastflyfishers.com

NOTE: Newer Location for MCFE Club meetings - **Twin Lakes Park**. The entrance to Twin Lakes Park in Sarasota is located on Clark Road, just 1/2 mile east of I-75, on the south (right) side of the road. Contact website above for details and directions.



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GET CREDIT FOR YOUR FLY DESIGNS

This is Angelo Peluso. I recently had a book published, Saltwater Flies of the Northeast (Frank Amato Publishing, August 2006). The book has been very well received and as a result we are doing a follow-up book, Salt Water Flies of the Southeast and Gulf Coast States.

As one of the top fly fishing clubs in Florida I was wondering if you and some of your membership might be interested in having some of your "go-to" flies profiled in the new book? I anticipate the book will include up to 100 or more of the top guides, captain, pro and amateur fly tyers and contain up to about 400 flies. I am interested in any new or original patterns as well as any effective modifications or variations of existing patterns.

The book will present flies for all of the inshore and off shore species from Virginia around to the Texas gulf coast. Please let me know if you and the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers are interested in participating and I will get you additional details or I can give you a call. It would be an honor to include your club's favorite patterns in the book. If you'd like to see more of what my first pattern book was like please visit my website... www.angelopeluso.com

Also, what I am doing with the other clubs is giving the club as well as the tyer name credit directly below the image of the fly pattern. That could be some good promo for the club...let me know...thanks..Angelo.

[IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING, PLEASE CONTACT DICK MIEKKA. WE CAN SUBMIT FLIES AND TYING INSTRUCTIONS FROM OUR OLD NEWSLETTERS AS A STARTING POINT.....DICK]

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE TYING BENCH -- 32

By C.W. "Don" Coleman

BUT WHERE ARE THE FISH? – The often repeated advice “fish where the fish are” is not much help. In my opinion, the most informative book on wade fishing salt waters with a fly rod I have ever read is Jack Gartside’s *Striper Strategies—Secrets of a Striper Bum*. While written for a selected audience, his advice is applicable for all venues a wading fly rod addict is likely to fish.

Jack’s first advice is to start investigating a place by going at low tide to see what the bottom looks like, and then try to observe what happens throughout one tide cycle. I know one guide who investigates a new flat by sitting on a step ladder throughout several cycles. I am not that dedicated, but the advice is good. You should also look for bait--if bait is not present there will be no fish around to catch. And look for current lines and how they change with the tide. Fish feed along current lines.

Most fish in inshore waters are structure oriented. Look to see what **STRUCTURE** is available. Common structures include changes in the contour of the bottom, drop-offs and holes, rock gardens, oyster beds, weed beds and sandy “pot holes,” piers, pilings, bridges, sand bars, and channels, etc. “A current line may be weak or strong (as in a “rip”). But it may be the most important structure of all, your guide to a pathway for fish” Find a current line and explore it until you find fish.

The most consistent action will occur along **EDGES**—where contrasts occur. Contrasts exist where “shallow water meets deep, cold water meets warm, fast water meets slow, dark water or bottom meets light water or bottom, clear water meets discolored water, shadow meets sunshine, and so forth.” Look particularly for a concentration of edges. Try to fish a fly resembling the bait that is present. Don’t forget crabs are bait too, and they are available all year.

LOOPS -- "When you make a cast and can watch the fly line unroll symmetrically, in a form we call an open-ended loop, it is a thing of beauty....A beautiful cast has a practical side too, in that good loops of the right width can deliver a fly of any character to the target area in a way that makes the fly instantly fishable."--Joan Salvato Wulff


TREBLE HOOKS – Even die-hard fly fishers occasionally resort to throwing jigs and spoons to catch fish. No lure needs more than a single hook to catch fish. I usually replace the treble hook on my spoons with a single hook, usually dressed with bucktail and flash (see Don’s Simple Bucktail on Page 31). But what do we do with the treble hooks we removed. I simply cut off one of the hooks leaving a double hook. Then tie a simple fly with lead eyes and with the wing running between the two upright hook points. As always, pinch down the barbs on all hook points.

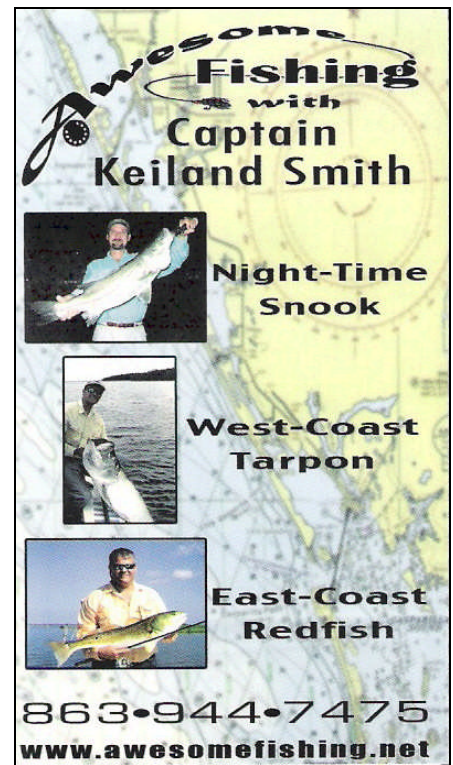
MAXIMS: “Handle the loops.” – Carl Hanson

“Form your loops with the top 6 inches of the rod.” – Ken Abrames

Once again. “Tis a gift to be simple.” Don’t complicate fishing flies.

“I don’t follow the tides and the wind anymore. Once upon a time I did, but now I just go.” – Ken Abrames

Getting old is not for sissies. 



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Member Photos

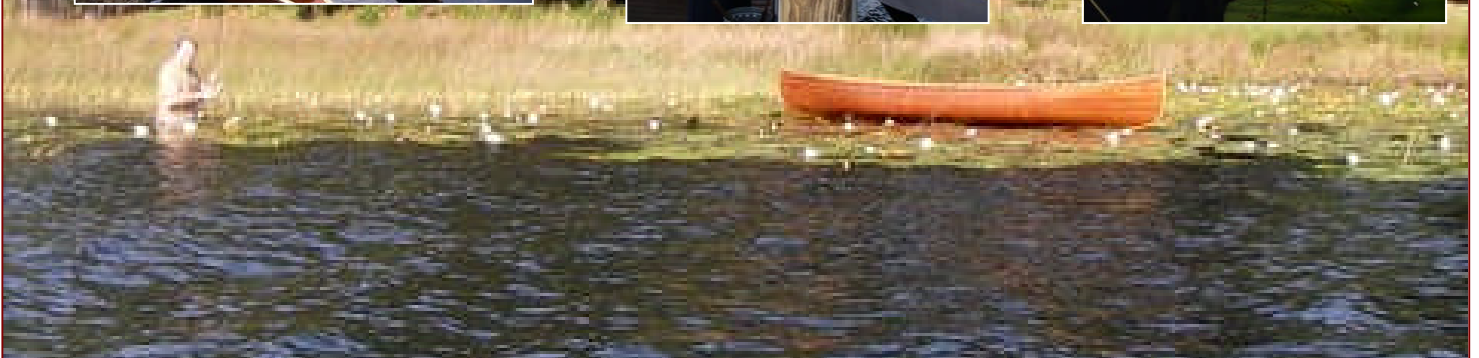
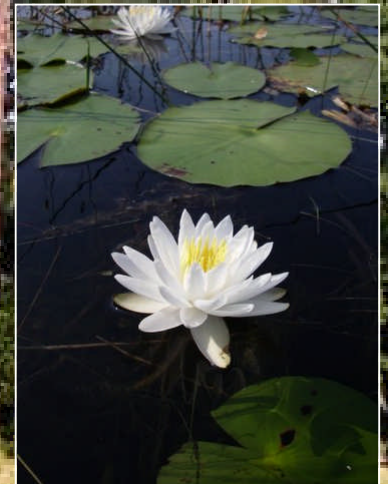


Jim Seegraves is catching fish so big that that some of them are downright ugly! Here he is holding his biggest black drum ever, a 53 pounder caught during March at one of his favorite fishing holes in Louisiana on his mega-crab fly.



Was this a great outing, or what? Those who were lucky enough to attend the May outing at John Millns' secret(?) hideaway had excellent fishing (everybody hooked something), beautiful scenery, great food, camaraderie, and a lesson from John on how to right a tipped canoe.

(photos by Denise Bruner)





A Good “Game Eye” Will Help Your Fishing

By CAPT. PAT DAMICO, CapMel.Com Fly Fishing Editor

Several years ago, while hunting turkeys with a friend, Cosby Hodges, from Alabama, he said to me, “Pat, you have a good game eye.” His reference is to one’s ability to spot game, or things that blend into their environment, easier than many people who just see the background, and have difficulty picking out whatever is being pursued.

This is something that must be developed with practice. Spending much of my youth in the outdoors was my basic training.

As a guide, this is one of my biggest challenges. When sight fishing, transferring the fish’s position to a client is necessary in order to get them to direct their cast to the appropriate spot.

This may explain why some guides cast for you. Using the boat as a clock, with twelve o’clock being straight ahead of the bow, one o’clock to the right, and eleven o’clock to the left, is a big help. Calling out the distance is next. Example, “redfish thirty feet at eleven o’clock moving from right to left!” “I can’t see it,” is the reply. I then ask, “Point your rod?” They will point their rod in the direction I just described and, from my vantage point on the poling platform; I will make the final correction. “Move your rod a little to the left! Stop!” Okay, “I see it,” is the expected response. “I still don’t see it,” occasionally comes back. This is usually happening as the fish is moving, the boat is tracking, wind is blowing, and less than perfect light conditions

exist.

How can we reduce the learning curve and immediately begin to help this process? An experienced angler as a fishing companion is a good start. What are some of the things they would point out to you?

First, relax and remember your purpose in being on the water. It should be to enjoy the day and leave any worries behind. Develop a keen sense of observation. Most of my fishing is inshore, in relatively shallow water. Birds are a good indicator of fish activity. As day breaks, birds should be actively feeding, either wading the flats or diving for baitfish. If birds where you are still sit on tree limbs, move to another location. Birds that feed on smaller forms of fish and crustaceans, will tell you where fish will also be feeding. A shallow water area that provides food for pelicans, gulls, herons, and other wading birds is a good place for you to begin. When birds fly close to the water, their shadow will startle schools of bait, reds, mullet, trout and other gamefish, telegraphing their presence.

A good hat with a dark rim inside will shade your eyes, which should be covered with good Polaroid glasses. Look past the surface and see the bottom. Is the grass healthy, or is it brown, or missing? Healthy grass is a good indicator of water quality. If the water is dirty or cloudy, look for cleaner water. Grass on flats will have lighter areas that represent sand holes, bare places where gamefish will often lie in ambush for prey. Irregularities in a grass flat will also provide ambush points for fish. Structure, will provide breaks in current where predators can hide with little effort and snatch unsuspecting prey as it passes. Old seawalls, logs, docks, riprap, and bridge abutments are a few examples. Identifying fish holding places will now help narrow your search area. As fish move they will often show their presence. “Nervous water,” is a term applied to the difference imparted to the water’s surface when fish move beneath it. In the absence of wind, look for any surface disturbance. Even with wind, there will be a definite pattern to the water’s surface. Any change in this pattern would be, “nervous water.” Nervous water can become a “wake,” as fish move water closer to the surface. When you see a wake, remember that the fish will be ahead of the wake so adjust your cast accordingly.

The sun can be helpful, or a hindrance. A high sun at your back will help you see fish much easier. Fish do change their coloration to blend with the surrounding environment. Sometime, their shadow is a giveaway. The lights will go out when a cloud covers the sun and sight fishing is compromised. A low sun, casting your shadow on the water’s surface, will scare wary fish. A sun close to the horizon will make it easier to spot tails and backs of tarpon, reds and bonefish as their body parts break the surface. Overcast days can be the best time to fish, often extending feeding periods and making shallow water fish less spooky. A deer standing in the middle of a grass field is easy to see. When in the dense woods, only body parts are discernable. Wooded areas usually exhibit a vertical pattern; a small part of a deer’s body that is horizontal could be the only clue to his presence. Movement will be another. When “something,” that you are watching begins to move, it’s not the bottom. Learn to be a student of nature. Tune in to your environment. Not only will you enjoy fishing much more, but you will also catch more fish. Why do ten percent of fisherman, catch ninety percent of the fish? Having your presentation where fish are is the key.

Capt. Pat Damico
St. Pete Beach
727-360-6466
pat4jaws@hotmail.com

FLY OF THE MONTH

Borski's Butterfly
Tied by Nick Angelo



Materials

Hook- TMC 811S # 2

Thread- flat waxed nylon brown

Body- .020 lead fuse wire and brown yarn or leech yarn

Wing- tan craft fur stamped with a brown prism marker

Head- 2 dark brown neck hackles

Weed guard- double piece of 20# hard mason mono

Tying Instructions

1. Tie in a doubled piece of the lead wire on the shank of the hook, from the eye to the bend.
2. Tie in the leech yarn near the bend of the hook and palmer it forward.
3. Tie in nice clump of the tan craft fur, making sure clean it by pinching out any of the short pieces this way the fur is all the same length.
4. Place the fly on a piece paper and bar it with the marker.
5. Tie in the neck hackles and palmer them around the hook. note: be sure to leave enough space from the eye of the hook in the previous steps or there won't be enough room to palmer the hackles.
6. Tie in the mason mono weed guard and whip finish 🍷

Casting Tips for TBFFC: 89

The Tailing Loop: More Accurate Diagnosis for Easier Correction ^{©2007}

“**Eliminating Tailing Loops**” was among the earliest articles I had written for this column. In that article, I had noted that among the most common problems in fly casting is the tailing loop; where the line crashes into itself. The only cause of tailing loops was cited as the tip of the fly rod traveling in a concave path, first descending, and then rising during the cast. Among the more common reasons why the rod tip follows this concave path are; applying power too early during the cast, employing a casting stroke that is too short for the amount of line being cast, quitting the haul too soon and slowing down before the cast is complete.

“Applying power too early” during the casting stroke is a rather subjective statement. How early is “too early?” Observing where the fly tangles into the line or leader indicates how large a helping of “too early” one has served up during the casting stroke. If the fly tangles into the fly line, then “too early” can be construed as having applied power “way too early.” If the fly tangles into the tippet, then “too early” can be interpreted as having applied power “slightly too early.” Similarly, if the reason is a casting stroke that is too short for the amount of line being cast, or having slowed the cast before its completion, observing where the fly tangles will indicate how much too early one had quit the casting stroke or slowed down before completing the cast. In this way the caster can gain a better sense of the timing of the appropriate correction to more quickly eliminate the problem.

Dan Lagace

Member, Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club 🍷

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FISHING REPORT AND FORECAST

"What a Great time to go Fishing!"

As Tropical Storm Barry headed for the Tampa Bay area **Cheryl and I** ran over to Honeymoon Island to check out the snook situation. It didn't take long to find a nice spot on the beach and I was lucky enough to land a 24 incher in the first 10 minutes. There wasn't anymore action for almost 2 hours but then an identical snook took the fly, jumped several times then gave herself a "quick release". Both fish took a red and yellow seducer with-in a few feet of the shore. I also saw several bait fisher folks land nice trout from the beach. The mangrove shorelines north of the Courtney Campbell Causeway have been holding redfish in the 24 inch range. These fish will take most minnow imitator flies. Try the areas close to one of the many creek mouths with-in an hour or two either way of the high tide.

Fly anglers fishing with **Capt. Rick Grasset** this week have had some quality shots at tarpon and had a few bites on Enrico Puglisi's Black Mullet and tarpon bunny flies. They worked 2 or 3 schools a day early in the week along Siesta and Casey Keys and by the weekend they were working 6 or 8 schools a day. **Brett Yantis**, from Kansas City, fished a couple of days with Rick early in the week and had a take on an Enrico Puglisi Black Mullet one day. **Tim Dunagan** drove down from Mexico Beach, Fl to fish a day and Rick Happle and Shawn Borgeson, both from Tampa, also fished a day. Rick got bit a couple of times on a black and purple tarpon bunny.

Capt. Wade Osborne reports tarpon along beaches from the Don south to Holmes Beach. The tarpon around Egmont Key were very approachable and easy to get shots at with a fly. Wade recommends a crab pattern on the outgoing tide. The mackerel has also been co-operative around the markers.

The upper end of Tampa Bay has been very productive this spring. I have taken numerous reds and snook on a yellow/red seducer during the incoming tides over a dark bottom. These fish will be moving to the mouths of the creeks and the flats as the water warms.



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Fly Fishing is 1807 Years Old Today (more or less)

Taken from the Backcountry Fly Fishers Naples Newsletter

If there is any truth to the reports about the origins of fly fishing, 2007 will mark the 1,807th year of the sport. Apparently, somewhere in what is now northern Greece an enterprising fisherman noticed that fish would rise to the surface to gulp down a newly emerged fly. This man probably caught one of the flies and tied it on to a primitive hook. No such luck; the fly would wilt and fall off the hook. The ancient fisherman then fastened a piece of red wool around a hook, attached a couple of feathers and found success in attracting what were most likely trout. Thus the sport of fly fishing was borne in frustration and the natural human quest for a better way. Why he selected red wool when the natural flies were dark brown will never be known. The length of the rod, the makeup of the line and the reel, if there was one, are lost to history. But the almost 2,000 year development of fly fishing was born. It is probable that fly fishing migrated from Greece to Italy and then north to Germany and Britain. Records from medieval times in Germany mention catching trout on feathered hooks. Few details are known about the rods, reels and lines used in the sport. But it is known that rods were made from ash and hickory with bamboo eventually coming into use.

The real emergence of fly fishing owes much to the interest in Britain beginning around 1800. Bamboo rods in the lengths of 12 to 16 feet were commonly used. Then brass ferules were introduced that permitted long rods to be made in sections and more easily carried. Reels in this period resemble today's bait casting reels. They were positioned at the butt end and on top of the rod. Narrow and below-the-rod reels produced in America ultimately replaced the British designs. Lines presented the largest challenge. Made from a mix of horsehair and silk, they readily absorbed water and sank and wore out quickly. Casting into the wind proved impossible. The partial solution was the braided silk line. It enabled longer casts (18 to 23 yards with a 16 foot rod) and durability. Silkworm gut came into use for leaders and hooks and fly patterns were vastly improved.

Rapid industrialization and development of new materials as the world entered the first half of the 20th century gave rise to improvements in virtually every aspect of fly fishing. Availability of affordable equipment and transportation opened the sport to fishermen below the gentry set. A few of the developments were: Cork Handles, Standard reel seats, Fast-winding, single-action reels, Floating lines (at least for a few minutes,) Shorter rods, Ultra-light split cane rods, and better gut for leaders.

But nothing in the development of fly fishing had occurred in any prior period that compares with the improvements since 1950. A few of the really big steps include: Fiber glass rods, following closely by Graphite fiber rods (how did we do without them?), Nylon lines followed by hollow PVC lines with nylon cores, Monofilament leader material of all sizes and types, Light, strong, large diameter and narrow drumreels with variable drag (reliable and sealed) These lists do not do justice to the unending array of improvements to equipment and flies over the centuries. In addition to equipment, one of the major developments in the sport in the last 40 years has been the growth of salt water fly fishing. I say growth, because fishing for salt water species harkens back for centuries. Salmon fishing is mentioned in very early writings about fly fishing. And no doubt a key factor in the emergence of fly fishing was the formation of fly fishing clubs. Many were established in Britain in the 1800's and now they flourish all over the world. For comprehensive information on the history of fly fishing:

www.flyfishinghistory.com or
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fly_fishing

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, plus enriching experiences.

- Monthly Meetings with Famous Speakers
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- Fishing Trips Sponsored by Members and the Club
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