



The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

www.tbffc.org

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 5, 2007, 6:00 p.m.

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

Special Guest Speaker

Nanette O'Hara

Nanette O'Hara is the Public Outreach Coordinator for the Tampa Bay Estuary Program. She is responsible for communicating the program's goals and successes to the media and the public, and for developing strategies to improve community awareness of bay problems and solutions. She is also an avid fly fisher, and has served as a board member and president of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Last December, Nanette finally married her best fishing buddy and fellow club member, Rick O'Hara. But sometimes she still dreams of quitting her government job and working as a waitress in Everglades City just so she can fish for tarpon every day in the Ten Thousand Islands.

Nanette will be showing excerpts from and discussing the documentary film, "Tampa Bay: Living Legacy" for which she served as executive producer. The documentary - which aired on regional PBS stations last year -- chronicles Tampa Bay's transformation from a relatively unspoiled paradise in the 1950s, to a waterway battered by pollution in the 1970s, to its amazing rebirth and recovery some 25 years ago and continuing today.

Featured Fly Tyer

Ron Cavalier

Ron was raised in Philadelphia and began fishing age 6. He fished the creeks, rivers and lakes for trout, bass, pickerel, walleyes and pan fish within a hundred mile radius while growing up there. He began tying flies at the age of 10. Later he fished the West and East coasts including Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, the Bahamas' and the Cayman Islands. At one point he lost touch with fly tying and then in 1998 began tying once again. Now he ties each day, sometimes 4 hours or more a time.

The flies he will tie for the September meeting are simplified versions of a hi-tye as well as Enrico's baitfish pattern, which has gained a lot of followers since it first showed up a few years back. Don Coleman and Ron worked on the hi-tye version for a while, but never hit on anything that made them totally happy. It was a fly tying film by Danny Sauvageau that gave Ron the idea of how to create these flies. Come and learn a tying sequence that is quite easy and enjoyable.

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

SEPTEMBER 2007 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all club members, whether plying the tepid waters of Tampa Bay, Seeking shelter in the air conditioned corridors of industry, or enjoying the coolness of northern climes.


Thanks to **Capt. Bryon Chamberlin** and **Capt. Nick Angelo** for their stellar performances at our guest tying bench and on the speakers' platform during our August meeting. Those who took notes learned many insider secrets for catching Tarpon. No notes were needed to learn how to tie their special tarpon flies, though, because the instructions are printed on page 7 of this newsletter.

Be sure to attend our September meeting, where you will be further educated and entertained by our guest speaker, **Nanette O'Hara** (nee Holland), and featured tyer **Ron Cavalier**.

Our principal club events for September will be a casting clinic led by our expert educator **Steve Parker**, ably assisted by some of the best casting instructors in all of America. Also sign up to help us run our booth at the Florida Sportsman Show in late September See page 3 for particulars.

This will be your first opportunity to sign up for our annual banquet and silent auction, the principal event that raises money for our monthly pizzas, outings, trophies, and giveaways. If you don't sign up right away, please reserve Saturday, November 10 on your calendar for this important event. Banquet details are on page 6.

Hope to see you at the September meeting.

Tight lines, //Dick 

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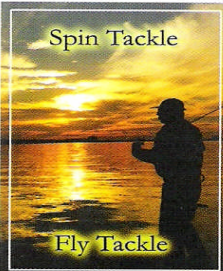
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The next meeting of the TBFFC Board of Directors will be at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 12, location TBD.

NOT GETTING THE NEWSLETTER? Please call

Dick Miekka, Editor, at 727-866-8682 or e-mail to dmiekka@cs.com



The Fly Guy

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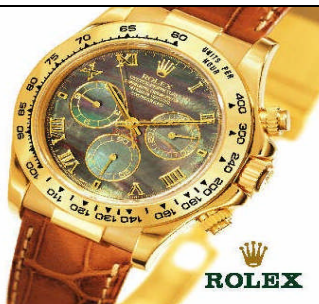
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TBFFC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2007 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for the rest of **2007**:
September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5.
Please watch this space for any changes.

SEPTEMBER CASTING CLINIC

WHEN: Sat. September 15, 9:00 AM until 2:00 pm

WHERE: Compton Park Recreation Center

LED BY: Steve Parker

The clinic will cover the following:

Casting styles and Casting physics (no test, I promise), **Rod selection** (flex type based on style), **Fly lines**- types available and their application.

Special Tips: Steve is going to pull together all of the tips that he has learned over the last 30+ years of fly fishing. Including:

- Dealing with wind- don't let wind "blow" your cast!
- Fine tuning of the students casting for maximum results
- Minimizing false casts that cause your guide heartburn
- Common casting issues that can be eliminated
- Increasing distance and accuracy
- Coaching others- carry on the club's tradition. Teaching is the best way to learn.

The prerequisite for this class is that the attendees have basic knowledge of equipment, terms used in fly fishing and the ability to cast and load the rod. They should bring their own equipment.

FLORIDA SPORTSMAN SHOW

When: Sat. and Sun., Sept. 29-30, 2007

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat., 10. a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun.

Where: Florida State Fairgrounds, Expo Hall
I-4 and Hwy. 301, Tampa

Club Member Volunteers needed:

Once again our club will have a table at this show. We will be telling show visitors about TBFFC, demonstrating fly tying, and giving casting lessons at the casting pond. We need members to sign up for 2-3 hours each. We should have at least two members at all times. You will receive free admission to the show (normally \$7), and will have an opportunity to visit all of the exhibits and vendors. **Sign up at our September meeting.** For details, contact Neil Sperling at 813-655-5627

START PLANNING FOR OUR BANQUET

Please set aside the evening of Saturday, November 10 for our event before something else gets on you calendar. See page 6 for more details and order form.

PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS:

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

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

December: TBFFC annual Big Gun Shootout, and Play Hooky for the Holidays.

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

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 MCFF 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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Who Needs Fly Casting Lessons?

By CAPT. PAT DAMICO

Reprinted from the CapMel.com Website

When I reminisce with fellow guides about recent trips, the subject of the client's ability to cast well always leads the discussion. Captain Bryon Chamberlain, an excellent caster with either hand, was telling Dan Lagace and me about a trip last June where they had pods of tarpon coming at his boat in a steady stream for a good part of the morning.

Dan had just given a casting seminar at a Federation of Fly Fishers conclave in Dania, Florida, demonstrating some advanced casting techniques, and we were having dinner together. Bryon's client could not make a single decent presentation during a session that we all pray for because it doesn't occur as frequently as we would like. Many hours spent on the poling platform can be unproductive, as well as hard work.

When opportunity presents itself, we all want the results to look like Saturday morning TV where Flip or Lefty drops a precise cast exactly on the money and a classic take, hookup and jump follow. Bryon said, "If I had Leigh West along, we would have had a blast." Leigh is another friend who can cast exceptionally well with either hand.

When that client arrived home and relived the charter with his buddies what did he say? First question, "Did you catch anything?" No! What? You paid all that money and didn't catch a single fish? What kind of a guide did you have? The discussion can now take several directions. The guide was great! He had me on fish that were happy and undisturbed, but I screwed up! I was so excited, my knees were knocking! My casting was atrocious. He positioned the boat properly and all I could do was flub every attempt to make a decent cast. Not only could I not reach the fish most of the time, when I did get close I slapped the fly on the water. Several times I picked up the line with a rip that sent them scurrying. I scared fish by false casting over them when they were very close. The wind, although relatively mild, caused me to hit his hat and back a couple times with the fly because I didn't know how to deal with windy conditions. I was embarrassed because I was so unprepared. Between now and next year I will get someone to help me improve so that I never have this happen again.

Or another answer to the question could be, "The guide was OK, he couldn't get me very close to any fish. It was just one of those days when they weren't hitting. We saw some fish, but conditions weren't very good. Next year I'm going to the Keys!"

I realize everyone will not be standing on the casting platform of a flats boat facing one hundred pound tarpon with a twelve weight fly rod. Can you think of any situations that you have faced with a fly rod in your hand where some additional skill would have improved your day? Other than just beginning fly fishing, there are many reasons to improve your casting performance. On a river, the biggest fish rising are always ten feet further than you can cast, same for tailing redfish, or bonefish. When stream fishing, are you able to deal with drag in different currents? Are a lot of fish missed because you can't set the hook properly? Large fish are often under some obstruction or overhang where your fly can't get to them. Can you execute a good roll cast because your favorite stream has a lot of casting obstructions behind you? Any type of wind is impossible for you to deal with. By the time you have the fly anywhere near where the fish were they have left. It's necessary to false cast at least five times to load your rod. If you take your eyes off the fish to watch your back cast, or untangle line wrapped around the rod or reel, do you have trouble finding them again? Bad habits and muscle memory are pronounced in your casting style. Do you have any idea what you're doing wrong?

My fly fishing began at the age of ten and was self taught. Poor equipment and lack of direction gave me a lot of things to overcome later. I also wasted time trying to improve without knowing what my faults were. When I tried to get some help at a local fly shop I was told, "There's something going on in your back cast." Reading the prolific literature, watching videos by the experts, and listening to casting seminars is a good start but can be very confusing. Is the expert trying to make you a mirror image of him or her? Can you separate substance, what is really necessary, from style, the individual technique characteristic of the caster? Should a couple of your fishing buddies help you? If we were talking about golf or playing a musical instrument, how would you get the most help? Is it necessary to identify your strengths as well as weaknesses? Would going to a professional be the solution? How do you choose someone?

Most fly shops have one or more staff members who will offer assistance. This person may be an excellent caster, and a good, or poor teacher. Is this only for you, or your wife, girlfriend, daughter, etc? Fly clubs also have more experienced members who are available to assist you. Our Tampa Bay Fly Fishing club has the hour before our monthly meeting available to help with casting problems. Another member, Steve Parker, has given a casting clinic for members scheduled once or twice during the year that is excellent. The names I mentioned in the first paragraph, as well as others from our club, have spent many hours helping fellow members define and improve casting techniques. There isn't a single downside to belonging to a local fly fishing club. Fly fishing schools, some that have been around for awhile, offer weekend programs in most parts of the country. What will work best for you? This is a decision you will have to make.

There is a certification process that the Federation of Fly Fishers began some years ago. Certification is given at two levels, a Certified Casting Instructor, and a Master Certified Casting Instructor. Someone who successfully completes this process has performed written, oral, and performance tests carefully administered by only the most qualified individuals. The FFF website has a list of certified instructors in your area. This is a good place to begin your journey. This program has everyone that is certified working on the same page. The substance of your development will be consistent. Rarely will it be a one shot deal. Think of your fly rod as an instrument. Improvement will come only with practice. One of the greatest thrills in fly fishing is to see an improvement in your casting skills. Casting well will become the cornerstone of your fly fishing success and you will reap the benefits.

Member Photos :



Jeff Abeles caught these trout while fishing at the Elk Trout Lodge in Kremling, Colorado. He fished the Blue River, The Colorado River, and Troublesome Creek using both dry flies and streamers. Predictably, his biggest fish were caught on the smallest water – Troublesome Creek.




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Annual Banquet and Auction

Saturday, November 10, 2007 at Valencia Gardens Restaurant, Kennedy Blvd., Tampa
6:00 - 7:30 PM Silent Auction, Hors D'oeuvres and Cash Bar; 7:30 PM Dinner

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: TIM BORSKI



ABOUT : Tim Borski

Tim Borski paints unique wildlife art in watercolor, oils and acrylics, and he can be found daily in his studio in Islamorada in the Florida Keys or fishing in the backcountry -- allegedly gathering inspiration and photographs for his art. Tim has a style all his own. His paintings primarily focus on bird and fish species and he waxes eloquent about their attributes and habitats. An occasional landscape or T-shirt design also graces his easel.

Tim likes to write as well and has been published in several magazines. He writes a quarterly how-to column on flies, and has about a dozen trademarked fly patterns to his name through the Umpqua Feather Merchants. He recently produced a fly-tying DVD which showcases how to tie specific flies and shows them in use on the water.

A. Order Form for Annual Banquet

Where: Valencia Gardens Restaurant, Kennedy Blvd., Tampa

When: November 10, 2007 @ 6:00 PM (Dinner 7:30 PM)

(Please print)

Name _____ Phone _____ (Evenings)

Number of Guests (including yourself) _____ (\$40 for singles, \$75 per couple)\$ _____ Total

Tickets to be picked up at the door, the night of the event

B. Order Form for Fly Tying Clinic with Tim Borski

Where: Compton Park Recreation Center

When: November 10, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM (Lunch Included)

Name(s): _____ X \$20.00= \$ _____ Total

C. Annual Dues Payment (In case you forgot): 2007 member application

Your Name: _____ Date: _____ Hm. Phone: _____ Wk. Phone: _____

Mailing address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____ Type of Membership: _____ Please ck: One Year Five Year

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

Name: _____ Rel: _____ Name: _____ Rel: _____

Membership Fees:

**Annual Dues: \$25.00 Individual Membership, \$35.00 Family Membership, **

Five Year Dues: \$100.00 Individual Membership \$140.00 Family Membership

\$95.00 Corporate Single Membership (includes one membership and Ad Space in Newsletter)

\$120.00 Corporate Family Membership (includes family membership and ad Space in Newsletter)

Total Paid From A, B and C. above = \$ _____.

Please write your Check to "Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club" and mail to:

Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club c/o Rick Valeri, Treasurer, 1404 Oxfordshire Court , Brandon, FL 33510

Or pay at the club meeting

Note: If you are a Guide or a Vendor donating a trip or merchandise to the Club, do not send any money at this time. Instead, fill in the number of tickets requested and check here (). Thank You

FLY OF THE MONTH-I

The Purple Bunny Tarpon Fly
As Tied by Capt. Bryon Chamberlin



Materials:

- 2/0 Owner AKI Hook
- Orange Flat Waxed Nylon Thread
- Purple Magnum Rabbit Strip
- Black Cross Cut Rabbit Strip
- 50 lb. Mono (Optional)
- Lead Wire (Optional)

Tying Directions:

1. Put the hook in your vice and attach your thread near the beginning of the bend of the hook.
2. After securing the thread, tie in a length of the magnum rabbit strip (hair grain pointing away from the hook eye). Trim to 2 - 3 inches in length.
3. Tie in anti-fouling loop consisting of 50lb mono over and underneath the rabbit strip.
4. Attach lead wire and wrap toward the hook eye 8 to 12 times depending on weight desired. Over wrap the lead with your thread and return the thread to where you began tying in the lead wire.
5. Attach the cross cut rabbit strip and palmer the strip forward to the eye of the hook. Secure with thread and trim excess.
6. Build up the head and whip finish.
7. Finish with head cement or epoxy.

Note: Can be a great first light tarpon fly, dark color shows up well in clear water and low light. 🌅

FLY OF THE MONTH-II

The Tarpon Shrimp Fly
As Tied by Capt. Nick Angelo



Materials

Hook: 1/0 Owner Aki fly hook

Thread: flat waxed nylon tan

Wing: ginger marabou

Flash: 4 strands of pearl krystal flash

Body: tan cross-cut rabbit strip,
tan chenelle, & a natural neck hackle

Eyes: puglisi mono crab/shrimp eyes

Tying instructions

1. Tie a nice fluffy peice of marabou in near the back of the hook.
2. Tie in the krystal flash leaving it half inch longer than the marabou.
3. Tie in the eyes leaving them about an inch long.
4. Palmer the rabbit around the hook.
5. Tie in the neck hackle.
6. Tie in the chenelle and palmer it forward making a nice tapered body.
7. Palmer the hackle forward and trim up the top of the fly.
8. Whip finish and hit it with some hard as nails. 🌅

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Casting Tips for TBFFC: 91
Leverage Grip ©2007

Try the leverage grip for extra oomph at the end of the cast. As its name implies, the leverage grip imparts mechanical advantage at the end of the casting stroke, when the half-opened fingers close to move the free portion of the handle, as a lever, against the palm of the casting hand.

Here's how to apply the leverage grip in the forward cast.

- While making the **forward cast**, relax the casting hand into a half-opened, claw-like position.
- This relaxed position has the **middle, ring and little fingers** curled, but not closed.
- The handle is **gripped at the top** between the **thumb and index finger**.
- The lower portion of the fly rod handle rests along the inside curve of the three half-opened fingers.
- Upon completion of the casting stroke, squeeze the fingers such that the handle is pulled against the stationary palm of the casting hand.
- This imparts two to three inches of lever-like motion to the **lower part of the handle beneath the thumb and first finger**, causing the tip of the fly rod to very quickly move an additional two to three feet in the direction of the cast.



(Forward cast Start)



(Forward cast end)

Similar mechanical advantage can be achieved in the back cast by reversing the procedure.

Here's how to apply the leverage grip in the back cast.

- While making the **back cast**, relax the casting hand into a half-opened, claw-like position.
- This relaxed position has the **index, middle and ring fingers** curled, but not closed.
- The handle is **gripped at the bottom** between the **little finger and lower palm**.
- The **upper portion** of the fly rod handle rests along the inside curve of the three half-opened fingers.
- Upon completion of the casting stroke, squeeze the fingers such that the handle is pulled against the stationary palm of the casting hand.

This imparts two to three inches of lever-like motion to the **upper part of the handle above the little finger and palm**, causing the tip of the fly rod

- to very quickly move an additional two to three feet in the direction of the cast.



(Back Cast Start)



(Back Cast End)

The leverage grip imparts a final quick snap at the end of the cast for added distance and tighter loops.

Dan Lagace

Member, Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club 🌅

FISHING REPORT AND FORECAST

“What a Great time to go Fishing!”

The warm stormy weather hasn't stopped our members from fishing or catching. Below are several reports that I received.

Captain Pete Greenan just returned from the National Fly Fishing Conclave in Montana.

The most exciting news he brought back is the National Fly Fishing Show will be held in Lakeland next March. This will be a tremendous event with numerous celebrities including Lefty Kreh. Pete also reports success tarpon fishing in Pine Island Sound throwing a roach type fly at rolling fish.

If you have never had a night time slam on the fly rod this is a great time to try. **Capt Bryon Chamberlin** reports snook, reds and trout are all being taken at night around the docks in the ICW south of Dunedin. The fish have been very willing to take a small Rick Grasset grass minnow in the lights. Bryon has also found fish on the stronger out going tides around the last sand bar at the end of the flats. Wading and using a clouser has been the winning ticket.

Fly anglers Stuart and Dave Sprouse, from Knoxville, TN, fished Gasparilla Sound with **Capt. Rick Grasset** earlier this month. They had fast action with snook before dawn on Rick's Grass Minnow snook fly. One morning they released 6 or 7 snook to 24" and had shots at tailing reds and laid up tarpon. The next morning they released about a dozen snook to 27". Rich and his clients also fished deep grass flats in Gasparilla Sound where they caught and released trout and ladyfish with Clouser flies. Ken Schumacher, from IL, also fished with Rick one morning and caught and released his first snook with a fly. They went out along the beach to hunt for tarpon after the trip and found them, although not in large numbers. Ken had 6 or 7 shots with flies in 2-hours, enough to make it worthwhile. Rick went back later that week and found the numbers similar and caught one, a 70-pounder, with Shubat's Mr. Blackie. It was a perfect fish- 6 or 7 jumps, one good run, back on the fly line and landed in about 15 minutes!

If you have any fishing adventures that you would like to share with the club please send them to fishing Floyd@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, plus enriching experiences.

- Monthly Meetings with Famous Speakers
- Fly Fishing Outings
- 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 with International Speakers

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- Capt. Bryon Chamberlin (813) 995-9444
- Capt. Mark Emery (352) 622-3412
- Capt. Joe Gonzales (305) 642-6727
- Capt. Rick Grasset (941) 923-7799
- Capt. Pete Greenan (941) 923-6095
- Capt. Rick Gross (941) 794-3308
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- Capt. Keiland Smith (863) 944-7475
- Capt. Rodney Smith (321) 777-2773
- Capt. Tom Tamanini (813) 920-7552

Fly Casting Coaches

Novice or advanced caster, one of the following coaches can assist you with your casting. Contact one convenient to your location to arrange a casting session.

South Tampa

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

Brandon

Neil Sperling.....813-655-5627

North Tampa

Jeff Abeles813-961-0097

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

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

Bill Murdoch 813-971-4764

Leigh West. 813-971-8697

Saint Petersburg

Capt. Pat Damico.....727-360-6466

Polk County

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

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- **ALLIGATOR BOB'S** Gourmet Alligator Meat Snacks (813) 986-3008, (800) 342-1217. WWW.GATORBOB.COM
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