



## **The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club**

**[www.tbffc.org](http://www.tbffc.org)**

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 3, 2007, 6:00 p.m.**

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

### **Special Guest Speaker**

**James Shadle**

James Shadle grew up in rural Hillsborough County and as a child played in the woods and fields where homes and businesses now stand. Still today he lives only a few miles from where he was raised.

James has always loved being out in the wild - it must be genetic - you see, his father was a hunter, fisherman and alligator poacher. As children, he and his siblings could wake up to one footer in the bath tub, three footers in the pool, and an eight footer's hide, pinned and salted on a sheet of plywood in the shed. Like his father, James loves to stalk wildlife. Unlike his father, he hunts with only a camera and shoot only digital media.

Mr Shadle is a Florida Freshwater Wetlands Master Naturalist, and was chosen as 1 of Florida's 21 most interesting people by Florida Monthly Magazine. His work has appeared in numerous magazines, including Popular Photography, National Geographic Adventure Magazine, National Wildlife Magazine, Naturalist Magazine, and Audubon Magazine.



Come and view some superb photographs of Florida scenery and wildlife!

### **Featured Fly Tyer**

**Rick O'Hara**

Rick O'Hara has been an avid fisherman since the age of 5, but did not start fly fishing until the late 70's while living in Atlanta, not far from the Chattahoochee River. He started fly tying then and did it fairly regularly until moving to Florida in 1987. He began saltwater fly fishing after moving to New Port Richey in 1994. He helped start the West Coast Fly Fishing Club and was involved with them until he moved to Lake City in 1999. When I moved back here I joined the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club.

Rick claims to be somewhat of an irregular tier, doing it mostly when his supply of flies starts running low. Most of his flies are relatively simple to tie; however, the snake fly, which he will tie at our meeting, is the most time consuming. This fly was invented by Lou Tabory, primarily for use with striped bass, but Rick has found it to be effective for tarpon, snook, reds and trout. Its spun deer hair head can be left bulky to make it a surface lure, or trimmed to become subsurface, making it quite versatile. Add this interesting fly for your arsenal!

**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

## JANUARY 2007 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Fly Fishers, here's wishing you all happy holidays and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Thanks for your participation in our club and for your many contributions to club meetings and activities. Our many great members sharing their skills and camaraderie really make our club fun and interesting.

Hope to see you all at our Valentine's Party that **Lloyd Bull** and his wife are arranging for us. Also, thanks to those who participated on our December social meeting – lots of fun despite a last minute change in venue. Please note that if we are ever booted out of our Compton Park location, we try to move down the road to the YMCA which graciously helps us out.

Please see page three for upcoming events and, as always, we welcome your ideas and help on how to make 2007 another good year for TBFFC.

Tight lines, //Walt

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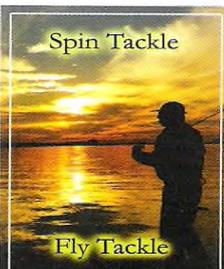
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	Neil Sperling	813-655-5627
	Alligator Bob Young	813-986-3008

## *Board Meetings*

The next board meeting of the Club Board of Directors will be at 6:30 PM, Wednesday, January 10, 2007 Location TBD.

**NOT GETTING THE NEWSLETTER?** Please call Dick Miekka, Editor, at 727-866-8682 or e-mail to [dmiikka@cs.com](mailto:dmiikka@cs.com)



### The Fly Guy

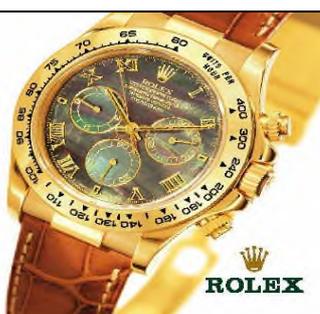
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## TBFFC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2007 TBFFC MEETING DATES

Here are the meeting dates for **2007**: January 3, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 4???, August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5. **Please watch this space for any changes.**

### Tamiami Trail Outing—Fish the Everglades Waterways.

**When:** Saturday, January 6, 2007, all day.

You can expect to catch a large number of fish; some familiar, and some rather exotic.

Sign up at the January meeting. We will have details on where and when to meet and where to fish. Since this will entail a fairly long drive in both directions, some members may wish to make it an overnight event.

If you wish to participate but cannot attend the January meeting, contact Nick Angelo at:

(813) 230-8473, or  
[fishonthefly25@aol.com](mailto:fishonthefly25@aol.com)

### Fly Fishing Conclave, Florida Council of FFF

**Place:** IGFA Hall of Records - Dania, FL

**Date:** Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> Saturday

**Time:** 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Cost:** Free to the Public and Members

**Casting programs** – hourly starting at 11:00 am, with (in order) Dusty Sprague, John Cave, **Dan Lagace**, Joan Wulff, and Dr. Gordie Hill

**Fishing Presentations** ( Slide or power point ) -- hourly starting at 10:00 am with John Cave, Steve Huff, Alan Zarembo/Marty Arostegui, Dr. Aaron Adams, Capt. Rick Grasset, and Jim McCully

**Fly Tying Demonstrations** – All Day, with John Sweeny, Les Fulcher, Jack Neely, Steve Gibson, Oscar Feliu, Tom Logan, Jim Brady, Dave Olson, Keving Murphy, Joe Mulson.

**Contact:** Pete Greenan - President

[captpete@floridaflyfishing.com](mailto:captpete@floridaflyfishing.com)

941.232.2960 or 941.923.6095

### PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS:

**January or Feb.:** Annual shad outing with overnight camping.

**February 10:** TBFFC Valentine Party—sign up no later than the January meeting. See full page description on page 6.

**April:** Casting clinic led by Steve Parker

### GREAT BEAR LAKE TRIP WITH LLOYD BULL

**AUGUST 4-11, AUGUST 11-18 2007**

SPACE LIMITED—early offer to TBFFC members

Both Weeks can include side trip for Char on the Tree River

Call Lloyd at 727-784-8410 for details

### 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.

### SALTWATER FLY FISHERMAN EVENTS

SWF is moving. Details will be published when available.

#### Events of Other Clubs:

#### SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

[www.suncoastflyfishers.com](http://www.suncoastflyfishers.com)

Regular Meetings: 6:30pm on the Third Thursday of each month, **except December**, at Wyoming Antelope Club, 3700 126 Ave. N., St. Pete.

#### MANGROVE COAST FLY FISHERS

[www.mangrovecoastflyfishers.com](http://www.mangrovecoastflyfishers.com)

Meetings are held on 4<sup>th</sup> Tues 7PM at Bee Ridge Park, Sarasota. Contact website above for details and directions.



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## Sink Tip Weather

By Capt. Pat Damico, CapMel.com Fly Fishing Editor, Posted 11.22.06

The recent cold weather has moved our fall fishing into a winter mode. Is it time to hang up our fly rods? Winter is one of my favorite seasons. Many fish that are spread out the rest of the year are now concentrated. Tactics must be modified to accommodate the lower tides, frequent cold, high winds, and much colder water temperatures. Want to increase the odds so that your fly rod will still produce as in warmer weather?

I'm surprise when I talk to other fly fishers about ways to rig their equipment. The subject of fly lines is usually a standard, "I use a weight forward floating line." When asked if they ever used a sinking tip line I usually get a blank expression, often from one who has a garage full of high-end equipment. Cold lethargic fish need a fly that is in their face and an easy meal. Slow deep presentations are most effective. This is not that difficult to achieve.

My first venture with weighted fly lines began many years ago when early season freshwater trout fishing in Pennsylvania was often accompanied by snow covered stream banks. A slow, deep retrieve was needed to drag our weighted flies on the bottom of deep holes encouraging frigid trout to take an offering. A double tapered full sinking line was my first purchase. Why I ever continued to fly fish after that experience is still a mystery. The line formed a belly when under water and necessitated a complete retrieve almost up to the leader before the next cast could be attempted. The technique was more of a lob than a cast. The weighted fly was able to get into the strike zone and a new dimension was introduced to cold water trout fishing. Soon afterward, a sinking tip fly line was introduced. While an improvement in casting resulted, the connection between the floating section and the weighted tip had the feeling of a hinge when cast. We were on our way to eventually develop the many systems available today designed to get our flies deeper without adding a ton of weight to the fly and leader.

My experience with saltwater sinking tip lines is limited to Cortland and Rio products. Cortland's 444Tropic Plus Ghost tip, has a clear nine foot sinking tip, while Rio's lines offer a twelve or fifteen foot clear sinking tip. These lines are an exceptional improvement over what has been available in the past. They cast with ease, requiring a slightly wider loop, and often add distance to most casters performance. Since they are clear, a short leader of four or five feet is used to connect your sinking fly. I would recommend another fly reel spooled with one of these lines on a second rod, or if you have another spool for your one reel, put the line on the second spool and carry it with you.

On several recent outings, we used only sinking tip lines. Fishing with Captain Frank Rhodes, we left my flats boat and waded to a cut between two mangrove islands that was beginning to flood with a strong incoming tide. Using size one Chartreuse over White Clouser minnows, we caught, and released over one hundred trout, touching bottom with a slow retrieve. An occasional Redfish or Sheepshead provided some variety. On another trip, Snook in the backcountry that were in deep holes responded only to slow moving, bottom bouncing presentations of various baitfish imitations. My fishing companion had only a floating line, and using the same fly pattern couldn't catch a single fish. On the way home, he stopped in his local fly shop and purchased a clear sink tip line.

Fishing a freshwater lake recently with Captain Bryon Chamberlin, the lines versatility was again demonstrate. Our success was assured by using a clear sink tip to catch a variety of panfish and bass all holding in deeper water close to structure. The weighted tip also helped us cast in the windy conditions.

Don't let me give you the impression that these lines are for cold weather only. I never leave on a trip without one rod rigged with one of these lines. Larger fish frequently hold closer to the bottom, lighted docks are almost always fished with a sink tip, sand holes and flats edges are all places for deeper presentations.

A new dimension in fly fishing will result when you give this technique a try. This may even be your first choice in the future for more productive fly fishing during the rest of the year. -- Pat Damico

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## Member Photos



TBFFC members are not "fair weather fishermen." **Bryon Chamberlain** and **Nick Angelo** are preparing to transfer **Leigh West** to **Pat Damico's** boat while **Frank Rhodes** stands by. Trout, reds, flounder, and bluefish were caught on this outing. Most fell prey to Leigh's green and gold and a chautruse/white clouser fished with sink tip lines. (Photo by Pat Damico)



Left and Center: **Bob Gaulin** holds two of the seatrout he caught on December 23 at the Don Coleman outing sponsored by the Suncoast Flyfishers. (photos by Pat Damico) Right: Attendees at the Play Hooky outing of December 9 watch hungrily as **Robert Fischer** assists **Alligator Bob** in preparing a gourmet lunch. (photo by Denise Bruner)



**Rick O'Hara** with an unusual fly rod catch -- a baby goliath grouper. He caught it in Cockroach Bay on an Enrico Pugliese baitfish pattern. These fish are making a strong comeback under no-harvest regulations, and live as juveniles in backcountry creeks and mangrove areas. Maybe this little fella will grow to be a 400-pounder someday! (Photo by Nanette Holland O'Hara)

TAMPA BAY FLY FISHING CLUB'S

# VALENTINE PARTY

FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS

CYPRESS RUN GOLF CLUB FEBRUARY 10,  
2007

ARRIVAL TIME: 5:00-5:30      CLOSE: 8:30-9:00

BUFFET STYLE MEAL: STARTS AT 5:30

\$30.00 PER PERSON-INCLUDES TAX & GRATUITY

UNLIMITED TRIPS TO THE BUFFET

## MENU

LARGE SHRIMP and OYSTERS ON THE HALF SHELL, SALAD BAR  
GORMANDISE CHEESE  
NEW ENGLAND CLAM CHOWDER

CARVED ROAST BEEF, CARVED ROAST TURKEY

DEATH BY CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF  
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CASH BAR FOR OTHER BEVERAGES

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Prompt reservations please

Bring your check (made out to Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club) or cash to the  
December meeting or mail check c/o Rick Valeri, 1404 Oxfordshire ct.,  
Brandon, FL 33510

## FLIES OF THE MONTH

Ed. Note: At our December meeting, five tiers showed us how to produce at least seven different flies, plus variants. Unfortunately, they won't all fit into one newsletter. Here's the first two. The others will be featured in future issues.

### 1. Fly Fur Clouser

As tied by Leigh West



This is truly a universal fly for fresh and saltwater fishing. Assembling a tying kit of white Fly Fur and a few colors for the top color (pink, tan, white, yellow, olive, e.g.), a few flash materials (pearl, gold and silver Flashabou, e.g.) and a few colors of thread, a multitude of flies in various color combinations can be tied at very little cost. Fly sizes and weights can be varied- Use various combinations of hook and eye sizes/weights.

**Thread:** Danville flat-waxed nylon, white for tail area; chartreuse, yellow, fluorescent green, pink, etc. for head

**Hook:** Tiemco 811S or 800S, Mustad 3407 or 34007, size 4 (winter), 2 or 1 (summer).

**Eyes:** Dazzle eyes (brass) or dumbbell lead eyes (either plain, silver or painted with eye) work well. Match eye size with hook size (usually mini lead or extra small brass for size 4 hook, or extra small brass or lead eyes for larger hook sizes).

**Wing:** Base layers- white Fly Fur (a.k.a. craft fur, polar bear hair- some colors can be found in fabric stores)

**Accent:** Flashabou, for belly and sides of fly

1. Put hook in vise with point under shank. Lay down a base wrap of white thread on hook shank, and tie in the eyes on top of the hook shank 1/3 of the distance from the eye using figure eight wraps. Cover thread with head cement or nail polish.

2. Cut Fly Fur from sheet (~20-30 hairs) and tie over hook shank, securing with wraps on either side of the eyes, so that ends protrude the same length as the hook shank. 3. Tie in 6-8 strands of pearl Flashabou over the Fly Fur, behind the eyes (the belly area) and whip finish behind the eyes. Trim Flashabou slightly shorter than the Fly Fur. Bring thread in front of eyes. Trim excess hair and Flashabou near eye.

4. Turn the fly over or rotate vise so that eyes are under shank. Tie in some white Fly Fur (~20-30 hairs) over hook shank near eye. The Fly Fur should be slightly longer than the Fly Fur previously tied in. Tie the thread off, and change thread to desired head color.

5. Tie in colored Fly Fur over the white Fly Fur, slightly longer than the Fly Fur below.

6. Tie in a lateral line of Flashabou (~5 strands) just behind the hook eye on either side of the fly so that the strands lie parallel between the white Fly Fur and colored Fly Fur (Note: Addition of flash accent on the belly and as lateral lines are a great way to make almost any minnow pattern look and fish better!). Whip finish and coat wraps with head cement. - Leigh West

### 2. Puglisi Baitfish Fly

As tied by Nick Angelo



This fly was tied as a suggested "go to" fly for those planning to attend our January Tamiami Trail outing.

#### Materials

**Hook:** Gamakatsu B10S #6 stinger

**Thread:** Tan flat waxed nylon

**Flash:** pearl krystal flash

**Tail:** olive EP fibers

**Body:** olive and tan EP fibers, black and red craft markers

**Eyes:** small plastic EP eyes

#### Tying Instructions

- 1) Attach thread at the bend of the hook and tie in a 1 inch piece of olive EP fibers
- 2) Tie in 3 strands of doubled flash.
- 3) Tie in another 1 inch piece of olive EP fibers.
- 4) Invert the hook and tie in a 1 inch piece of tan EP fibers on the bottom of the hook shank.
- 5) Repeat steps 3 and 4 2 more times, building up a bushy body to the eye of the hook.
- 6) Whip finish and cement the thread.
- 7) Trim the fibers to resemble a small baitfish.
- 8) Using the black marker, bar the sides of the fly.
- 9) Using the red marker, stamp the fly near the eye to resemble a bit of gill flare.
- 10) Cut the peg from the plastic eyes and attach them on the fly using silicone based glue, such as Goop.

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## **Casting Tips for TBFFC: 84** **Casting Tip Reference List** ©2007

Back in the late 1970's, I took a few lessons from a pro to improve my golf game. My new skills encompassed a mere half-dozen or so basic swing-thoughts, which I could rely upon to correct errors that would creep into my game. I have since kept an index card in my golf bag listing those tips for reference when playing. To this end, I offer the following reference list of the most common casting faults and how to correct them for your reference.

### **Flat-to-Flat -- to correct the fly line being thrown inside the casting path on the back cast**

Make a fist with your casting hand. Notice the flat area of the back of your hand. Try to keep this flat area parallel with the flat area on the back of the forearm. This is to ensure that the wrist does not flop outward or inward during the cast.

### **Eliminate Forearm Rotation – to correct lopsided loops**

The forearm does not rotate during the cast. Rotating the forearm torques the fly rod, causing inefficient, lopsided loops.

### **Retard Wrist Break -- to correct open loops**

The wrist does not break until the end of the casting stroke. Rolling the wrist during the casting stroke lessens one's ability to fully load the fly rod.

### **Cause the Elbow to Lead the Cast -- to cast farther with less effort**

At the beginning of the forward cast, the elbow should be in front of the casting hand, or at least parallel with it. If the casting hand is in front of the elbow, you are pushing the fly rod rather than pulling the line forward with the fly rod.

### **Track Straight -- to improve accuracy**

The tip of the thumb is at the same height at the end of the casting stroke as it was at the beginning. Avoid chopping downward at the end of the forward cast. The elbow rises during the forward casting stroke and the wrist rises at the end of the forward casting stroke to maintain a straight path of the thumb during the cast.

Dan Lagace,  
Member, Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

## **FISHING REPORT AND FORECAST**

### **“What a Great time to go Fishing!”**

This month was a little windy but several of our members braved the gales and hit the water.

Fishing has been pretty good as of late, reports Capt. **Byron Chamberlin**. While wade fished with **Leigh West** and **Capt. Pat Damico** in upper Tampa Bay recently they caught about 14 redbfish, 2 large trout, and lost one small snook. They were sight fishing with tan & white clousers and tan & brown tasty toad flies during the LOW winter tides. When the wind hasn't blown, St. Joseph Sound is producing lots of larger trout to 24 inches and a few "rat" sized redbfish. These fish are taking chartreuse & white clousers on sinking tip lines. The larger trout can be sight fished out of the sand holes on the flats when the conditions allow during the incoming tide.

Club member **Jim Swann** reports the Withlacoohee river is very low and in many places dry in the Pasco county area. Jim has seen these dry cycles many times and advises that, remarkably, as soon as the river fills up again the fishing is excellent.

**Capt. Rick Grasset** took fly angler **Frank Mariano**, from CT, fishing on the coastal gulf out of Venice in December. They found plentiful little tunny and a few Spanish mackerel. The LT's were being very selective, but the Spanish mackerel were less picky. Frank caught and released a couple of mackerel on Ultra Hair Clouser flies before they headed for Blackburn Bay, where he caught and released a pompano, also with an Ultra Hair Clouser fly. A steady drizzle made them decide to head for the dock.

The next morning, Rick couldn't sleep because of thinking about a feeding frenzy of little tunnies, so he headed out to do some scouting. He ran into fellow Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers members **Capt. Mark Phelps, Ron Whitely, Dusty Sprague** and **Dave Hutchinson**, all on a little tunny mission. The action was good while it lasted, until about 10:30 or 11:00 AM. Rick caught and released a couple of Spanish mackerel and 3 little tunny. One was more than 12-pounds and took him well into my backing as it pulled him offshore. Capt. Mark and Ron caught and released 6 and Dusty and Dave caught and released 4. They took olive and white Ultra Hair Clousers, Estaz Marabou and a wide profile pilchard pattern.

Club member **Greg Stepanski** was able to sneak out with **Capt. Bryon Chamberlin** a few times recently. Each time they found a lot of big trout and rat reds. In fresh water Greg has had success with deer hair poppers that slide just under the water but then pop up. While Greg was catching 1 to 2 lb bass his 12 yr. old son Brian caught a 10 lb bass on a rubber worm.

I'm sure Santa delivered lot's of fishing gear to our members this Christmas and we all look forward to reading about your fishing successes in next months newsletter.

Tight lines,  
Fishingfloyd

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**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.

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

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