



The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

www.tbffc.org

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 7, 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

Layne "Smitty" Smith

Smitty is one of the Bay area's premier fly tyers. He started tying when he was 6 years old and got serious about it in 1960. He has created many successful new patterns including the world's best bluegill fly, the sponge spider. His friends began calling him "Spiderman" because of the incredible success of that one. For Smitty, the best thing about fly tying is teaching, and he has students from 3 to 80 years old. That serves as proof of his philosophy that anyone can tie flies. Smitty has been a regular at the Tuesday night tying sessions at the Saltwater Fly Fisherman, now moved to Clearwater Beach. He can be reached at 727-544-0768. Tonight he will be tying the "Bonefish Whisperer" fly. Come and watch quietly while he ties this deadly fly.

PAY YOUR 2007 DUES AT THE MEETING, OR USE THE COUPON ON PAGE 9

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

FEBRUARY 2007 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Fly Fishers and intrepid members of TBFFC. The weather may be cold, but the fishing can be hot! See **Floyd Holder's** fishing report on page 8. Please remember to memorialize your outings by e-mailing the results to Floyd, so he can publish them.

Thanks to **Leigh West** and **Rick O'Hara**, our January speaker and tyer, respectively. Leigh filled in for **James Shadle**, who had an emergency and could not join us, but will speak this month. If you watched and listened carefully, you learned many of Leigh's "secrets" to successful fishing, and we all know he is the very best! Rick tied the very versatile snake fly. Instructions for tying this fly are given on page 7.

We want to thank **Nick Angelo** for setting up and running the club Everglades outing. Those who attended enjoyed snook, tarpon, and trout action with many drive-by spectators! Thanks also to **Lloyd and Arlene Bull** for their thoughtfulness and efforts to schedule a club Valentine party. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the party, because there was not enough interest.

Our lending library needs more tapes and DVDs. Please donate any that you can spare. Be sure to sign up for the annual St. John's River shad and camping outing to be held this year during the February 9-11 weekend. **Leigh West** is our liaison for this event. Please see page three for other events.

Tight lines, //Dick

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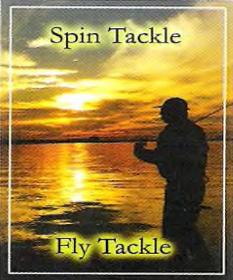
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Board Meetings

The next board meeting of the Club Board of Directors will be at 6:30 PM, Wednesday, February 14, 2007 Location TBD.

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 **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.**

ANNUAL SHAD OUTING WITH OVERNIGHT CAMPING

When: Weekend of February 9-11.

Where: St John River for fishing, with camping on private property.

This is an annual multi-day event, attended by members of several fishing clubs. Almost everyone who has attended in the past has become addicted! You may attend on just one day if you choose. There will be overnight camping, which is always fun, with great fellowship, fishmanship, and food. Sign up at the February meeting or call Leigh West at 813-971-8697.

PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS:

March: Outing at DeSoto Park, with emphasis on teaming newcomers to saltwater fishing with veterans of the club.

April: Casting clinic led by Steve Parker

May: Kayak via motherboat fishing in the Everglades and 10,000 islands, conducted by Capt. Charles Wright of Chokoloskee Charters, our March 2007 speaker. Not a free outing.

November 10: Our annual banquet with Tim Borsky as keynote speaker

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 to 387 ½ Mandalay Ave, Clearwater Beach. The location is 100' north of the roundabout. More details soon.

Events of Other Clubs: SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

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

NOTE: New 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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TROPHY FISHING — boils down to ego and self-gratification. Please don't tell me you go after trophy fish because you are hungry. There is a lot of satisfaction in mastering your home waters and catching local fish, whether they are bluegills or spotted sea trout. There is more to life and fly fishing than tarpon and bonefish and permit, or fancy lodges, good cigars, and fine wines in foreign countries. You can't substitute money and guides for time on the water if you want to be an expert fly fisher.

THREADER — While I usually suck the tying thread into the bobbin, sometimes it is difficult because the tube is clogged with wax. You can buy thread threaders but it is simple to make your own. Take a length of 20 pound monofilament (which you should have in your fly tying box anyway for making leaders and over wrapping bodies), fold it in half and pinch the end of the loop. Then form a couple of double overhand knots in the doubled line to provide purchase.

HEAD CEMENTS — Except for Dave's Flexament, most head cements are not very strong. Water based cements are useless. Actually, there is no reason to use head cement on freshwater trout flies. Waxing the thread before making three, four wrap whip finishes is sufficient for most inshore saltwater flies. Sally Hansen's finger nail polish is stronger than most commercial head cements and is useful for coating epoxy that has not cured properly. I don't usually tie flies that use epoxy because I don't like chemicals, but that's your decision. You can make your own head cement by thinning clear GOOP with lacquer thinner.

CLOUSERS — I have seen Bob Clouser's famous fly tied in all sorts of ways— usually different from the way Bob ties his fly. The best way to see how to tie the fly correctly is to obtain Volume 1 of Bob's video *The Complete Clouser*. The mistakes (?) I see most often include (1) Tying the lead eyes too far forward. Bob places them at the third point of the over-all length of the hook, which is approximately half way between the hook eye and the hook point. (2) Securing the eyes with CA glue on the threads over the eyes instead of the wraps over the hook shank. You want to glue the thread to the hook, not the thread to the eyes. Actually, using cinch wraps practically eliminates the need for glue. (3) Wrapping the belly hairs only a short way back from the back of the lead eyes. Bob wraps back to the two thirds point of the over-all length of the hook, which is approximately over the hook point. (4) Tying the head all the way back to the lead eyes. Bob keeps the wraps of both the belly hairs and the wing hairs confined to half the distance between the back of the hook eye and the lead eyes. This results in a professional looking head.

I see nothing wrong with tying the fly anyway that pleases you. But I thought you should know how Bob ties the fly. Personally I tie both the belly hair and the wing hair on top of the hook shank in front of the lead eyes when using smaller hooks e.g. #2 and #4, I think small flies swim better when tied that way. And it makes tying the fly a lot easier. Make your own decisions. Be sure to tie Clousers to the leader with a loop knot. My favorite is Lefty's Loop.

MAXIMS:

- You can't learn to "read the water" from books, only by spending time on the water.
- Don't let your casting hand rise above your head.
- Fly fishing, even with expensive tackle, is less expensive than golf and it keeps you off the streets, and you are always in good company. Your wife should be pleased.
- Do your own thinking. Don't let others do it for you.
- Pay more attention to what your heart tells you to do than to your mind-- go fly fishing.

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Member Photos



Nick Angelo And **Bryon Chamberlin** fished the dock lights in Clearwater before it started to get cold in early January. Bryon caught one small snook and Nick caught this nice 31 inch snook on a Grass Minnow fly.



Guys with beards holding big fish all look alike!

Near Left: TBFFC Member **Tony Kirk** of Dallas, TX with a 24 lb redfish caught off New Orleans, January 5 2007, on a purple Halley's Comet fly.

Far left: Jeff Abeles, with a 15 lb redfish (same fly, same date).



Ever notice what fishermen do when they practice catch-and-release? (answer below)



They get so hungry that they eat their fly rods, as illustrated here by **Frank Rhodes** holding two nice sheepshead and a redfish that he caught and released (even though he was practically starving) on December 27.



MOO MOO, THE SECOND HAND DEER by ED BANG

Snowy mornings always made for poor driving conditions in our part of New York State, (the foothills of the Catskill Mountains), but the two inch fall of the previous night was a blessing for all deer hunters. With the season entering its final week, and knowing that Pete, my back door neighbor, would be spending the day in the woods trying to fill his deer tag, I decided to join him.

I arrived at the parking area, parked behind Pete's car, assembled my gear and took my first steps into a dazzlingly white and beautiful winter morning. Pete's boot prints tracked across the small swampy area close to the parking area, and then angled uphill till they intersected the woods road. I soon crossed the last open field before entering the pines and hardwoods, always within easy sight of my hunting partner's fresh prints in the snow. To my right, the woods sloped gently down to low growing hemlocks screening the many game trails in the brushy bottom land along the stream. This ideal cover demanded my full attention. The gray squirrel fifty yards away was easy to see as he searched for nuts under the new snow. A new addition to our woods, turkeys, left their three toed track a few yards further on but remained out of sight.

These slight distractions might explain why I missed the appearance of three sets of brown legs emerging from under the hemlocks eighty yards away. Armed as I was with a deer of either sex permit, I raised my rifle and scoped the first deer that stepped out into the open. It was a mature doe but with two other deer to be identified, I did not shoot. The second of the three took a tentative step forward and it too was a doe. Reason told me that the one hanging back just had to be a big buck as they're a little more cautious, but I was wrong and the third deer was also a full grown doe. Oh well, make the best of the situation and take the first deer which had appeared. WRONG. This wise old doe had stayed on a steady course to my left and when I got to give her my undivided attention, she had me dead to rights from twenty yards away. My first move to bring the rifle to bear on her led to a loud snort, a twenty five foot jump and three white flags bounding merrily down through the woods. By now, I was approaching my opening day stand, and had still neither seen or heard from Pete. Since this was where I'd thought our paths would cross, I decided that I'd better head back toward the road in hopes of meeting him on the way out. Arriving at the parking lot, I was surprised to see that his car was gone, and I surmised he'd decided to quit early.

Unwilling to pack it in with part of the morning left to hunt, I drove down to the lower parking spot on the property, the front yard of Roy Conklin. Roy was in his late 70's and was respected as the dean of deer hunters on this property. He met me at the door, and filled me in on who had shot what in the previous weeks. His last words to me were to watch out for a really small doe traveling with a larger deer, possibly a buck.

On this morning, the new snow muffled much of the sound of my footfalls as I steadily hunted westward on the railroad bed, paying particular attention to a thick grove of pines stretching uphill to a clear cut swath under some power lines. Suddenly a bit of breeze whisked across my face and set in motion one of the most thrilling hunts of my life. It might have been the same bit of breeze that gave movement to a tattered Posted sign pinned loosely to one of the pines but it was certainly an attention getter. Not having seen too much sign on

the RR bed, the flicker of white from the sign was enough to lure me from the relative ease of the track to a more rugged climb along the pines and up to the open area under the high tension wires.

Amazingly, deer sign was everywhere with multiple tracks going in all directions. Perhaps it was the browse growing in profusion along the clear cut but it seemed that I'd stumbled in to an ideal area. Seldom do these deer stay in the open during the day, so I planned my hunt to skirt the edge of the pine woods enabling me to look down through the woods toward the RR. Still moving very slowly, it came as no surprise when two big white tails, attached to a pair of deer, bounded up the same hill I'd been climbing and circled a knoll 100 yards away. From there they were hidden from my sight.

The next move was up to me and I acted quickly. I moved up hill along the power line till I came to the point where the hill they'd disappeared behind, came out toward me on the open ground. There I moved stealthily into the woods, ever searching for some sign of the two, more expecting to see only two tails disappearing than actually getting a look at a standing deer. Ten feet further on, a fair sized tree formed a right angle with another lying directly in my path. The upright one promised a convenient glassing support and I ever so slowly made my way to it, while congratulating myself for having gotten this far without spooking the deer.

With right shoulder now firmly supported by the tree, I scanned from the furthest point that I might see a deer all the way back to within thirty yards of my post. On the second or third sweep, I let my eyes wander just a little more to the right and there they were, two immobile targets just forty yards away. They seemed to be feeding on some laurel twigs and were in fact, surrounded by a heavy growth of the same. Without some frame of reference, determining whether I was looking at an adult animal or one half grown was almost impossible so I hesitated and brought the glasses down from my eyes. I now raised the rifle and examined the target more closely. I found myself wishing that the deer would just get his head out of the bushes surrounding it, and with that thought, the deer moved his head and ALL THE BUSHES MOVED RIGHT WITH IT. The crosshair settled on the lower part of the neck, I squeezed the trigger and the greatest buck of my lifetime dropped out of sight. Carefully marking where he fell by a diagonal birch tree midway between us, I reloaded and rushed down to where I was able to see my buck and there he was, my first ever trophy buck, an eight pointer.

The thoughts that entered my mind at that time were in a jumble. I have to get that head mounted. How am I going to get him out of here? First things first, make sure he's dead, unload your rifle, fill out your deer tag, field dress the game and carefully mark your reference points in the wood as you go for help. The three hundred yard walk down through the woods and out along the RR flew under my feet. Finding Roy's son-in-law Bill at the house was an added piece of luck, as he had the key to the RR gate and in fifteen minutes, we were standing over my deer. Instead of just a congratulatory handshake, I was treated to a short string of expletives and salty sayings, ending in "You shot MY buck". Now I knew that I'd been alone in the woods all morning, had heard no other shots so I questioned his appraisal of the situation. As we bent over the fallen trophy Bill said "Look over your shoulder, up in that pine tree". I did as he asked and then saw for the first time, a carefully concealed tree stand perhaps ten feet up the tree and thirty yards away. Bill went on to explain

that he'd seen this deer a number of times, always in this vicinity, but that each time the buck had either eluded him completely or stayed far enough back in the brush to make identification impossible. This afternoon was to be the hunt which would finally allow him to tag this deer, and now that hope was gone. Yes, I could imagine just how badly he felt.

Sliding the deer downhill to the waiting pickup truck was a labor of love, and after proudly displaying my deer to Roy, I headed for home and the welcoming arms of Jeri and Jim. The next order of business was to speed dial as many members of the hunting club as I could, to share the news of my hunt, and in so doing discovered another man who'd had a chance at this deer.

Andy DePonte, long time dear friend among the first men I contacted that Sunday afternoon. He asked for all the details of the hunt, and when I told him that I'd hunted the woods behind Roy Conklin's home it piqued his interest enough to encourage a quick visit to our home. "EDDIE BANG, YOU SHOT MY DEER" were the first words out of his mouth. This was getting to be a little repetitious and I asked for his story.

It seemed that earlier in the week, Andy had an opportunity to hunt, had jumped a number of deer and one of them had an outstanding rack. He shot, and an expectant dash brought him to the spot where the buck should be, but alas, it was not to be. What had prompted Andy to make the comment he'd uttered when first he'd examined the buck? A half inch semi circle of flesh was missing from the right ear, and a 30 caliber gouge had been chiseled on the underside of the right antler. Three inches to the right, and this deer would have been hanging in Andy's den instead of mine. Now we have two other hunters who had a chance to harvest MY buck, but didn't

Shortly after the Christmas holiday, I delivered the head to the taxidermist and in due time, my shoulder mounted trophy, was ready for display. He occupied a place of honor on the playroom wall. Perhaps it was the respect that I felt for an animal so adorned being able to survive for five or six years in heavily hunted woods, that made it such a shock one morning when I looked in his direction. Son James had entertained a group of college cronies the evening before and, they decided to decorate the deer. A Tyrolean hat perched between the brow tines, a monstrously oversized pair of sunglasses covered both eyes, and as a final touch, a cigarette holder about eight inches in length with cigarette in place was placed between the teeth. After the initial shock wore off, I had to admit that the kids had shown great imagination in their work.

Now here's the final piece of the title of this story. Robin Williams had a long running sitcom at the time called "Mork and Mindy" in which he played the part of a wacky space alien married to an earthling. Among his adventures, was a trip to Mindy's attic during which he discovered a mounted moose head that so impressed him, he promptly named it "Moo Moo". Mounted deer head, mounted moose head, same thing decided my son, and from that point onward the trophy head hanging in the playroom was ever to be called by this name. Jim would have great fun with our Labrador retriever, Sarge, by pointing to the head and urging the dog to talk to Moo Moo, and Sarge would respond at the top of his voice.

So now friends, you know the whole story about Moo Moo the second hand deer. EB

FLY OF THE MONTH

Tabory Snake Fly

As tied by Rick O'Hara



This fly can be custom adjusted to sink at different rates (see step 7)

Materials:

Hook - Gamakatsu SC15 size 1 - 3/0

Thread - Flat Waxed Nylon or Gel Spun Polyethylene

Tail - 12 Strands of Ostrich Herl to match or contract with head; 12 Strands of Flash

Body - Two Marabou Plumes to match head

Head - Spun Deer Belly Hair

Step 1: Secure hook in vise and start thread at back of hook. Tie in the ostrich herls. On top of the ostrich herls, tie in the flash, using the folding method (double them and tie them in).

Step 2: Tie the first marabou plume on top of where you tied the other materials, with the natural curve going downward. It should reach about halfway down the tail. Cut off the excess stem that is protruding toward the hook. Move slightly toward the eye and tie in the second plume the same way. Add a drop of Zap a Gap. Leave plenty of bare hook for spinning the deer hair head.

Step 3: Cut a pinch of deer hair about the diameter of a pencil. Hold it so the butt ends are protruding from your thumb and forefinger. Fan the butts to get rid of the underfur.

Position the fur directly over where you tied in the second feather, butt ends toward the eye. Make two loose wraps around the hair so there is about 1/4 to 3/8 inch in front of the wraps. Slowly pull down and tight until these butt ends stand up. Use your thumb and press down on these wraps to slightly roll the hair off the top to slightly cover the sides. Make two more tight wraps, then turn the fly over and repeat the above procedure on the bottom of the hook. Bring the wraps through the hair so the thread is now in front of the hair on the bare hook.

Step 4: Take another pinch of the hair, the same size as you used before. Fan the butts as you did before. Cut the natural tips off. Position the hair on top of the hook shank in front of the hair you just tied on, but at a 45-degree angle. Make two loose wraps to hold the hair, and while you are still holding the hair, pull the thread tighter until the hair flares and spins around the hook shank. Keep pulling until the hair stops spinning. The hair should now be spun clear around the hook. Make a few more tight wraps through the deer hair as you did previously to bring it in front of the hair on the bare hook.

Step 5: You now need to pack the hair. Grasp the fly behind the initial clumps of hair with your left thumb and forefinger. Place the right thumb and forefinger in front of the hair that you just spun, and push toward your left hand. You will feel the hair move.

Step 6: Repeat Steps 4 and 5 with as many clumps of hair as it takes to reach the eye of the hook. The last clump may be smaller as needed. Whip finish the head and secure with head cement.

Step 7: Using curved scissors, trim the head to shape, starting with the bottom, which should be flat. (You can use curved scissors or a double-edged razor blade to trim.) The head can be bulky or narrow according to how much you want the fly to sink.

Casting Tips for TBFFC: 85

Steeple Back Cast^{©2007}

The steeple back cast is useful when obstacles preclude a conventional back cast. Its name derives from the near vertical trajectory of the back cast. Situations calling for a steeple back cast include those when trees or brush are behind the caster, or perhaps the caster is wade fishing, backed up against mangroves, or to achieve a gentler presentation as an alternative to making a roll cast which might frighten fish as the line rolls along the surface of the water.

The steeple back cast for right handed casters begins by rotating the entire casting arm to the left, such that the palm is facing outward, the bottom of the reel is facing upward and the top of the rod is facing toward the water. It is executed as a backhanded forward cast, toward the sky, as vertically as possible. As the line is traveling skyward, the casting arm is repositioned such that the top of the rod is facing rearward, the palm is facing inward and the bottom of the reel is facing toward the target.

Finally, the forward cast begins before the line straightens completely in the steeple back cast. If the line does straighten in the back cast, it will snap back toward the water with significant speed, imparting excessive slack in the line and ruin the forward cast. The steeple back cast is a variation of the Galway back cast, which is performed in the same manner, but employed to achieve greater accuracy in the trajectory of horizontal back casts to direct line between obstacles behind the caster.

The utility of a steeple back cast is akin to that of a crash helmet. You may only need it once, but if so, you will be glad to have it.

Dan Lagace

Member, Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

FISHING REPORT AND FORECAST

"What a Great time to go Fishing!"

On recent charters with the lowest of minus tides, **Capt. Russ Shirley** found plenty of snook in their fall staging areas. It seems the fish don't believe it's winter either. Russ also found quite a lot of trout mixed in with bluefish in 3 to 6 feet of water in Boca Ciega area. Russ advises you look for terns and pelicans diving and a good tide flow sweeping off of grass flats onto sand. All the trout will hold tight to the sand. Where Russ has been fishing the redfish have completely changed their patterns after the last cold front.

Club member **Greg Stepanski** and his son **Julian** did some fresh water fly fishing while it was still warm. They have taken numerous large mouth bass in shallow water.

Member **Dick Miekka** and Suncoast FF member **Ron Kelly** wade fished Pinellas Point on Thursday, January 22 in the evening. They caught 6 seatrout, one redfish, and two puffers in about an hour. Two of the trout and the redfish were of keeper size. Dick claims that the fishing has finally improved after a long dry spell.

Anglers fishing with **Capt. Rick Grasset** on the Snook Fin-Addict, out of CB's Saltwater Outfitters on Siesta Key, had good action during the past couple of weeks with trout and reds. The best action was in Charlotte Harbor.

Fly anglers, **John Freeman** and his son, **John**, president of the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers, fished Charlotte Harbor with Rick on Monday, Jan. 15th. They had good action with trout to 20" on Clouser flies. The three also had a few shots at tailing reds early in the day and hooked a snook along a mangrove shoreline in Turtle Bay late in the day. The best trout action was in Gasparilla Sound near Sandfly and Devilfish Keys.

Fly angler **Tom Gould**, from Longboat Key, FL, fished Terra Ceia Bay with Rick on Tuesday, Jan. 23rd. Tom caught and released about a dozen trout with Clouser flies and had a few shots at reds.

On Friday, Rick took Sarasota Herald-Tribune outdoors editor, **Steve Gibson** out. They fished their way across the Tamiami Trail south of Naples toward the east coast. They found low water in many places and not a lot of fish, but did catch and release about 10 Mayan cichlids and 6 stumpknockers with poppers and Myakka Minnow flies on 4 and 5-weight fly rods. They also participated in the first Federation of Fly Fishers-Florida Council Conclave in Dania Beach on Saturday. Steve was a featured fly tier and Rick was a seminar presenter at the event, which had about 300 people in attendance. Some of the best fly tiers, casting instructors and guides in the state were in attendance.

Don't let the winter weather keep you off the water. The Tampa Bay area has numerous cold water spots. Don't overlook the rivers, creeks, power plants and deep channels when the cold wind blows.

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A MEMBER SAYS GOODBYE

I have moved back to Louisiana and will be going to Singapore for 2 to 3 Years to work in February. I would like to take this time to thank the board members and the members of the fly fishing club for welcoming new members and making them feel at home you guys did a great job and I wish you the best. The Fly Club was an outlet for me to meet people when I came to Florida. Please let the members know how much I have enjoyed my stay in Florida and the fellowship with the fly club. Again thanks for the hard work. **Harry Stevens**

FWC NEEDS OUR HELP

The Florida State Fair is just around the corner, Feb. 8th-19th, at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is looking for volunteers to assist in operating our famous 'Kids Fishing Simulator' that highlights Florida's Largemouth Bass, and to assist with FWC's very popular 'Wildlife Challenge'. FWC will have trained biologists on staff at all times to answer wildlife questions, but we need help running the fishing simulator to meet the demands of all the kids that come through the exhibit. We also need volunteers to help promote FWC's Wildlife Challenge, and help exhibit patrons with their questions.

Volunteers can work a whole or half a day, and will be given a FWC T-shirt to wear during the event, tickets to get into the fair, and a free lunch or dinner at the Hospitality trailer sponsored by the State Fair.

If you are interested, please let me know as soon as possible. FWC's Red Barn exhibit will be open 9:00am to 9:00pm every day, including the weekends

Gina Russo, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission

Phone: 941-723-4505 Fax: 941-723-4507

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- Fly Fishing Outings
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