



Here's wishing everyone a Happy New Year. I hope and pray we can start to leave our 2020 struggles behind in 2021. We probably won't meet again until the vaccines kick in, but have the room reserved at Compton Park for March. Meanwhile, be patient and hang in there. We can still fish safely, so check out our newsletter for tips and pictures.

Directions to Our Meetings (6:00 pm): From I-75---Take Bruce B. Downs exit from I-75; go west 2 miles to traffic light, turn left on to Tampa Palms Blvd., then left on Compton Drive, and right at Compton Park. From I-275---Take Bearss East to Bruce. B. Downs; then Bruce B. Downs east/north to Tampa Palms Blvd. Rt. on Tampa Palms, then left on Compton Drive and right at Compton Park.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you all are getting by okay and staying out of harm's way. Lots of good fishing opportunities out there, which will get you safely out of the house for a few hours.

Think about booking one of our guides for a day or half day on the water. For example, Neil Taylor can take you on a kayak trip where you will have a chance to score many game fish in our cool, clear waters. Trout especially are hot right now. Additionally, look in the newsletter for Greg Stepanski's pictures of the reds he caught guided by Bryon Chamberlin.

I just finished reading **Lords of the Fly** by Monte Burke and enjoyed it very much. He recounts the history of fly fishing for tarpon in Florida, especially Homosassa. It's well-written and filled with interviews and interesting stories. You will recognize many of the players in this saga. I got it from the library using the Hoopla App.

P. S. We will update our calendar of events when things settle down.

//Walt Durkin 

Suncoast Youth Conservation Center Outing

11 December 2020, 0900 to 100. We had a great time. See page 4 for details.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

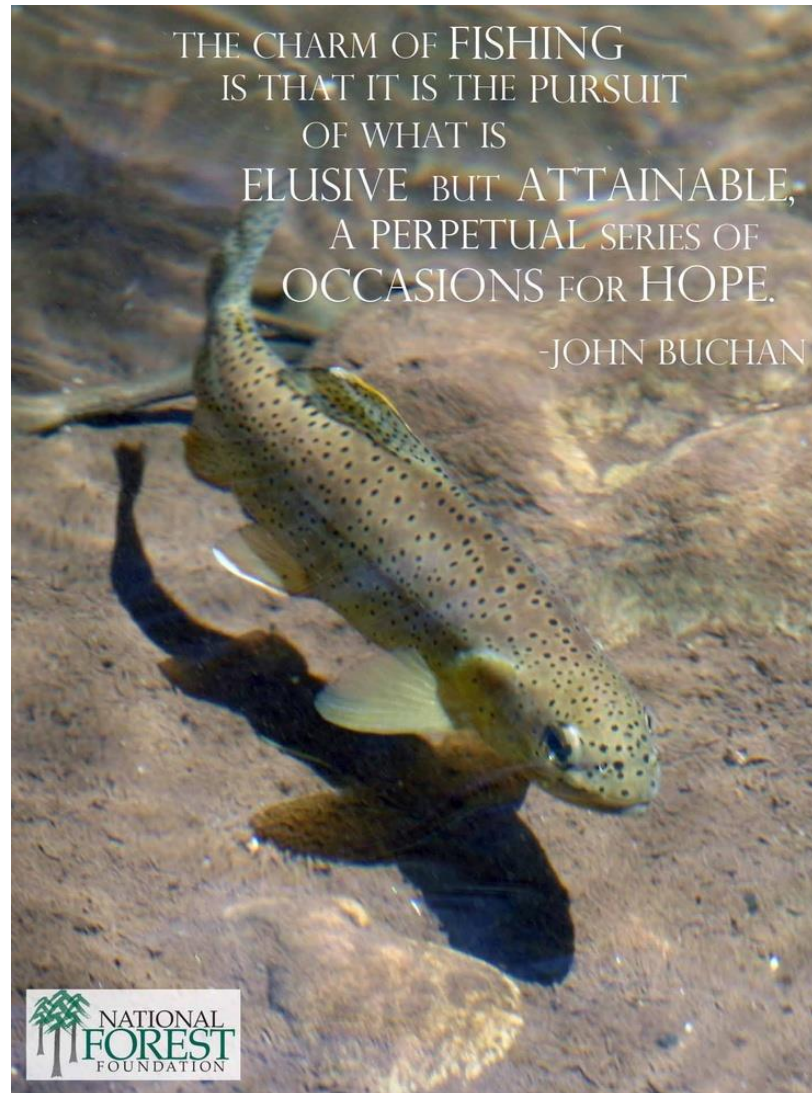
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TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

Kayak guide Neil Taylor:

If you have guys that are tying a lot, we could use some more people in the fly swap. On Facebook, it's Warm Water Fly Swap and Project Healing Waters. You submit 15 flies and get 15 flies in return. It is kind of dragging right now so I'm asking around to see who else wants to get in. //Neil

Club member Jeff Abeles is planning a trip to Gray Reef Anglers and Wingshooting Lodge in Casper, Wyoming in either mid July or mid September 2021. We will be fishing the N. Platte river specifically the Gray Reef and the Miracle Mile sections. Great dry fly fishing on the river at that time of the year. I've done a lot of trout fishing over the past 30 plus years. I can count on one hand the rivers I've fished with this many quality fish ranging from 18 to 21 inches. And they weren't the big ones. Due to excess weeds in September, the Miracle Mile was fishing slow with an occasional 25 inch'er plus being caught. My wife and I chose the quantity and only fished 4 sections of the Gray Reef and still couldn't believe the fishing. If you have any interest in going, call me at 813-495-7155.



Suncoast Youth Center Outing – 11 Dec

Four club members turned out for our outing at the Suncoast Youth Center in Apollo Beach. We had the whole facility to ourselves and enjoyed a beautiful morning fishing their pond where we caught snook, reds and ladyfish. We wore masks and kept apart for safety and enjoyed sandwiches and drinks outdoors. Thanks to **Gina Russo from FWC** for arranging everything. The fish hatchery at Port Manatee is transitioning to this new site and will open in 2021. In addition to the Youth Center, the **Florida Aquarium** has a research building where they care for sea turtles and study coral and sea urchins among other things. It turns out sea urchins keep coral clean of algae. Who would have known that? We also had a great tour of all the facilities safely from outside. The club may be able to have a kayak outing there in 2021.

Check out their website for details on this great organization, which is teaching our youth how to care for the environment: <http://fyccn.org/suncoast>. Meanwhile here is a quick summary: “The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is excited to partner with TECO and The Florida Aquarium to create the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center (SYCC) located in sunny Apollo Beach. The 6,000 square foot building offers indoor and outdoor classroom space and is the educational hub for the Florida Conservation and Technology Center. We provide exciting learning opportunities for youth and families while they participate in recreational outdoor activities along the eastern shore of Tampa Bay. The SYCC is also part of a much larger statewide network of youth conservation centers.”

It is too bad more club members were not able to attend the event. I encourage everyone to try and get out and enjoy some fly fishing this winter. It's still one of the few things we can do safely and we have excellent fishing opportunities right now. //Walt

Suncoast Youth Center Pictures

The fishing pond on the right viewed from the Aquarium Center. Patty and Gina below. Ted and Bruce center. Patty, Bruce and Gina right. The pond easy to fish and holds all wild fish from nearby Tampa Bay.



FWC Reporter Application

Small horseshoe crabs noted on the Cypress flat.

Gina Russo told me about this App when I mentioned I had seen small, quarter-size horseshoe crabs on the sand at Cypress Park while red-fishing. She noted FWC was trying to locate spawning sites and that I should report my find. The app is free and easy to use. It allows you to create and report on all sorts of plants and animals you find on your outings. Please give it a try and help keep our FWC scientists informed!



Good winter fishing continues. I caught a beautiful red on 30 Dec at Cypress and Rich Gorden got two nice ones. My other fish is one of 23 reds at Wacasassa, my best day ever in early December. The Wacasassa River, two hours north is a beautiful piece of old Florida, wild and isolated. Check it out sometime for snook, reds and trout.



Captain Bryon Chamberlin took out Greg Stepanski on a charter just before Christmas. Greg caught 5 nice redfish up in the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Refuge.



Club member Bryce is enjoying fishing near his cabin in N Georgia this winter despite the snow. He was able to fool this gorgeous rainbow on an 18 Prince Nymph using 6x tippet.





Here are three local images I took. The sunset is off the MacDill beach while waiting for the Christmas Star. The white pelicans are feeding at Weedon Island and the Egret looking off Bayshore. I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy nature.



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Kayak guide Neil Taylor reports: I can tell you for a fact: I wait for this all year. The big fish of winter are a reality. Every year it is the case. If you know where to go, it's easy. The last three trips, 15 fish over 17 inches for each person. It's trout. The bluefish of winter are next. Seven to nine pound bluefish are going to be regular. That hasn't happened yet but it's coming. The Neil Fly has done great and isn't hard to tie. It is a lot of gold with a weighted head. Usually some white as a base I honestly believe it could be all gold and it would work the same. Like with lures, speed is important. If you are not catching fish try stripping slower. It is here: Get out and enjoy it. **Contact Neil at Livelybaits@aol.com** Phone: 727-692-6345.

Capt Rick Grasset reports: Fish the coastal gulf for tripletail when conditions are good. Fishing deep grass flats of Sarasota Bay is a good choice for action with a variety of species including trout, blues and Spanish mackerel. Shallow water action for reds and snook is also a good option now. Our natural resources are under constant pressure from red tides fueled by industrial, agricultural and residential runoff, freezes, increasing fishing pressure and habitat loss and degradation, please limit your kill, don't kill your limit!
Snook Fin-Addict Guide Service, Inc.; E-mail snookfin@aol.com; (941) 923-7799



Our new **traveling club flags** are on the move! Four club members in Cayo Coco, Cuba in May. Lower right **Ted and Frank** in Cordova AK in September. **Lou and Walt** at Casuarina Point, Abaco, Bahamas in April 2018.



Patty and Bruce Anderson
In Belize City, Belize
behaving themselves



Mexico 2019 hog
snapper dinner



Ted and Walt beach snook
fishing Little Gasparilla
Island May 2019



Walt and Capt. Frank
in the jungles of Columbia
March 2019



Two Boys Inn, Andros, Sep 19



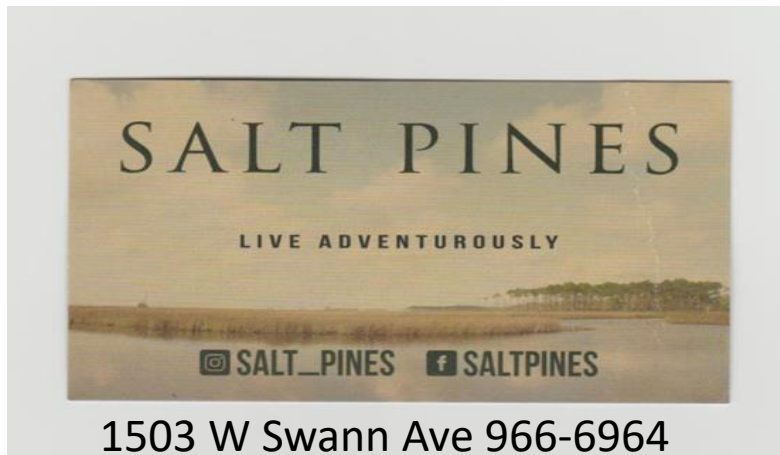
2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 18 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb Shad Outing, Mullet Lake campground
- Mar Casting Clinic
- Mar 29 Annual Banquet - Cancelled
- Apr 23 CCA Banquet - Cancelled
- June 27 Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- May 2021 Two Boys inn, Andros Island
- Oct (virtual) Marine Quest, St Pete
- Oct Mexico: Costa de Cocas trip (postponed)
- Oct Carl Hanson Outing
- Nov 8-12 Chattooga Trip for trout still a go
- Nov 6-7 FFI Expo
- Nov 15 Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Cancelled Florida Sportsman Show
- Dec 11 Play Hooky at the Suncoast Youth Center
- Dec Don Coleman Outing, Ft Desoto

Corporate Sponsors

These companies sponsored the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Some are members of the club. We urge you to patronize them.

- BARBED STEEL CHARTERS, Capt. Bryon Chamberlin, (813) 361-8801, captbryon@yahoo.com..
- REDFISH LANDING GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. John Hand www.RedfishLandingGuideService.com, (239) 842-7778
- THE FLY GUY, Capt. Pat Damico, (727) 504-8649 ,w www.captpat.com, pat4jaws@hotmail.com
- SNOOK FIN-ADDICT GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. Rick Grasset, (941) 923-7799, www.snookfin-addict.com
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Member Benefits

TBFFC is famous for its value and focus on the sharing of information, experience, and craftsmanship with its members. As a TBFFC member you will enjoy many benefits free or at nominal cost.

- Monthly Meetings with informative speakers
- Fishing Trips Sponsored by Members and the Club
- Group Clinics and Workshops
- Fly Tying Lessons
- One-On-One Fly Casting Lessons
- Shirts and Hats with club logo
- 80-page Beginner's Basic Skills Instruction Manual
- Annual Banquet

Fly Fishing Guides

- Capt. Nick Angelo (813) 230-8473
- Capt. Pat Damico (727) 504-8649
- Capt. Bryon Chamberlin (813) 361-8801
- Capt. Rick Grasset (941) 923-7799
- Capt. John Hand (239) 842-7778
- Capt. Greg Peterson (423) 432-1973

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Capt. Pat Damico

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Member Application

Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Name: _____

Date: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Hm. Phone: _____ Wk. Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Type of Membership: _____

Please Check: One Year _____ Five Year _____

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

Annual Dues: \$25.00 Individual Membership

\$35.00 Family Membership

\$95.00 Corporate Single Membership

(includes one membership and Ad Space)

\$120.00 Corporate Double Membership

(includes two memberships or family membership and

Ad Space in Newsletter)

Five-year dues: \$100.00 Individual Membership

\$140.00 Family Membership

Please make check payable to: Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club C/o Rick Valeri, 1404
Oxfordshire Ct. Brandon, 33510