



**Next meeting 5 February  
0600 PM to 0900 PM  
Two Boys Inn Bahamas Bonefishing  
Robert Fischer and Friends**

Robert is a good friend of our club and a long time member. He will lead a presentation on the club trip he put together last September. Six club members had a great time targeting big bonefish from a comfortable lodge with great food and guides. Please come and get the scoop on this trip, which Robert will schedule again this year.

**Fly Tyer  
Walt Durkin**

I will tie a new fly I have had some success with on redfish at Cypress. I have not named it, but it's an articulated bunny pattern with lots of movement. I think snook and tarpon will like it also. I caught 4 reds on it at Cypress including a good one pictured right.



**Directions to Our Meetings (0600pm):** 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

Welcome to February and a great month for winter fishing in Tampa Bay. I hope to see you on the flats. Check out our fishing report for tips. The Cypress flat has fished well this winter with lots of redfish present and the occasional snook. Look for pictures herein.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, all service-connected disabled veterans, caregivers enrolled in the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#)' Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers program, and former prisoners of war will be able to shop at on-base grocery stores and exchanges. They will also be allowed to use some MWR amenities, such as golf courses and bowling alleys. This a super benefit and you will also have access to great fishing around MacDill.

We have scheduled a shad outing on 21-22 Feb at Mullet Lake Park in Sanford. We will test the site this year and try to invite other clubs if it works out. Please join us.

And, please remember we are collecting club dues this month.

//Walt Durkin



## Project Healing Waters News

Second Monday at Tampa Fishing Outfitters 6 – 8 pm.  
Tuesday's we have the PRRC program 10 - 11:45 am.; only for the volunteers.  
Wednesday's at the Veteran Center 2- 4 pm to finish making rods if you have one.

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Walt Durkin	<b>813-513-2122</b>
<a href="mailto:Walt.durkin@aol.com">Walt.durkin@aol.com</a>	cell <b>813-853-5870</b>
Vice President: Ted Hagaman	813-920-7863
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Pat Damico	727-504-8649
Robert Fischer	813-962-0185
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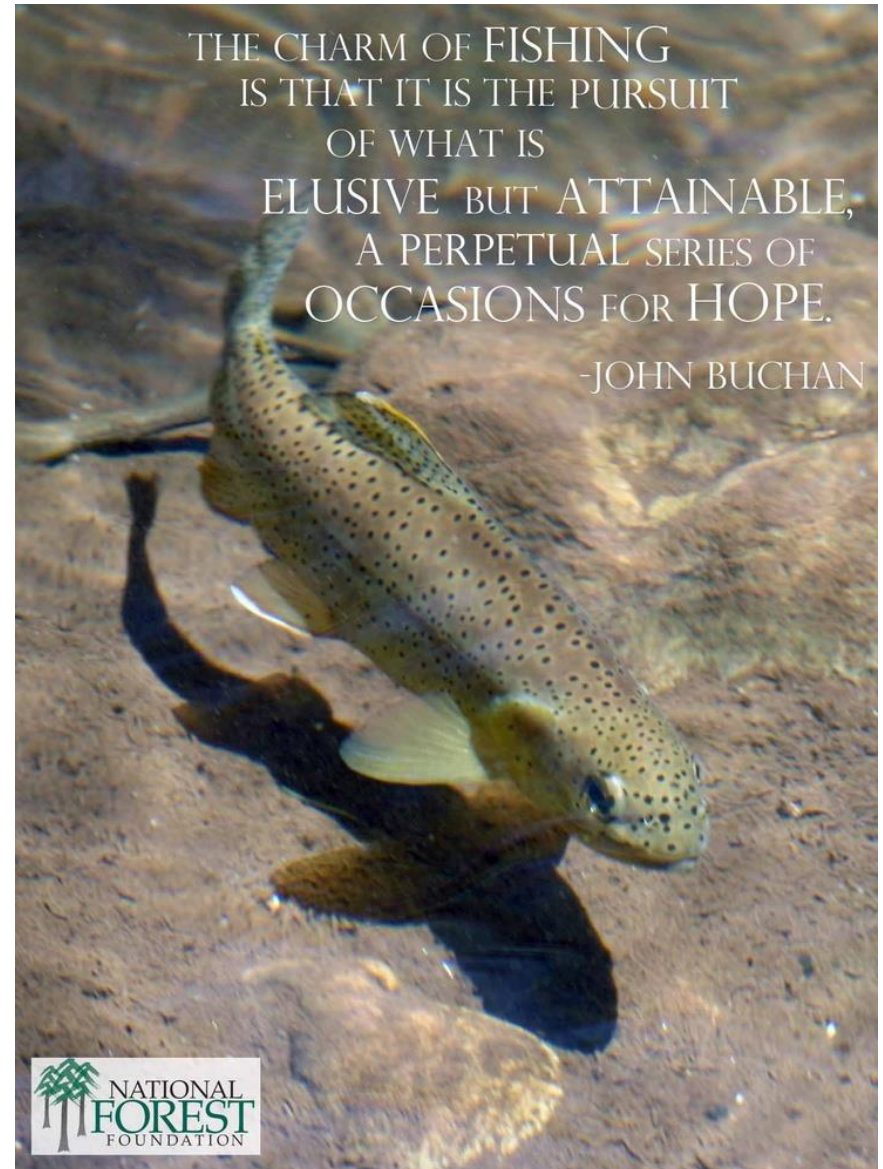
## TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

### **Shad Outing 21 and 22 February, Mullet Lake Park.**

We have reserved a group site to continue the tradition of a shad outing. The park has a grill, camp sites and a bathroom and showers. We will fish on Friday and Saturday and plan group dinners for two nights. Sign up at the next meeting. You will need camping gear or stay in a motel. We should find shad still in the river and maybe the striped bass will be running.

**Email to Our Club:** My name is Shane Arwood and I am a new fly fisherman here in west TN. I just wanted to take a minute to say thanks to your club for putting together such a nice website. I am coming to Tampa to visit friends the week of Memorial Day and have been searching high and low for information on fly fishing Tampa for people like myself who know nothing about salt water and can't afford a guide. After much searching I stumbled across your site. The information your club has put together is EXTREMELY helpful to someone like myself and I just wanted to say thanks to your club for doing such a good job. I am a member of a local club here and plan on taking some of the ideas learned from your site to our club and hopefully we can assist someone as your club has me without even knowing.

Thanks for the positive feedback and to **Dick Miekka** for maintaining our club website!





# Fly of the Month

## Bill Murdich's Minnow

**Hook:** standard saltwater, size 1/0

**Thread:** White Danville flat waxed nylon

**Tail:** Alternating layers of white bucktail (3 layers) and pearl Flashaboo (2 layers). Silver Flashaboo on top

**Skirt:** 6 to 8 wraps of medium, palmer Chenille, pearl

**Head:** Cactus chenille, pearl

**Eyes:** Eyes to suit glued on

Color body with a grey marker if desired





Club guides Capt. Bryon Chamberlin and Capt. Greg Peterson fished the Chas and caught a couple of big redfish in skinny, clear water. Greg and Bryon are booking tarpon trips for this spring off our local beaches.





The flat north of Cypress Point Park is fishing very well on the negative low tides. I had my best two days ever with 4 and 6 fish days. Small crab or shrimp patterns work on a 12 foot leader and 10lb tippet. Ken with a nice snook, Bryce with a red, Seth with a red and Walt and Ted with a couple of reds. This action was on the outside bar with a low, incoming tide. Try it if you like sight fishing clear water for big reds. Ken and I are still learning how to hold our fish properly for pictures despite Bryon's presentation.





Four club members traveled to the Everglades the last week of January for winter fishing. Robert Fischer shared Rick Fenders' boat and Patty and Bruce Anderson brought their boat. They stayed at the River Wilderness Villas. Robert reports they caught snook, reds, trout, ladyfish and jacks. "Perfect weather made the back country of the Everglades a magical place." They only sent me on photo with Patty holding a nice redfish. You can tell she paid attention to Bryon's presentation on photography.



## Fishing Report and Forecast

### “What a great time to go fishing!”

**Kayak guide Neil Taylor reports:** There is no question, the peak time for big trout has arrived. Since closures on the inshore species, I have seen more redfish than I had in six years. Snook remain nothing special and the ones we have are not very big. It will take a lot more time and growth for us to get that fishery back. Big trout are easy on the big low morning tides and on the outgoing tides of afternoon. Think "grass" and search out trout where troughs meet seagrass. Inside the bay, the biggest trout are often up against oyster bars. We have caught trout over 20 inches every time out. Contact Neil at [Livelybaits@aol.com](mailto:Livelybaits@aol.com) Phone: 727-692-6345

**Capt. Pat reports:** Frequent cold fronts can make shallow saltwater species very difficult this time of year. Windy overcast days and unreliable tides make it hard to establish a pattern. Don't spend a lot of time at an unproductive location. Pick a grassy flat that has been productive in the past, or has a lot of bird activity, and work your boat in deeper water parallel to the grass edge. Consider wind and tide movement before beginning. A bow-mounted electric motor occasionally run very slowly helps boat control. Cast to the deep edges of the grass, allowing your fly, usually weighted, to sink close to the bottom and then retrieve slowly. Two experienced fly fishers can fish simultaneously at each end of the boat. Pay attention to accurately casting to any irregularities in the grass edge where trout and reds will wait for easy prey. These lethargic fish must have the fly in front of their face to react. If successful, repeat at the same depth. A sea anchor can be employed to move the boat slower. Repeat the drift, only this time drift the grass edge and cast shallower. Most casts will be over grass, but target sand holes, lighter colored areas in the grass that are a little deeper. Large trout and reds will use these as ambush points. Again, allow the fly to sink close to the bottom. Longer casts cover more water. Baitfish fly patterns with the hook pointed up, to avoid weeds, in chartreuse and white, chartreuse and pink, and black over red are good choices. **Pat Damico** charters Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at [captpatdamico.com](http://captpatdamico.com) and (727) 504-8649.



## **Capt. Rick Grasset reports:**

Anglers fishing with me recently, out of CB's Saltwater Outfitters on Siesta Key, had good action with trout, blues and Spanish mackerel on deep grass flats and reds in skinny water. Fly anglers fishing deep flats with me scored with trout, bluefish and Spanish mackerel and snook in the ICW at night. Spin fishing anglers also had some action on deep flats and with reds in shallow water on CAL jigs with shad and grub tails.

I was the instructor for a CB's Saltwater Outfitters Orvis-Endorsed Fly Fishing School on Saturday, Jan 18. I had a full class of enthusiastic students that received instruction in fly casting and saltwater fly fishing techniques. Future schools will be held on Feb 8 and 22 and Mar 14, 2020. Cost for the 6-hr class is \$195 per person and includes the use of premium Orvis fly tackle, workbook and lunch. Contact CB's Saltwater Outfitters at (941) 349-4400 to sign up.

Fishing shallow flats for catch and release reds and snook should be a good option now. Fishing deep grass flats of Sarasota Bay is a good choice for action with a variety of species including trout, pompano, blues and Spanish mackerel. 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. (941) 923-7799 (office)



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 21-22 Shad Outing, Mullet Lake campground
- Mar Casting Clinic
- Mar 29 Annual Banquet
- Apr 23 CCA Banquet
- June Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Sep Two Boys inn, Andros Island
- Oct Marine Quest, St Pete
- Oct 17-24 Mexico: Costa de Cocas trip
- Oct Carl Hanson Outing, Hillsborough River
- Nov 8-12 Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov 6-7 FFI Expo
- Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Nov Florida Sportsman Show
- Dec 3 Members Year End Party
- Dec 11 Play Hooky at the Hatchery
- Dec Don Coleman Outing, Ft Desoto



## 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 Grassett (941) 923-7799
- Capt. John Hand (239) 842-7778
- Capt. Frank Rhodes (863) 967-4258
- Capt. Greg Peterson (423) 432-1973

## Fly Casting Coaches

### South Tampa

Steve Parker.....813-287-5583  
Walt Durkin.....813-853-5870

### North Tampa

Robert Fischer.....813-962-0185  
Dan Lagace.....813-929-6605  
Leigh West .....813-971-8697

### St. Petersburg

Capt. Pat Damico.....727-504-8649

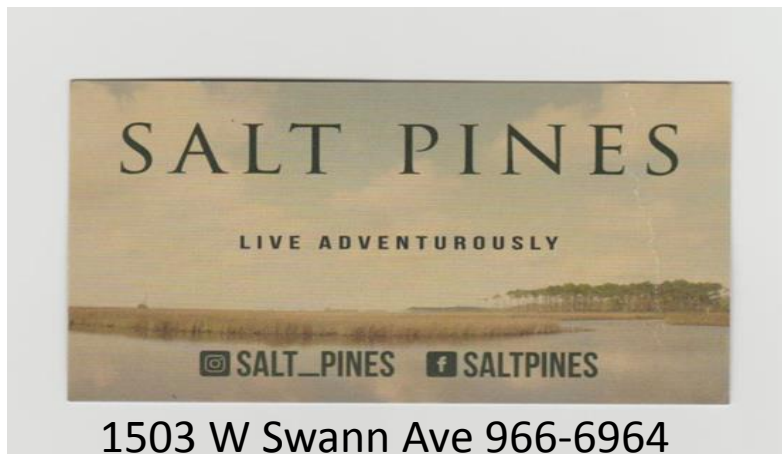
### Polk County

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

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

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Member Application

Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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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

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