



We will not meet in February due to the continued threat from COVID. Please hang in there and stay safe while enjoying the outdoors.

I was lucky to get my vaccine at the VA hospital, which is a great option for veterans. We had only a short wait and are scheduled for our second shot.

Pictured is an egret looking hopefully at the water off Bayshore. He could use some polarized glass with that glare, but suspect he will do just fine.

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. Please check out our newsletter for tips!

Gina Russo, from FWC, offered to set up a kayak trip for us at the Suncoast Youth Center. Since it's a youth center, we thought some of you old folks would want to bring grand kids. Or, young folks could just bring their kids. The Center would supply everything and we would all wear masks of course. Please email me if you would like to participate at the Apollo Beach Youth Center sometime this spring or summer.

I bought a new SA Grand Slam Clear Tip sink tip line at Tampa Fishing Outfitters and really like it. Club member and guide, Keaton Anderson, recommended it. This line picks up easily and offers a stealthy presentation, which you need in the winter.

//Walt Durkin 

Thoughts for the Month:

If you want to be happy for an hour; take a nap.
Happy for a day, **go fishing.**
Happy for a year, win the lotto.
Happy for life, be kind and help others.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Kris Smythe	813-767-2389

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.

Mobley Wilderness Preserve Outing – 20 Feb

Eric Pavlica has organized a unique fishing event for the City of Oldsmar: "I thought your club may want to be a part of. This free public event will be at Mobley Wilderness Preserve (in Oldsmar) on 2/20 9-11am. And open to all ages. What makes this event so unique is that it's an Invasive Species Round Up. And I can guarantee anyone can catch a fish. So kids have a blast. The Cichlids are so abundant that my fishing camp kids with little to know no experience catch between 50-100 per hour(each) and Fishing Camp didn't happen this last year. So I'm having a round up to try to help the eco system in this preserve before spawning season. I would like about a hundred people fishing we have plenty of space to spread out. I have all kinds of ways that your club be a apart of this event. Your members and families could just fish, help inexperienced kids and families, help record the fish being caught, looking for a positive way to dispose of the fish. Your group has been to a few of my events over the years and are always fun. If any of your group would like to participate in any way let me know." Contact Eric at:
Pavlica, Eric (EPavlica@myoldsmar.com)



Flies of the Month

Kwan Fly and Fool's Gold Crab

I have caught reds on the Kwan fly in brown and green and on the Fool's Gold Crab. Both patterns are easy to tie and fun to fish. The tail on the Kwan is especially lively with craft fur. Ted Hagaman mentioned it one day and I tied some up; thanks Ted. This is a super pattern, which lands light and has a lot of movement. Good over grass with a weed-guard.

Brian Koesler mentioned the Fool's Gold crab when I met him on the Cypress flat one day and it's been a winner for redfish.

Directions for tying these flies are available on YouTube. Tie some up and come on out!



New club member, Bryan Koesler, also sent me this: "I took the idea for this fly from the woven Czech nymph fly sometimes used for trout, but made a shrimp pattern out of it. Allows for the fly to have two different colors on the top and bottom of the body section. This one is brown on the bottom and green on top. It worked the other day and I landed a nice red."

Bryan has been fishing the low tides at Cypress with success.



Tom H. Logan and Tom Gadacz from the FFI Florida Council shared this information:

Good morning, members of the FFI Board Conservation Committee. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is considering a rule proposal to close the Western Dry Rocks Spawning Area to fishing during a 2-month period during spawning. This is an important spawning area for game and other species of saltwater fishes. The permit is one of those species. It lies approximately 10 miles southwest from Key West, Florida.

Scientists of the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust have been studying this site, its importance to referenced species and affects of fishing and associated mortality on those species during spawning periods. It is their opinion that the closure is needed but recommends to the FWC that the closure should be extended to protect this important spawning area for a 4-month period and has recommended same.



Members of the FFI Conservation Action Sub-committee reviewed the proposal and data provided by BTT, concurs and I submitted the attached letter to the FWC this past Saturday.

Jim McDuffie, BTT President & CEO, responded immediately to thank FFI and confirmed that CCA,ASA, IGFA, Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, Wild Oceans and other organizations also have supported the recommendation to close the Western Dry Rocks Spawning Area to fishing for a 4-month period.

Please share this important Conservation within your respective Councils and Clubs as another example FFI's commitment to conservation of "All Fish, All Waters" and preservation of the "Legacy of Fly Fishing".

Club Member Ken Moser's Aquarium Art Project

As most of you know, I was allowed to utilize 6 windows at the Florida Aquarium to place stained glass pieces. It has taken a few months but completed the last one today. Two are located in the volunteers break room and the remaining four will be placed in the windows that show outside as you go to the entrance. Each window is 24" across.

I am very happy to have been given this opportunity and hope that the pieces will be enjoyed by all that see them.

P.S. Good job Ken and I look forward to seeing your contribution.



Layne Smith (Smitty)

Beer Battered Fish Sliders with Key Lime Tartar Sauce

Ingredients:

- 1 cup Duke's mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp key lime juice (fresh key limes if you can get them, otherwise, Key Lime Juice from Publix)
- 1 tsp Coleman's Dry Mustard
- 1 tbsp sweet relish
- 1 tbsp minced shallots

Mix ingredients together and add additional key lime juice to taste. Set in the fridge to thicken up a bit.

Now it's time to prep the beer batter and fry the fish ...

Slider buns of your choice (I used the King's Hawaiian Dinner Rolls)

Fish fillets, cut into chunks (Grouper or Mahi Mahi are good choices)

1½ cups flour

12-16 oz can light beer

Black pepper or other seasonings of your choice

In a skillet (I prefer cast iron), heat about ½" of peanut or canola oil to a medium heat. Don't go any hotter than medium or you can burn the fish. Slowly mix some beer into the flour until you end up with a pancake batter consistency. Don't pour the whole beer in all at once or it will most likely be too runny. Dip the fish chunks into the beer batter and fry until each side is a light, golden brown. Once done, place on some paper towels to drain.

While the fish is cooking, toast the slider buns. I like to use mayonnaise instead of butter. I learned that trick years ago and I always do that now. Try it out next time you make burgers. It's that good!

All that's left is to build your sliders out with whatever veggies you like (I use leaf or shredded lettuce and tomato) and top with the key lime tartar sauce. These were seriously one of the best things I've eaten in awhile!



Taking Care with Fish

I was reminded fishing is indeed a blood sport while on the Cypress flat. I caught a nice red, got him in and on my release tool. I let him rest a bit and got a quick photo, then let him go. As he swam off a big dolphin appeared 75 feet away and I watched as the dolphin zeroed in on my red. After a big swirl and splash, I fear the red was eaten. I felt bad, of course, and if I had seen the dolphin I would have held the red back until the way was clear.

The incident did remind me to take special care with each fish we catch and release. Here are several tips I use that help. First, remember to de-barb your hooks. This small action will aide in a quick release for the fish and also help when you hook yourself. Next minimize handling fish and taking them out of the water. Here, a de-hooking tool works very well, allowing you to quickly remove the hook without touching the fish. This is especially important for trout, which are delicate and should not be touched. Additionally, I use a plastic fish grabber tied to three feet of line. I keep this handy on my pack to quickly and safely hold the fish . I can now leave the fish in the water to rest while I get the picture ready. Or just use the tool to hold the fish while you slide out the hook. Finally, if I plug fish I try to replace all treble hooks with single in-line hooks. I just don't like to stick a treble hook in a fish nowadays. This may cost me some hook-ups, but I accept the tradeoff. Red below is the one I released and him in the water on the release tool.



The Cypress flat continues to hold redfish over the sand on the low tides. About a half dozen club members have consistently fished the flat this winter and enjoyed sight fishing in the cool, clear water. These fish are hard to catch, but always thrilling to see. We are blessed and thankful to have great opportunities to fly fish during these stressful times. Picture on the right shows snook off Bayshore; and, a wading bird below among mangroves on a Weedon Island walk. Redfish is at Cypress on a beautiful day. Picture by Bruce Anderson.



Ran into club member Mike Perez fishing with Rick O'Hara on the MacDill flat on a low tide in mid-January. Mike caught the big red pictured below and emailed me the fly patterns he has been using. He said the dark one is best for off-color water and the other two for clear water. Nice job on the red Mike, and your flies look good. Even better – they work. I tend to fish more crab and shrimp patterns in the winter, but a good minnow pattern is always hard to beat.



Captain Bryon Chamberlin: Here is a pic of a sight fished frozen snook caught on New Year's weekend up in the Chaz. As it warms up heading into spring, big snook will come out from the backcountry springs to eat anything that moves. It's a great time to catch a personal best snook on fly. Schedule a trip with Bryon at: (813) 361-8801



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Kayak guide Neil Taylor reports: A really good stretch. Three fly fishing clients. They opted for my fly. All three had successful trips. The fly, a weighted head, some white and mostly gold: They all caught trout. Two of the three caught bluefish. One caught a giant pompano. One caught a big sheepshead. One caught a flounder. A very good variety overall. The action has been very normal for the dead of winter. Some trout over 25 inches. The bluefish are 5 to 8 pounds. This action will last for another four months. Contact Neil at Livelybaits@aol.com Phone: 727-692-6345.

Captain Pat Damico reports: Cold fronts, wind and very low tides have kept most shallow-water bait and spin fishermen home, but I know some fly fishermen who have waited for these conditions. It is not by coincidence that they are also excellent at spotting fish and even better at getting a fly exactly where it needs to be placed with accuracy and stealth. The way these anglers dress, you would think they are going ice fishing instead of fishing shallow-water flats on Florida's gulf coast. They generally wade fish, occasionally using a watercraft only to traverse deeper water on the way in or out of their very shallow destination. Watercraft can get you to areas that are fished very little because of the distance needed to their location. The largest redfish and trout are frequently caught this time of year in very skinny water. Think about some of the shallow flats you are familiar with that have been productive in the past or some you avoided because they were fished heavily by guides and other fishermen. Sun at your back will help you see fish that could be difficult to see on overcast days, but be careful of casting a fish-scaring shadow. Use your favorite fly rod with a floating line and long leader tapered to 12- or 15-pound test. Use a loop knot to attach a favorite size 4 baitfish or shrimp pattern that has small beadchain eyes to keep the hook pointed up, improving your hook set. *Fly fisherman Pat Damico charts Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at captpatdamico.com and 727-504-8649.*

Capt Rick Grasset reports: Shallow water fishing for reds and large trout is a good option now. With winter conditions we have very clear water, which usually requires long casts to avoid spooking fish. Depending on tide, sometimes afternoons will fish better than mornings in shallow water due to warmer water. Fishing deep grass flats of Sarasota Bay is also a good choice for action with a variety of species including trout, blues and Spanish mackerel. Fish the coastal gulf for tripletail when conditions are good. 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



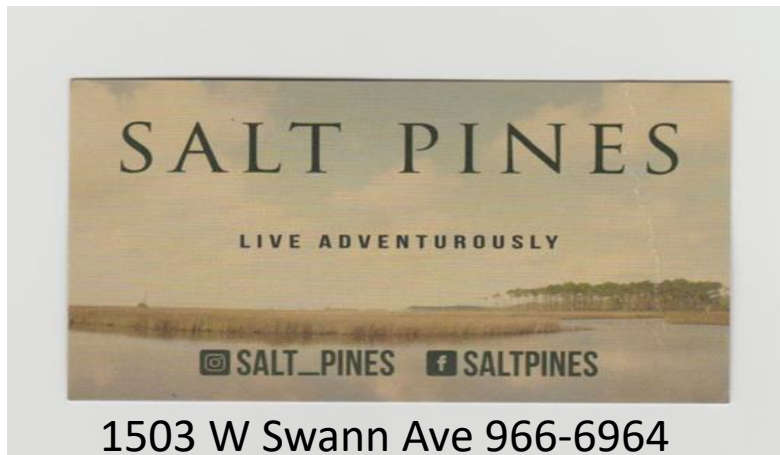
2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 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

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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.

- 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
- SWANN'S FLY FISHING SHOP, Jim Swann, 13650 South 98 Bypass, Dade City, 33525, (352) 567-6029
- Carbon Marine, 3916 W. Osborne Ave. Tampa Fl, 33614, 813-870-1234
- Tampa Fishing Outfitters, 3916 W. Osborne Ave, Tampa, FL; 813-870-1234, tampafishingoutfitters.com
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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
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- Capt. Rick Grasset (941) 923-7799
- Capt. John Hand (239) 842-7778
- Capt. Greg Peterson (423) 432-1973

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Please Check: One Year _____ Five Year _____

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

Annual Dues: \$25.00 Individual Membership

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(includes one membership and Ad Space)

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