



Next meeting 6 March

0600 PM to 0900 PM

Guest Speaker: Ben Kurth

“How eyeballs and fin clips help us to better understand the lives of Atlantic Tarpon”



Ben is a local fisheries biologist as well as a fly fisherman. He received his degree in Aquatic/Marine Biology at Stetson University in 2011, and his Masters in Marine Resource Assessment (focused on Tarpon biology) at USF College of Marine Science in 2016. He has worked for FWC’s Fish and Wildlife Research Institute for 6 years, 4 in the Genetics program, and 2 in Fisheries Independent Monitoring. He lives in Gulfport, FL and runs a 16’ Hewes Bone-fisher. Ben will talk about two components of his Master’s research. The first part will be about how he used stable isotope analysis of Tarpon eye lenses to better understand their lifelong habitat use and feeding patterns. The second part will discuss results of the Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study pertaining to juvenile Tarpon < 48” long.

(<https://myfwc.com/research/saltwater/tarpon/genetics/faq/>). In addition, Ben will answer questions about his work, as well as how understanding fish biology can make us better anglers.

Fly Tyer: Ted Hagaman

Please come and watch Ted tie a new fly he found called “The Usual”. This is a good-looking shrimp pattern designed for bone fish in the Cayman Islands. It should work well in Florida waters.

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 March and spring-like conditions. Check our fishing report for tips to find more fish on the flats. Snook are showing up in good numbers as the water warms.

I hope you enjoyed Patty and Denise's talk on their DIY adventures out west. Do your research and find a fun and easy DIY adventure yourself. Also, thanks to club member Ken Moser for tying trout flies for us.

Thanks to all who helped at our seminars for the ladies and at East Lake Woodlands golf course. Look for details and pictures herein.

We have re-scheduled our annual banquet for 31 March (3-8pm) and are trying Compton Park as a new venue. We hope to reduce costs and earn a little more money for the club while having a good time.

Please pay 2019 dues if not caught up.
Please note my new home phone number is 813-513-2122.

// Walt Durkin 

EVENTS

- Girls Fish Too, 9 Feb, Picnic Island, **sold out**
- **Annual banquet 31 March, Compton Park**
- **Casting clinic: 2 March**

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

Shad Outing St Johns River Report :1-3 Feb

We had a great time as usual fishing and camping. Thanks to **Leigh and Ted** for cooking and to all who helped and brought stuff. Thanks to **Capt. Frank** for the fresh strawberries. Thanks to **Scott Green** for hosting us on his beautiful property. Photos on pages 6-7.

Costa de Cocas Trip, 19-26 Oct. Capt. Frank Rhodes is collecting deposits for this trip; \$2500 this year. Call Frank at 863-604-6505 or see him at a meeting.

FLY FISHING RESOLUTIONS OF THE MONTH

- Join a conservation group
- Plan a fishing trip
- Catch a new species on fly
- Organize you fly boxes

Fly Fishing Tricks

Capt. Pat Damico recommends this website for handy tricks to help your fly fishing. Check them out!

<http://www.flyfisherman.com/editorial/expert-tackle-tricks-tips/331266#>



Annual Club Banquet 31 March – Compton Park



We will host our banquet this year our meeting place at **Compton Park** on Sunday, 31 March, at 3 pm. Tickets are \$25 for one and \$40 for two. Please sign up and pay at a meeting or RSVP to me (walt.durkin@aol.com) and pay at the door. Our theme is Cuban food and we will have appetizers at 3pm and a buffet at 04:30pm. Look forward to our silent auction with a good selection of over 100 items you may not need but can't resist. We will have drawings for some free stuff. This is a club fund raiser so please Join us for good food, fun and friends. We will have water, tea and soda and you may bring your own beer, wine or other drink.

Girls Fish Too!
A Fly Fishing Clinic for Women
9 February at Picnic Island

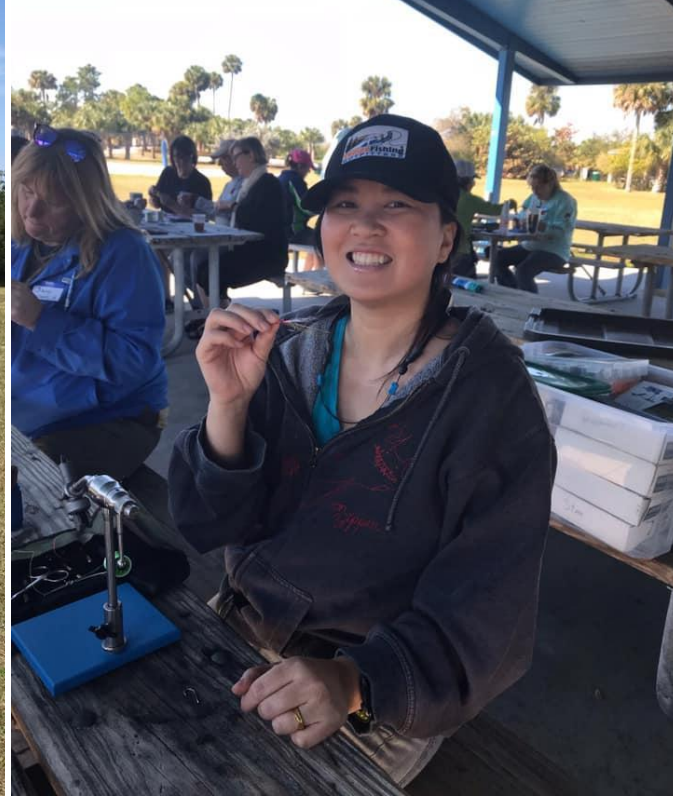
Aided by several club members and others who served as instructors, the ladies received an introduction to fly casting, fly tying, knots/leaders and equipment during the 3/4 day session. They all received one-year memberships in the club for attending the workshop.

Here are some of the comments we received from the participants:

"What an amazing day. Well worth getting up at 5 am to drive to Tampa. I'm just sorry it was over so quickly. Lots and lots of good information, coaching and support. The clinicians were encouraging and patient. Learning to tie flies, knots and about safety, equipment and so much more. I hope they have another one soon. I would not hesitate to sign up again!"

"WE HAD AN AMAZING DAY!! Our instructors were so patient & knowledgeable !! I can really cast! Great tips& tying flies && knots!!! Super great food& fun ladies!!"

Thanks to: Patty Anderson, Denise Bruner, Capt. Pat Damico, Walt Durkin, Tex Faulkner, Ginny Fisher, Lisa Lowman, Rick O'Hara, Mike Perez , Capt. Alissa Vinoski, Leigh West, Ken Zadoyko



Participants went thru four stations: knots, casting , fly tying and gear.

Leigh, Denise, Alissa, and Ken share their skills.



We had a great turn-out!



St John's River Shad Trip

Fourteen club members went to our shad outing and had a great time. We ate, drank, fished and swapped stories around a cozy camp fire. Weather was fine and the fish fairly cooperative. We caught a bunch of shad, a few bass and bream, and one giant gar!

Floyd with a Shad, Leigh in boat, Rick below with shad.



Buzzards near the boat ramp; launching the boat in the St John
Ted with his gar fish and Ted with a big shad about 3 pounds



Club member Andy with his first Key's Bonefish; club member Brice with a snook at Cypress; Ted with a red at Cypress.



Capt. Frank fishing in Argentina for golden dorado by horse and boat.



East Lake Woodland seminar on 24 February. Thanks to Patty and Bruce for helping and to Tex for bringing his custom rods. The Suncoast club taught fly tying and Captain Shawn McCole from Bill Jacksons brought his flats boat.



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.



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Kayak guide Neil Taylor reports easy action at the start of spring as expected. Go to the right location and you should do very well. We had three weeks of action with very large trout and they remain a main target with other species a little tougher. Pompano will be back on the agenda before long. Big trout are available in the early morning hours but the bite has sustained until almost noon. However, the best action has usually been early. Bluefish never materialized like they normally do in the dead of winter, possibly because of the Red Tide. I have instituted a new rule and I am not keeping any trout over 18 inches. Practice catch and release to keep our trout population healthy, especially the bigger fish. Email: Livelybaits@aol.com
Phone: 727-692-6345

Capt. Rick Grasset: There should be good action with reds, trout and snook in skinny water in March as the water warms and baitfish become more plentiful. Look for Spanish and king mackerel, cobia, tripletail and false albacore (little tunny) in the coastal gulf. Night snook fishing in the ICW should also be a good this month.

Snook and reds remain closed on the west coast of Florida. The Florida FWC has enacted a temporary modification of regulations for reds and snook, in the areas affected by the recent red tide. The area extends from Pasco County, south to the south bank of Gordon Pass in Collier County. Reds and snook are catch and release only in that zone until May 10, 2019. Full details including exact boundaries can be found at <http://myfwc.com/news/news-releases/2018/september/26/comm-red-tide/>. In addition, FWC has also added trout over 20” to the closure in the same area.

This should be a good month for snook fishing at night around lighted docks and bridge fenders in the ICW. Small white flies, like my Grasset Snook Minnow, usually work well at night since glass minnows are the predominate baitfish. Focus on shadow lines where light meets dark and fish strong tides for the best action. Although snook may also be found in rivers, creeks or canals in March, they will also start to move onto shallow flats, particularly on sunny afternoons when it’s warm. I like wider profile flies, like my Grasset Flats Minnow, Deceivers and EP flies for snook on the flats

Look for early season tarpon that may start to show in backcountry areas. These are usually adult resident fish that are making their way out of rivers and creeks. They may be “laid up” or rolling on deep grass flats, on edges of shallow flats or along bars when it is calm. An accurate cast may result in an explosive strike! Look for them in areas of Sarasota Bay, lower Tampa Bay or in Gasparilla Sound on some of the same deep grass flats where you find trout. Reds should be more active as the water warms and baitfish become more plentiful. Higher tides, as we head into spring, will allow them to spend more time feeding in shallow water. Look for them over shallow grass, along mangrove shorelines and around oyster bars when the tide is high. You should find them in potholes and along sand bars when the tide is low. Fly anglers should score with my Grasset Flats Minnow fly, fished on a 12’ or longer leader. When using a long leader be sure you are able turn it over, otherwise you’ll need to shorten it until you can. The butt section should be at least 50% of the total length of the leader and stiff enough to transfer energy from your fly line to the leader. .

You may find big trout in skinny water in many of the same places that you find reds. Blind cast seams where grass meets sand or focus on light colored bottom, in potholes on top of sand bars, where you may be able to sight fish them. I release all big trout (over 20”), since they are usually females that are often filled with roe. FWC has also added trout over 20” to the emergency closure on the west coast of Florida through May 10, 2019. These fish are important to the health of our fishery. *E-mail snookfin@aol.com (941) 923-7799 (office)*



2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 19 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb 1-3 Shad Outing St John's River
- Feb 9 Girls Fish Too!
- Feb 24 East Lake Woodlands fly fishing seminar
- Mar 2 Casting Clinic
- Mar 31 Annual Banquet
- Apr CCA Banquet
- June Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct Florida Sportsman Show
- Oct Marine Quest, St Pete
- Oct 19-26 Mexico: Costa de Cocas trip
- Oct 26 Carl Hanson Outing, Hillsborough River
- Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec Members Year End Party
- Dec 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

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2014 Member Application
Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

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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

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