



**Next meeting 4 March
0600 PM to 0900 PM
Capt. Brian Boehm
Baby Tarpon Fishing**

Captain Brian Boehm, owns and operates Quiet Waters Fishing and runs his trips out of CB's Saltwater Outfitters in Sarasota, FL in a 17' Maverick Mirage. He covers water as far north as lower Tampa Bay and as far south as the Charlotte Harbor/Boca Grande. His favorite trips to offer are: back country, shallow flats, night tarpon, & night dock light snook trips. He enjoys targeting redfish, snook, tarpon, and other flats species. His specialty is poling his skiff through shallow water and stalking gamefish. Brian will focus his presentation on fly fishing for tarpon at night and fly fishing for tarpon in rivers during the day.

Fly Tyer

Craig Smothers will be our feature tyer in March. Craig is a well-known and innovative tyer featured in many videos on YouTube. Please come and watch an expert ply his craft. Check out Craig's work at SaltFlies.com.



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 wonderful spring weather. We are losing our good negative low tides, but warmer water will bring hungry fish to the flats. Try to make time to fish more!

We have one opening 2-8 August for a week's fishing in Cody, Wyoming for \$700. Trip includes food, lodging (at the Boy Scout camp) and transportation to/from the river where you fish on your own. Please email me if you are interested. Details at <http://www.campbuffalobill.com/yellowstone-anglers-basecamp/>.

Robert Fischer has a few openings at the Two Boys Inn, 10-17 Oct 2020. This is a great trip for \$2600 and includes six day's guided fishing for big bone fish.

Capt Frank Rhodes also has openings for Mexico 17-24 Oct. Contact me to reserve your spot with at deal at \$2500.

Our banquet is coming up fast on 29 March. Please see our flyer on page two. We will have good fun, food, raffle items, silent auction, games and a free guided trip. Please sign up at the next meeting or email me. We welcome donations for the raffle if you have something to offer. I hope to see you there.

//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	813-513-2122
Walt.durkin@aol.com	cell 813-853-5870
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Pat Damico	727-504-8649
Robert Fischer	813-962-0185
Bruce Anderson	813-960-8523

Put on your cowboy hats and boots for the

**2020
Tampa Bay
Fly Fishing Club
Banquet**



**Sunday - March 29th 3pm - 8pm
Compton Park**

**The same location as our monthly meeting
16101 Compton Drive, Tampa**

Our theme is Western Cowboy!

**Join your friends for a western barbeque with all the fixings!!
Put on your most authentic and impressive western wear and you may be re-
warded! The person with the most convincing western duds will be presented a
special prize!!**

**Please bring your significant other, and any friends and family that may like a
great meal and a chance to get some good auction deals.**

**We will have skill games with prizes and raffle tickets. The silent auction will be
in full force with a great collection of fishing and non-fishing items.
Raffle tickets will on sale for the gift baskets.**

**For everyone attending, you will have a chance to
win a free guided fishing trip! All attendees will
receive a ticket for this special drawing!**

**This is our major fundraising event for the year.
Please come out and support your club!**



**Only \$25 per person or \$40 couple
Please RSVP: walt.dirkin@aol.com You may prepay or at the door**

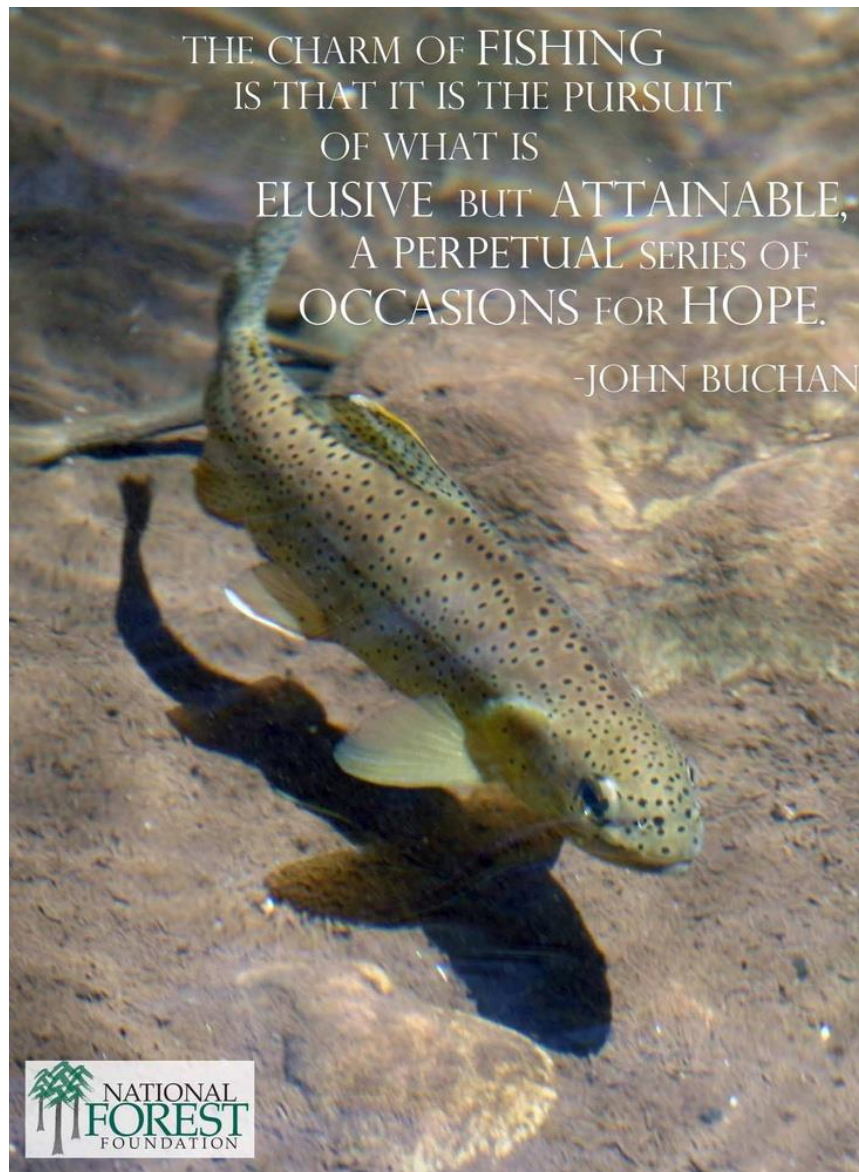
TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

Shad Outing 21 and 22 February, Mullet Lake Park.

We caught some cool and windy weather for this outing. The only report I have was of bass and bluegill being caught. We will plan this trip earlier next year in January or February. The Mullet Lake Camp Ground will work as a great venue for the outing.

Trip to the Da Bay Area Lodge, South Andros Island

Captain's Byron Chamberlin, Dave Chouinard, professional photographer Ricky D and myself traveled to Andros on a DIY trip for five days of fishing. We flew to Nassau and took Western Air to the island. The lodge was very comfortable with good food and drink. We fished in front along a beautiful sand flat and at another spot down the road a bit from the lodge. We waded and also used kayaks. We caught multiple bone fish up to nine pounds and a few baracuda. I think I was low rod for the week catching about 20 bone fish. We caught the weather just right with east winds and good sun. Fishing was best on the lower tides in the morning and mid-day. The lodge gave us a special DIY deal of \$1500 for the week that included everything but the tips for the staff. South Andros is still one of the best places for big bonefish on pristine flats. DIY is not for everyone and you will have to fish hard. You can add a couple of days of guided fishing if you wish. //Walt



Fly of the Month

Walt's Double Bunny

Hook: Size 4 Gamakatsu B10S Stinger

Thread: I use clear mono, but use a color of choice to build up a head if you 'de rather

Eyes: Use bead chain, dumb-bell or a cone head

Body: Two stripes of thin bunny (zonker)

Instructions: De-barb hook, place in vice and start your wraps. Cut a three inch piece of bunny and separate the hair about one inch back from the front. Tie this in on the top-middle of your stinger hook and tie off.

Next, take a cheap hood and break the shank leaving about one half inch of only the shank and eye. Place this in the vice and add your thread. Thread a strong line (power pro or backing) thru your stinger hook eye and place this line along the shank of your hook and tie in securely as this double line holds your hook to the shank. The eye of your stinger hook will be just hanging off the end of your hook shank. Tie in the tip of your bunny at the eye. You now have one long strip tied in at the eye with the stinger hook at the middle/end. Next, tie in a two inch bunny stripe at the eye, on the opposite side, so the two pieces of bunny skin face each other. Keep your first bunny strip longer to give it more movement at the end. If your bunny skin is white then color it with an orange marker. You will end with a lively fly when stripping or at rest. They grey color worked on reds, but tan, white or green will also work. This will also be a good snook or tarpon fly tied in white with a cone head.



Fishing the Cypress Flat

The flat at Cypress Park continues to hold schools of redfish both outside the bar and inside over the grass. We did particularly well over the full moon weekend of 8-9 February 2020. Here are tips I learned while fishing Cypress for those four days.

Two flats fish well at Cypress, one to the south and one to the north. The flat to the north holds the most fish, but can be a little crowded with fisherman. The flat to the south can also be quite good and you may have it to yourself.

The northern end starts at the end of the beach area and runs about one quarter mile to a canal coming out of the mangroves. You can fish beyond that canal if you have a kayak and I have found reds there. The main feature to the north is the sandbar, which runs parallel to shore about one hundred yards out and will be dry on a negative low tide. Inside the bar to the east, grass is the main feature and covers the flat even in winter. Outside the bar is mostly sand with some patches of grass that get sparse in the winter.

Negative low tides in the winter provide the optimum conditions to sight-fish the Cypress flat. Seek the negative lows around the full and new moons, especially aided by a north or northeast wind. You want to fish around the lowest possible tides, which concentrate the fish outside the bar to the west.

On a good negative low (minus one foot or more) all the fish will have been pushed off the grass and to the outside of the bar. Here you will find them milling about in schools of 20 or more and also smaller bunches. They are easy to see on a sunny day over the sand, but not so easy to catch.

Fish small crab or shrimp patterns on long (12-13 feet) leaders down to 10 lb tippet. I also use a clear-head floating line for stealth. The fish can see well in the clear water and will spook if they see your line or see you cast. Try to carefully present the fly about 10 feet in front of one or more fish and get the fly on the bottom before they see it. If they see the fly land they will spook. When the fish approach the fly, give it a very small bump and hope for the best. If you get a follow, I like to keep the fly moving a little like it is trying to get away. Single fish moving slowly along the bottom, looking down and are very hard to catch. They almost always spook when they see the fly or when you move it. Another technique is to fish a fly with a little inherent movement and just let it sit as they approach. These single fish are real tough, but can be caught. Sometimes you just have to keep trying until you find the right fish.

Your best chance to hook one of these reds is when a big school comes along and you can get your fly on the bottom among them. Usually, one or another will pick up the fly perhaps from a sense of competition. On higher tides you will find the fish over the grass inside the bar. Here they often move in schools and tail. Again, they are hard to catch. Try a light, weed-less fly and cast to the fish when they are tailing. Or, watch for the direction of movement and try to get the fly in front of them. If the water is still fairly shallow they will often spook when the fly lands or when they see it. Again, very tough fish, but possible to catch and loads of fun to try.

The weekend of 7-8 February illustrated some of the points above. We had rain and wind on Thursday and Friday and then Saturday was cool with a north east wind. Club member Ted Hagaman went out Saturday morning about 8 am and was the only one on the flat. We had a super low of more than one foot with good sun. These were perfect conditions as I mentioned earlier. Ted had an epic day and caught 16 redfish including some big ones, fishing from 8am till 2pm. He fished the same fly all day; a little green shrimp fly with bead chain eyes. I don't usually fish on weekends, but when I heard Ted's report I told my wife and she said I bet you want to fish on Sunday. I smiled and said yes. So, I skipped Church and went fishing and my wife went shopping. Sunday was another good day for the tide and wind and the fish were there. Four of us lined up on the bar about 100 feet apart and I think we caught 21 redfish among us. The fish were in schools outside the bar that morning and easier to catch. I fished a new double bunny fly I tied at the last meeting. Logan Valeri fished a sparse bend-back. I think the other guys fished small crab patterns. These were all different patterns, but worked that morning. One thing to note was the presence of schools of big mullet. Redfish always seem more responsive when around or among mullet. Schools of mullet are always a welcome sight on the flat and usually indicate the presence of game fish.

I fished on Monday morning and was the only one there at 0830. I ended up with three, all big fish, that went into the backing. I caught them on a double bunny, a shrimp and a worm fly. The first fish was a single moving slowly and looking down. He got close to me, so I made a roll cast a little to his left and in front. I got the fly on the bottom without him seeing it and when bumped the red ran right over and ate. Go figure. I did that to 20 other fish and they all spooked.

I hope this story with tips helps. If you want to sight fish big reds in cool, clear water come on out to Cypress on the next low tide and try your luck. //Walt Durkin

Da Bay Area Lodge, Andros Island, Bahamas 15-21 March 2020

Dave Chouinard and Walt Durkin wading the flats on a nice day.
Photos by Bryon Chamberlin



Club members and guides Keaton Anderson and Kris Smythe report they have had good success targeting sheephead. Catching one a fly is a real challenge as they always study your fly carefully before taking. Sheephead also fight hard and are very good table fare!



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Kayak guide Neil Taylor reports: It is a battle between the winter and spring seasons. There are things happening that shouldn't be until April. It has been overall, a rather warm winter. The trout action has been solid and we have had opportunities on bluefish. Redfish are the best I have seen in seven years. All the inshore species remain closed and I believe the future looks bright. We needed it as things had gotten challenging. Having a zero harvest situation can only make things better. Contact Neil at Livelybaits@aol.com
Phone: 727-692-6345

Capt. Pat reports: The beautiful more stable weather that we've been waiting for has finally arrived. Why hasn't some of our shallow water fishing improved? Those of us that really enjoy sight fishing in the shallows with flies may have to make some seasonal adjustments to be successful. Techniques that were working with strong wind, cold cloudy water and overcast days will need some changes. Probing deeper water on flats edges with bottom bouncing weighted flies that barely crawled on the bottom in darker colors have lost their appeal. Very clear shallow water without ripples is holding trout, reds and snook that are operating on very high alert. Can we find some fish that are more relaxed and feeding without looking over their shoulder? Fishing around and under docks, near oyster bars and mangroves is a good place to start. A shoreline that has all of these is ideal. The presence of undisturbed wading birds and mullet puts predator fish at ease. Put away your sink tip line and stay with one that floats using a 10 foot or longer tapered leader. A 12-15 pound tippet will do for trout and reds with a hard 20-30 pound monofilament shock tippet necessary for snook to prevent cut-offs. Baitfish patterns with minimum or zero flash added that match the size and color of what you see in the water will help with fly selection. Remember, fly presentation is always preferred over pattern selection. **Pat Damico** charts Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at captpatdamico.com and (727) 504-8649.

Capt. Rick Grasset reports:

Fishing shallow flats for catch and release reds 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. Fishing dock lights in the ICW at night is also a good option for snook and more as long as water temperatures don't get too cool. 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)



Skiff for Sale - \$12,000.

Jason 813.842.4295

jmerenda@yahoo.com

This skiff was the second Silver Flash that was built. This is NOT a Bass Pro built boat. I have owned this boat since 2003 and has been kept in the garage when not fished. This boat was backed into the river and flushed after each trip. It was built by Mark Scott and team. This boat is located in Tampa on the east side of town, just off I75. I travel around the state quite a bit and we could probably work out a delivery if necessary.

- 1992 Silver King Silver Flash 16' 9". Gray hull with white deck. Garage kept since 2003, well maintained.
- Minn Kota Riptide iPilot 101 36v with 2 remotes
- PowerPole 8' with remote
- New in July 2019 - Hummingbird 410220-1 Helix 5, CHIRP Di GPS G2 and spare transducer
- 18' Loomis push pole (this is a spare and will work in the short term)
- Boat cover
- Bimini top!? You read that correct. The original owner had it installed. I have only used it once and it has been in the garage.
- Life jackets, whistle, anchor, lines, two spare tires



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
- Oct 10-17 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

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

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Robert Fischer.....813-962-0185
Dan Lagace.....813-929-6605
Leigh West813-971-8697

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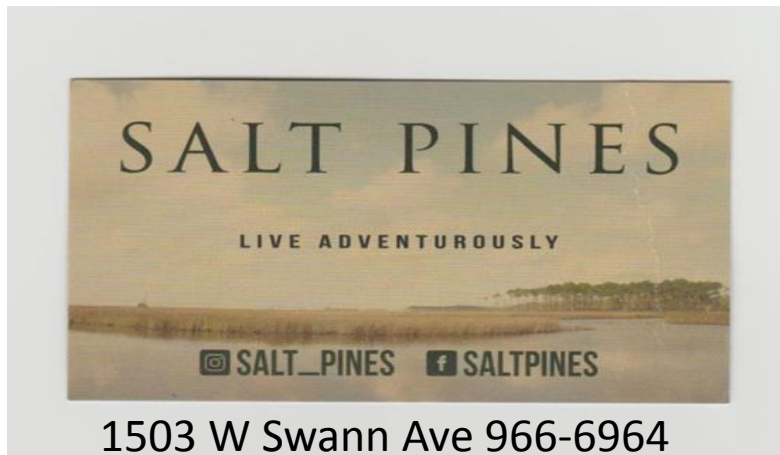
Polk County

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

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- Dave Chouinard, Simms Fishing, 732-610-9700, Fax: 727-953-6296 ; Dave@ChouinardOutdoor.com



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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