



We will not meet in March due to the continued threat from COVID. However, let's go ahead and schedule a meeting for 7 April at Compton Park. They have a big room for us to spread out and masks will be required. We will not serve food so everyone can keep their masks on.

Picture on the left is a snook cruising over the sand off Bayshore in 8 inches of water. We are seeing more and more snook there on a low incoming tide on sunny days. Fun to see and hard to catch!

**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!

I miss our club meetings and look forward to meeting again in April and seeing everyone. We also have some new and potential members who I hope can make it. Let's start slowly and see how the year goes as we dig out of the hole COVID has caused.

I think we will schedule an informal casting seminar in April and have several instructors available to fine tune casting, which has gotten rusty for some of us.

Many of you have continued to get out, especially on the Cypress Park flat and we have had some good fishing fun this winter. I have literally cast to hundreds of redfish this winter and only caught a dozen or so. Nonetheless, enjoyed every minute of it.

//Walt Durkin 

## **Thoughts for the Month:**

"Soon after I embraced the sport of angling I became convinced that I should never be able to enjoy it if I had to rely on the cooperation of the fish."

-Sparse Grey Hackle

"The fish and I were both stunned and disbelieving to find ourselves connected by a line."

-William Humphrey in "The Armchair Angler"

## **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

President: Walt Durkin **813-513-2122**  
[Walt.durkin@aol.com](mailto:Walt.durkin@aol.com) **cell 813-853-5870**

Vice President: Ted Hagaman 813-920-7863

Treasurer: Rick Valeri 813-681-9143

Secretary: Dick Miekka 727-866-8682

### **Directors**

Patty Anderson 813-960-8523

Denise Bruner (new number) 813-748-5065

Bryon Chamberlin 813-361-8801

Pat Damico 727-504-8649

Robert Fischer 813-495-5685

Bruce Anderson 813-960-8523

Keaton Anderson 404-313-7820

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.

## St John's Shad Fishing Report - Feb

Club member Kelly Sobczak has this report:

After years of not being able to go on a TBFFC shad outing due to scheduling conflicts, we are finally retired and there wasn't an outing due to Covid. So, we created our own shad outing. Kelly tied hot pink, orange, and chartreuse shad darts (hot pink was the best producer) and we camped in Mims. We fished the St John's River and the Econ from the Mullet Lake Park and CS Lee boat ramps. We caught about 40 shad (about 90% american shad and 10% hickory shad) and tons of other fish (crappie, redbreast sunfish, bluegill, sunshine bass, tilapia). I was particularly impressed with the beauty of the Econ. Fantastic trip!



# Fly Fishers International

**I recently renewed my membership in FFI and I encourage you to check it out and consider membership.**

“Fly Fishers International has been around since 1964, starting out with a group of 12 clubs just wanting to make a difference. We've grown to over 250 clubs, thousands of members and supporters who strive for the same goals, “to preserve our sport and increase the opportunities to practice the thing we love”.

Recently we’ve gained momentum — we hope you'll help us keep it going as the only organization preserving the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters. During these challenging times, Fly Fishers International has stepped up and we hope you will too. Participation in fly fishing has grown during the current pandemic, so Fly Fishers International (FFI) has been working hard to expand our footprint to support the sport we love.

We have provided enhanced opportunities to learn, sustained our commitment to conservation, and offered a new and much-needed sense of community in the midst of isolation. We launched FFI Online, a virtual, community education series airing interactive webcasts on casting, fly tying, fly fishing skills, conservation, FFI Women Connect, global fly fishing travel, and more. FFI Online is back this coming year with “Season 2,” bringing new and expanded content available to anyone wanting in get in on the fun.

We have increased content on the FFI Learning Center, the premier repository of online fly fishing education. We are on the cusp of launching a new web portal for the Learning Center designed to be more dynamic, more user-friendly, and more accessible. This year we will also be unveiling new benefits and opportunities for members, providing much-needed tools for clubs and councils, and growing programs such as FFI Women Connect.

Please join us in our journey to make the difference for All Fish, All Waters”

## GOOD STRIPPING

Club member Robert Fischer has this tip for us: Here's a handy little tip that earned a coveted place in my fly fishing arsenal. It is waterproof, flexible, foam, first aid tape. It is most often used by me for protecting my middle finger on my rod hand when I am stripping quickly. Whenever using a spoon fly or fishing for mackeral or ladyfish or jacks, it is important to keep the fly moving at all times. That calls for aggressive stripping. This foam tape does a very good job protecting the fingers from line cuts when they are wet and soft. It's best to wrap the tape around your fingers at the joint that your line rests in when stripping. Pinch the tape together, sticky face to sticky face on the back of your finger and tear it off about 1" long. This one inch tag does not get in the way when casting. This becomes your finger guard and I find that it lasts about 4 to 5 hours before coming loose.

The tape can also be used as a band aide; to patch leaky waders; tighten up sleeves on rain jackets; hold broken glasses together, and lots of other things. The cost is about \$6 per roll at CVS or Walgreens in the first aid section and a roll lasts me about two years. Pretty cheap cost for a pretty useful item.





# Braised Fish and Mushrooms

2 cups cooked rice (either 3.5 ounce boil in bag or 8.5 ounce microwave pouch)

I like whole grain brown and wild rice

4 slices thick applewood smoked bacon

1/2 cup chopped sweet yellow onion

1 TBSP dried thyme

8 ounces presliced mushrooms

16-24 ozs firm white fish, such as halibut, grouper, mahi mahi

1 cup white wine

2 TBSP chopped fresh parsley

Cook rice according to package directions.

Cook bacon in a large nonstick skillet until crisp - remove bacon and crumble.

Add onion, thyme, and mushrooms to drippings in pan, saute for 3 minutes and scoot mixture to outer edges of pan.

Sprinkle fish with salt/pepper and add to the center of the pan. Cook for 2-3 minutes each side until browned.

Stir in wine and mix mushrooms in with fish - cook until fish flakes easily.

Serve fish/mushrooms over rice and sprinkle with bacon and parsley.

Serves 4, but this recipe is easy to cut in half.

**Kelly Sobczak**



# The Waterman Fly Fishing Tournament

My name is Adam Fernandez and I am on the board of directors of Tampa Bay Waterkeeper. I have organized a fly fishing tournament scheduled for **March 13-14, 2021** the proceeds of which will benefit Tampa Bay Waterkeeper. Here is a brief summary of the tournament: The Waterman Fly Fishing Tournament is a two-day fly fishing-only, catch & release redfish tournament with an optional Snook Calcutta with a 50/50 cash payout. The proceeds from entry fees , 50% of the Snook Calcutta and raffle tickets purchases directly benefit Tampa Bay Waterkeeper, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. There is no in-person captain's meeting and the weigh-in will be conducted by photo and email. We are limiting the tournament to 50 teams or 100 anglers total.

I was hoping you would be willing to circulate the tournament website to your club ASAP by email and social media. <https://www.tampabaywaterkeeper.org/events/the-waterman-tournament>

I launched registration this weekend and we are already half full. We have awesome sponsors for the tournament raffle with some high end product. I am adding more as I hear back from companies I have contacted. Current list below. I hope your club members will be interested and will want to participate. I am sure we probably have some signed up already. Let me know if I can get you any other information, but all the details are on the website. Thank you! - Adam Fernandez.

**Hells Bay Boatworks**- Dinner Sponsor

**Carbon Marine** - Donating up to 24ft G3LR Push Pole

**3 Daughters Brewing** - Beverage sponsor for Awards Dinner

**RED Medical Legal, LLC** - Monetary donation

**Powerpole** - Donating a gift certificate for up to an 8 foot

**Rhodan** - Donating a 12 volt trolling

**Fishpond USA** - donating a \$150.00 gift card

**Orvis** - Donating an 8wt Helios 3 fly rod

**Cortland** - Donating Six Fly Lines and Six Spools of Leader

**Scott Fly Rods** - Donating a fly rod

**Chico Fernandez** - Signed copy of "Fly Fishing For Bonefish"

**Monte Burke** - Donating four signed copies of "Lords of the Fly"

**Artist Yusniel Santos** - Donating three original fish paintings

**Artist Cody Richardson** - Donating two original Florida license plate fish sculptures

**Compound Board Shop (Fly Shop)** - Product package valued at \$250.00

**Smith Action Optics** - Donating multiple pairs of sunglasses.

**Tampa Fishing Outfitters** - Donating a \$250.00 gift card

**RCI Optics** - Donating sunglasses

## Casting Platform for Sale

Aluminum casting platform with removable backrest, 39" x 24" x 18". Built by Sanchez Bros. Very good condition. Ideal for flats or bay boat to raise you 18" above the deck. \$300.  
**Call Robert Fischer 813-495-5685.**





# Miss Mayfly Waders for Women

**Club member Kelly Sobczak** recommends these waders for women:

“I recently purchased breathable waders that are actually designed for women! They are from Miss Mayfly (<https://missmayfly.com>) and they are fantastic. The biggest selling point for me is that their standard stocking sizes go down to a size 6 (women's sizes, of course) so you don't have to pay a lot for special orders or suffer through bunching up several inches of extra neoprene to stuff into your oversized boots. They have slim and curvy sizes. They really thought of women and doubled up material on the lower legs for extra warmth, provided a fleece lined hand warmer, and easily convert from chest to waist waders. The fit is perfect and I'm thrilled I don't need boots that are 4 sizes too big anymore”!





The reds are consistently on the Cypress flat around the low tides. Club members Bryce, Rich, and Ted all scored this month. Good job as these fish are very spooky and hard to catch. Try small flies with long leaders and cast to only dumb fish for best results.





Club member Ken Moser fished with Capt. Nick Angelo and caught nice redfish out of Yankeetown, above Crystal River. The largest was 29 inches. Good job Ken! Capt. Nick Angelo" <[fishonthefly25@aol.com](mailto:fishonthefly25@aol.com)>



**Captain Bryon Chamberlin:** Club member Greg Stepanski fished with Capt Bryon Chamberlin and caught 35 redfish on a great day. 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:** Definitely the slow season. When February wears out and March begins, it is the busy season. The few trips I have taken on days with lighter winds, have gone well. Trout remain the main target. We did a sheepshead bait. On fly, those would have been a possibility. They were ganged up on the edge of the flats and they were big. Not catchable on lures, they can be tricked on a fly. In advance of pompano season, some new pompano flies. Tying them with a sinker where it is almost more of a jig than a fly. All gold. Looking forward to the good cool weather fishing that should last until the middle of May. Contact Neil at [Livelybaits@aol.com](mailto:Livelybaits@aol.com) Phone: 727-692-6345.

**Captain Pat Damico reports:** Winter saltwater fly fishing is a favorite of mine because most fair-weather anglers are home and not on the water. The clear-water flats are free of floating grass and make sight fishing for trout, reds, sheepshead and occasionally snook a perfect venue. Wind can help or hinder. Perfect calm makes it easier to see fish, but they spook easily, making long casts necessary. A little surface ripple from the wind hinders the ability to see fish, but the fish are more relaxed, meaning you can get closer. A 9-foot fly rod, the ideal length for most of our fishing, should keep the fly and hook at least that far from you. If the wind is blowing into your non-casting side, the only problem is casting accuracy. Wind into your casting side is easily corrected by casting horizontally and close to the water, giving the wind little chance to affect the cast. A tight loop in your line created by having the rod tip travel in a straight-line path will be almost unaffected by the wind. A large loop is a disaster and must be avoided, especially if thrown high. A strong wind into your casting side is problematic. It can be corrected by casting on your line-hand side using either a cast with your arm across your body or tilting your body away from the wind and "brushing your hair" with your casting hand as you have the rod tip travel on your leeward side. Learning to cast with either hand is ideal.

*Fly fisherman Pat Damico charts Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at [captpatdamico.com](http://captpatdamico.com) and 727-504-8649.*

**Capt Rick Grasset reports:** 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 fishing for reds and large trout is also 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 and evenings will fish better due to warmer water. 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](mailto: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





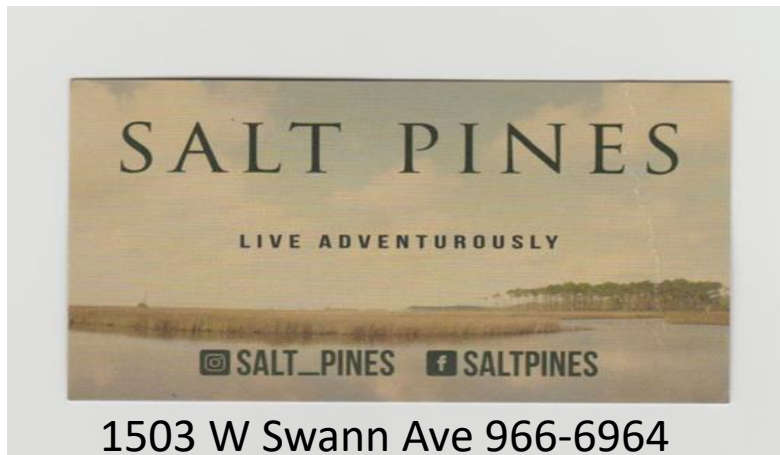
## 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 18 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb Shad Outing, Mullet Lake campground
- Mar Casting Clinic
- Mar 29 Annual Banquet - Cancelled
- Apr 7 Club meeting at Compton Park
- June 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](http://www.RedfishLandingGuideService.com), (239) 842-7778
- THE FLY GUY, Capt. Pat Damico, (727) 504-8649 ,w [www.captpat.com](http://www.captpat.com), pat4jaws@hotmail.com
- SNOOK FIN-ADDICT GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. Rick Grasset, (941) 923-7799, [www.snookfin-addict.com](http://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](http://tampafishingoutfitters.com)
- Dave Chouinard, 732-610-9700, Fax: 727-953-6296 ; [Dave@ChouinardOutdoor.com](mailto:Dave@ChouinardOutdoor.com)



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[jwelbourn@carbonmarine.com](mailto:jwelbourn@carbonmarine.com)

## 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. Greg Peterson (423) 432-1973

## Fly Casting Coaches

### South Tampa

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

### North Tampa

Robert Fischer.....813-495-5685  
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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Fax: 727-953-6296

[Dave@ChouinardOutdoor.com](mailto:Dave@ChouinardOutdoor.com)



## 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