



Next meeting TBD. Stay safe until we beat this virus.



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 April and wonderful spring weather. I hope you can get out and fish safely during this crisis. Be sure to take care of yourselves and your family. We will resume club activities when it is safe again.

I waded MacDill a couple of times this week by myself and saw snook and reds. I hooked a big snook on a tan and white Puglici minnow that eventually wore thru my 25 lb leader. Still quite a big thrill.

We had a fun-filled banquet planned, which we will reschedule. We will refund any advance payments as needed.

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.

//Walt Durkin 

Project Healing Waters News

Postponed for now with everything else.

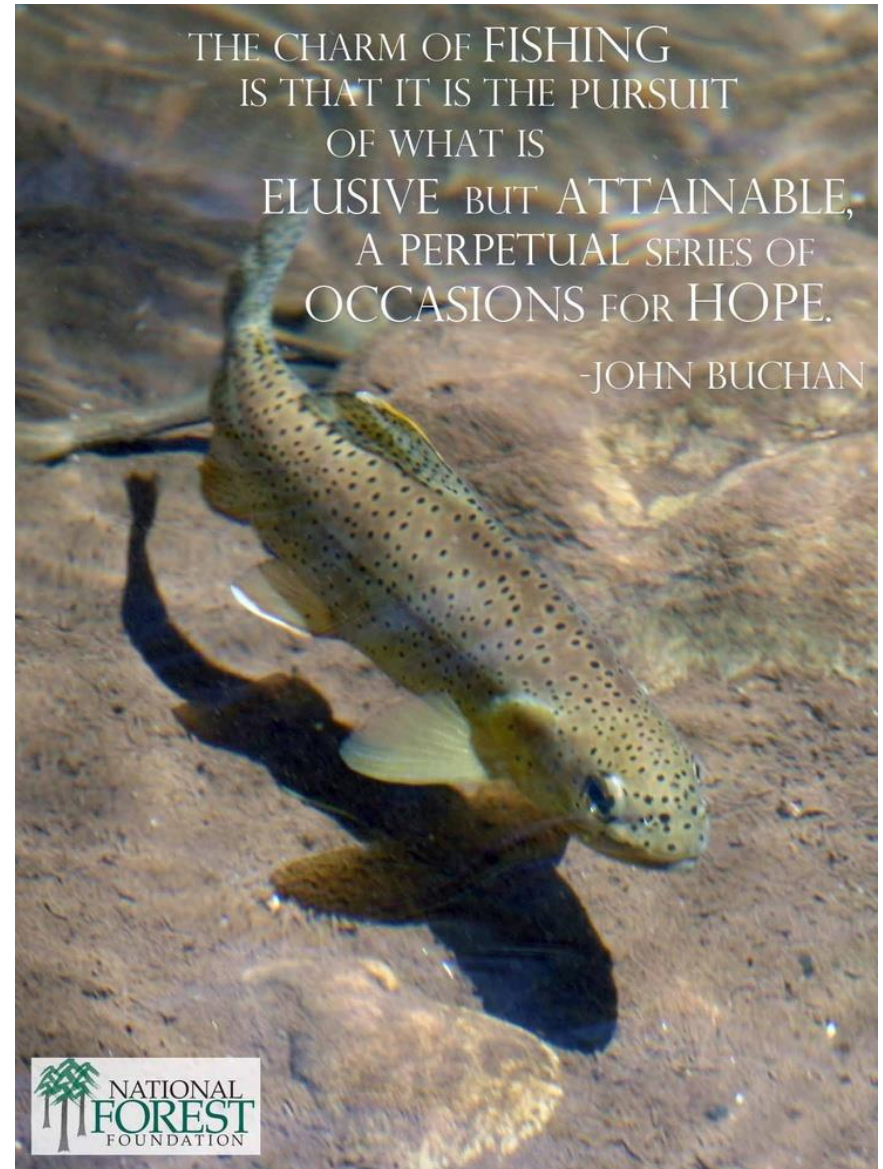
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Patty Anderson	813-960-8523
Denise Bruner	813-989-2909
Bryon Chamberlin	813-361-8801
Pat Damico	727-504-8649
Robert Fischer	813-962-0185
Bruce Anderson	813-960-8523

TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

Trip to Cayo Largo, Cuba. Six club members traveled to Cuba for a week's fishing (15-21 March) with Avalon. Our group included myself, Ted Hagaman, Robert Fischer, Wes Sobczak and Patty and Bruce Anderson. We flew to Havana and stayed over one night to see the city. Our visit to see the Bueno Vista Social Club was the highlight Friday night where they sang 1950's Cuban music. Some of the old timers from that era are still around and performing. We stayed aboard the Jardines Avalon (106 feet) and were made to feel at home by the great staff. The food (and drinks) were out standing with a new feast each night. The guides spoke English and were experienced and knowledgeable. Days were mostly sunny and windy in the morning. Ted had a slam for the week with a nice big permit he caught following a ray. We all caught many big bonefish and had good shots at tarpon and permit. Cayo Largo is a resort island with no permanent residents. Only a little sport fly fishing is allowed. This long string of islands has vast flats and good habitat for bonefish, tarpon and permit. One guide suggested he likes the summer months for all the tarpon and calm winds. We flew Southwest from Tampa to Havana and back. A tour bus takes you the last leg to the port. We flew home on Saturday and Southwest was suspending flights one day later. Cuba is a great fishing destination and the Cuban people are friendly and welcoming. We look forward to returning next year.

//Walt



Fly Fishing in the Time of Corona
(my apologies to Gabriel Garcia Marquez for this title)

Part 1

Six of us had planned a trip to Cuba several months ago but when the corona virus started intensifying, we had some doubts as to whether we should go. So, on Friday the 13th, (a great omen also) we met at the Tampa airport with packed bags and internal conflict. Should we reschedule? Can we? Is the flight still available? How bad is the virus in Cuba? What if we get trapped down there?

While talking about this, Wes walked up and put his bag on the ticket counter. OK, decision made for better or worse. We all checked in. The direct flight from Tampa to Havana was packed, but nobody was coughing so things seemed ok. There was no in-flight service for drinks or snacks due to CDC requirements, but that's OK since it was only an hour.

Havana airport has two terminals. An old, crowded, rough conditioned one for the poor people, and a nice new modern one for the international travelers. They sent us to the old one. Of course, they sent us to the old one and of course one of Walt's bags got lost. (How do you lose a bag on a direct flight?) We waited around in the old terminal for 3 hours trying to locate the bag. No luck, so we took the cab to the Capri hotel in downtown Havana. It is a very nice hotel and the people could not have been nicer or more helpful. They assured us that the bag would be delivered to the hotel that afternoon or the next morning. A restaurant one block away was recommended for lunch and we dined on excellent Cuban food, beer, wine and dessert. Later that afternoon we took a tour of Havana in classic old American cars that were used as taxis everywhere. We've heard that a taxi driver can make more in one day than a doctor can make in a month. There is some free enterprise in Cuba, but not much.

The next morning Walt heard that his bag was at the airport. Not wanting to miss our bus at 11:00 am, he took a \$30 cab to the airport. The bag wasn't there, it was sent to the hotel. Back to the hotel for another \$30 and Walt had his bag finally. We loaded up on the very modern Chinese bus, picked up 4 more fly fishermen at another hotel and headed to the port city 3 hours away. The main highway out of Havana was surprisingly well maintained, six lanes of concrete with landscaping medians, decent signage and minimal traffic. Hitch hikers waved dollar bills at the bus looking for a ride but we didn't stop to pick up any. It narrowed down to 4 lanes later but was still in good shape. After turning off the main road toward our port town we travelled through typical Caribbean island back country; small farms, big government farms, horse carts, old bicycles and motorcycles, unpainted houses, small resorts and roadside restaurants.

The cutoff to our boat was down a dirt road that we almost missed, but the host had a GPS and there was a car waiting at the road to guide us. This all seemed a bit sketchy because the road was barely wide enough for the bus to get by. But a couple of hundred yards later we were at a small shipyard and there was our beautiful mothership waiting. We unloaded, tipped the bus driver, and settled in our comfortable cabins. Lunch was served as we motored to our first stop about 3 hours away. Life was good.

In part 2 we'll talk about the fishing, the food, and the almost head on boat crash. Robert Fischer

Cayo Largo, Cuba

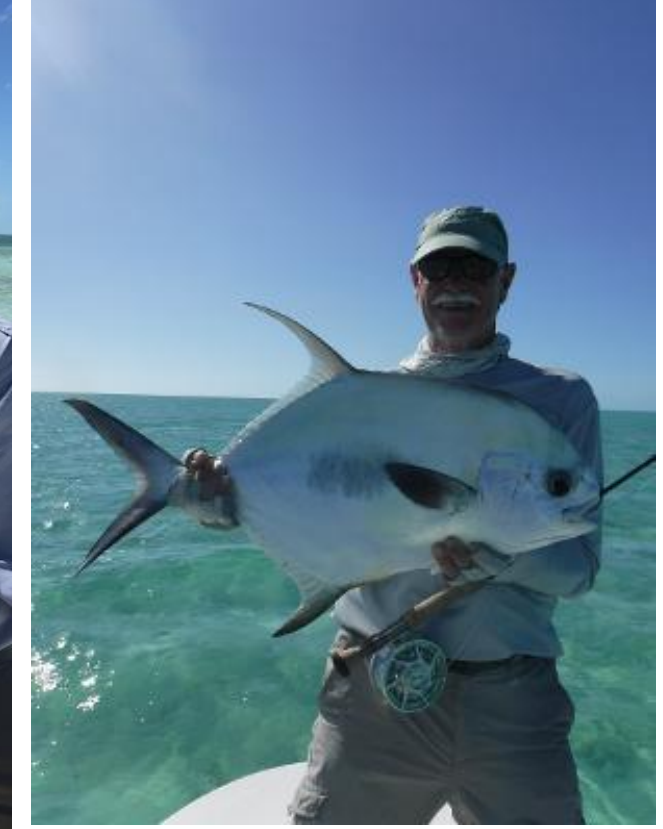
Our yacht, the Jardines Avalon, our guides (Frank, Jorge, Arnold) at lunch, our hosts and our Dolphin skiff



A tarpon in the clear water, one of the many classic cars in Havana, Patty with a bonefish and Bruce with an interesting release technique.



Our guides were great. Robert with a bonefish, Walt with a box fish, Wes with a bonefish and Ted with a big permit!



Club member Andy fished with guide Nick Angelo
Ken Moser scored a nice red at Cypress (one of 12!)
Bryce hunkered down in North Georgia – lucky guy



Redfish at Cypress on the last low tide cycle.
Walt, Logan Valeri and Rich Gorden.



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Kayak guide Neil Taylor reports: Interesting times with a global issue affecting America. In my opinion, giving the fish a bit of a break. Great action before the slowdown and the best flounder action in five years. Trout are easy and Pompano are here and there. Redfish and snook are even available, though not in the supply of 11 years ago. An early summer, going early is a good idea. Some of spring still left, the bite is good well into the day. Regarding fly fishing, one angler out-fished his buddy who was using a spinning rod. Not only did he catch the most fish, he caught six species to Bill's one species. Baitfish returning, great opportunities for action around the Bay right now. Contact Neil at Livelybaits@aol.com
Phone: 727-692-6345

Capt. Pat reports: If you can't get out to fly fish, what is there to do? This is a good time to make sure your equipment is ready for your next outing. If your rod and reel are compatible and in good condition, the next and most important item is your fly line. Strip the line from the reel and examine the part that you use most. It will be easy to tell because the line left on the reel will look almost new. Using some warm non-detergent liquid soap on a micro towel, run the used line through it folded over in one hand while pulling it through with the other. Do this several times. The dirt on the towel should amaze you. Pull it through a towel with plain water a couple of times and then through a dry paper towel. Inspect the line for damage, if there are major nicks and cracks, a new replacement is in order. If the line looks fine, treat it with one of the many liquid line dressings available at your local fly shop, carefully following the manufacturer's instructions. This will restore some of the chemical components and preservatives that make it shoot through the guides and float well. Never store fly lines where the heat and sun will cause irreparable damage. I clean my fly lines after every outing in saltwater. **Pat Damico** charts Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at captpatdamico.com and (727) 504-8649.

Capt. Rick Grasset reports:

here should be good action in the coastal gulf this month with Spanish and king mackerel, false albacore (little tunny), cobia and tripletail. Look for Spanish mackerel or albies feeding on the surface. You might find tripletail or cobia around crab trap floats. Your tarpon fly tackle can do double duty for cobia and an 8 or 9-weight fly rod will cover everything else. Artificial reefs or natural areas of hard bottom may hold any of these species. When fishing over bottom structure you will need to get your fly down in the water column to the level where fish are located, so in addition to a floating line you may need several fly lines from intermediate clear sink tip to Orvis Depth Charge to cover the whole water column.

April is one of my favorite months. There should be good action in the bay on both shallow and deep grass flats, in the coastal gulf for mackerel, albies, cobia and tripletail and with tarpon by the end of the month. Our natural resources are under constant pressure from red tides fueled by residential, agricultural and industrial 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 - Cancelled
- Apr 23 CCA Banquet - Cancelled
- June Lake Calm Freshwater Outing we hope!
- 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

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 West813-971-8697

St. Petersburg

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

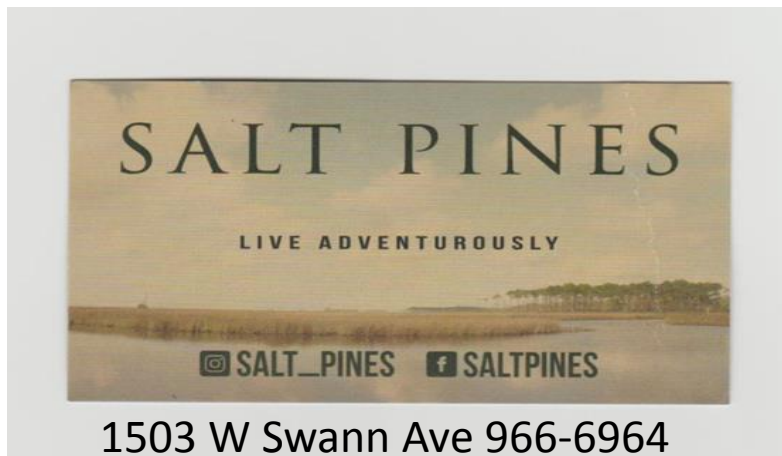
Polk County

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

Corporate Sponsors

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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- 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
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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

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Oxfordshire Ct. Brandon, 33510