



Last April as we struggled to cope with the Corona Virus we found decorated rocks left along our walking path by creative neighbors. We enjoyed dozens of rocks over several months and were thankful for the positive messages. Let's turn things around in 2021!

The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club will meet again Wednesday, 7 April after a year off due to the virus. We hope most members can attend and we will welcome any newcomers as we strive to return to some kind of normal.

We will meet from 0630 PM until 0800 PM at Compton Park. Please do not come early. Wear a mask and we will also take temperatures. Please read and answer the CDC questions on the next page. Let's get together safely and see how the venue at Compton Park will work for us this year.

CDC Notice Regarding Meeting Places

In order to protect the health of TBFFC members all attendees must self-screen for symptoms or other risk factors of COVID-19 before attending monthly meetings.

Your answer must be no to the following questions before attending:

- Have you experienced any of the following symptoms in the past 48 hours: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea?
- Have you been in close physical contact in the last 14 days with anyone who is known to have laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 OR anyone who has any symptoms consistent with COVID-19?
- Are you isolating or quarantining because you may have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 or are worried that you may be sick with COVID-19?
- Are you currently waiting on the results of a COVID-19 test?
- Have you traveled in the past 10 days?

If you answer “yes” to any of the above questions, please do not come to the meeting.

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 our newsletter for tips!

Ted and I fished the MacDill flat on Tuesday and while fishing was slow I did get a trash can slam of ladyfish, catfish and a nice 2 ½ pound jack. We saw two big reds and one big snook; exciting, but no luck catching them.

Let's have our first outing of the year at the Cypress Point Park at 0800 AM on 10 April. We will cover the basics of flats fishing (e.g. gear, flies, technique and a casting lesson). The presentation will last an hour or so and then we can fish. We will supply coffee and donuts to get us going.

We have almost \$3,000 worth of fly fishing items for our annual banquet, which we will schedule when safe. Please be patient as we try to plan the year ahead.

//Walt Durkin 

Thoughts for the Month:

"There he stands, draped in more equipment than a telephone lineman, trying to outwit an organism with a brain no bigger than a breadcrumb, and getting licked in the process." *Paul O'Neil*

"Some go to church and think about fishing, others go fishing and think about God." *Tony Blake*

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Walt Durkin **813-513-2122**
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 813-787-2556

Denise Bruner (new number) 813-748-5065

Bryon Chamberlin 813-361-8801

Pat Damico 727-504-8649

Robert Fischer 813-495-5685

Bruce Anderson 813-786-3902

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 Wing-shooting 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.

Orvis Offers Free Lessons

“Learn fly-fishing basics with FREE virtual Fly Fishing 101 how-to videos. Based on 50 years of running schools and fly-fishing education programs, our series of five virtual Fly Fishing 101 videos will provide you with the basic on fly casting, rigging, fly selection, and more. Perfect for beginners of all ages to get started fly fishing. Sign up and start learning today!”

Link: subscribe.orvis.com/FF101?src=F101MPR

The Year of the Fish

This is an insightful piece from Kate Morgan, over at Sierra, the magazine of the Sierra Club. Her story details how large of an impact fishing – especially fly fishing – has had on millions of people over the past year of this pandemic. It's an interesting read, especially when Morgan digs into the similarities between fly fishing and meditation.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/year-fish>

CCA Postpones Tampa Banquet

Zack Batley reports: “Unfortunately, we will be postponing the CCA Tampa Chapter Annual Banquet and Auction to this Fall. The new date will be September 9th. This was a tough decision for the local committee and was made with input from the local chapter sponsors and members. We sincerely appreciate everyone's input and support during these strange times.”



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”

Club Member Ken Moser

Ken is a club member who volunteers at the Florida Aquarium. He is both an accomplished fly fisherman and artist. He shares this with us: "Completed this project today for the Aquarium. It represents our wetlands habitat and the rosette spoonbills that reside there. It is the 8th window that I have done for them. Where this ones home will be is still to be determined, I think it is one of the best ones I have done." Ken



Patty and Bruce Anderson had fun on a weekend trip to the Everglades in March. They stayed at the Everglades motel and fished the backcountry where they found hungry snook.



New club member **Bryan Koesler** has had good results with the seaducer patterns pictured. This simple pattern is easy to tie, cast and fish. Add a mono weed guard and you are good to go in all conditions.

According to the Salt Water Sportsman this versatile fly pattern was first used in salt water by Homer Rhodes in the 1940s, when he commercially fish for snook with his fly rod. The Homer Rhodes' Streamer became the Seaducer (a much sexier name) in the 1980s, when it was renamed by a popular fly-fishing writer.



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.



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Kayak guide Neil Taylor reports: The schedule has been busy for the first time since the virus stuff started. The action has been easy. It is just plain easy to be a guide when the action is like this. On the fly, very good. My flies used by the fly clients, my flies caught a little of everything. My flies are pretty straight-forward. A weight on the eye of the hook and a lot of gold tied in. Chartreuse or white mixed into most of the flies. Pompano, mackerel, trout, ladyfish, jacks and even a big sheepshead. Ladyfish and trout are easiest. The incoming tides in the mornings, just easy to find and stay on the action. Slower strips are sometimes necessary but not always. I hope things continue like this for a long time. Contact Neil at Livelybaits@aol.com Phone: 727-692-6345.

Captain Pat Damico reports: Now is a great opportunity for a much sought-after fly rod slam. Fishing lighted areas at night, especially with this week’s strong tides, will be a blast. Hungry predators will be feeding very actively where food is plentiful and easy to catch. Redfish, trout and snook will lazily inhale baitfish as the tide sweeps them into gaping mouths. Fish lighted docks and bridge fenders that are familiar during the day so that you can plan your obstacle-free approach. A bow-mounted electric motor is preferred rather than anchoring because larger fish can be turned away from the barnacle-encrusted structure that ruins fly lines and leaders. Keep your fly rod tip close to the water and avoid high sticking which can break long rods. Rig two 8- or 9-weight rods, one with a floating line and the second with a clear sinking tip. 25-pound fluorocarbon tippet and loop knots tied to size 2-4 white baitfish imitations will produce, especially when cast up tide of the fish which will be oriented facing their incoming meal. Match available baitfish size. Strip setting when the fish is felt rather than raising the rod tip to set the hook will ensure a high rate of success. *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: 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. Check the coastal gulf for Spanish mackerel, false albacore and tripletail when conditions are good. Shallow water fishing for reds and large trout is also a good option now, although they are very challenging in clear water. These conditions usually require long casts to avoid spooking fish. 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!

Tarpon will become more plentiful as resident fish make their way out of rivers and creeks and early arriving migratory fish begin to show along beaches, particularly by the end of the month. Water temperature in the gulf is a key factor with 80 degrees being an optimum temperature. As the water warms towards that, fish will become more plentiful. Resident fish may be rolling on deep grass flats in some of the same places that you find trout, laid up on edges of shallow grass flats or along sand bars. Fly anglers might connect with a black Deceiver or Tarpon bunny fly fished on a 12-weight fly rod with a floating or clear sink tip fly line depending on depth. I always have tarpon tackle, rigged and ready, on the boat this time of year. 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



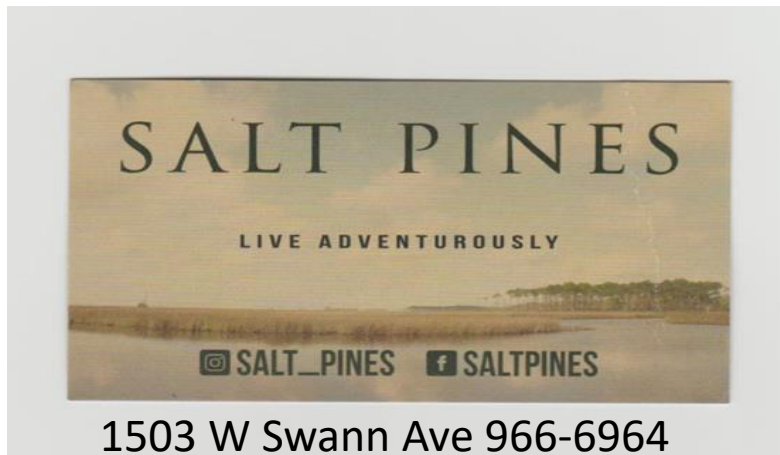
2020/21 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 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
- Apr 10 Cypress Park Outing 8 AM
- 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 Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov 6-7 FFI Expo
- Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Cancelled Florida Sportsman Show
- Dec 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, (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
- Dave Chouinard, 732-610-9700, Fax: 727-953-6296 ; Dave@ChouinardOutdoor.com



Tampa Fishing Outfitters
Largest tackle shop on the W. coast of FL
great fly fishing gear
3916 W. Osborne Ave. Tampa Fl, 33614
Phone: 813-870-1234
Website: tampafishingoutfitters.com

Carbon Marine
Inshore fishing boat accessories, push poles and repair
Joe Welbourn
(813) 928-9887
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 West813-971-8697

St. Petersburg

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

Polk County

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



SaltFllys

Custom Built Saltwater Flies

CRAIG SMOTHERS

PHONE: (941) 266-5209

5526 SHADY BROOK TR.

EMAIL: SALTFLYS@GMAIL.COM

SARASOTA, FL. 34243

WEBSITE: WWW.SALTFLYS.COM



The Fly Guy

Capt. Pat Damico

2981 E. Vina del Mar Blvd.

St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

Tel. 727-504-8649

Hppt://captpat.com

pat4jaws@hotmail.com

Barbed Steel Charters, Inc.
Specializing In Fly Fishing Along Florida's West Central Gulf Coast



Capt. Bryon Chamberlin
(813) 361-8801
captbryon@yahoo.com
www.barbedsteel.com

USCGI licensed operator



JIM SWANN'S



Complete Fly Fishing Shop

Rods - Reels - Hand Tied Flies - Materials

Guide Service

Classes in Flying Tying and Casting

352-567-6029

13650 So. 98 Bypass
Dade City, Fl. 33525

Chouinard Outdoor Associates, Inc

Phone: 732-610-9700

Fax: 727-953-6296

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