



**Next meeting 1 May**  
**0600 PM to 0900 PM**

**Guest Speaker: Walt Durkin**  
**Columbia and Belize Trips**



I will present pictures and make comments on our two recent trips, one of which I would like to forget. Capt. Frank, Buddy Stokes and myself traveled to the jungles of Columbia for 7 days of peacock bass fishing. Come and hear how we barely survived. Six club members followed-up a few weeks later with a trip to the Blue Bonefish Lodge on Ambergris Key off the coast of Belize. Here we fished the flats for bonefish, tarpon, permit, snook, barracuda and snapper. The lodge, guides and fishing were all fine and a good time was had by all. Of course, we wished for more fish, but nonetheless, we had a super trip and enjoyed riding in our golf carts, exploring San Pedro and trying for baby tarpon in the canals next to our lodge. I would recommend one of these trips; come and see if you can guess which one.

### **Fly Tyer**

Club member Robert Fischer will tie his famous spoon fly. This is a good attractor pattern in the spring and summer and should be in your box.

**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 May and the start of tarpon season. Book one of our guides or try it on your own right off the beaches of Ft Desoto or Honeymoon Island.

I hope you enjoyed Capt. Shawn McCole's talk on tarpon last month. He offered great tips on flies and how to present them.

Our banquet was a success and the club earned about \$3000. Thanks for your attendance and I hope you had a good time and got some cool stuff. Thanks to all the hard work of our board members who put it together.

We welcomed a new corporate sponsor: Salt Pines at 1503 W Swan Ave. in South Tampa. Check out their store and website for cool outdoor clothing and accessories.

[www.saltpines.com](http://www.saltpines.com) 813-966-6964

Andrew Smith, President

Mark your calendars for our June meeting when Dr. John and Laura Millns will offer free skin screening at the club.

This will remind you to take care of your skin this summer..

// Walt Durkin



## EVENTS

- Fly Fishing Film Tour – 18 May Hyde Park
- Lake Calm Outing - 22 June

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Walt Durkin	<b>813-513-2122</b>
<a href="mailto:Walt.durkin@aol.com">Walt.durkin@aol.com</a>	cell <b>813-853-5870</b>
Vice President: Ted Hagaman	813-920-7863
Treasurer: Rick Valeri	813-681-9143
Secretary: Dick Miekka	727-866-8682
<b>Directors</b>	
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
Rick O'Hara	813-238-6763

## TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

**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.

**Chatoogga River Trip – 10-15 November.** Please join us for another trip to the Oconee State Park and great trout fishing for 4 days. We will collect deposits for the trip over the next couple of months. We stay in a comfortable barracks with four bedrooms and two bathrooms. We share meals, fishing and fun. The river is designated wild and scenic and one of the best streams in the south.

### **Fly Fishing Film Tour – 18 May Hyde Park Village**

The event will benefit Tampa Bay Waterkeeper  
The event starts at 3pm and the show starts at 6:30pm.  
They will have a great silent auction with gear and guided trips up for grabs. Please get your free ticket online through Eventbrite. For more information contact Salt Pines at 813-644-5991 or [tampabayf3t@gmail.com](mailto:tampabayf3t@gmail.com)

### **Project Healing Waters News:**

Meet Mondays at Tampa Fishing Outfitters 6 to 8 pm for fly tying.

Meet at the VA clinic (14517 Bruce B Downs suite 201) on Tuesdays from 1000 to 1145 for rod building

### **Suncoast Club seeking instructors for youth camps.**

You do not have to be a master caster. Our goal is to teach them the basic casting stroke and have fun! The sessions are 2 hours with a background and introduction to fly fishing, a word about flies, bait, demonstration of the casting stroke, etc.

Suncoast Conservation Center in Apollo  
June 19 Wednesday 9:30 - 11:00AM

EG Simmons in Ruskin:

June 28 and July 12

Set up at noon and session from 1:00 3:00PM

Upper Tampa Bay Park

*June 13 and June 26*

Set up at 1:30 and session form 2:00 - 4:00PM

Please place a mark on the day(s) you can help and e-mail back to me. Any questions give me a call 706-726-7899. More details as we get closer to the sessions.

Tom



# Annual Club Banquet 31 March – Compton Park



Thanks for attending our annual banquet in Compton Park. Our club raised about \$3000 to fund efforts for the year. Please give us your ideas on how to spend these funds on worthwhile projects or donations. Thanks to all the board members who worked hard on putting the event together. Thanks also to our sponsors: Tampa Fishing Outfitters, Salt Pine, On-the-Fly, Orvis, Tex Faulkner and Massage Envy among others. Our gift baskets and guide trips were a big hit and please support our club guides. The Compton Park venue worked quite well and the staff were great hosts as always. We will plan a similar event next year and welcome your input on improvements. Thanks, //Walt

Club Awards Capt. Frank Rhodes  
We awarded Capt. Frank a lifetime achievement award for his 20 years of faithful service to our club. Frank is generous with his time and energy and is a great friend of mine and the club.



## Capt. Pat Damico, Captain's Corner for April 15, 2019

Getting a trout, redfish and snook on the same outing with a fly rod is very challenging. Increase your chances by concentrating on lighted docks and bridges. We often go out a few hours before daylight and can usually fish without seeing another boat, especially on weekdays. Trout and snook have been the primary targets; reds can be very regional and docks near flats that hold reds during the day are always preferred. The tide must be moving to produce feeding frenzies that often allow doubles when two fly casters are working carefully covering an area. Position one caster on each end of the boat. Rather than anchor, a bow mounted electric trolling motor will keep your boat in the proper position parallel to the shoreline. Use it to get large fish away from barnacle encrusted pilings that ruin fly lines and break off fish. Baby tarpon have been a recent bonus and will require a quick accurate cast as they usually do not hang around like other species. Use a 30 pound shock tippet and white baitfish patterns that match the size of bait around the lights. Crimp all barbs to make releasing easier. Respect the dock owner's privacy or you will find the light out on your next trip.

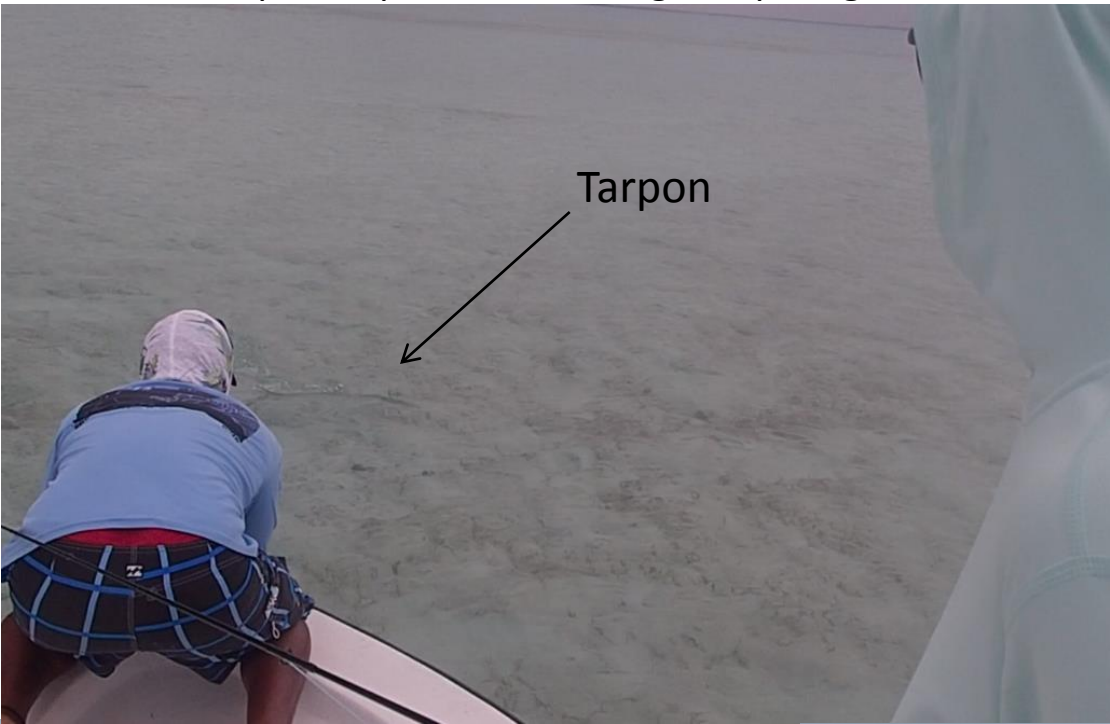
Fly fisherman Pat Damico charts Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at [captpatdamico.com](http://captpatdamico.com) and (727) 504-8649



Club members Kelly and Wes Sobczak with brook trout caught by Wes on Rio Corcovado in Patagonia – Kelly says they were glamping at Brook Trout Camp. Golden dorado caught by Wes and Kelly on Rio Paranal (north of Buenos Aires) in Argentina where they stayed on the Paranal Gypsy riverboat.



**Blue Bonefish Lodge Trip, Ambergris Key, Belize.** Patty with a bonefish and a 35 pound tarpon on the fly. Walt with a 5 pound permit and our guide poling a white sand flat in 3 feet of water for tarpon.



More pictures from San Pedro, Belize and the Mayan ruins in Lamina. Downtown San Pedro in our golf cart, blue lobster found while wading, guide at Lamanai, and at the top of a 90 foot burial tomb at the ruins.





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



Walt and Capt. Frank  
in the jungles of Columbia

## Fishing Report and Forecast

### “What a great time to go fishing!”

**Kayak guide Neil Taylor** reports the Email: I've had a jump in business and lots of time on the water. The action has been very good in certain locations with "spring-like" easy action. Ladyfish have made things easy for rod bending action. There are millions of them if you are in the same location as the baitfish. Baitfish schools are two to four acres in size of adult size baits. Big trout are back and forth. One week they're big, the next week they are smaller. Pompano have not yet arrived to where I catch them all summer. We have been fishing this one spot over a dozen times and just haven't connected on them yet. Everything is great ahead of summer and summer is just weeks away. Species like redfish and snook face challenges they have never seen before. Things aren't what they were ten years ago. Livelybaits@aol.com  
Phone: 727-692-6345

**Capt. Rick Grasset:** This is a great month for snook on shallow flats. Reds and trout will also be more active as the water warms and baitfish become more plentiful. You might find Spanish mackerel, blues and pompano in passes or on deep grass flats. You should also find Spanish mackerel along with false albacore (little tunny), cobia and tripletail, in the coastal gulf this month. Tarpon should also make an appearance in bay or back country areas or along beaches by later in the month. 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. Call Rick at (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 22 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

## Fly Casting Coaches

### Dade City

Jeff Janecek.....352-588-3866

### South Tampa

Steve Parker.....813-287-5583

### North Tampa

Robert Fischer.....813-962-0185

Dan Lagace.....813-929-6605

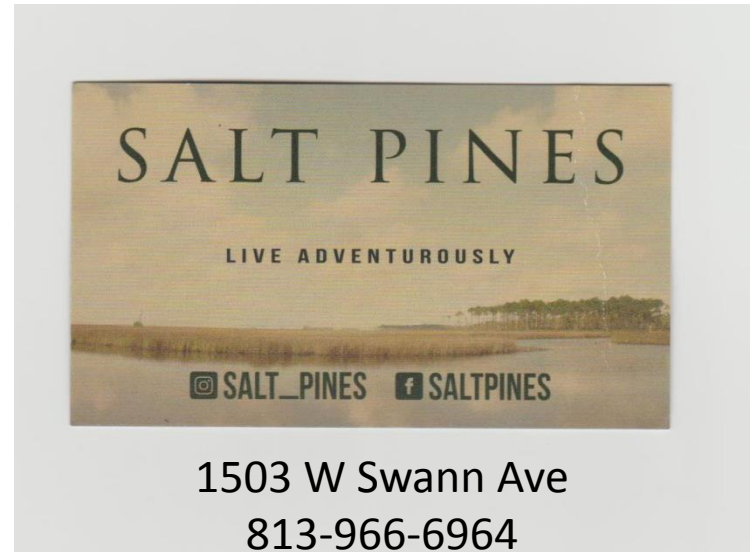
Leigh West .....813-971-8697

### St. Petersburg

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

### Polk County

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



## Corporate Sponsors

These companies sponsored the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Some are members of the club. We urge you to patronize them.

- 3-WAY CONSTRUCTION, Robert Fischer PO Box 342774, Tampa, 33694, (813) 495-5685.
- ALLIGATOR BOB'S Gourmet Alligator Meat Snacks, (813) 986-3008, WWW.GATORBOB.COM
- 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 [ww.captpat.com](http://ww.captpat.com), [pat4jaws@hotmail.com](mailto: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, Simms Fishing, 732-610-9700, Fax: 727-953-6296 ; [Dave@ChouinardOutdoor.com](mailto:Dave@ChouinardOutdoor.com)

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2014 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