TBFFC-05-2021



We will present a slide show of our 1-8 May trip to Andros Island's Two Boy's Inn. We will give you all the details of the trip and, hopefully, have great pictures to share. Above photo is from their website and shows a lucky angler with a trophy bone fish! That could be you on our next trip.



The Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club will meet again Wednesday, 12 May. Please note this is the second Wednesday of May.

We will meet from 6:30 PM until 8:30 PM at Compton Park. Please do not come early. Wear a mask and we will also take temperatures. Carefully 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!

New club member, Jonas Magnussun, is a certified casting instructor and experienced fly fisherman. We look forward to using his skills at meetings and casting clinics. He is also spending time on the Cypress flat and looking for his first red on the fly!

Club member **Bruce Anderson** is re-working our club website with a new format and modern design. We will keep you appraised of his progress and hope to launch this summer. Thanks to **Dick Meikka** for his hard work in keeping the current site up and running for many years.

Our April meeting with 15 members went just fine. Everyone cooperated and we held a safe meeting. It was good to see folks again and to welcome new members. I look forward to seeing many of you in May.

//Walt Durkin 🄼

#### **Quotes for the Month:**

"The solution to any problem -- work, love, money, whatever -- is to go fishing, and the worse the problem, the longer the trip should be." ~John Gierach

"The great charm of fly-fishing is that we are always learning." ~Theodore Gordon

"Pole far enough and the fish will find you." ~Steve Huff

#### **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

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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
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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 Outing in April at Cypress Park: Seven club members, including three new folks, attended our outing at Cypress Park on 10 April. We had clear weather, with a south wind that was not ideal. The tide was medium high and the water clear. After coffee and donuts and a quick class on flies and tactics we fished for a couple of hours. Fishing was fun, but catching slow. None-the-less, we oriented the new members to the flat for future use. Three of us went back on 22 April with a good North wind and lower tide. That morning we found plenty of reds tailing over the grass and had good chances casting to them. The reds beat us again at the catch game despite the happy tailing. So, we will try again another time.

"The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope."

~by John Buchan

#### **FFI Expo Coming in the Fall**

The Florida Council of FFI is having a Fly Fishing Expo on October 1 and 2 (Friday and Saturday) at the Mission Inn <a href="https://missioninnresort.com">https://missioninnresort.com</a>. We are inviting all interested fly fishers whether a pro or beginner. General programs on fly casting, fly tying, and other related topics are being arranged. Small group sessions for fly casting and fly tying will also be available for an additional fee. A reception is planned for Friday night and a banquet with a featured speaker and live auction for Saturday night.

We are starting a publicity campaign and need your help in spreading the word, also volunteering to help with various activities, and soliciting donations for the raffle and auctions. We welcome your ideas for making the Expo a big success!

David Olson, Vice-president, is chairing the Expo.

David ( <u>david@whitestackle.com</u> ) and I ( <u>thomasgadacz@yahoo.com</u> ) welcome any suggestions or questions.

Tom Gadacz President, FFI Florida Council

# **Angling for Relief**

Ted and I met Toni Klopfenstein while eating lunch at Panera bread after fishing. Somehow, she identified us as fisherman and stopped to introduce herself and tell us about a project she helps lead. We offered to help get the word out and look for volunteers from among our members.

Their website is: <a href="https://www.anglingforrelief.org/">https://www.anglingforrelief.org/</a>. Check it out and discover the great work they do. Here is an excerpt from the site to get you started:

"Hi, I am Jake, the founder of Angling for Relief. Angling for Relief is a nonprofit organization that combines my passion for fishing and my desire to bring a smile to the faces of children battling cancer.

Why Angling for Relief?

As a Kindergartner, I was blessed with some great 6th, 7th and 8th grade buddies at my school that were very kind to me. Ryan Baker was one of those buddies. At the end of my Kindergarten year, Ryan was diagnosed with Pediatric Ewing Sarcoma. I did not see Ryan much over the next 18 months while he battled this cancer. I wondered why he could not go to school and why he could not join in activities during that time. It has been over 4 years since Ryan passed, and I always remember Ryan, his smile and how he was so kind to me. I have been thinking about all the children that are now going through cancer treatment and are limited in the activities they are able to do, just as Ryan was. As my passion is fishing, I want them to be able to fish!

Through the programs we have developed, children will be able to learn to fish from their home/hospital using our "Dry Fishing Kit" and educational materials. Our YouTube channel gives them demonstrations and activities to learn more about fishing. We will then offer them the opportunity to put their skills to the test on the water once they are cleared by their medical team/parents and join us at our #FishingIsRelief events. At these events, the entire family is welcome to join in the fun and find some fishing relief, too."

# Florida Aquarium Awards Ken Moser

"Ken Moser was recognized as this year's Volunteer of the Year. In his 2 years of service, he has helped educate our guest with the learning team, prepare diets for the animals in the commissary, help at community clean-ups and plantings, and assist guest along the pathway with the guest experience and roaming disinfector position. After spending time in the galleries, he was inspired by different habitats and experiences to create 8 stained glass pieces that share the aquariums mission and vision. He returned to volunteering as soon as he was allowed after the shutdown, and has had a smile on his face every day. He is always incredibly kind and personable."





Club member **Andy Constantinou** sent me this picture from a trip to Cuba a few years ago. I am pictured here with **Rick Valeri** drinking a mojito on our mother boat. Thanks Andy, and this is a good reminder to start traveling again this year when possible. Too many great places and too little time! Check out tips from **Bruce and Patty Anderson** on an Everglades fishing adventure next in the newsletter.



# Planning a Quick trip to the Everglades / 10 Thousand Islands Bruce Anderson

Several weeks ago, my wife Patty and I decided we wanted to take a quick trip to the Everglades for a couple days of fishing. The Everglades is one of my favorite places anywhere to spend some time on the water chasing snook, redfish and sometimes tarpon. I have put together this brief guide for anyone that would like to visit, but is not at all familiar with the area, the rules, or the waters. First of all, when I am talking about the Everglades, I am referring to the 10 Thousand Island region on Florida's southwest coast starting at Everglades City and extending south to Flamingo. This part of the Everglades is a national park which consists of a tremendous expanse of mangrove islands, rivers and waterways in a totally undeveloped slice of Old Florida wilderness. To fish this area, you will need a boat, as wade fishing is very limited. My normal point of entry is either Everglades City or Chokoloskee. The park surrounds both towns.

#### Where to stay:

There are a moderate number of places to stay and most of them are basic and very fisherman friendly. There are a few houses available through VRBO, however for a quick trip, one of the small motels or villas may be easier. Listed are some of the places we have used.

River Wilderness Waterfront Villas 239.695.4499 Basic one bedroom apartment sized villa with small kitchen. Good for longer stays if you want to do your own cooking. Located next to boat ramp.

Captain's Table Resort 239.695.1011 Basic motel rooms

Ivey House Everglades Adventure Hotel 239.579.9687 Most rooms recently upgraded

Everglades City Motel 239.932.6597 Clean recently upgraded rooms, with trailer parking behind some of the rooms. Note that check-in is at the Ivey House, as both places are owned by the same group.

Outdoor Resorts - Chokoloskee - 239.695.2881 Basic hotel rooms. Has on site boat ramp and dockage for keeping the boat in the water. There many other small motels and fishing camps that we have not explored.

#### **Entering the Park:**

Not including a fishing license, you will need two additional items to fish in the park. First you will need a park pass. You can visit https://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/fees.htm and obtain a pass online. If you 62 or older you can buy for a one time fee of \$80, a lifetime entrance pass for all the national parks, which would apply to Everglades National Park as well. Second as a boater, you will need to take an online boating class related to the rules and regulations on boating

and wildlife in the park. This can be found at: https://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/boater-education-program.htm Once the course is taken, a certificate can be download and printed out. I have a photo of the certificate on my phone, so I have a copy with me all the time. I also printed out a copy that I carry on my boat. There is no check in spot for presenting your pass or showing your boating certificate. In over 25 years fishing the Park, I have only been only been stopped by a park ranger once. However, I do always carry my pass and certificate with me to comply with the rules.

#### **Boat Ramps**

There are numerous ramps throughout Everglades City and Chokoloskee. I launch out of Chokoloskee at Outdoor Resorts most of the time, mainly because I know the waters in that area better. There is a ramp fee at most of the launches, usually between \$15 and \$25. When making reservations at your lodging, ask if they have a ramp available and any fees. Some will have a ramp on site or make recommendations to the closest. Depending on the area you want to explore, different ramps may put you closer to the area. you want. Use Google Earth to study the waters around your launch spot, because on a very low tide, there are shoals at virtually every ramp that can prevent you from getting to your fishing spots.

#### Navigating the Everglades / Wilderness waterway

There is a tremendous amount of "Local knowledge" in navigating the area waters. GPS is wonderful, in that it can tell you where you are stuck!! However, if you plan well and are careful you can explore quite a bit and get back safely! First thing to do is research the area you want to explore. Initially plan on covering a small to moderate area to get a feel of the waters and the area. The waters to explore are divided into two sections, the Backcountry and the Outside. These are two distinct areas that are separated by several miles of dense mangroves, with numerous rivers connecting the two. The Backcountry runs deep inland to large bays and interconnecting creeks. The Outside just refers to the islands and shoreline regions adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico. Typically on a single day of fishing, I will concentrate on one region or the other.

One bit of very important advice for any first adventures, is to study the tides and plan around getting back to the ramp on a high tide. If I am exploring an area I may not be familiar with, I will explore on a rising tide, so that if I do get stuck, I will be lifted off by the incoming water. Use your mapping GPS to create a track that you can follow back home. Be aware of the amount of water you had going out from the ramp and try to have at least that amount or more when returning. This is to ensure that the water is deep enough to get back to the ramp. Once you know the waters better, you will obtain a better understanding of how much water you need to get where you want to be. If I am totally not sure of an area, I will motor the boat off plane at a slow speed to ensure the water is deep enough.

Google Earth is extremely helpful in identifying oyster bars, shoals, and other obstacles you will want to avoid. Initially, I will plan a route to an area I want to fish. Then I will look at Google Earth to note any shallow areas I need to avoid in getting to my destination. If the area is totally new to me, I will compare what Google shows me and what I have on my navigation maps. I then will mark my paper map for areas I need to be extra carful. An example would be for one route I take to a certain fishing spot, I will hug a shoreline as close as 7 to 8 feet while the boat is on plane, to avoid shoals.

There are marked channels from Everglades City and Chokoloskee you can follow west to the outside fishing areas. The channels will eventually lead to the open Gulf. However, this can be used as a jumping point to the areas surrounding the channels, which is dense with fishy looking mangrove islands and oyster bars.

The Wilderness Waterway is an extended backcountry canoe/kayak water trail leading from Everglades City all the way to Flamingo. The total length of the trail is 99 miles from beginning to end. This is what I use to sight navigate the backcountry. The trail is well marked. But it is very helpful to have a chart showing each marker's location, so you can tell where you are relative to the GPS display. My GPS does not show the trail or it's markers on its display, so the chart is with me on every trip. The markers are numbered and sequential, so as long as you stay in sequence, you will not get lost. That is unless you can not see the next marker! They are usually, but not always in a line of sight. Also, seeing a lone marker a quarter mile way, against a background of mangroves, they sometimes seem to disappear. Using the map will provide a heading and allow you to see the marker as you get nearer.

#### **Communication / Safety**

Once you are several miles into exploring the Glades, you will probably lose cell service. I have a VHF marine radio on board, however this and cell phone service are both line of sight communication. This may put you out of communication range if you explore too far. There are many personal location devices available that may be wise to have, especially if you are exploring alone. Depending on the day and time of year, other boat traffic may be light, so safety is always a factor. I prefer to have a companion boat with me when I fish the Glades, in case either of us have any problems. Safety in numbers! Conclusion

Hopefully, in this brief introduction to visiting and fishing the Everglades, one realizes how important planning and researching the area, tides and other factors are needed to have a trouble free trip and ensure you get back safely. It is definitely worth the work and effort. The fun of fishing the Everglades is being in one of the most beautiful landscapes anywhere, and the bonus is catching that large snook on a fly!

#### **Bruce Anderson**

# 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.** 



I did not receive pictures for the newsletter this month so here is one of me from 20 Jan. This is on the Cypress flat on a winter morning low tide. Notice the shallow, clear water on a bluebird day! We are blessed to have great fishing in the heart of Tampa. I hope to see you on the flats soon. Get off the couch and out there! //Walt



# Fishing Report and Forecast "What a great time to go fishing!"

Kayak guide Neil Taylor reports: The action has continued to be very good. Specific species: A little of both situations. On the fly, catches have been good. My flies, a lot of gold, have produced. White with gold. Chartreuse with gold. I keep tying. My fly supply at several hundred, the fly clients are given a few of my flies, lasting them well after our trip. Trout continue to be strong. Ladyfish have been mixed in good. Several pompano and flounder have reemerged after a five year absence. For flounder, an extremely slow strip. The key to things right now: Be where the baitfish are and you are into the action. It is really that simple. Depths of four feet have been ideal. It is a great time of year. Contact Neil at Livelybaits@aol.com Phone: 727-692-6345.

Captain Pat Damico reports: The increased interest in water sports has our once relatively undisturbed waterways booming with activity. Since most saltwater fly fisher's fish in relatively shallow water, what has been its effect? A school of redfish that are casually feeding in less than 2 feet of water on a grass flat will not be there after a jet ski or flats boat with a jack plate runs over or close to the school frequently destroying seagrass in the process. Feeding birds and mullet that were with them indicating their presence will also leave. I have had this happen even when we left our boat to wade closer to the feeding fish so as not to disturb them. Avoiding weekends would be a start, but would your work schedule allow this? Fishing during the week is a partial answer. Fish that are used to heavy boat traffic behave differently than fish that are in remote areas. Finding light fishing and boating activity is a difficult solution especially with 1000 people moving here daily wanting to use the attractive water. If they don't already have a boat, they will soon. More regulations usually aren't the solution because the offenders are often already breaking some existing boating law. Having your wake under control as an example. Apply the golden rule sounds good, but many people don't understand what it means. Fly fisherman Pat Damico charters Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at captpatdamico.com and 727-504-8649.

**Capt Rick Grassett reports:** Snook will be spawning this month so use tackle heavy enough to catch and release them in a timely manner and handle them gently. Larger snook will mostly be females and should always be supported horizontally rather than hung vertically by the jaw. Small white flies, like my Grassett Snook Minnow, work well at night. One of the most fun ways to target snook is to walk the beach and sight cast flies to them in the surf.

Higher tides this month will mean that reds will spend more time feeding on shallow flats. Look for them along mangrove shorelines and around oyster bars when the tide is high and in potholes or along sandbars when the tide is low. When fishing shallow water for reds, be as quiet as possible. I prefer to use a push pole or wade. Reds are one of the most challenging species to catch on a fly. Since they can be very spooky, I often wade for them when fly fishing to keep a lower profile. I like a 12' or longer leader on a floating fly line. Wide profile baitfish patterns work well this time of year since many reds are feeding on larger baitfish. Lower Tampa Bay and Gasparilla Sound are both good areas for reds this month. You'll also find big trout in many of the same shallow areas that you find reds. Trout will also be plentiful on deep grass flats. Drifting and casting ahead of the drift is usually the most productive method. I like Ultra Hair Clouser flies on sink tip fly lines for trout or other species that be found there. Look for flats that have a good mix of grass and sand and good tidal flow.

Snook Fin-Addict Guide Service, Inc.; E-mail <a href="mailto:snookfin@aol.com">snookfin@aol.com</a>; (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



Walt and Capt. Frank in the jungles of Columbia March 2019



Mexico 2019 hog snapper dinner



Ted and Walt beach snook fishing Little Gasparilla Island May 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

May12 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 Chattooga Trip for trout

Nov 6-7 FFI Expo

Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island

Cancelled Florida Sportsman Show

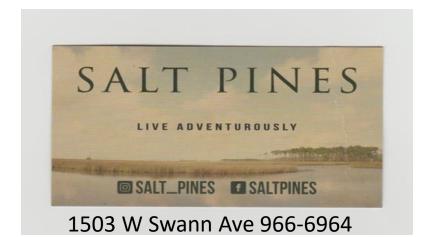
Dec Play Hooky at the Suncoast Youth Center

Dec Don Coleman Outing, Ft Desoto

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- REDFISH LANDING GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. John Hand www.RedfishLandingGuideService.com, (239) 842-7778
- THE FLY GUY, Capt. Pat Damico, (727) 504-8649, w ww.captpat.com, pat4jaws@hotmail.com
- SNOOK FIN-ADDICT GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. Rick Grassett, (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
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#### **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

Capt. Nick Angelo

### **Fly Fishing Guides**

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	•
<ul><li>Capt. Pat Damico</li></ul>	(727) 504-8649
•Capt. Bryon Chamberlin	(813) 361-8801
<ul><li>Capt. Rick Grassett</li></ul>	(941) 923-7799
<ul><li>Capt. John Hand</li></ul>	(239) 842-7778
•Capt. Greg Peterson	(423) 432-1973

## **Fly Casting Coaches**

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St. Petersburg	
Capt. Pat Damico	727-504-8649
Polk County	
Capt. Frank Rhodes	863-967-4258

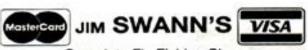


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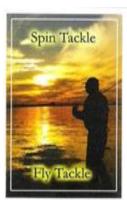




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# The Fly Guy

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## **Chouinard Outdoor Associates, Inc**

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Dave@ChouinardOutdoor.com

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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						
\$95.00Corporate Single Membership						
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