



**Next meeting 5 Jun  
0600 PM to 0900 PM  
Sun Screening**

Please join us for a free skin check by Dr. John and Laura Millns. They will advise you of any problem areas for follow-up in their office or with your regular dermatologist. Our summer is looking hot, so make good use of sunscreen and try to stay covered. Be watchful for thunderstorms and head for cover sooner than later to stay safe. Moreover, be aware of potential bacteria in the water, which is a little more common in warmer waters. Finally, try to fish early or later in the day when the fish will be most active. Our summer months can be fun and productive when done carefully and safely.

We will also show the cult movie "Tarpon" produced in the Keys in the 70's. This is a documentary with beautiful shots of tarpon and music by an early Jimmy Buffet.

**Fly Tyer**

Craig Smothers from the Mangrove Fly Club will be our guest tyer. Craig ties professionally and is featured on many YouTube videos as well fly tying events around the country.



**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 June and the start of hot weather. Tarpon fishing off the beaches is a good option along with beach snook. We spent five days on Little Gasparilla Island and had a blast sight fishing snook. Ted and I caught about a dozen for the week. Look for bait schools in the water and the snook will be present often right in the wash of the surf.

I hope you enjoyed my presentation on Belize and Columbia last month. And, thanks to Robert Fischer for tying his spoon fly. Spoon flies are good attractor patterns and fun to fish.

We welcome a new club sponsor, whom you already know: Tex Faulker; Affordable Fly Rods. Tex brings rod samples to our meeting and they are well-made and modestly priced.

// 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>
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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 – 3-8 November.** Please note the new dates and 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.

**Two Boys Inn Trip 28 Sep to 5 Oct:** Robert Fischer has scheduled a trip to this lodge on Andros Island for 6 days fishing. Cost is \$2450 plus tips and airfare. This is a great trip to a premier bonefish location. Let him know if you would like to go. 813-962-0185

### **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

### **New FFI President: A Message from Tom Logan**

Good morning Fly Fishers International Leadership. It is my pleasure to share with you that Mr. Patrick Berry will soon join FFI as our new President and CEO. Mr. Berry has accepted the offer to fill the leadership position effective July 15 and will be fully engaged with us at our Fly Fishing Expo in Bozeman. You can read the press release on the website blog, at:

<https://flyfishersinternational.org/Resources/Publications/Blog>

**Lake Calm Outing – 22 June:** Please join us for our annual outing on Lake Calm in Odessa. We will start at 6am and fish until 1130 when we will break for lunch. This is a beautiful crystal clear lake with lots of bass and pan fish. Bring your paddle board, canoe or kayak. We will provide lunch and drinks. More details at the next meeting.



### **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

**Bacteria in Tampa Waters:** A Florida man has been hospitalized at a Tampa hospital after contracting a life-threatening flesh-eating bacteria while fishing out in the Gulf of Mexico.

Mike Walton is being treated at Tampa General Hospital for flesh-eating disease, necrotizing fasciitis, a bacterial infection that's extremely rare in the United States.

Walton said he was fishing on Saturday about 20 miles off the coast of Palm Harbor when he was stuck by a fish hook. Walton says it was a small prick, and it's something that's happened hundreds of times while fishing.

<https://www.abcactionnews.com/news/region-pinellas/flesh-eating-bacteria-infects-florida-man-fishing-off-coast-of-palm-harbor-in-gulf-of-mexico>

## Fly of the Month Robert Fischer's Spoon Fly

### MATERIALS

Gold ribbon – 1 inch wide  
#1 3x long hook bent in spoon shape  
Bead head (cone shape)  
Red Krystal flash  
Hot glue gun  
5 minute epoxy



### TYING SEQUENCE

Put cone head on hook and tie thread behind it to keep it in place.  
Tie a small bundle of Krystal flash at the bend of the hook.  
Cut the ribbon in the shape of the spoon.  
Use hot glue gun to run a bead of glue down the hook shank and attach the ribbon to the hook.  
Mix 5 minute epoxy and apply it to the bottom of the fly, along the hook shank, then apply it on the top of the body.  
Attach the fly to a drying wheel to let the epoxy set.



### **Ted and Kathy off Little Gasparilla Island:**

I rigged up Kathy with a twitching plug and I put on my favorite top water. The water in the back country was pretty brown and there was a fair breeze out of the east. Kathy had just remarked that she had not seen much activity on the water when the water exploded under my plug. The take was so violent and large that I thought it was a tarpon. The fish threw the plug up in the air on the first strike and when it landed she struck it again even more determined and this time the hook found home and the battle was on. The fish headed straight for the mangroves as I fought to turn her. The fish was so strong and when it came to the surface it was so long that once again I thought it might be a tarpon. I put all the pressure I could on the 10# braid as the fish repeatedly sought the protection of the shore vegetation. I was thankful to have the remote for the trolling motor around my neck as I maneuvered the boat into open water. Kathy was busy getting the net out of the front hatch but I knew it would be useless on this fish. The battle continued for a good 15 minutes with the outcome constantly in doubt. As you can see from the photo, I finally prevailed. What a glorious dark fish. I guessed here to be better than 15#s. I caught another 27" snook before we found shelter behind an island and put up the umbrella to savor the day and our lunch.





Little Gasparilla pictures: beach snook, tarpon fishing with Capt. Jeff Hagaman, sunset on the beach and plenty of sand dollars.





Leigh West on a recent trip to the Everglades with fishing friend Dr. Jeff Rasband. We got some nice snook and jumped an ~75 lb tarpon. We also caught smaller snook and juvenile tarpon.



Club member Bill Monaco's first fly fishing experience with his "Tex" fly rod. Fished the Shoshone River in Cody, Wy - 32 degrees. Caught brown and rainbow trout. Very cold but great day!







Club member J Bryce Whittlesey in Cayo Cruz Cuba in April with a tarpon and his first bonefish on the fly!



## Interesting Day on the MacDill Flat

I had an interesting day at MacDill this month catching three snook and seeing many other fish. Let me tell you about it. The tide was low, incoming, and the water clear for May. Grass has filled in much of the sand leaving some light bare areas and grass with potholes. Calm or light winds combined with full sun made for great conditions.

I launched my Nucanoe Frontier kayak at the Marina boat ramp and headed out. Once in the channel I noticed bubbles rising to the surface and thought they might indicate a school of baby tarpon in the area, so I stopped and made a few cast while looking for rollers. I was fishing a nine weight rod with a nine foot Orvis Super Strong leader. I had tied on two feet of 25 pound pink Yozeri as a tippet. I like the Yozeri for its toughness and stealth. I had on a shrimp fly, which produced no hits while looking for tarpon.

I changed to a Lefty Deceiver white minnow pattern for snook and paddled over to the flat. Right away I saw little shark coming my way. No....it's not a shark but a cobia of about 3 feet. I did not get a shot at it and watched the fish swim away. However, cobia are curious fish and it was soon back. It followed the fly several times, but did not take. Oh well, I continued on to the west about 100 yards from shore looking at the sandy areas and pot holes. I soon spooked several big snook, which I did not see and they took off and made big wakes. I vowed to slow down and try to see them first. Next, I saw a medium-sized ray and it had a jack swimming close by and following. Game fish sometimes follow rays like that, looking for something the ray may flush out.

I continued west on the flat and did not see much. When I got to the second creek, I headed out a couple of hundred yards to some stakes in the water. Lush grass is in this area and it often holds fish. Here, I found a six foot bull shark sitting in a pot hole with a four foot cobia right behind him. As I drifted up I started to poke the shark, but then remembered our agreement not to mess with each other. When I got close, they moved off and I was happy to have my boat and not be wading.

Next, I circled back to the east and looked by an old tire in the water. I remember finding tailing reds there 20 years ago, but today just a few baitfish. I headed back to the east and checked out the mouth of the creek where I found a snook looking into the current over the sand. I showed it my deceiver and the fish followed for about ten feet before taking at the last second. I discovered it's best to have the anchor out when hooking a fish as that snook quickly pulled me into the bank and mangroves. Nonetheless, I bought it to hand, snapped a quick shot and let it go.

Moving east along the shore over sand I saw another ray with a jack and they were both moving quickly. Soon, I spotted another snook and the same scenario played out. It liked the fly and followed closely. When I stopped it, the tail wagged nicely and that finally triggered the strike. This time I had the anchor out, which made the fight easier for me at least. When I got down to within 100 yards of the first creek, I started to see a lot of snook. And, the cobia showed up again, about six of them. I ended up hooking two and lost them both. They took the deceiver with some reluctance, but they did hit it. I also had a few big reds come by and never got a shot at them. Sheepshead were also around, but, I did not throw my minnow fly at them. I did get one more snook and had lots of shots. I got follows from two big snook, which was exciting. All in all, a great day sight fishing in clear water and seeing lots of different fish. I had not fished a Lefty Deceiver in years and would recommend it as a good lively minnow imitation. Tight lines and hope to see you on the flats. //Walt



Snook on the fly at MacDill





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



Ted and Walt beach snook fishing  
Little Gasparilla Island



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 past two weeks have been the worst fishing I have ever seen in Florida. Bar none; things have been very difficult. Will it come back? I have been pushing the new governor and pushing hard. I have watched everything decline. Moreover, trout, redfish and snook are closed until May of next year. That can only help. If things are going to return, it is up to us. Personally, I haven't kept a redfish in six years. A snook, fourteen years and I will never kill another one. We have serious issues. We will see how many more people are serious like me, about bringing things back to where they should be. Livelybaits@aol.com Phone: 727-692-6345

### **Predictable exciting fly rod action**

Get out early and walk our beaches with your fly rod. The sun at your back and an easterly wind that provides smooth water will improve visibility so that protected snook can be seen in the wash within feet of the sand. Generally, a large female will be surrounded by smaller males involved in the courting process. Tides that provide moving water will improve the bite. Locations close to passes containing structure are hot spots. A fast action 8 weight fly rod with a clear sinking tip rather than a floating line will perform better if there is any wave action. Stay on the sand casting parallel to the shoreline and keep your shadow away from the fish you target. Good brown to yellow tinted polaroid glasses are a necessity to improve vision. Hold your cast until fish are spotted. Concentrate on fish that are facing you. Then carefully cast a size 1 to 2 white baitfish pattern in front of or to the side of the snook working the offering in long erratic strips. When a snook shows interest, increase the speed of your retrieve to mimic a frantic, escaping baitfish to trigger a violent strike. Barbs should be crimped facilitating a quick careful release.

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:** Tarpon should be plentiful in the coastal gulf this month as big schools of fish migrate along our beaches. Also look for cobia, tripletail and false albacore (little tunny) in the coastal gulf. Catch and release snook fishing should also be good in and around passes and in the surf. Fishing for a variety of species should also be good on deep grass flats.

Tarpon fishing should be good during June as schools of fish increase in size and numbers. They will head off shore to spawn, close to new and full moons. I've done well with Lefty's Deceiver and my Grasset Flats Bunny fly patterns fished on floating or intermediate sink tip fly lines. Stake out or anchor in travel lanes to get shots at them. Tarpon are creatures of habit and will travel on the same edges and depth contours. The shallower the water, the easier it is to get you fly in front of a tarpon when fly fishing. Since fish may be moving both north and south, setting up within several hundred yards of another angler may negatively affect their fishing. Fly fishing for tarpon is very dependent on conditions and there are a lot of variables that need to come together to be successful.

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

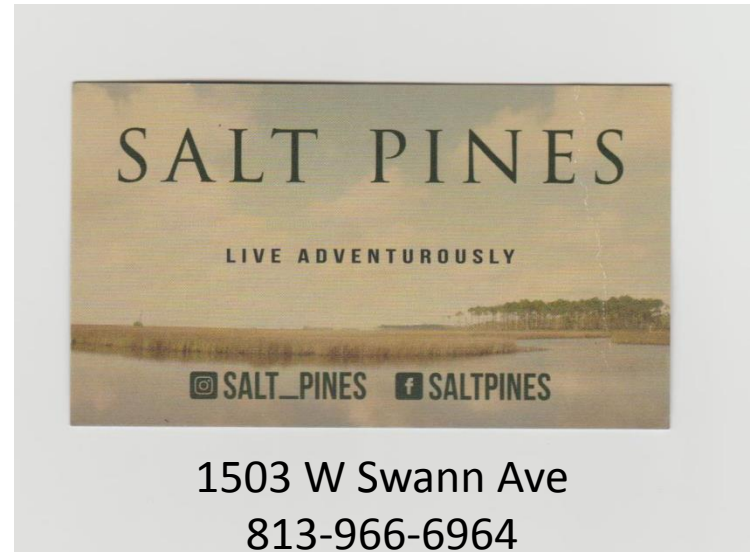
Leigh West .....813-971-8697

### 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.

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- 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)
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- 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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Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

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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

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(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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