



Next meeting 3 July

0600 PM to 0900 PM

Red Tide Impact on Tampa Bay

Michelle Monteclaro and Tim MacDonald

Please join us as two local scientists talk about how red tide affects our fishery. **Michelle Monteclaro** is an Environmental Specialist II at Pinellas County Government Environmental Management. She received her Master's in Environmental Management from the University of Queensland in Australia where she studied the management and protection of the Great Barrier Reef. Her presentation will highlight Pinellas County's Red Tide response efforts. **Tim MacDonald** earned his Bachelor of Science from Jacksonville University in 1983, and his Master's in Biological Oceanography from the University of South Florida. Since resigning from the Navy in 1987, Mr. MacDonald has worked as a fisheries biologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWC-FWRI) in St. Petersburg. He currently oversees state-wide estuarine sampling by the FWC-FWRI's Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) program. The data collected by the FIM program are instrumental in assessing stocks of recreational fish like red drum and snook and have been used to assess impacts of environmental perturbations including the 2005 and 2018 red tide events and the 2010 cold kill event.

Fly Tyer

Long time club member Denise Bruner will tie for us this month. Denise is an avid fly fisher and a reluctant tier who usually out-fishes us at outings. She will show you a fly that has worked for her and is simple to tie.

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 July and our hot, humid weather. Try to make time to get out early or late in the day and find fish.

I hope you took advantage of our skin screening session with the Millns. Our sport can be hard on the skin if we don't take care. Thanks to **Dr. John and Laura Millns** for coming to the club and examining our skin. We try to schedule them every two years.

Thanks to **Craig Smothers** for tying the Puglici Minnow last month. Catch Greg at **SaltFlys.com** or on his many YouTube videos.

We had another successful outing on Lake Calm on 22 June. Check out our report and photos on pages 3 and 4.

I have found a few snook on the MacDill flat where I sight-fished them over a sandy bottom. The grass is growing quickly and covering most areas, thus limiting the chance to spot fish, but the water is still pretty clear. Check out our fishing report for summer tips.

// Walt Durkin 

EVENTS

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

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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:

Tuesday from 10 to 11:45 a.m. at **Tampa Fishing**

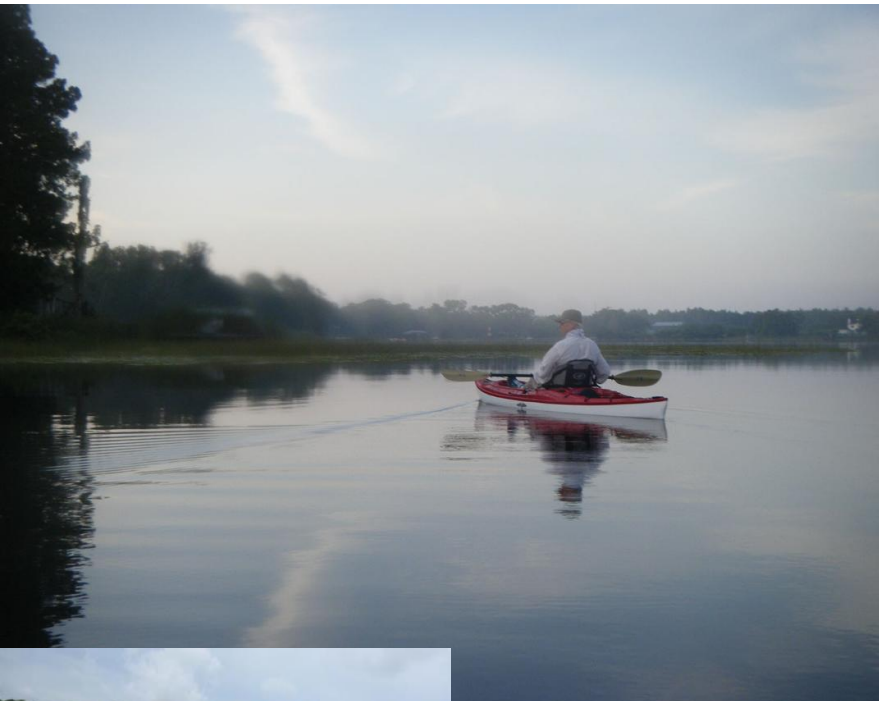
Outfitters and every second Monday of the month from 6 to 8. They will also participate for 5 days at the Warrior Games from 9 to 5 at the Convention Center. Thanks to **Joe Perez** for leading our local chapter.

Lake Calm Outing – 22 June: About a dozen club members enjoyed a fun outing on Lake Calm again this year. The lake, true to its name, was slick calm and there were many bass caught along with bluegill and bream. The fish were taking poppers and small Clouser minnows. We also enjoyed a tasty lunch while sharing fish tales. Many thanks to longtime club member **John Mills** for allowing us to launch and lunch at his beautiful lakefront property. Thanks to **Patty and Bruce Anderson** for providing lunch and to Nanette for the cake.

Photos by Nanette O'Hara and Denise Bruner



Rick O'Hara in a kayak starting out; a view of the dock; Denise with a nice bass; and Bruce, Walt, Ted and Rick enjoying lunch.



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

Grand Cayman Island : June 8-15

Six of us traveled to Grand Cayman for a beach and fishing vacation. We rented a three bedroom house on the beach near Rum Point. After flight delays, we arrived at 2 AM, tired, but happy to be there. Four of us fished quite a bit for six days and caught one fish. We found bone fish at Rum Point, Frank's Sound and along the North shore beach. They cruised, tailed and were spooky, but we had our chances; final score: bonefish 100, fly fishermen 1.

Weather was mostly clear with some wind each day, and hot. Nonetheless, we had a great time and enjoyed the beaches, local sights and the tough fishing. Moreover, the fish we saw were pretty big, some 6 to 8 pounds. We hired a great guide (**Joel Jefferson**) for one half day and he took us to some good spots and gave super tips, which apparently did not help us. Finally, the one bonefish caught was blind in one eye. We caught it one day and all four of us cast to it again the final day and that fish said no thanks. Fooling that fish once was all we could do. Pictures follow on the next two pages. Overall, a good vacation to the British West Indies, which I recommend.

Grand Cayman Pictures

Six club members traveled to Grand Cayman for a beach/fishing adventure. We had multiple shots each day and saw tailing fish, but caught only one bone fish. The colorful pictures were taken at the QE II Botanical Gardens, well worth the visit. Three amigos in club shirts sitting on a wall overlooking a good North beach spot where the one-eyed bonefish lives. And, a bird walking the flat with me at low tide at Frank's Lagoon.



Grand Cayman continued: Walt and Lou overlooking blow-hole on the beach. Patty, Lou, Kathy and Ted relaxing with a rum drink called a "painkiller" (it works). A blue iguana, the most endangered species on earth with only a few left on the island. Walking a beautiful beach at Rum Point and pointing at bonefish. They were there, but hard to catch. We stayed in a three bedroom house and could walk to bone fishing at Rum Point.



Warm Weather Fly Lines by Capt. Pat Damico

Your fly pattern is very important, but not putting the fly in the proper location is even more necessary for success. If casting with your normal setup is giving you poor results, your fly line is probably the culprit because of much warmer weather and especially an increase in water temperature. One well-known fly line company makes more than 1,000 different fly lines for a good reason. In the spring when gulf water temperatures were in the low sixties a line that performed perfectly will not do the same now when the same water temperature is above 85. I see this frequently with clients from northern states and find they are trying to cast a line that behaves like limp spaghetti. A line that performed perfectly for striped bass in New York in the spring will be a disaster now. Some fly lines will have designations such as tropic or warm weather on the box. Fly fishing guides understand this and will have the proper lines on their reels. When clients are having difficulty with the equipment they brought with them, I frequently give them a reel to use with a suitable line on their rod that they feel comfortable with. This will restore their confidence and go a long way to eliminate their frustration resulting in a successful day.

Club member Patty Anderson with a snook caught off Casey Key. Tim Duke with his son Brian over Memorial Day weekend in the Mitchell River, Dobson, NC. They caught eight trout each.



Interesting Day on the MacDill Flat – Follow-up

Part Two. I fished MacDill a couple of weeks later on 4 June and experienced another great day. The weather was fine, the fish happy and I had lots of shots. One thing I like about our sport is finding new and interesting things on every outing. Plus, the chance to learn and get a little better at a sometimes frustrating sport.

Calm winds and bright sun made for good sight fishing. I arrived about 0900 AM just ahead of a medium low tide. I really wanted to fish the incoming, which would come in about 18 inches over four hours. I left the marina and paddled my kayak down the beach to the mouth of the first (Coons) creek. The water flows out and to the southwest leaving sand along the shoreline. Here, I found several snook cruising, mostly small, but a few bigger ones. I set up about 50 feet to the south and showed them my white deceiver. They seemed spooky in the still, clear water, but I caught a little snook after a few casts. The bigger fish seemed to turn away from the fly early, so I thought they could see my mono leader. I did not have any fluoro leaders, so I took 8 feet of 15 pound fluoro and made a leader with a 25 pound bite tippet. This helped and the fish at least saw my fly before they turned away. Moreover, a nice trout tried to eat the fly and missed it. Too bad, as it would have completed my slam for the day.

After showing all those fish my fly, I moved on down the flat to the west. I continued under cloud cover and spooked several good fish I did not see in time. Arriving where the second creek comes out, I set up at the mouth over a sandy bottom to look for fish. The tide was moving in now at a fair rate and seemed to attract fish. I started seeing lots of snook and sharks with the occasional red, trout and sheepshead thrown in. They were coming right in the creek with the tide; sight fishing heaven really. Still fishing the deceiver, I caught another small snook and then a small red. I threw at a sheepshead and it turned and looked at the fly, which is a little unusual for sheepshead who are crab eaters. Therefore, I switched to my rat fly, which had I tied originally for sheepshead. This is a small dark crab fly about an inch long with lead eyes to get down quickly. While looking for a sheepshead, I saw a snook coming along the bank and make a cast ahead of him. Sure enough, when it sees the fly it comes right over and eats. I get the fish after keeping it out of the mangroves, a nice 25 inch snook. Next, I throw at a red and spook it, but leave the fly in the water. A few seconds later, I have a fish on and it's a small bonnet-head, which picked up my rat fly. I am fighting this fish, and as luck would have it, here comes a 20 pound tarpon poking around into the current. I pointed my rod at the shark and gave a tug and the fly comes loose. I have one quick shot at that tarpon over my shoulder and it turns, but does not eat the fly. Oh well, good try I guess. No problem, because I spot another nice snook coming along the bank and he eats that rat fly just fine. This is a bigger fish, maybe 27 inches and it breaks me off in the mangroves. No worries, I still have three snook and two reds for the day.

Thinking about it though, I probably cast to 100 fish and only caught five, so one in twenty. It's interesting how some fish will ignore the fly or spook and others will follow and hit the same fly. Early on the tide was not moving and they may have not been feeding. The fish seemed to be on the hunt with the incoming tide and that helped a lot. Additionally, my mono leader was a disadvantage early on, so I made that adjustment. However, the main ingredient to getting a strike was presentation. The fish ate two really different flies when I presented them correctly. Key is getting the fly into the water and down near the bottom without the fish seeing you, your line or your leader. This is especially true in clear, shallow water with full sun. Game fish prey does not fall out of the sky, rather fish look for danger from above. In shallow water, minnows and crabs stay near the bottom and that's where you want the fish to first see your fly. A good presentation makes the difference and can be the deciding factor no matter what fly you have on. Lucky for me, I had plenty of shots to get it right.

Sight fishing is a hoot, especially watching the fish react to your fly; and, trying your best to adjust and fool them. I challenge you to find your flat on a good tide with clear water and go for it. Tight lines and I hope to see you on the water soon. //Walt Durkin, TBFFC

Good times in Big Pine Key flyfishingthefloridakeys.com Thanks, Capt. Brandon Henley



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 May 2019



Walt and Capt. Frank
in the jungles of Columbia



Grand Cayman June 2019



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Kayak guide Neil Taylor reports: It is a bizarre time in the history of fishing Tampa Bay. There are some locations where a fish can be caught. But in a lot of the areas of Tampa Bay the fishing has crashed, and it's not just me. I'm getting reports from all over. People are having the hardest time they have ever had. What is it? Cyclical? Will things just come back? Or do we have bigger problems? Increased population pressure is the most mentioned item with all the people I have talked to. Has the human population started to exceed the resource? With almost all species closed for eleven more months, that will be a good test. Honestly, the only good action I have seen anyone one have is with sharks. Three trips in the last two weeks where zero trout were caught. 2017 and 2018 we averaged 30 pompano per trip. Per trip. 2019, five pompano total. Total. In 35 times trying. That is not good. Livelybaits@aol.com
Phone: 727-692-6345

Capt. Pat Damico: 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 and (727) 504-8649

Capt. Rick Grasset: Call Rick at (941) 923-7799 (office).

Look for tarpon in the coastal gulf. If conditions are poor in the gulf, you may find them in protected inside waters where fishing mangrove shorelines for catch and release reds and snook may also be a good option. Night fishing for snook and more is a dependable option and a good way to beat the heat. 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!



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 3-8 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

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Walt Durkin.....813-853-5870

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

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

Leigh West813-971-8697

St. Petersburg

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

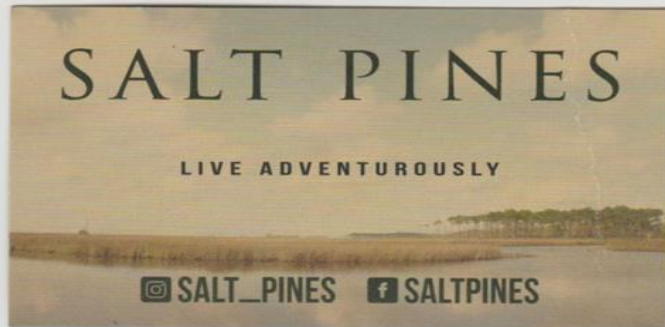
Polk County

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

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Type of Membership: _____

Please Check: One Year _____ Five Year _____

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

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\$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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