



**We are canceling our 5 August meeting due to the continued threat from COVID. We will try again on 1 September at Compton Park. Meanwhile, stay vigilant and safe.**

Photo left shows Patty and Bruce Anderson fishing Lake Calm on our club outing 27 June.

**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. We will try to resume club meetings on 1 September at Compton Park. We have a couple of other potential venues in North Tampa we continue to explore. More to come, but we are set for September at Compton Park if the virus subsides to safe levels.

**Please support our local club guides sooner rather than later. The front of a flats boat is safe and loads of fun.**

We had a fun-filled banquet planned, which we will reschedule. We will refund any advance payments as needed.

The June/July issue of the CCA's Tide magazine **featured Capt. Bryon Chamberlin** in an article by **Rusty Chinnis**. "Skinny Water, Proceed with Caution" describes fishing the Chaz from Bryon's Sabine skiff. Consider joining CCA if you are not already a member. They do great conservation work.

//Walt Durkin 

## Project Healing Waters News

PHW has cancelled overnight or national trips until 31 December. Based on that, **Joe Perez** re-scheduled his June trip to next year: 19-21 June 2021. Special thanks to Joe for leading our club's support to PHWs.

## 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

## 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

**Robert Fischer** has a few openings at the Two Boys Inn, 10-17 Oct 2020. This is a great trip for \$2600 and includes six day's guided fishing for big bonefish. Also, good food and lodging.

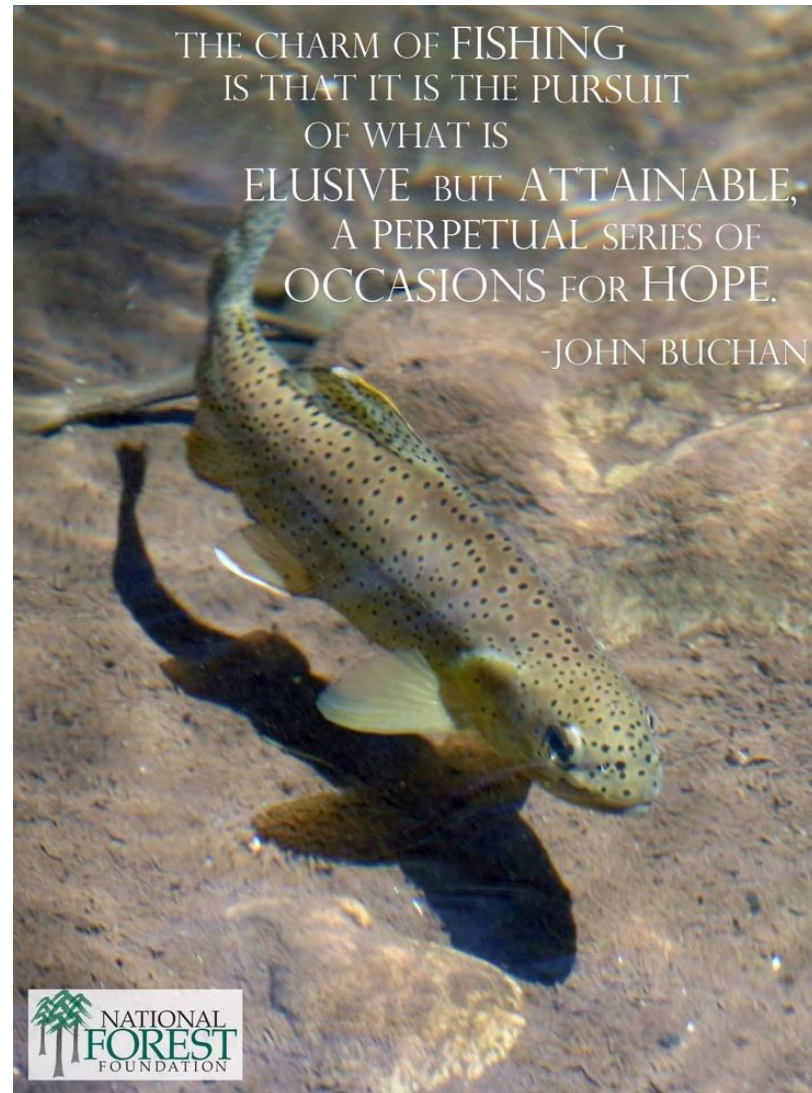
**Capt Frank Rhodes** also has openings for Mexico 17-24 Oct. Contact me to reserve your spot with at deal at \$2500. We go there every year and have a great time. Costa de Cocas lodge.

**Doug Larson, Journalist:** If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles. (Reader's Digest, Quotable Quotes)

**Lake Calm Outing:** Six club members fished on a balmy morning and had good luck with bass and panfish. The club provided a lunch of sandwiches and watermelon. Thanks, as always, to Dr. John Millns for the use of his beautiful property. Lake Calm is a super clear lake with good numbers of bass and bream.

## TBFFC Moving from Compton Park

We got a reprieve at Compton Park for the time being thanks to Dr. Greg Stepanski. Plan on meeting there 1 September while we work on a permanent meeting place. //Walt



## Art vs. Meat by Robert Fischer

Sometimes we need a reason to go fishing. Well, maybe, sometimes we just go to go, you know. Probably the first and most basic reason to go is to get food. Neanderthals did this with a rock or a pointed stick. It probably didn't take long to realize that a thing called efficiency was important. Rocks and sticks were improved based on what worked best. The guy who brought back the most fish was the best fisherman and a hero to his clan. That is still important today according to some of my friends and neighbors.

Then this guy called Issac Walton came along and wrote about this idea of sporting with a natural or fake lure, a flimsy stick (rod) and a thin line (that often broke). Strangely, he often didn't mind if the fish got away. He wrote about the pleasure of outwitting this animal (trout) that had a brain the size of a peanut. He obviously must have been rich and had other sources of food. How this idea of sporting survived and even thrived is difficult to grasp.

Do we really like to make basic survival skills more difficult? Do we really like to spend a lot more money, get a lot more frustrated, and catch a lot fewer fish? (I'm talking about fly fishing now). The answer is yes, of course. There is something satisfying about doing things the hard way and succeeding. This comes from the same part of the brain that likes to root for the underdog. When you finally learn to cast and can lay out a perfect 70 foot cast it feels great. When you catch that first fish on a fly rod it feels even better. When you catch that first fish on a fly you tied yourself that's better yet. Catching a big fish and then catching an impossible fish brings better feelings yet.

And then sometimes it's enjoyable to be in a beautiful place, local or foreign, on the water, early in the morning, making a few good casts, and being perfectly content. No fish involved. Moments like that are burned into our memories.

But back to the meat issue. My friends and I love to eat fish and we often keep some for dinner. We've even made special meat trips, like to the Keys for dolphin fishing and try to get as many fillets as possible while we are there. There must be at least two sides to the human animal because both ideas are very satisfying. Art vs. meat? Give me both.



## Favorite Flies

A club member recently asked me for help on selecting flies. Pictured are a selection of my go-to flies, which I often fish with confidence. For snook especially, I fish a Puglici-style minnow or a Lefty Deceiver(upper left). Small bend-backs (lower right) also make good minnow patterns and are pretty weed-less. For a little deeper water the good old Clouser with lead eyes is hard to beat. For top water I usually stick with gurglers. For sight fishing in the winter, when the fish are bottom-oriented, I go with small shrimp or crab patterns. When I am stuck blind casting I often try a spoon fly or a Seaducer as they are big attractor patterns. Pictured right are two Seaducers, one grizzly and one yellow/red. Trout and snook are ambush feeders and often like minnows, but you can sight fish them in the winter with crabs and shrimp. Redfish seem to focus on crabs and shrimp on the bottom, but will hit minnow patterns if they are chasing bait. Find flies you have confidence in and learn to present them properly for best results. Seek sight-fishing opportunities to watch fish react to your presentations and find your own favorites. //Walt



Club member Nick Colantonio provided this article: *Thirteen Summers in Alaska*, a soon to be published book, is Captain John Kumiski's account of his 13 summers working as a fishing guide at 4 camps in Alaska. John, my friend, fishing guide and Indian River Lagoon paddling companion, has immortalized me in his new book. He is immortalizing mediocrity, but, hey, I'll take it. An excerpt from the book is attached along with my notes and backstory.

*Nick Colantonio, a.k.a. the Comatose Angler.*



My first year at Goodnews I fished a gentleman by the name of Nick Colantonio. Nick was from Tampa, almost a neighbor of mine, though I knew him not prior to that day. That day- it was real frustrating. We saw thousands of fish, but we couldn't get a bite, and got but one salmon all day.

Nick visited the lodge my second year. We did not fish together. My assumption was after year one he knew better.

When he returned for a week during my third year we got to fish together again. I told him about my assumption that he didn't want to fish with me the previous year. He assured me nothing could be farther from the truth. That was just the way the chips fell, as they say, and he blamed himself for our lack of success that first year. He expressed doubt about his ability to catch some fish during our current day. I told him it would not be a problem (I had learned a couple things in the previous two seasons) and we went on to have a good, if not outstanding, day.

For the young guides working at Goodnews, it was always about how big, and how many, fish they caught. They did not like fishing Nick. Nick missed lots of bites. He often lost focus while fishing.

Lots of guides wish their fishermen would take some time from fishing to smell the roses. When it comes to smelling roses, Nick is a professional! Often, while he was paying attention to something other than his fishing, he'd get a bite. He'd usually miss it.

On top of that, Nick has a muscle issue. Apparently most human muscle is a 50-50 mix of slow- and fast-twitch muscle fibers. Nick told me he has very little fast-twitch muscle. Even when he's paying attention, his reaction times are "atrocious" according to one guide he fished with. He misses a lot of bites.

My feeling about a day's guiding is that the number or size of the fish don't matter that much, per se. What does matter is how happy my angler is at the end of the day. For some fishermen (the counters) numbers do matter. For other fishermen (trophy hunters) size does matter. For Nick, it was all about enjoying the experience. I always liked fishing Nick. He was usually happy at the end of the day!

Somewhere along the line Nick acquired a nickname- the Comatose Angler. Far from being offended, Nick reveled in it. For a long time, he wrote a column about his various fishing exploits for the newsletter of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers, called (appropriately enough) The Comatose Angler.

Tuesday evenings at the lodge was Awards Night. A fun event, Mike passed out awards to the guys who broke the most rods, who fell into the river, who fished for hours without a hook, etc. One of the awards presented was the Comatose Angler award, named in honor of Nick.

Notes – my notes and corrections

1. John did not mention that I am a two-time winner of the eponymous award: The first time, I had landed 3 kinds of Pacific salmon in a comatose manner {1. fly in the water next to boat and line being stripped off the reel to the deck before casting, 8-pound Silver salmon – 2. drinking apple juice with right hand, rod under left arm, just lazily pumping rod and fly with left hand, 2-pound Pink salmon – 3. hat and sunglasses on the seat, my balaklava across my eyes as I pulled it off, rod under my left arm, just lazily pumping rod and fly with my left hand – 36 inch King salmon.} Three of the five kinds of Pacific salmon. Three fish that really wanted to be hooked.

I told the guide about my nickname, The Comatose Angler. He took the information back to camp and a new award for the Final Night Follies was born. Rick Fender was fishing in the boat that day. The guide was G.

2. The second time I was fishing with Linda Martuch and guide Gabe Nyblad. I retrieved my fly and noticed that the point was gone. "I wonder how long it has been like this", I mused. With Linda and Gabe in the boat, that was all it took. I became the first two-timer.

Other recipients include Linda's brother -- a chum salmon hit hard and pulled the rod out of his hand. Lost the rod. The next day the line was sighted and the rod recovered. The fish was still attached and was landed.

Another recipient hooked a salmon while wading on a gravel bar. The guide was some distance off with another angler at the time. The man dropped his rod and ran to get the guide. When they returned with the net, the rod and reel had been dragged off by the fish. Never to be seen again.

3. The guide did not use the word 'atrocious'. Fishing for pike in Ireland, the guide said "Nick your reaction times are brutal. I saw the strike indicator dip three times before you set the hook".

I am The Comatose Angler in Florida, Alaska, Ireland ... and Utah. Utah by self-acclamation. I fished the Provo River three times with two guides, a father and son. On my first trip, the father asked me "Are you thinking about fishing?", because I missed so many strikes dead drifting nymphs. Next day he imitated me in the shop -- continuing my downstream rod movement and drift with my rod hand, as my head and eyes followed the indicator up stream. Spot on. On my four-hour trip with his son, the son had to leave for his afternoon shift with the Park City Police Department. Just before leaving, he took my rod, saying "I can't stand it any longer" -- followed by: Upstream chuck of fly and split shot by the guide, big upstream mend, dragless drift, strike and set. Fish On! QED

N.B. On that same trip I managed to land two trout on one cast with two nymphs rigged in tandem.

Something that the guide had never accomplished successfully before. That photo ended-up on the shop wall in Salt Lake City.

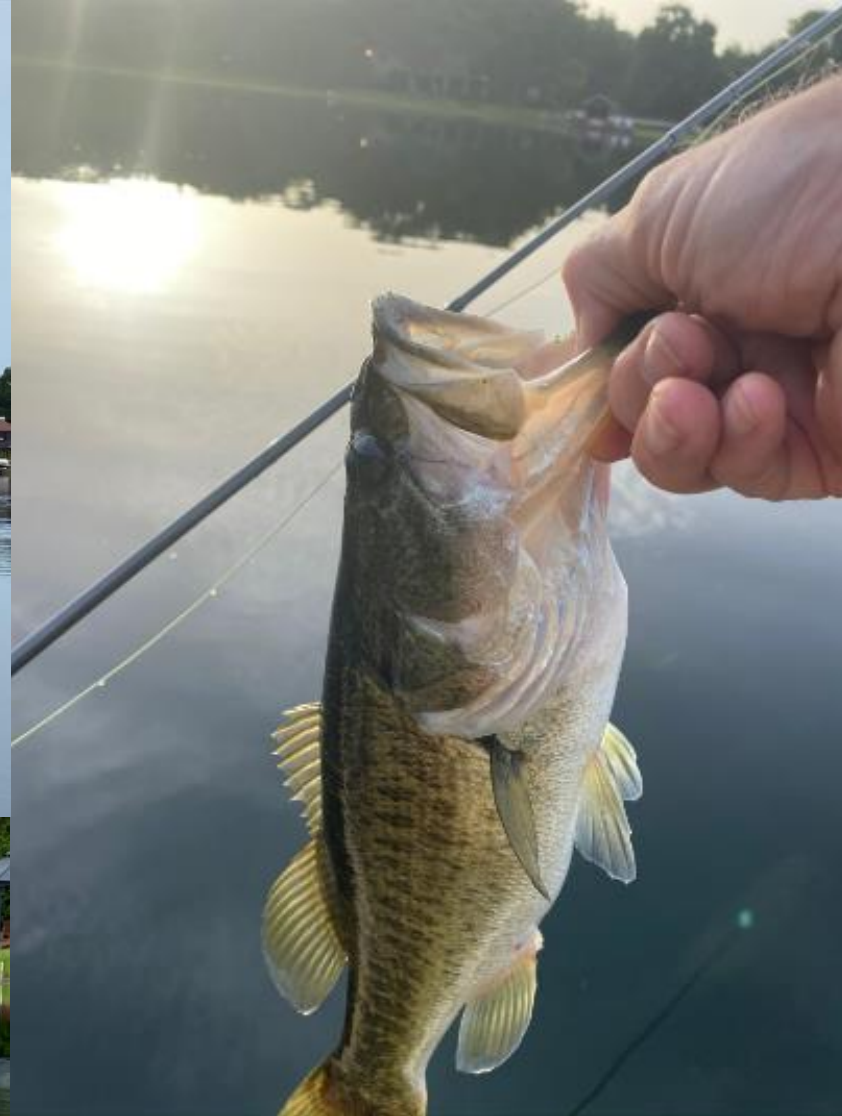
4. I told the author that I did not think that muscle is made up 50-50 of fast and slow twitch fibers. I just do not have any fast twitch fibers. I have cycled 100 miles in a day 48 times and 174 miles across Florida twice, but don't ask me to sprint. I have a tragically soft hookset. I can just see all the energy dissipate along the length of the rod and line, the force reduced to barely a pinch at the fish's jaw.

On that day that first year when I landed only one salmon, the King salmon pictured above, the day was sunny and the river was crystal clear, the surface completely unruffled. It would have been more productive to go mouseing for rainbow trout, or drifting egg imitations for grayling or for Arctic char. Who knew?

FYI -- The nickname Comatose Angler was given to me by Nanette O'Hara (nee Holland) and she gets intensely irritated if I do not give her full credit. Years later the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club, Nannette O'Hara president, gave me an award for my Contributions to the club. Contributions had nothing to do with fishing, all to do with cooking. My manicotti with meatballs and Italian sausage raised the bar for club cooking. And my seafood cioppino is a treasure not to be missed at our club's annual shad outing on the St. Johns River -- and it ain't braggin' if you tell the truth. My mother taught me well.

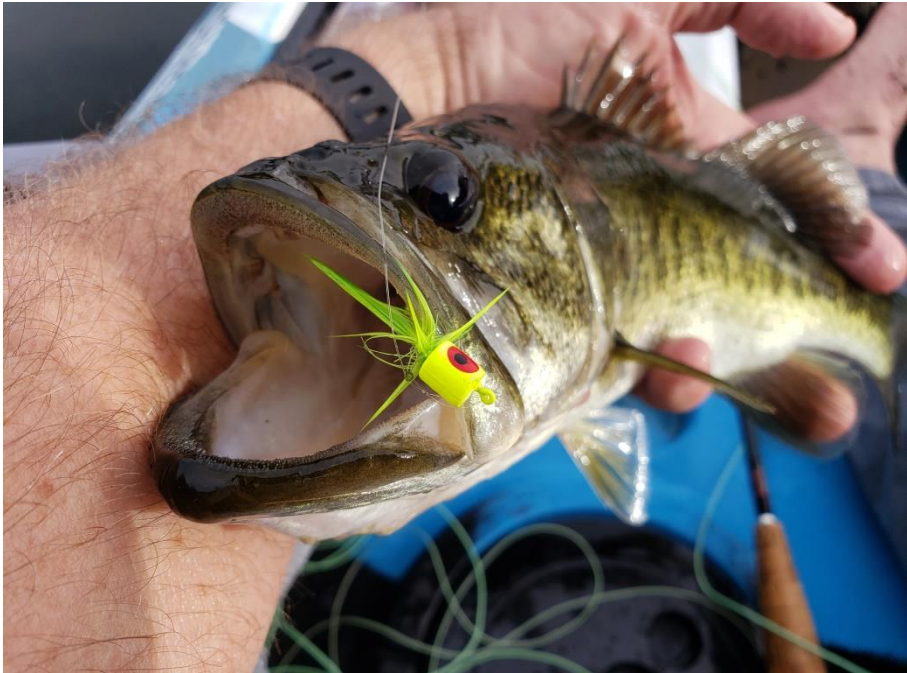
Mangia Bene e Viva Bene.





Lake Calm outing on 27 June. Bruce and Patty in their Gheenoe, Ted in his kayak and Walt holding a feisty bass. Weather was great with light winds and not too hot early on.

Club member Greg Rogers took these photos at the outing



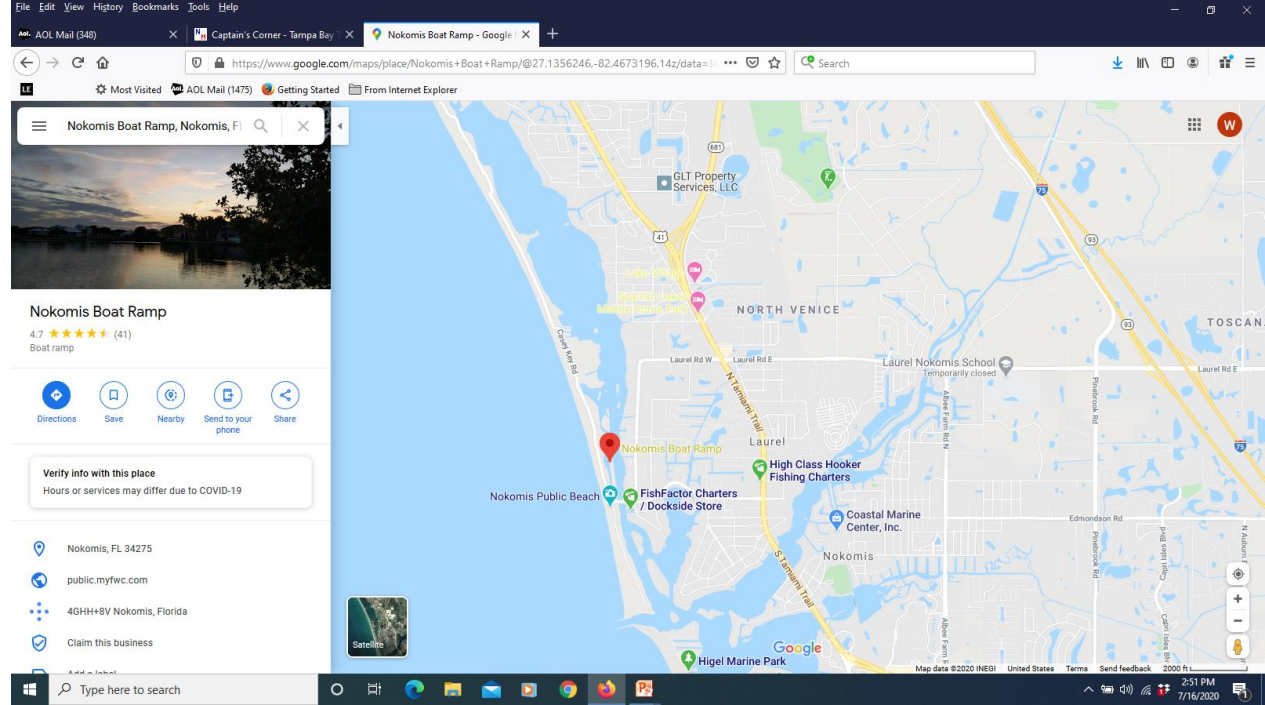
Patty Anderson caught this beautiful brown on the Poudre River near Ft Collins in mid-July.



Ted and I were fishing for mangrove snapper in mid-July under the Gandy Bridge with cut bate on small size-one circle hooks. We saw several tarpon swim by and also saw them rolling. Ted had a strong strike and it turned out to be a nice 50 pound tarpon. He fought it for about 10 minutes before the 15 lb. tippet gave way. We ended with eight hard-caught snapper.



We took three boats south to Nokomas for a day on the water. A little more than an hour south is a good ramp/parking and great fishing. Nice clear water with plenty of bait and also good for kayaks. Ted was top rod with several nice snook. We had lunch on the boats and took a swim to cool off.



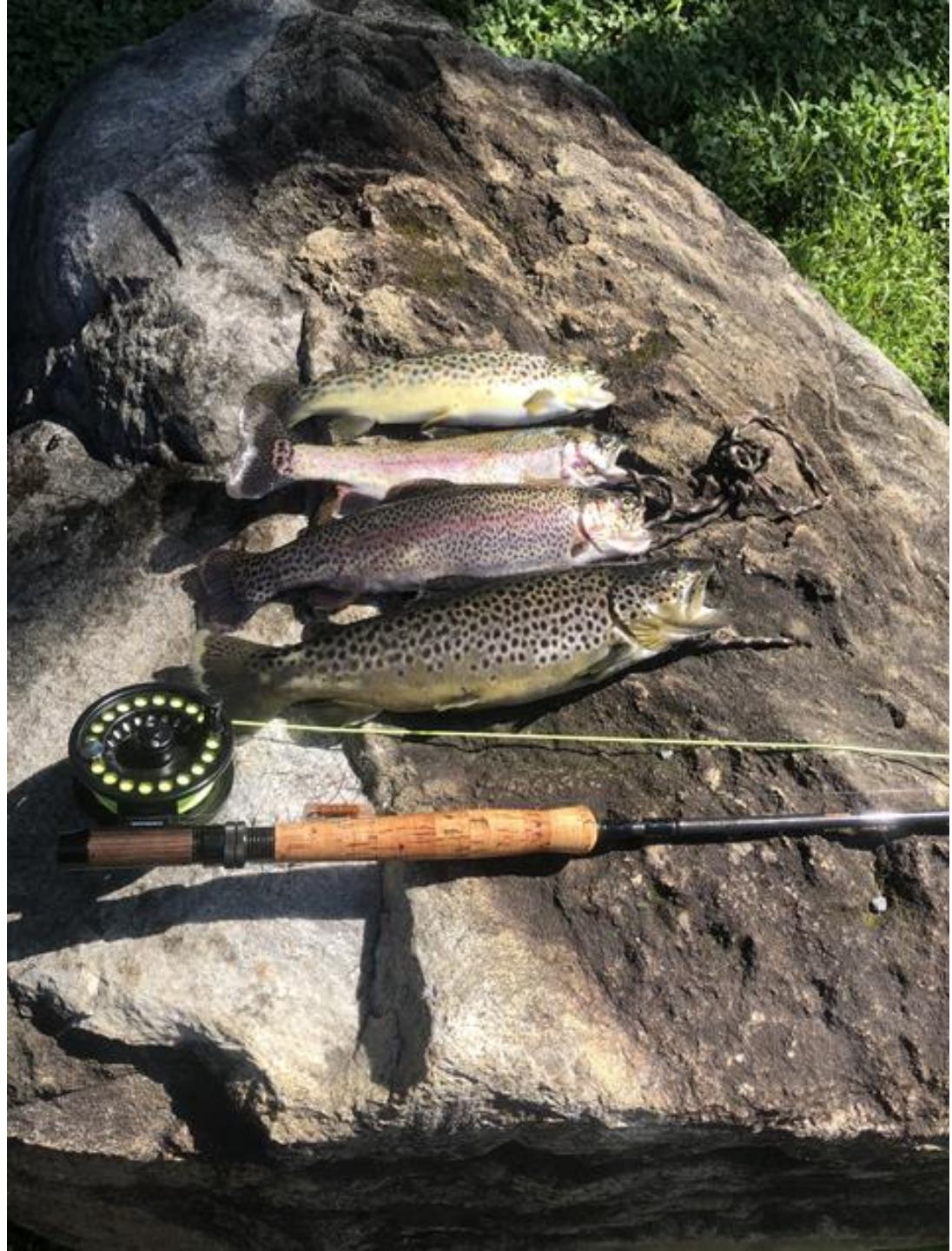


Capt. Brandon  
Henley  
([floridakeysflyfish  
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says fishing is  
hot in keys right  
now for permit,  
bones and  
tarpon. Give him  
a call if you like  
what you see!

Capt. Bryon Chamberlin reports: tarpon fishing off the beaches was pretty good before the west wind started blowing. I invited my friend Capt. Honson Lau up from Miami to fish with me a couple of days with good success despite the weekend boating crowds. Check in with our club guides for a great day on the water.



Club member Bryce writes: Walt, hope you are well! We're back up at our cabin in Blue ridge! The Toccoa was teeming with fish this morning! Landed 6, released 2 smaller guys and ended up with a hat trick of Browns!





## Fishing Report and Forecast

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

**Kayak guide Neil Taylor reports:** Fishing through June and to start July was way above average for the dead of summer. We had only one bad trip during the span with summer-like conditions and then the action bounced right back. Big trout were regular catches. When the trout bite died late in the morning we had outstanding action with silver trout. On the fly, trout were great. One man caught a 24 inch trout on one of my flies. The same guy caught 50 silver trout to end the day. For action, trout have been it. Pompano remain a mystery. After two awesome years, last year and this year are truly "off", but hat could change at any time. The fly I gave the guy was heavy in gold, some white and a weighted head. Originally made for pompano, it is catching everything. He also caught a mackerel, a bluefish and a seabass. One of the best fly fishing outings I have ever seen. In my opinion, the more it rains the better the fishing. We should be into the rainy season for two full months starting now. Contact Neil at [Livelybaits@aol.com](mailto:Livelybaits@aol.com) Phone: 727-692-6345

**Capt. Pat Damico:** Floating weeds and grass are things we must contend with when fishing with a fly rod this time of year. If a fly doesn't look natural, fish will refuse it. Green stuff on the fly hook will always get a refusal. Flies that represent baitfish must be moved through the water to look natural. Select fly patterns that have the hook pointed up with relatively stiff hair extending past the hook bend for a weedless option. If weeds are on the surface, use a weighted fly and even a sink tip line that will get your offering deeper, thus avoiding the weeds. Clouser type minnows and bend backs are good examples. Floating flies can also have the hook point upward or completely protected. Examples are mouse patterns tied with deer hair. If you tie your flies or have a fly tier who keeps you supplied, use a strand of 20- or 30-pound hard monofilament tied in at the head to protect the hook point. Single strand wire is also an effective alternative, especially for darker flies. Flies that encourage strikes with little movement are also a great choice; crab, shrimp and sand flea imitations fill the bill here. Don't cast until there is an opening in the grass. Pay attention to wind and tide. Accuracy really is important. You want your fly to hit an open spot that is weed-free. Practice casting to targets in your back yard to improve your ability to hit a small spot. When fishing canals or channels, the windward side will frequently have all the debris, leaving the other side open. Beach fishing is another great option targeting fish in the wash close to the sand. An easterly wind will help keep it a weed-free zone.

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** reports: a persistent west wind has kept me from tarpon fishing in the coastal gulf recently. Hopefully we'll go back to a normal weather pattern soon so we're able to fish the gulf. Tarpon fishing in the coastal gulf should be a good option now but conditions are important. Fishing deep grass flats of Sarasota Bay is also good choice for action with a variety of species including trout, blues and Spanish mackerel. Fishing dock lights in the ICW at night is usually dependable for snook and more. 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! Snook Fin-Addict Guide Service, Inc. (941) 923-7799 (office)



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 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 18 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb 21-22 Shad Outing, Mullet Lake campground
- Mar Casting Clinic
- Mar 29 Annual Banquet - Cancelled
- Apr 23 CCA Banquet - Cancelled
- June 27 Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct 10-17 Two Boys inn, Andros Island
- Oct Marine Quest, St Pete
- Oct 17-24 Mexico: Costa de Cocas trip
- Oct Carl Hanson Outing, Hillsborough River
- Nov 8-12 Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov 6-7 FFI Expo
- Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Nov Florida Sportsman Show
- Dec 3 Members Year End Party
- Dec 11 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

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- 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

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

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Dan Lagace.....813-929-6605  
Leigh West .....813-971-8697

### St. Petersburg

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

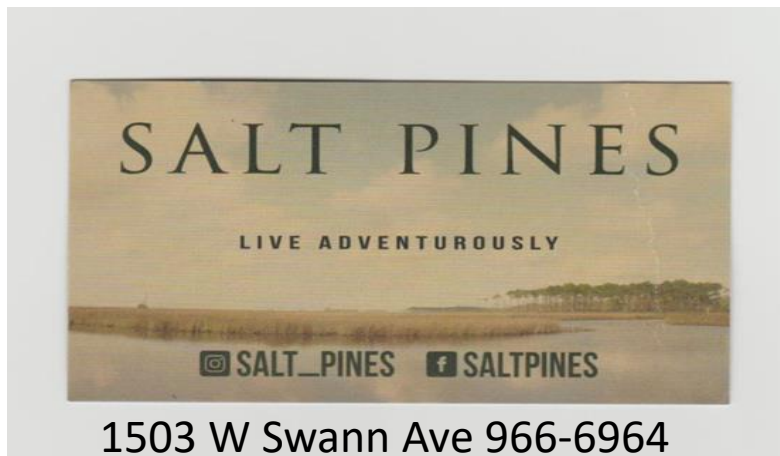
### Polk County

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

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## 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  
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