



**We are canceling our 7 October meeting due to the continued threat from COVID. We will try again on 4 November at Compton Park. Meanwhile, stay vigilant and safe.**

Photo of sunrise over Tampa Bay on an early morning walk along Bayshore. I hope you are staying safe and still making time to enjoy our outdoors. We walk along Bayshore many mornings and see magnificent sunrises, many birds, and the occasional snook and tarpon.

**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 when we can gather safely. I miss seeing you all and hope we get ahead of this virus soon.

**We are scheduled for 4 Nov at Compton Park.**

We are off to Blue Ridge, Georgia for a week of trout fishing. We hope for cool weather and good stream conditions. We are staying at a cabin owned by club member Dave Chouinard and have a trout stream in the backyard. I'll let you know how we did next month.

I am working with **Gina Russo** to have an outing at their new FWC site in Apollo Beach when it opens to the public.

//Walt Durkin 

## Project Healing Waters News

PHW has cancelled overnight all 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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Pat Damico	727-504-8649
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Bruce Anderson	813-960-8523
Keaton Anderson	
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

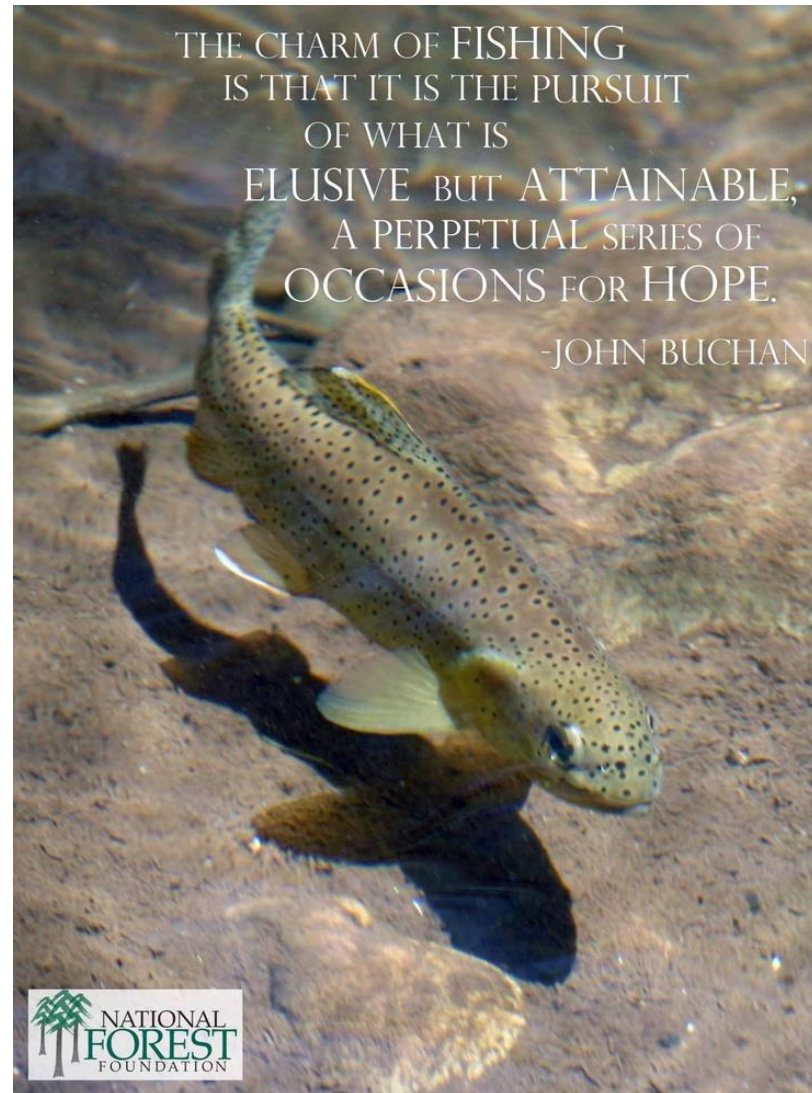
**Carl Hanson outing is 17 October** at Ft Desoto sponsored by the Suncoast Club.

**We are holding the Big Gun** on 15 November at Picnic Island. Look for the flyer on the next page and don't forget to get your ticket on Eventbrite. Please email me if you can help set up or score.

If we can't have a regular meeting in November, we will try to schedule something outside for an informal meeting on a Saturday in Dec. We all miss being together and hope and pray we can beat this virus sooner than later.

## TBFFC Moving from Compton Park

We got a reprieve at Compton Park for the time being thanks to Dr. Greg Stepanski. We will try Compton Park on 4 November. //Walt



# The BIG GUN SHOOT-OUT



Sponsored by the **Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club**

Sunday, November 15 at 9:00 a.m.

Picnic Island Park, Tampa (Shelter #611)

**Please go to Eventbrite to sign up for a free ticket. TBFFC Big Gun 2020.**

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tbffc-big-gun-2020-tickets-123234919963?utm\\_source=eventbrite&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=post\\_publish&utm\\_content=shortLinkNewEmail](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tbffc-big-gun-2020-tickets-123234919963?utm_source=eventbrite&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=post_publish&utm_content=shortLinkNewEmail)

Experts and beginners alike are invited to test their fly casting skills at the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club's annual "Big Gun Shoot-Out" casting competition!

Individuals and teams of 3 are welcome!

Plaques will be awarded for highest scoring individual, highest scoring teams, and the "Big Gun," the overall distance casting champion.

Contestants will participate in competition stations that mimic the challenges of fly fishing, such as casting under the mangroves, into a cup of water, or through a hoop suspended a few feet off the ground. Come out and give it a try – you'll be hooked!

The competition will run from 9 am - 12 pm. There is NO entry fee, and lunch will be provided to all contestants. You may use your own rod for all competition stations including the Big Gun distance contest. The long cast final for the Big Gun must be an 8 weight with a standard fly line. Volunteers also are needed to help set up the course and score contestants.

# Fly of the Month: Hula Shrimp

Hook: Gamakatsu SL11-3h, size 4

Thread: clear mono

Eyes: medium bead chain

Beads: medium strung bead chain in white, pearl or black from craft store

Flash: two strands of orange crystal flash

Tail: orange rabbit tied in at the bend

Braid: single strand of pearl braid tied on the bottom

Body wrap: pearl Flashaboo

Finish coat: UV finish

Terry Baird featured this fly in the Sep/Oct edition of Tail magazine. It's a small, shiny jig-type fly that could imitate a minnow or shrimp. It's easy and fun to tie with several variations. I have caught trout and mackerel on it and want to try it on redfish, snook and bone fish. Pompano should also love it with a bright tail.

The strung beads make a cool, segmented body tied in behind bead chain or lead eyes. The finished body consists of the beads, a flashaboo wrap and pearl braid on the bottom.

Tie the beads in loosely to keep them on each side of the hook. Once you add the other materials and the UV, everything will be solid. With this basic body you can add various tails and/or wings. The materials on the left make a shrimp version.

You can use different colors for the beads, body and tail. You can also add feathers on top or bunny as shown below. Look it up on YouTube for detailed tying instructions.



# Tenkara Fly Fishing

I mentioned taking up Tenkara fly fishing in last month's newsletter and received questions on the technique from several club members. Here is a little bit about what I know and may help get you started.

Tenkara is the simple Japanese method of fly-fishing, which uses only a rod, line and fly. Tenkara fly fishing is a minimalist type of fly fishing designed for mountain stream trout fishing. All you need for a day's fishing is your rod, line, extra tippet and a few flies. Many Tenkara fishers use only one or two patterns to keep things simple. A soft hackle wet fly like the partridge and orange is traditional, but you can fish any of your favorites, wet or dry.

A fixed length of line connects to the tip of the telescopic rod. Tenkara rods are ultra-portable, telescoping down to as little as 15 inches, but extending out to over 10 ft long. Casting the fly to where you think the fish are is very quick to learn and intuitive. You simply flip the fly out with your 12 ft rod, 12 foot line and 5 ft tippet. Work the fly as you normally would with a dead drift or imparting action. When the trout strikes, simply raise the rod and play the fish using the long flexible rod. Bring the fish gently to hand by grasping the line and finally the tippet.

If you enjoy fishing mountain streams, you'll enjoy the presentations provided by Tenkara, where you can cast on the other side of multiple currents for a clean fly presentation where no line gets dragged by the currents. Precise presentations with the long rod are a big advantage to Tenkara. Additionally, stealth is the name of the game, thus stay out of the water, wear sky or earth-toned clothing and don't let the fish see you when you're stalking them.

While not really practical for salt water you can fish our local ponds and canals just fine with your Tenkara. Just tie on you favorite fly and go for it. Sponge spiders or small streamers will be good choices. Look on the internet and YouTube for more information on this fun way to fly fish. I know, just what we need; another excuse to buy one more fly rod! //Walt



Here is a school of small bait fish on the Cypress flat in mid-September. I decided to check out the flat mid-day during a strong NE wind. The wind did blow the tide out pretty low and the bar was showing on the outside. I waded the whole length and saw only one red and snook. We are looking forward to winter tides, which will start in November. I prefer to sight fish and winter gives us our best opportunities. Cypress is a great flat with good sand, grass and bait.

Kris Smythe redfish photo



Club member **Rich Gorden** on the left with a big jack caught in Naples. **Ted** to the right with a Tampa Bay jack. We have seen quite a few jacks chasing bait this fall.





Club member **Bryce** caught a snook and a red on a gurgler that this friend **Seth** taught him to tie. Way to go guys!



Ted with a nice snook and Walt with a good jack. The jack was in Tampa Bay off the East Beach at Ft Desoto. The snook was up in Ozello where we caught two snook and a trout. Club member Rich Gorden guided Ted and I for the day as he fishes that area quite a bit. Ozello is great kayak country and good fishing. A bit over an hour's drive from Tampa, but far from the maddening crowds.



## Fishing Report and Forecast

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

**Kayak guide Neil Taylor reports:** No question, for the end of summer, this is the best action I have ever seen. It has just been magnificent and sunrise is the way to go. Afternoon attempts do not work as well. In a word: Easy. Getting on action has been nothing and I think the species closures have worked. It has translated to excellent opportunities with trout, easily the best target. But there are all kinds of options. Time will continue to heal this fishery, but it is very good these days. The Neil Fly has connected good. It has a weighted head and a mixture of white and gold. An easy tie, my clients who use it have enjoyed great results. The variety has been good. We have caught huge bluefish, many snapper. Additionally, we have jumped tarpon are catching redfish and snook. Ladyfish and jacks crash the party some days while, not what I am after, they do provide action. With October's arrival, even better opportunities are dead ahead. **Contact Neil at [Livelybaits@aol.com](mailto:Livelybaits@aol.com)** Phone: 727-692-6345

**Capt. Pat Damico:** “We used to practice on Tampa Bay redfish to catch bonefish in the Keys, now we practice on bonefish in the Keys to catch Tampa Bay redfish.” That’s a quote by Lefty Kreh, a well-respected fly fisherman. Fishing and boating pressure has changed our local fish behavior. Schools of reds are starting to feed heavily in the shallow water of our bay and surrounding areas in preparation for an upcoming spawn. Guides who fish with bait are reporting many successful outings. Are those of us who prefer fly fishing at a disadvantage? Fly fishing for reds in shallow water is more like hunting. Be very stealthy, cautious, wear clothes that blend in with the environment, and be able to make long accurate casts with a minimum of false casting. If in a boat or kayak, leave the watercraft and wade slowly enough not to cause a ripple. Carefully place a good imitation of a baitfish, shrimp or crab close to the nose of a wary red. If fish are moving, lead them as you would when wing shooting. The cast will be where the fish will be soon after it lands. When pursuing tailing or slow-moving sighted fish, drop the offering close to the fish’s nose without pulling it into his face. Smaller flies, size 2-4, and long fine leaders are necessary. Everyone wants to know what fly pattern will work. Presentation is always more important than a specific pattern. When using a baitfish, shrimp or crab fly, work it like what you are trying to imitate. **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: Fishing should turn on this month. Schools of reds will begin to break up and scatter on shallow flats. There should also be good action with snook and big trout in shallow water. Snook will gorge themselves at night around lighted docks in the ICW. There should also be good action in the coastal gulf with Spanish mackerel, false albacore (little tunny), tripletail and cobia. You might also still find tarpon anywhere from upper Charlotte Harbor and Tampa Bay to along the beaches. Snook, reds and spotted seatrout remain closed to harvest on the west coast of Florida. The Florida FWC has extended a temporary modification of regulations for reds, snook and trout, in the areas affected by the recent red tide. The area extends from Pasco County, south to the south bank of Gordon Pass in Collier County. Reds, snook and trout are catch and release only in that zone until May 31, 2021. Full details including exact boundaries can be found at <https://myfwc.com/news/all-news/extended-cnr-220/>. 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



## 2020/21 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 18 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb 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 (postponed)
- Oct (virtual) Marine Quest, St Pete
- Oct 17-24 Mexico: Costa de Cocas trip (postponed)
- Oct ?? Carl Hanson Outing, Hillsborough River
- Nov 8-12 Chattooga Trip for trout still a go
- Nov 6-7 FFI Expo
- Nov 15 Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Cancelled Florida Sportsman Show
- Dec 3 (maybe) Member's Year End Party
- Dec Cancelled Play Hooky at the Hatchery
- Dec Don Coleman Outing, Ft Desoto
- Jan 16 Fly Casting Clinic

## 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 Grasset (941) 923-7799
- Capt. John Hand (239) 842-7778
- Capt. Greg Peterson (423) 432-1973

## Fly Casting Coaches

### South Tampa

Steve Parker.....813-287-5583  
Walt Durkin.....813-853-5870

### North Tampa

Robert Fischer.....813-495-5685  
Dan Lagace.....813-929-6605  
Leigh West .....813-971-8697

### St. Petersburg

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

### Polk County

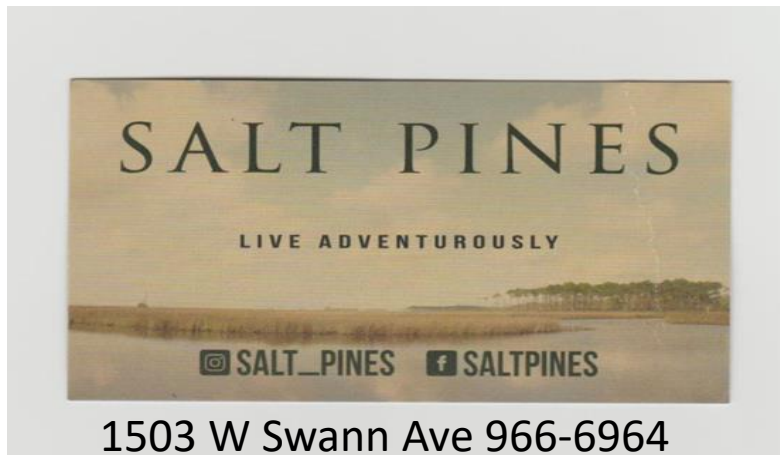
Capt. Frank Rhodes.....863-967-4258



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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

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