



**We are canceling our 4 November meeting due to the continued threat from COVID. Look to meet again in 2021 when we are safer from the virus.**

Photo shows Patty Anderson fishing Jack's River in Georgia's Cohutta Wilderness Area. This beautiful river holds only wild trout after a two-mile hike in. This is one of the rivers we fished on a week's trip to Blue Ridge, Ga, in early October.

**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 likely will not have a regular meeting until 2021 because of the virus. Let's do our best and see what a new year brings.

Meanwhile we have our Big Gun on 15 November. Please try to come out and at least say hello. And, we always need a few folks to help with scoring.

We are also planning on our Play Hooky outing on 11 Dec at the Suncoast Youth Center in Apollo Beach. **Gina Russo** is setting that up for us and we will fish their pond as we did on the old site. More details in December.

The Mangrove club invited us to their zoom meeting in October. Let me know if you were able to attend and how it was.

The Suncoast will also have a zoom meeting with Andy Mills as a speaker. I'll email instructions for that.

//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>
<a href="mailto:Walt.durkin@aol.com">Walt.durkin@aol.com</a>	<b>cell 813-853-5870</b>
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Pat Damico	727-504-8649
Robert Fischer	813-495-5685
Bruce Anderson	813-960-8523
Keaton Anderson	404-313-7820
Kris Smythe	813-767-2389



## TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

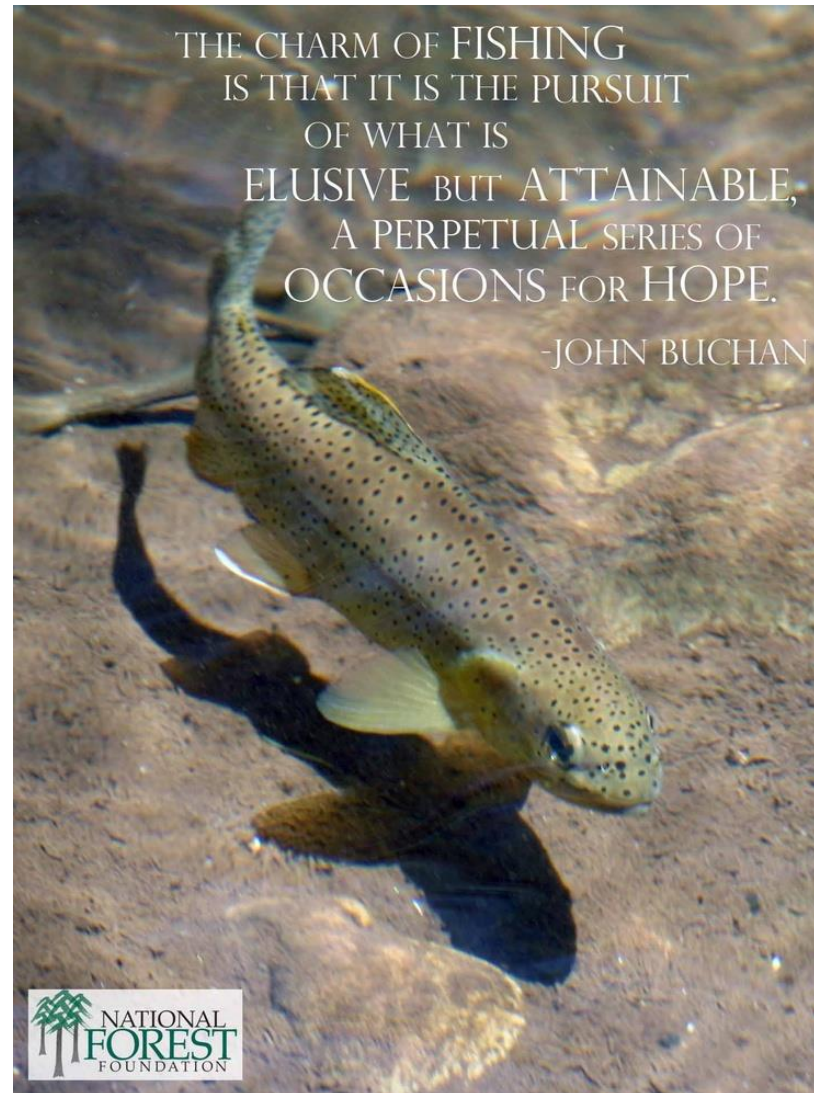
### Kayak guide Neil Taylor:

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

**Carl Hanson outing is 17 October Report:** About 30 members from our clubs enjoyed an outing and lunch at Ft Desoto. Much thanks to the Suncoast club for organizing and providing food. Masks were worn and I think we had a safe and much-needed outdoor event. Club member **Robert Fischer** won the traveling trophy for the most fish for the second year in a row. Suncoast members won for the most trout (3) and for a 26 inch snook. See the Suncoast newsletter for more details. We had a good day despite windy conditions and hope we can soon enjoy more outings together.

**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. **Please be prepared to wear a mask a keep a good social distance.**

**Robert Fischer** won fourth place in the CCA Star tournament fly rod division. The prize was a nice gas grill. He thanks the trout in Tampa Bay and Smitty's flies for the win.



# 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.

## Blue Ridge Georgia Trout Trip

Six club members (3 couples) traveled to Blue Ridge for a week's fishing, hiking and general hell raising. Okay, only as much hell raising as six senior citizens can muster on a good day. We rented Trout Haven, a three bedroom house (Property # 1921739) located on Fighting Town creek. The house was very comfortable, well set up with a hot tub and fire pit. The stream out back is beautiful and holds stocked trout. You are free to enjoy the stretch behind the property for fly fishing catch-and-release.

Blue Ridge is a charming small town north-west of Atlanta, about a 10-hour drive from Tampa right up I-75. A number of trout streams are within an hour's drive of town. While you are in Blue Ridge, don't miss an opportunity to visit Oyster Fine Bamboo Fly Rods workshop on East Main Street. And, next door is the Cohutta Fishing Company, a full service fly shop with good local knowledge. We fished the Toccoa, Cooper's Creek, Noontoola Creek, Jack's River and Rock Creek over six days. The Toccoa was right near town and the easiest to access and fish.

The Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery, which is located on Rock Creek in Fannin County, stocks thousands of trout in the primary streams of the Toccoa River watershed between March and July. Among the most popular are Rock Creek, Coopers Creek and the main-stem Toccoa River. They are easily located, seen and fished along paved and graveled state, county and forest service roads.

In the 1960s, Noontootla Creek was removed from the trout stocking schedule of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Since that time, the pretty stream has stood as a bookmark among wild trout streams of the Peach State. Jacks River in north Georgia's Cohutta Wilderness Area also holds only wild trout. After a three mile drive along a forest service road (read gravel), you hike two miles to the river. This was my favorite day, catching wild trout in a wilderness with no other fishermen.

We caught perfect weather with cool mornings in the 40's and 50's and highs in the low 80's with sunny days. The trees were just starting to change color while we were there, but should be in full bloom in November. I recommend the area for great trout fishing and sightseeing. Do good research before you go to find the streams and access points. You will find lots of information on the internet or in books and magazines to help. A great getaway any time of year.

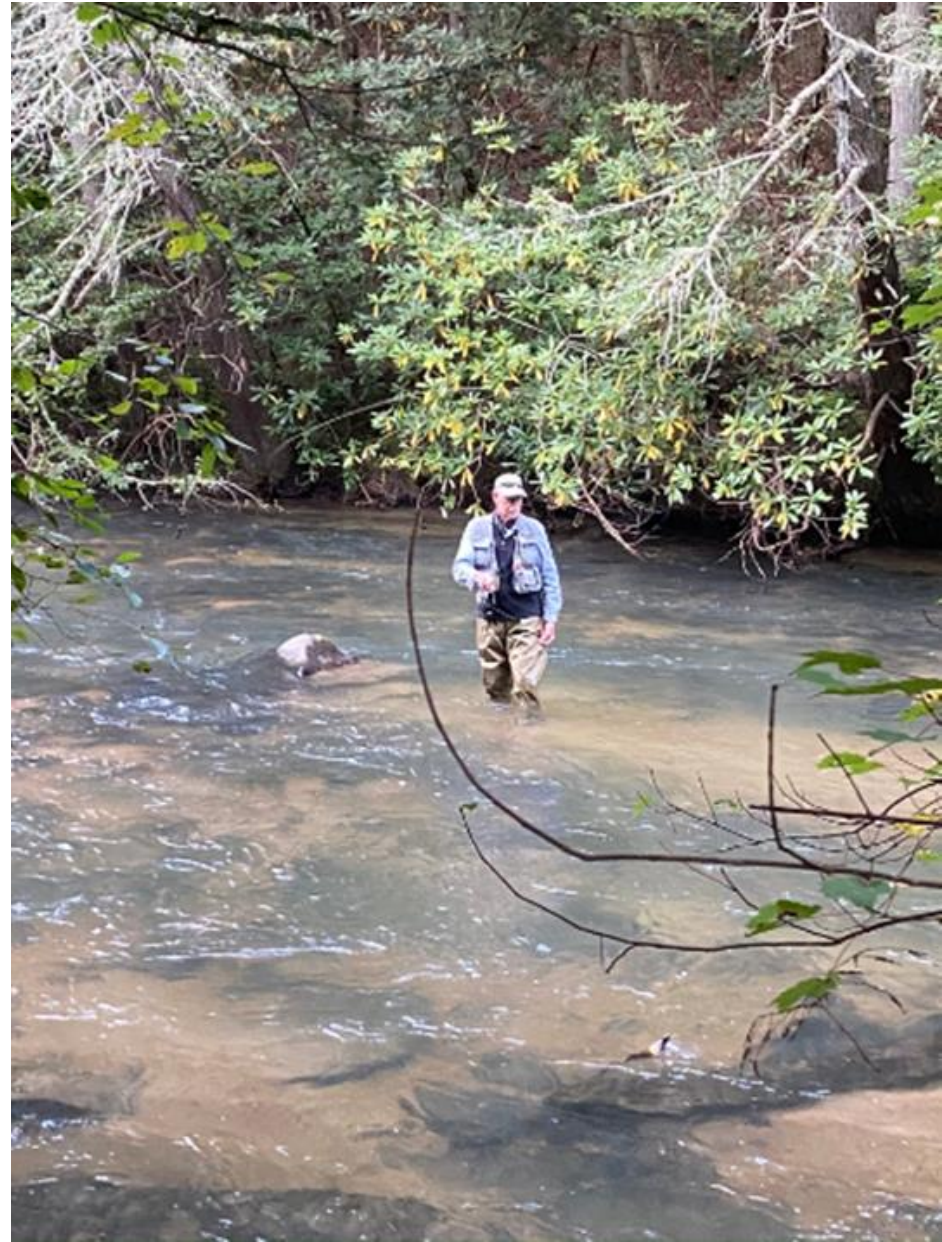


Lou caught her first trout on the Tenkara and Patty taking a break while rigging on Jack's River





Bruce Anderson fishing Jack's River below left and Ted Hagaman fishing Fighting Town Creek behind our rental house. Ted caught nice rainbow there the first evening.





Photos from our Carl Hanson outing with the Suncoast Club. We caught a windy day, but still had fun. The kites are over East Beach. Below right are the 8 TBFFC members. Thanks to the Suncoast for a great time!





Mark Hays awards Robert Mitchell the art work for the largest fish at the Carl Hanson outing. Good job on a very windy day.





Club member Leigh West with a 32 inch red and a 29 inch snook.





Club member Keaton Anderson and local guide with a couple of great catches. Keaton works the fly shop at Tampa Fishing Outfitters. Stop by for some new gear and set up a trip!



Club member Andrew Smith of Saltpines reports: Walt, finally found some time to get out between work and grad school with Capt. Dustin Pack for a couple hours one evening. Saw some really good schools of redfish that had some smaller snook hiding in them. We were able to stalk them on foot. All together a great evening. Photos were taken by Chad Smith who is an amazing photographer and can be found on Instagram.





Club member Jim Adams  
with a nice jack caught on  
the East Coast



Club member Bryce caught his first snook on a new paddleboard!





Rich Gorden reports: Fished the fly division of the Redsnook Charity tournament in Naples this weekend. We caught a bunch of little snook, but couldn't find any hungry redfish. Btw, I did catch a 32" snook in my kayak about 100' from where you caught yours in Ozello on a topwater.



Ted with a snook on the Legion flat.





Jack on the right was on a devil stick, but I caught the one below on a red and yellow seaducer, one of my favorite attractor patterns. Tie it in red/yellow, all brown, or all grizzly. Chico came up with this pattern probably 60 years ago and it is still a winner. It's easy to tie and easy to fish. Add a weed guard and you have a good fly to toss around or under mangroves.



## Fishing Report and Forecast

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

**Kayak guide Neil Taylor reports:** A lull in the schedule, gets busier when the tides get better. On good tides, the action is just simply easy. A lot of trout trips and it only takes a couple of hours to get to 100 trout. Redfish holes that were once great just aren't anymore. Snook are still not fully recovered, ten years later. On the trips, bluefish have been caught regularly. Pompano? It never happened. Second year in a row. My pompano fly continues to catch everything else. That fly started spreading around more. The fly fishing clients have enjoyed the easy action. Going at sunrise has remained the way to go but getting into November the bite will extend into midday. For now, it's still getting out before sunrise. We will keep doing it that way until we get real cold fronts. **Contact Neil at [Livelybaits@aol.com](mailto:Livelybaits@aol.com)**  
Phone: 727-692-6345

**Capt. Pat Damico reports:** Baby tunny, or false albacore, are perfect for fly rod fun. Large schools of these speedy predators are presently along our beaches and are easiest to find in passes where there is strong tidal flow and tons of baitfish. Both an incoming or outgoing tide will trigger feeding action easily seen because terns and seagulls will feed heavily on baitfish pushed to the surface. A pair of binoculars will allow you to scan a larger area. Once feeding fish are observed, position your boat ahead of the school and shut down your outboard. Leaving the motor on will put down the fish. The tide will bring the fish closer to you so a quick cast can be made. 9 weight fly rods are needed with a good reel that has 150 yards of backing and an efficient drag. A 30-pound hard monofilament shock tippet is needed to prevent cutoffs from sharp teeth. Wire leaders will spook fish and reduce takes. White or chartreuse over white flies that match baitfish size are used and must be stripped very fast to replicate fleeing baitfish. A sink tip or full sinking fly line, rather than a floating line, will get you deeper where the largest fish are often found. 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:** Fish the coastal gulf for false albacore (little tunny), Spanish mackerel and tripletail when conditions are good. Fishing deep grass flats of Sarasota Bay is also a good choice for action with a variety of species including trout, blues and Spanish mackerel. Shallow water action for reds and snook should turn on as the water cools. 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



## 2020/21 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
- 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 11 Play Hooky at the Suncoast Youth Center
- 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

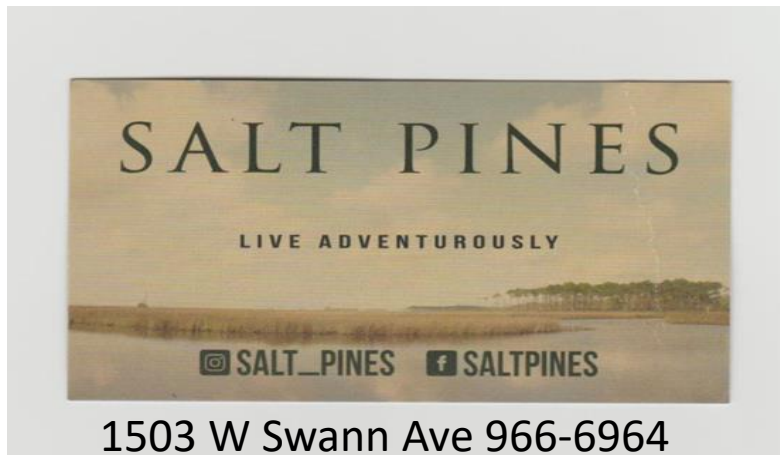
### Polk County

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

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- BARBED STEEL CHARTERS, Capt. Bryon Chamberlin, (813) 361-8801, captbryon@yahoo.com..
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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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