



We will meet on 2 February at Compton Park and plan on a safe meeting. Some COVID restrictions will still be in place though. Hope you all are staying safe and finding time to get out on the water. **Please bring and wear a mask.**

Please join us for a presentation by club member **Keaton Anderson** on musky fishing in Tennessee (McMinnville Tennessee). He stayed for 3 nights in an Airbnb and fished the Collins River around Rock Island. Keaton is a local guide and works the fly shop at Tampa Fishing Outfitters on N Dale Mabry. Tampa Fishing Outfitters is a generous sponsor of our club and will offer club members a ten percent discount. Stop by and talk to Keaton or Kris at the fly shop desk. Additionally, **Leigh West** is our feature tyer and will tie his green and gold, a go-to pattern all year.

## CDC Notice Regarding Meeting Places

In order to protect the health of TBFFC members, all attendees must self-screen for symptoms or other risk factors of COVID-19 before attending monthly meetings.

Your answer must be “no” to the following questions before attending:

- Have you experienced any of the following symptoms in the past 48 hours: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea?
- Have you been in close physical contact in the last 14 days with anyone who is known to have laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 OR anyone who has any symptoms consistent with COVID-19?
- Are you isolating or quarantining because you may have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 or are worried that you may be sick with COVID-19?
- Are you currently waiting on the results of a COVID-19 test?

If you answer “yes” to any of the above questions, please do not come to the meeting. Please wear a mask if you are not vaccinated. Thanks. //Walt

**Directions to Our Meetings (6:30 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 hanging in there and taking care of each other. Check out our fishing report for tips and try to get out on the water.

Thanks to **Jonas Magnuson** for a great talk last month on fly fishing in his native Iceland. Jonas presented beautiful pictures and good information on fishing in Iceland. Thanks also to **Smitty** for tying; he is a real artist. Finally, thanks to **Capt. Pat Damico** and the Suncoast Club for hosting a super fly casting clinic in January. This was a good, low cost opportunity for members of both clubs to increase their casting ability. Quick, accurate casts are key to fly fishing success. Jonas Magnuson is available for individual help.

I will pass out club cards at our next meeting to all members. Please carry a few and pass them to prospective members.

**Ted Hagaman** has offered to coordinate club outings. Our goal is at least one a quarter for some hands-on outdoor experience and fun.

Please remember to pay club dues if you are not current for the year.

//Walt Durkin 

## Quotes for the Month:

“The traveler fancies he has seen the country. So he has, the outside of it at least; but the angler only sees the inside. The angler only is brought close, face to face with the flower and bird and insect life of the rich riverbanks, the only part of the landscape where the hand of man has never interfered.” ~ *Charles Kingsley*

If fishing is interfering with your business, give up your business. “ ~ *Alfred W. Miller*

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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<a href="mailto:Walt.durkin@aol.com">Walt.durkin@aol.com</a>	cell <b>813-853-5870</b>
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Bruce Anderson	813-786-3902
Keaton Anderson	404-313-7820
Kris Smythe	813-767-2389

## TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

I left off last month's newsletter the card of new corporate sponsor, **Rick Happle**. I have re-added it and you can contact Rick at (813) 964-4217 for investment or financial advice.

### Trash and Treasures Meeting

Our March meeting will feature a Trash and Treasure auction. So, check out your garage or attic and find an item or items you are not using and bring them to the meeting as a donation. We will auction them off as a club fund raiser. We will then use the proceeds to give away local guide trips to members each month. If you can't find anything to donate just come with a few bucks to make the buy of a lifetime! Bring anything you can donate, fishing related or not as we try to raise money for club trips.

**Captain Pat Damico** sent this video on tying minnow patterns on jig hooks. Check it out!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRvkevW-AU>

**Patty Anderson** has offered to help as our social media coordinator. She will update our Facebook page as needed. We also need help in identifying corporate sponsors. Let us know if you know of a business that could help.

## RedFly Tournament 15 January Results from Captain John Bull

Needless to say, RedFly #16 was another huge success! We smashed our old participation record with 84 anglers yesterday. Fishing was tough. Of those 84 anglers, there were only 15 fish weighed in. If you would have asked me yesterday morning how many fish would be weighed in, I would have put money down that at least 2X that many would be caught....and that it would take 60+ to win. I was wrong on both counts. The conditions were ripe first thing in the morning and then the fish shut down as the day progressed. Many of the top fly anglers in the Tampa Bay area fished and many had little to no success. That is why they call it fishing not catching. Our prize raffle was amazing!! Jeremy Cobo will be going fishing with Jared Raskob down in Islamorada in near future. He was so excited to win that trip. In all, we raised \$2260 for Tampa Bay Waterkeeper. That is a huge number and that money will go a long way to help that organization do what they need to do for our Tampa Bay aquatic resource.

### RedFly #16 Results

1. John Brett/Tripp Sanders - 56.5"
2. Russell Jacobs/Josh Dupree - 56"
3. Vince Azoy/Kyle Nalls - 52.25"
4. Ken Tutalo - 38.5"
5. Micah Patel/Jon David - 30.25"
6. Greg Altman/Bobby Carbonara - 28"
7. Derek Ball - 27.5"
8. Tim Phillips/Eddie Kline - 25.25"
9. John Clarkson/Matt Clark - 24.5"
10. Harry Moore/Clay Witt - 24"
11. Jeremy Cobo - 23"

We'll see you January 2023 for RedFly #17!!!



# Fly Fishing Tip of the Month

by Jonas Magnuson

## The Carry!

The Suncoast Club hosted a casting clinic Jan. 8th. I helped there and noticed one particular error several intermediate casters made. They were making nice false casts and then suddenly they lost control before shooting the line. I have suffered from the same malaise. All casters have a certain length of line they can comfortably carry in the air false casting. Beginners can't carry much line but little by little they are able to carry more line. We refer to that length as their carry. Distance casters can and must carry say 100' of line to be able to reach 120'. So, the carry length is highly individual. As we practice, we can carry more line.

Back to our intermediate casters – it turned out they were slipping line (releasing a bit of line on the back cast and/or front cast). Thus, they were increasing their carry, and some didn't even realize it, and in the end, they had moved past their carry limit. What happens then is that the line can't be kept straight neither in front nor in the back and control over the line is lost. Consequently, they were introducing slack into their cast with the known outcome. The remedy is to teach a caster where his/her carry limit is. That task turns out to be very easy. So, now we have established the individual's carry limit. Then we just have some line at the ready to be shot on delivery. When our casters observed their carry limit and then shot the line, they suddenly were able to get more distance than previously.

## Seeking the Perfect Redfish Fly

I like to tie and am always looking for a new, more effective fly; or, that mystical magic fly that the fish love and hit almost every time. While that is fun and keeps me busy, experience has shown I likely will never identify the “magic” fly.

Along those lines, my fishing buddy Ted showed me a new variation of a fly while we were walking off the Cypress flat one morning. The fly was a Seaducer pattern developed many years ago to imitate a shrimp or minnow. Tied with splayed tail feathers and a palmered head, it has held up well over the years. Ted simply replaced feathers with a craft fur tail and added black markings. This produced a very light fly with great motion in the water. Tied with a mono weed guard, you can easily fish it shallow over grass; and, like the Seaducer, tied in various colors it resembles a shrimp or minnow.

I tied one in brown and one in tan and tried one the first week of January at the MacDill flat. The weather, tides and fish cooperated and over three days I caught 9 reds on the brown color of the new fly. Could this be the magic pattern for reds? While I caught 9 reds, I probably had 90 good shots and showed the fly to happy fish. Thus, only one in ten reds jumped on the fly. I was happy it worked, but refusals and no takes far outnumbered the strikes. Nonetheless, I will keep this neat fly in my box and fish it again.

The fish on the MacDill flat were tailing and bottom oriented as they often are in winter. Additionally, we often see big, single reds moving slowly along the sandy bottom at Cypress. These fish are staring at the bottom and will tail every few minutes when they find something. I have no idea what they are feeding on as you certainly can't see anything edible. Perhaps a small worm or crab, I don't know. If you patiently show these fish a well-presented small crab or shrimp you will get the one-in-ten fish to eat. Not great odds, but not hopeless either. If you see enough fish you can score two or three for a good day.

Reds are easier to catch under these conditions: Look for a school of fish that are ideally coming right at you. These fish may be tailing or mostly just moving slowly. Get your fly out in front, on the bottom and bump it a little as the fish approach. Maybe they feel safer in a school and a little more competitive, but you often get more strikes in this situation. Also, reds will sometimes key on and look for bait when it is around the same as jacks do. These are the easiest fish to target and will often hit a minnow pattern the same size as the bait. One morning at Cypress two years ago, I found jacks chasing and scattering bait all over the flat. Reds soon showed up and joined the action. A small bend-back minnow was all you needed and every red hit the fly when I was able to show it to them.

While we continue to look for the holy grail of redfish flies, what should we have in our box? I try to get by with about six patterns I have faith in and tie them in two or three colors and weights. They will represent shrimp, crabs or minnows. Also, remember that while a good fly is important, presentation is even more important. In the winter, use a good leader of 12 feet down to 12 pound test fluoro. Practice casting for an accurate presentation from 20 to 50 feet. Long casts are not usually required for sight fishing on the flat.

Club member Leigh West designed a Green and Gold bend-back years ago that is very good as a light minnow pattern. This fly also has the advantage of being weedless, thus effective over grass. This fly is a winner and you can fish it all year, but perhaps most effective in the spring and fall when baitfish are present.



The traditional Seaducer is also a good light minnow pattern. Tied with a mono weed guard you can fish it effectively over grass. Tie it in red/yellow, all brown or all grizzly. Also tie Ted's variation with the banded craft fur tail. This gives the fly a different look and action tied in green, brown or tan for best results.



You should also have a couple of Gurglers in your box. Reds are usually bottom oriented, but will hit a top water fly and the Gurgler is my go-to top water fly. Tie it in white and black with a lively marabou tail and a little flash.



Finally, find two or three small shrimp and crab patterns you like. Have some with bead chain eyes (light) and some with lead eyes to get down a little quicker. These should be your go to flies in winter while sight fishing . Some examples below include the micro flexo crab, Kwan fly and rat fly. The rat fly is a good generic bug tied with a Puglisi brush head, lead eyes, an orange hot spot and two small zonker stripes on each side.



Please keep in mind these suggestions are for difficult to catch Tampa Bay redfish. I read an article recently of guys fishing for reds in Texas and they caught lots of reds and switched flies after each fish. Additionally, those big reds in Louisiana readily take many different flies from what I read. I did not mention the Clouser minnow, which is a very useful fly in the saltwater. Small versions can be fished in winter with good results. Finally, carrying a few spoon flies is a good idea and can be effective at times. While I have focused on redfish, all the flies mentioned will work just fine on snook, trout and other game fish.

I hope these suggestions help and are based on my experience over the last ten years and countless trips. However, each trip is a new adventure and a chance to watch, learn and experiment. Look for good sight fishing opportunities in the winter and watch how the fish react to your fly. Try new patterns and see how they work. If you find that magic fly let me know. Meanwhile, get out there and take advantage of our beautiful local waters. //Walt Durkin Jan 2022



We have had some good days chasing redfish at MacDill and the Cypress flat in January. On the low tides in early January Ted and I caught 14 tailing reds over three days. They ate a small shrimp fly and Ted's seaducer variation. On the low tides in mid-January the reds showed up happy at Cypress. Club member **Rich Gorden** had an epic day with 14 reds. All told, almost 30 reds were site-fished that day with perfect conditions. Club member **Bruce Anderson** caught his first two reds of the year.



## Everglades Trip

Eight club members fished from Everglades City in late January for three days. Fishing was slow with mostly ladyfish and jacks, but we did get a few snook and trout. Two days of perfect weather and then one of rain. We trailed our boats and stayed at the River Wilderness Waterfront Villas. We fished the outside islands and also the back country. No boat troubles and we did not go aground or get lost! A great sunrise on the first morning outside our window.





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## Chassahowitzka River Trip

Four club members spent the day at the Chas and explored the river from a kayak and paddleboards. We saw manatees and caught a few bass in the crystal clear water. We will schedule a club outing there in the spring. This is a beautiful part of old Florida to fish and explore in a small boat. Kayaks are available to rent.



# Club Welcomes New Certified Casting Instructor Jonas Magnusson



Jonas believes the very best way to learn the basics is to get solid instructions from a certified casting instructor. Accordingly, Jonas is ready and willing to teach fly casting to interested members. Jonas is new to Tampa and learning our waters, but is an experienced fly fisherman and certified instructor. Jonas also teaches veterans working with Project Healing Waters. Meet Jonas at our next meeting or give him a call at 361 903 2846.



## Casting Platform for Sale

Aluminum casting platform with removable backrest, 39" x 24" x 18". Built by Sanchez Bros. Very good condition. Ideal for flats or bay boat to raise you 18" above the deck. \$300.  
**Call Robert Fischer 813-495-5685.**



## Fishing Report and Forecast

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

Cold water and fish that prefer warm conditions are a tough combination for fly fishers. Small baitfish, primarily glass minnows, will be in canals and well-protected areas, especially where the sun can warm the darker bottom. This means that an early start, even with a moving tide, usually will not be very productive. Seawalls, wooden structures such as docks, and boats with large wood hulls absorb heat, inviting fish to stay close. A water thermometer is a necessity. If your boat is not equipped with one, get an inexpensive pool thermometer. A few degrees make a big difference. Seek the warmest places. Cold-blooded fish will be lethargic and not eager to chase a fly. On shallow grass flats, fish will be in sand holes, improving sight-fishing opportunities. These will show as a light-colored bottom devoid of grass. Probe these with well-placed casts allowing your fly to sink to the bottom before starting a slow retrieve. A large sand hole should be fished carefully, especially if few fish are present. A smooth surface with no wind might help fly casting, but larger fish will spook easier. A ripple on the surface will get you closer to fish. Fish on the windward side rather than in the lee because the wind pushes plankton close to shore and available baitfish will be there feeding. Schools of mullet are always a guide to where trout and reds feel more comfortable, relaxing their guard. Captain Pat Damico reports: *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:** Trout and redfish should be good shallow water options this month. You may also find trout along with blues, Spanish mackerel, pompano and flounder on deep grass flats. Look for sheepshead, flounder, reds and more around docks. Catch and release night snook fishing around lighted docks in the ICW may be a good option if it's not too cold. Spanish mackerel, king mackerel and cobia may show up in the coastal gulf by the end of the month depending on conditions.

You might find reds in potholes or along the edges of bars and shallow flats when the tide is low. As the tide rises, they will feed higher on shallow flats, particularly on sunny afternoons. Fly anglers should score with lightly weighted flies on floating lines with 10'-12' leaders. My Grasset Flats Minnow fly is my "go to" fly for fishing skinny water. You may also find big trout in skinny water in the same places you find reds. The same flies and techniques that you use to target reds will work for big trout in those areas. I release all over slot trout since they are usually females and I feel that they are important to the health of our trout fishery. Big fish, spawn big fish! Our natural resources are under constant pressure from red tides fueled by industrial, agricultural and residential runoff, toxic spills and discharges, freezes, increasing fishing pressure and habitat loss and degradation, please limit your kill, don't kill your limit!



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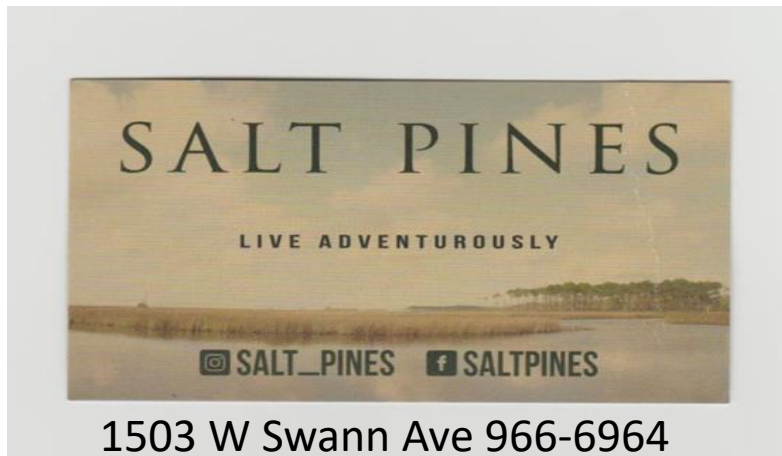
## 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 8 Casting Clinic
- Jan 15 Red Fly Tournament
- June Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct (virtual) Marine Quest, St Pete
- Oct Carl Hanson Outing
- Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Cancelled Florida Sportsman Show
- Dec Play Hooky at the Suncoast  
Youth Center
- Dec Don Coleman Outing, Ft Desoto

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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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## 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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# Member Application

Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

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Please Check: One Year \_\_\_\_\_ Five Year \_\_\_\_\_

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

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(includes two memberships or family membership and

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Five-year dues: \$100.00 Individual Membership

\$140.00 Family Membership

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