

July Meeting



Northdale Recreation Center
15550 Spring Pine Dr, Tampa, FL
from 0630 to 0830 on **Tuesday, 5 July**

Join us as we continue our transition to a new meeting place in North Tampa.

This month Dr. John Millns and Ms. Laura Millns (PA-C) will offer a free skin screening for club members. We do this every other year as a reminder to practice good skin care on the water. They will screen you individually and note any areas of concern. You may follow-up with them or another doctor if needed.

We will also tie flies, practice casting, swap stories and eat pizza. Arrive for casting at 5:30 with Jonas and the meeting will start indoors at 6:30. We are in the big room this month. //Walt



Directions to Our Meetings (6:30 pm): Take Dale Mabry north past Ehrlich Road and then left on Northdale Blvd. Then left on Spring Pine Drive and straight to the center on the right.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Join us at the Northdale Rec Center as we transition to our new meeting place. This center is a little more centrally located and we hope to hold and increase attendance. We will meet from 6:30 to 8:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month from June onwards.

Arrive an hour early to practice casting with our senior instructor Jonas. We will cast in the field to the right of the parking lot.

Thanks to our tyers last month, Dale and Smitty. Smitty will also bring his in-water fly tester, so bring your favorite fly to test out.

Thanks also to Capt. Bryon Chamberlin who presented a class on how to fly fish for tarpon off our coast. Bryon gave a great talk with superb action shots. As well as being a world class fly fisherman, Bryon is also a skilled photographer. Contact him or one of our other club guides for a great day on the water.

I am out in Colorado for awhile and will miss the July meeting. I hope everyone is staying cool and avoiding the heat. Beach snook fishing is a good option. See our fishing reports for how to catch beach snook.

Club member **George Ross** has been going to the Skyway fishing pier for gag grouper fishing and caught two. Check out our fishing report for tips.

//Walt Durkin 

Quotes for the Month:

“Whether I caught fish or not, just the thrill of rolling out that line and watching my fly turn over has been good enough for me. That and the hundreds of treasured memories I have of this wonderful sport.” ~ Curt Gowdy

“I think I fish, in part, because it’s an anti-social, bohemian business that, when gone about properly, puts you forever outside the mainstream culture without actually landing you in an institution.” ~ John Gierach

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Rick Valeri	813-681-9143
Patty Anderson	813-787-2556
Denise Bruner	813-748-5065
Bryon Chamberlin	813-361-8801
Pat Damico	727-504-8649
Robert Fischer	813-495-5685
Bruce Anderson	813-786-3902
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TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

Everglades Restoration

Historic water management efforts have dewatered the northern Everglades and adjacent wet prairies for agricultural production. Sawgrass prairies have been altered to create retention areas for water containing agricultural fertilizers. Sporadic, high volume releases from these water retention areas are flushed through the Everglades to the coastal estuaries along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.

Florida Bay, Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries have experienced severe ecological changes due to these water use practices. The reduction of clean, sustained fresh water flow causes salinity imbalances in the estuary waters leading to seagrass die-offs and blooms of harmful blue-green algae. Scientific opinion holds that increased storage and treatment of fresh water and additional flow through the Everglades is essential to restoring these critical resources.

Fly Fishers International continues to work with government and private organizations to improve the everglades environment.

Photos from Last Meeting



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A unique combination of conservation, data collection, and education, plus prizes and scholarships valued at almost \$500,000, makes CCA Florida STAR the states can't-miss summer-long fishing competition. No other fishing tournament in Florida has the ability to engage anglers of all ages and experience levels and includes non-anglers who can participate and win simply by collecting trash and debris. For more info or to: <https://ccafstar.com>

Fly Fishing Tip for July

While fishing for permit in Mexico in May I was reminded of a rule in fly fishing: **slack in the fly line is our enemy.**

I was standing in the front of a Panga skiff and casting to permit, which my guide would spot. They would appear without notice and he would quickly and excitedly tell me where to cast. I usually saw the fish a bit after him and could make a reasonable cast. Often you would start stripping right away as the fish were near the surface. We were fishing small crab and shrimp flies. The guide would watch the fish, my fly and give me further guidance. You work as a team in this kind of sight fishing.

My guide, Alex, wanted my fly to move forward in small, four inch hops and I was not delivering. He kept saying to strip shorter, which I thought I was doing. After a couple of hours of this I figured out my problem. The Panga had a fairly high deck and I was holding my rod tip about six inches above the water while stripping. This allowed six inches of slack in the line on my retrieve, thus making the fly's movement lethargic, if you will. Once I got the rod tip down to the water and had no slack, my short strips moved the fly properly. Alex, myself and the fish were all happy and I went on to fool four permit over three days.

Please remember, nothing good happens in casting or fishing until the fly line is straight with no slack. Thus, always start your cast with the rod tip down and a straight line. If you make a proper cast, your line and leader will stretch out in front of you and stay straight. Then, keep that rod tip down (in the water if your must) as you retrieve. This will give your fly the proper action and allow you to feel a fish take your fly. Now.....strip strike and let the fun begin! //Walt

Lake Calm Outing

Ten club members fished Lake Calm in Odessa on 25 June and had a good time as usual. Lake Calm is a small, crystal clear spring-fed lake with good numbers of bass and pan-fish. We often have good luck with sponge spiders or small bass bugs. I heard Kelly caught over 30 bream and one bass. Ted caught bass up to three pounds. Pictures show Ted holding a nice one and Wes and Robert with healthy bass. The club provided lunch and drinks. Thanks to Ted, Robert and Nick for hosting. And, thanks as always, to Dr. John Millns for loaning us his property on Lake Calm. We may plan another Lake Calm outing in the fall for those who missed this one. //Walt



South Holston River, Bristol Tennessee

Mid-May 2022

Ted Hagaman and myself spent a week fishing the South Holston river near Bristol, Tennessee. The U.S. Congress recognized Bristol as the "**Birthplace of Country Music**" in 1998, and it also is the birthplace of Tennessee Ernie Ford. (16 tons of coal, one day older and further in debt)

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Tennessee Valley Authority Act in 1933, creating the TVA. Basically, we ended up with a world class fishery by accident. The South Holston Dam discharges cold, clear water from depths over 200 feet. In 1991, TVA built a weir dam, an aerating labyrinth weir, about 1.5 miles below the main dam. The weir oxygenates the water, which helps aquatic insects, vegetation, and fish; particularly trout. South Holston aquatic insect life is excellent with reliable hatches of Midges, Mayflies, Sulphurs, Blue Winged Olives, Caddis and some Stoneflies mixed in as well. Scuds and Sowbugs are also present. They stock rainbows, but all the browns are wild.

We were there during Sulphur hatches and mostly fished dry flies to spooky fish sometimes requiring 7x tippet. The river is fairly shallow and 50 to 75 yards wide. The wading is fairly easy, but the shelf rock is often slippery. The river is low when the dam is not generating and will quickly rise about two feet when they startup. Thus, we checked the schedule each morning and fished around the times they generated, usually twice a day for a couple of hours. Numerous access points make accessibility easy and fishing around the weir is especially fun. Here you find smooth, clear, shallow water with rising trout you can get a glimpse of. Fooling them is another story though.

We stayed with South Holston River Rentals in a two bedroom house right on the river. We had a great view from our porch and could fish in front of the house or downriver below the bridge. We celebrated our last night with pan-fried trout and a little apple-spiced Jack Daniels.

Ted looking over the aerator's below the dam. a fisherman on the weir in the fog; and, Ted with a beautiful brown trout on a dry fly. Fog was often on the river in the morning due to the cold water. We saw browns caught up to 24 inches.



A good shot of the river to the right; below left is the view from our porch of the rising moon; fish dinner center and Ted removing a nice brown trout from his net in shallow, clear water.



Club member Bryce sent us this report: “Landed this respectable 27” redfish fishing from my paddleboard. It was taken early in the am on a purple and black minnow pattern. The flat was so shallow that in areas it was necessary to remove the center fin of the paddleboard. Hope your somewhere cooler than Tampa Bay”!



Club member Brian Koesler sent us this: “I hope all is well. I’ve been doing well on the beach with Puglisi baitfish patterns and this double zonker pattern. I guess it’s similar to a trout fly called the double bunny. It’s really simple: A grey zonker strip on top of a white zonker strip. Poked the hook through the bottom piece and super glued them together, added eyes, and it’s finished. It works in the backwater too.”

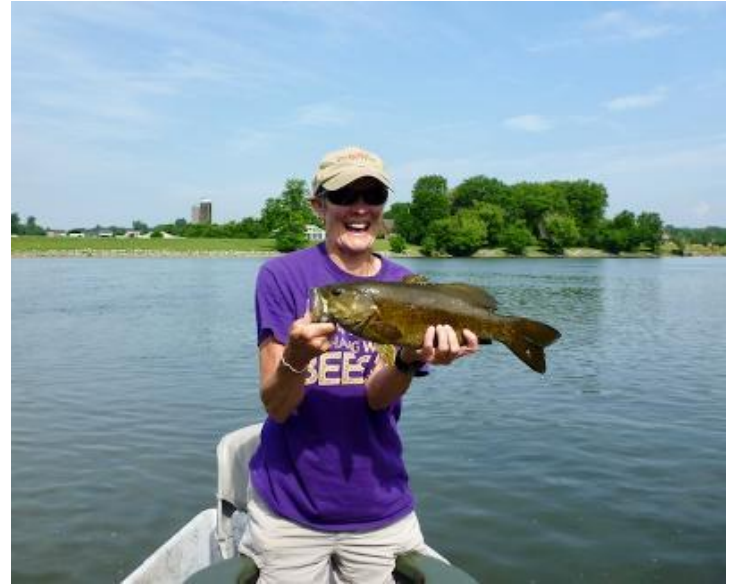
Brian is a skilled fisherman and tier whom I met on the Cypress flat a few years ago. We hope to schedule him as a feature tier at a meeting. //Walt



Brian's double bunny beach snook fly.



Club member Denise Bruner reports: “Debbie Griffith and I fished for smallmouth on the Holston near Kingsport, TN Friday Jun 17 we caught about a dozen or so nice size fish then the storm came in, I’m glad I brought rain gear! We were using swimming minnows pattern, I also caught one Large mouth Bass near the weeds, lots of fun was had by all!”



Club member Jeff Abeles sent us this: “Caught a nice large mouth bass last night at sunset on a top water popper over at my friend Michael's lake. Had 3 others about the same size on but lost them on some very acrobatic jumps. What a blast!”

Good job Jeff on a very nice bass!



Club member Ken Moser's latest stained glass: bonefishing.
Good job Ken!



Trolling Motor For Sale

Club member Robert Fischer is selling this trolling motor. Motor Guide W75 Remote Control Trolling Motor; 24 volt, 48" shaft; very good condition. \$350. Call Robert at 813-495-5685.



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Captain Pat Damico reports: Our beaches are enjoying an explosive return of snook. The season is closed to protect spawning snook, but careful catch-and-release action is available. An east wind will ensure that beaches have clear, undisturbed water close to shore. Large female snook can be seen frequently surrounded by smaller courting males. Get out early and walk the sand close to areas of good tidal flow. Passes are a magnet, especially if structure is nearby. Good Polaroid glasses and a hat with a dark underside brim make spotting fish easy. Look in the wash close to shore. Cast parallel to the shore, not into deeper water. Enter the water only to gently handle and release fish. White flies in sizes 1 to 1/0 that duplicate available baitfish will work. Lines with clear sinking tips are preferred over floating lines and should be equipped with a 30-pound fluorocarbon leader about 5 feet long. Cast only when fish are sighted; then place the fly close enough to get their attention. Never pull the fly into the fish's face. Baitfish don't attack large predators. A fish angling toward you is the best opportunity. Crimp or file all hook barbs to minimize handling and simplify 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 reports: In addition to tarpon look for Spanish mackerel, false albacore, cobia and tripletail in the coastal gulf this month. Although none of them may be thick, I've encountered all of them before in June. Keep your eyes open for bird activity or "breaking" fish to find albies and mackerel. Cobia and tripletail may be found around crab trap floats; however I've seen cobia swimming with tarpon schools before. An 8 or 9-weight fly rod with a floating or clear sink tip fly line is adequate to catch everything except a big cobia, in which case your 12-weight tarpon fly tackle will work well.

There are lots of options in inshore waters or the coastal gulf this month. If pulling on a 100-pound tarpon isn't for you, fishing pressure is usually light inshore this month so reds, snook, trout and more will also be good options. 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!

Fin-Addict Guide Service, Inc.; E-mail snookfin@aol.com; (941) 923-7799



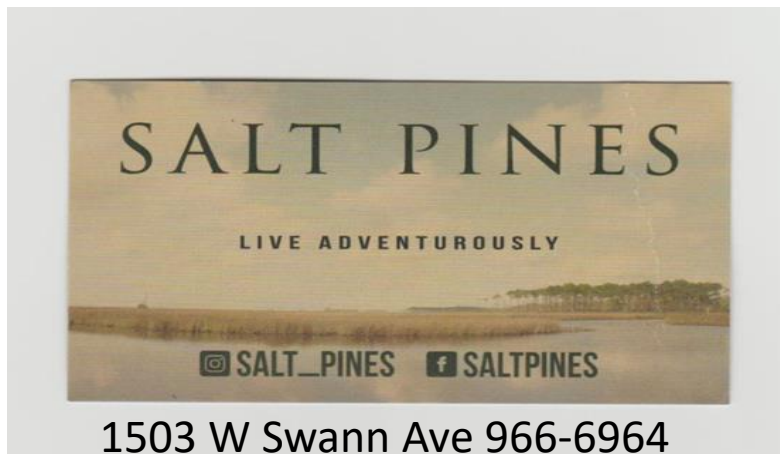
2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 8 Casting Clinic
- Jan 15 Red Fly Tournament
- June 25 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

Corporate Sponsors

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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- REDFISH LANDING GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. John Hand www.RedfishLandingGuideService.com, (239) 842-7778
- THE FLY GUY, Capt. Pat Damico, (727) 504-8649 ,w ww.captpat.com, pat4jaws@hotmail.com
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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

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

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St. Petersburg

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

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

Annual Dues: \$25.00 Individual Membership

\$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

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Please make check payable to: Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club C/o Rick Valeri, 1404
Oxfordshire Ct. Brandon, 33510