



November Meeting

Northdale Recreation Center
15550 Spring Pine Dr, Tampa, FL
from 6:30 to 8:30 pm **Tuesday, 1 Nov**

Guest Speaker
Dr. Mike Larkin

Dr. Larkin received his doctorate degree in fisheries from the University of Miami's bonefish and tarpon conservation research program. Highlights of his research include the discovery that bonefish in Florida migrate to the Bahamas, bonefish live to 21 years, and completion of the world's first bonefish stock assessment. Mike was also the first person to successfully deploy a satellite tag on tarpon. As for his talk, it will be about tarpon biology. He will talk about tarpon fossil records, vision, feeding, rolling, and movements.

Please join us for this interesting and informative presentation on one of our great game fish.

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 Rec Center on the right.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We continue to meet from 6:30 to 8:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month. Out senior casting instructor, Jonas, is back and available for casting lessons starting at 5:30 PM outside. Join in for a free, expert casting lesson.

I hope you enjoyed our talk on wade fishing in Tampa Bay. November thru February are prime months for sight fishing in shallow, clear water for trout, snook and especially reds. Print off the tide charts and fish low tides in the morning for best results.

We will host our Holiday party during our regular meeting in December (Tuesday, 6 Dec). **Please note we will meet at our old location in Compton Park for this meeting/holiday party only.** Tuesday meetings in Northdale will resume in 2023. The Club will provide an entree and ask that each member please bring a small dish. Also, bring a \$10-15 gift if you want to participate in our gift exchange. More details next month.

//Walt Durkin 

Quotes for the Month

"It is not a fish until it is on the bank." -**Irish Proverb**

"Rivers and the inhabitants of the watery elements are made for wise men to contemplate." -**Izaak Walton**

"Only an extraordinary person would purposely risk being outsmarted by a creature often less than twelve inches long, over and over again."
~ **Janna Bialek**

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Pat Damico	727-504-8649
Robert Fischer	813-495-5685
Bruce Anderson	813-786-3902
Keaton Anderson	404-313-7820
Kris Smythe	813-767-2389

The BIG GUN SHOOT-OUT

Sunday, November 21 at 9:00 a.m.

Picnic Island Park, Tampa (Shelter #611)

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. Final Big Gun cast is with an 8 weight and standard line. Volunteers also are needed to help set up the course and score contestants.

You can get free tickets on Eventbrite to help us track attendees. Come a little early if you want to help set up. Thanks, //Walt

TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

We will have our annual Hooky for the Holidays on Friday, December 9th at the Suncoast Youth conservation Center in southeast Tampa off Hwy 41. More details to follow, but we will fish in their salt water retention pond for saltwater fish. Just bring your tackle and we will provide lunch and drinks. This is a good outing for beginners with easy casting to the pond.

Please check out our website (TBFFC.org) if you have not done so. Bruce Anderson manages it for us and does a great job. New members should check out our wading guide on the webpage. You will find useful information on wade fishing especially in the winter months. We have some good wade fishing areas that allow you to get out without a boat. The guide online tells all!

Saturday, January 14, 2023, Casting Clinic Eagan Park in St. Pete Beach

Preparations are already in progress for our Suncoast Fly Fishers sponsored casting clinic similar in format to the very successful event last January. Tom Gadacz, Dale Mazzarella, and Pat Damico have been in contact with our club making initial preparations. Our format is designed to provide a very relaxed atmosphere for everyone from beginners to very advanced. Your more proficient casting will be complemented with a satisfying experience with your catching. Please mark this date in your calendar.

Wade Fishing Seminar on 12 November

We will host a wade fishing seminar on 12 November, 8:00 AM, at Cypress Park. We will meet for an hour to go over the basics and then go fish for a couple of hours. Sight fishing for reds, snook and trout in clear shallow water is a great experience. We will teach and show you all you need to know.



Interesting People You Meet While Fishing

We are starting a new section of the newsletter with the above title. I am seeking input from club members each month for a lively article. I'm sure you all have some interesting stories you could tell about folks you meet while fishing. For example, the last day Ted and I fished the S. Holston river a young guy came along late in the day and started fishing below us. He soon hooked two big browns over 22 inches. We talked to him as we left the river and turns out he was a guide just fishing an hour late in the day. He told us most people on the river were fishing the sulfur hatch with dry flies (as were we). He said that was okay, but all the big browns were on the bottom feeding on bigger bugs. A good tip, which came too late to help us on that trip. Almost everyone, you meet on the water will be friendly, offer tips and even give you their favorite fly. So, engage passing anglers for good stories and help.

You may even meet someone like my good friend Capt. Frank Rhodes. I have known Frank over 20 years and fished from the Amazon to Alaska with him. He has been referred to as the Forest Gump of our club in a positive way. Frank served in Vietnam, was wounded and met Phyllis Diller in the hospital, and subsequently maintained a life long friendship with her. He has also been snake and shark bit and struck by lightning. He met Elvis and was once engaged to a Saudi Princess. I saw him get chased by a bear on the Aniak River in Alaska. It seems he has fished everywhere and knows everyone. We were boarding a bus one time in Havana at four in the morning and a woman gets on and hollers, "Frank, what are you doing here?" He knew her from fishing in N Carolina.

So friends, be a little more outgoing and talk to people on the river or flat. I can almost promise you an interesting and rewarding experience. You may even run into Frank. Please put on your thinking caps and email me a short story of the people you meet. Thanks to Patty Anderson for this idea. //Walt



Pictures from our October meeting. Walt Durkin giving presentation on wade fishing. Thanks to Robert and Ginny for running our raffle each month. We have cool items up for grabs.



Fly Casting Tip for November

One Outfit, Two Lines

I fish an eight weight rod most of the time in Tampa Bay, but also have 6, 7, and 9 weights ready to go. If you only have one rod, I suggest the 8 weight. The eight is strong enough to handle all our inshore fish, but not too heavy to fish all day. Additionally, it has enough strength to cast in the wind and to handle bigger flies. Both the 6 and 7 are fine though and will have a lighter presentation for stealth. And, the 9, of course, is a little stronger and will handle more wind and bigger flies.

For lines, I suggest a good quality floating line with a weight forward taper. Buy the best line you can afford and expect to pay \$50 to \$100. These lines last quite a while and having a quality line is important. It's nice to have a spare line and reel and I suggest a clear sink-tip line. These are also weight forward and have about 10 feet of clear, sinking tip at the casting end. The clear tip is especially useful in winter because the fish can not spot it as easily in the clear water. And, if you are fishing a little deeper water, the tip will help get your fly down. This is a versatile line and I use one all winter.

They land a little harder, up so be aware of that. You also have to pick them up a little more carefully since the tip will always be sunk. However, just use good technique with a slow pickup until the fly begins to leave the water, then haul and snap the rod back to about one o'clock and stop. This will give you a good, high back-cast and set you up for an easy forward cast. See our casting instructor Jonas before any meeting to fine tune and learn good technique. Reach Jonas at 361 903 2846.

Bacteria Alert

Retired Navy Physician, Mike Perez, sent us this heads up. “Could you pass this info to our club members? There is a warning out that local gulf waters have high counts of *Vibrio vulnificus*, the flesh eating bacteria. There have been over 55 confirmed cases with 5 deaths reported since Hurricane Ian. I would recommend that club members wear their waders while wading until the inshore water temperature drops into the 60’s. The local Tampa waters around Gandy/Picnic Island have been very tannin stained and I know that this area has problems with septic tanks and the *Vibrio* bacteria being in these waters. The heavy rains from the hurricane are still being discharged from the land into our local waters.”

This is from a Hillsborough website: Bacteria are everywhere, including in our surface waters. Most are harmless. Water resource managers test for the presence of certain bacteria in waterways to protect human health. Some kinds of bacteria may cause illness if people are exposed to them, and others are harmless but their presence may indicate contamination from sources that may contain harmful pathogens. The presence of bacteria can affect our ability to use surface water for drinking, swimming, and shellfish production and harvesting.

https://hillsborough.wateratlas.usf.edu/library/learn-more/learnmore.aspx?toolsection=lm_bacteria

Also: <https://www.tampabaywaterkeeper.org/water-quality-monitoring>. Use the maps at this site to check areas you want to fish.

Club member Denise Bruner sent us this: “I am in Las Cruces to see White Sands National Park and then on to Gila, New Mexico. The local rivers are too high to fish this year, out here for the dark skies opportunity, hoping to see the Milky Way and a few shooting stars. We are staying at Casitasdegila.com if anyone is looking to go to the middle of nowhere. We did see snow this morning on the peaks!”





Ted Hagan spent a week in the keys on a family vacation. Ted caught several baby tarpon on the fly and his grandson, Tyler, also jumped one! Way to go, Guys!

Kelly Sobczak reports in: Wes and Kelly finished their northeast fly fishing trip: 4900 miles, 8 weeks total, 44 days fishing, 16 states, 10 species of fish. They ate lobster rolls and whoopie pies, fished with 6 guides, and met up with friends along the way. They fished with Pat Damico while in the Poconos, PA during the coldest, wettest days of the season. Their favorite fishing spots of the trip were Narragansett Bay, RI for stripers, Baxter State Park, ME for brook trout, Poconos, PA and western MD for rainbow/brown trout.



Capt. Pat Damico met Wes and Kelly in Pennsylvania and guided them to some good trout fishing in his home state.



My wife Lou and I traveled to Salida, CO with Patty and Bruce Anderson in mid-Oct. We fished the Gold Medal waters of the Arkansas River for three days enjoying mild, fall weather. Salida is a small mountain town in central Colorado surrounded by 14,000 foot peaks. Salida known as the “Heart of the Rockies” makes a good base camp to explore the Arkansas River.





Club member Jerry Kells is catching albies and stripers in Rhode Island, but back to Florida soon for our winter fishing.



Club members Rich Gorden and John Allison are having a good week at Two Boys Inn, Bahamas



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!”

Most guides make thorough preparations before a trip with clients. Tackle, equipment, weather, tides, water levels and boat preparation in freshwater and saltwater are needed. Since most of my fishing is with a fly rod in relatively shallow water, it is especially important that I have a good idea about water height and temperature, tidal movement, when high and low tides occur, even water clarity. We have a source that gives us most of these answers. The United States Geological Survey is a science bureau in the Department of the Interior. It provides science about the natural hazards that threaten lives and livelihoods; the water, energy, minerals and other natural resources we rely on; the health of our ecosystems and environment; and the impacts of climate and land-use change. I will bookmark or do a search for potential fishing locations such as Pinellas Point or Crystal River and include the United States Geological Survey with the name.

Fly fisherman and casting instructor Pat Damico charts Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at captpatdamico.com and 727-504-8649.

Capt Rick Grasset reports Fin-Addict Guide Service, Inc.; E-mail snookfin@aol.com; (941) 923-7799. Fortunately the Sarasota area fared well during Hurricane Ian compared to areas to our south. Others suffered catastrophic damages that may take years to recover from. Although there is still a large amount of runoff, Sarasota Bay is recovering nicely. Fly anglers fishing Sarasota Bay with me, out of CB's Saltwater Outfitters on Siesta Key, had good action catching and releasing snook, trout and several other species recently.

Snook fishing around dock lights and bridges should be a good option now. You may also find juvenile tarpon in canals and creeks and in a few places mixed with snook around dock lights. Look for reds in skinny water. Fishing deep grass flats for a variety of species is also usually a good option for action. Our natural resources are under constant pressure from red tides and other algae blooms fueled by residential, industrial and agricultural runoff, toxic spills and intentional releases, freezes, increasing fishing pressure and habitat loss and degradation, please limit your kill, don't kill your limit!



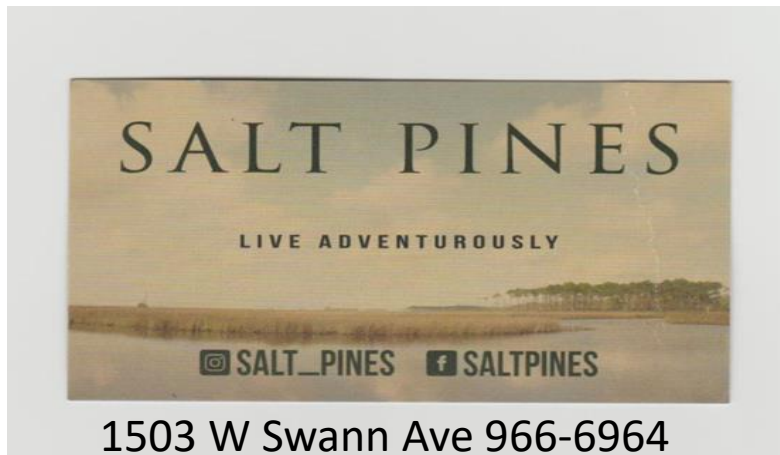
2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 14 Casting Clinic
- Jan Red Fly Tournament
- June Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct (virtual) Marine Quest, St Pete
- Oct Carl Hanson Outing
- Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- 20 Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec 9 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.

- BARBED STEEL CHARTERS, Capt. Bryon Chamberlin, (813) 361-8801, captbryon@yahoo.com..
- REDFISH LANDING GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. John Hand www.RedfishLandingGuideService.com, (239) 842-7778
- THE FLY GUY, Capt. Pat Damico, (727) 504-8649 ,w www.captpat.com, pat4jaws@hotmail.com
- SNOOK FIN-ADDICT GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. Rick Grasset, (941) 923-7799, www.snookfin-addict.com
- SWANN'S FLY FISHING SHOP, Jim Swann, 13650 South 98 Bypass, Dade City, 33525, (352) 567-6029
- Carbon Marine, 3916 W. Osborne Ave. Tampa Fl, 33614, 813-870-1234
- Tampa Fishing Outfitters, 3916 W. Osborne Ave, Tampa, FL; 813-870-1234, tampafishingoutfitters.com



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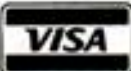
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Member Benefits

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

Fly Casting Coaches

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North Tampa

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Robert Fischer.....813-495-5685

Leigh West813-971-8697

Ted Hagaman.....813-920-7863

St. Petersburg

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

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 Walt Durkin at 3401
W Vasconia St, Tampa, FL 33629