



We will meet 6:30 pm on 7 February at the Northdale Recreation Center off N. Dale Mabry Hwy.

Club members will present a slide show on our recent trip to Two Boys' Inn on Andros Island in the Bahamas. Good weather brought adventurous days with many bone-fish caught including some double digit monsters. Seventeen anglers made for a hectic dining room and many stories. Please join us to hear all about this fun trip.

Directions to Our Meetings (6:30 pm) Northdale Rec Center: 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

I hope you all are having a good new year. Thanks to Tim Elms of the Suncoast Club for his tips on baby tarpon fishing. He had some great insights on finding and catching these elusive fish. And, he does it all without a boat!

Please pay your annual dues if you have not done so. Our club is running at an annual deficit, thus your board of directors voted to raise the annual dues to \$40. It will also allow us to become an affiliate member of Fly Fishers International, which we need for club insurance.

Please note our joint banquet with the Suncoast club is set for 25 March. This fun and informal event is an important fund raiser for the club and I hope you can attend. Buy tickets at the next meeting.

Jonas will be available at 5:30 for casting lessons starting again in February with more light. Bring your own rod or Jonas will have one. Don't miss this opportunity for first class help.

//Walt Durkin 

Fly Fishing Quotes

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

"I am not against golf, since I cannot but suspect it keeps armies of the unworthy from discovering trout." -Paul O'Neil

"Angling may be said to be so like the mathematics, that it can never be fully learnt." - Izaak Walton 1653

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Bruce Anderson	813-786-3902
Keaton Anderson	404-313-7820

Tim Elms Talking Tarpon



TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

Fly Fishers International Worked to Protect Bristol Bay

Please see the announcement today by the Environmental Protection Agency whereby the agency has made a “Final Determination” generally to protect Bristol Bay from the proposed Pebble Mine and future mining operations.

Fly Fishers International has worked with our many Conservation Partners for decades providing “public” and “technical comment” illustrating the undeniable threats the proposed Pebble Mine and other mining operations propose to the Bristol Bay system and the world-class salmon fishery it supports (see attached letter to EPA Administrator Regan). The Environmental Protection Agency is to be applauded for their “Final Determination” that is based upon “best available science” to establish permanent protection to the Bristol Bay Watershed. Protection of Bristol Bay in this manner serves as a global example of how important it is to preserve health and function of our natural landscapes for fish, wildlife, our own qualities of life and the planet.

Tom H. Logan, Chairman
FFI Board Conservation Committee

Don Coleman Outing and Chili Cook-off

Suncoast decided to cancel this event in December due to red tide in the area. Rick Warfel from the Suncoast writes: We have rescheduled the Don Coleman Invitational for March 18, 2023, at Ft. DeSoto, pavilion #4. I hope all your members can come. Spring fishing should be in full swing, and our chili luncheon is always a big hit.

The Waterman Fly Fishing Tournament 4,5 Feb.

See TBWK.org for details. Tampa Bay Waterkeeper is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. They are a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, a global network of over 350 grassroots leaders in six continents protecting everyone’s right to clean water.



FLY CASTING AND FLY FISHING CLINIC

WHERE: Egan Park, 9101 Blind Pass Rd, St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

WHEN: Saturday, January 14, 2023, from 8 am to 3 pm.

I can't say enough about how all of you responded to everyone's needs and made a morning that had a few initial difficulties turn into an event that many told me was, "The best!" Arriving at 7 am and finding chains and padlocks on our field was not a good start. We all dealt with the anticipated wind and cold and helped one another as both club members always do. The large number of absolute beginners that had smiles on their faces was a stunning surprise. I had the feeling several times that I was the only one not busy. Enthusiasm seemed to be contagious. Both clubs enrolled new members and everyone in attendance was an FFI member. I roamed a bit trying to find someone that wasn't getting attention or had a questionable look on their face and they were almost nonexistent. Your efforts were outstanding! Captain Pat Damico





Club Banquet/Hog Roast 25 March

Annual Banquet: Saturday , March 25. Hog Roast Party at St. Jerome Catholic Church, 10895 Hamlin Blvd., Largo. Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club will join the Suncoast Club this year, adding to the product donations and bidding for gear and trips. Legendary angler Chico Fernandez is our guest speaker.

Tickets are \$25 and you can buy them at the next two meetings. Or, you can also buy them at the door, but please let me know if you plan to attend (Walt Durkin 813-853-5870). This is a big fund raiser for both clubs and helps keep our annual dues on the low side. We will offer many great fly fishing items at a low cost for you to bid on. Items include: waders, waist packs, tackle bags, sunglasses, Lamson fly reels, fly lines, nippers, fly boxes, 7 and 8 weight fly rods, flies and more! We will also offer gift baskets and local guide trips. This will be your chance to get a great guided trip for a bargain price. Don't miss this fun event.



Two Boys' Inn Trip

Eight of us traveled to Andros Island to fly fish for bonefish 15-22 January. We stayed at Frankie's Two Boys' Inn located at Andros Town on Cargill Creek. We flew to Nassau and then took a 12 minute hop to Andros Town. A 30 minute taxi ride later and we were at the lodge. Malinda welcomed us with cold drinks and conch fritters to start the week. Local food was excellent all week complete with appetizers, salad, dinner and dessert. We fished six days from about 8 to 3 with independent guides arranged by the lodge. The guides had good flats boats and years of experience ranging from 15 to 30. The ocean side or interior of Andros has miles of quality water holding schools of bonefish. Andros is well known for big bone fish and four giants were caught ranging from 10 to 14 pounds. We found good weather for a change and fished under mostly sun and mild winds. This lodge is still modestly priced (\$2900) and a very good value. We had a super time and plan to go back again.





Bike Handlebar Tape/Wrap

Jonas Magnusson

During the casting session before the club meetings, I have been using my teaching rod. Many casters have commented on the rod's handle, and all have liked the tactile feel of it.

So, let's face it we aren't getting any younger. I broke my underarm in the eighties and it had to be operated on to avoid it looking like Picasso's goat. Resultant I have paresthesia in my right thumb. Then there was the Dupuytren's contracture and then the arthritis of the base joint of my thumb (carpometacarpal 1) led to parting ways with my right trapezium bone. This is to be expected and I bet a lot of the club's members have some of those ailments and some others too. With arthritis in our hands, it becomes more difficult to close the fist. I find it hard to get a good grip on the cork of a fly rod now especially if the handle is thin.

What works very well for me is to make the handle thicker. I can get a much better grip on my rod if I do that. I have found that by wrapping my rods with bike handlebar tape I get a firm grip and it is not slippery at all. The wrap is soft and pleasant to hold, and my hand does not slip.

Of course, you can go and buy fly rod tape but any product with "fly" in it will be priced much higher than the bike handlebar tape. Try it out – it is cheap, and you might like it.



The People You Meet on the Water

By Patty Anderson

Bruce and I went to the Everglades to fish for the first time in 1993. We went with a friend who had been fishing the back country with his uncle since he was a teen and knew the area well. The moment I stepped onto the rickety boat docks on Chokoloskee Island and looked out over the water, I thought "This is Florida's saving grace". The Everglades and its people held a mystique for me then and 30 years later it still does. There are legends and tales that are told of things that happen in the waters of the Everglades and one of those are secret bays that hold thousands of fish. Because the back country of the Everglades is remote and without cell service, we often fished together with several other boats. That's how we met Vince, who also had fished the glades for many years. One day we went out with 4 boats and met up in Houston Bay at lunch time. Vince started talking about this hidden bay that very few people knew about. He called it "Stinky Bay" and said it was a tarpon fishery that he had visited that morning and it had been full of juvenile tarpon. After lunch, Vince said "follow me." He headed to a shoreline lined with mangroves and no opening was visible. He told us to put down our rods and take off our hats. As we watched, Vince started lifting mangrove branches and pulled his boat forward and disappeared. We then motored up to the mangroves and started to do the same, moving branches over our heads, ducking down low in the boat and pulling our skiff thru this low, shallow tunnel as we followed Vince's boat. As we moved forward, the smell of sulphur became apparent. The rotten egg smell got stronger as we reached the end of this secret passage and pulled our skiffs into a small bay that opened before us. A light rain had just started and we saw a lot of bubbling on the water surface. As we were watching the rain hit the water we realized that it wasn't just raindrops we were seeing. There were literally hundreds of juvenile tarpon rolling on the surface of this smelly bay. The water was bubbling and boiling with fish. I was awe struck as I had never seen anything like this. We pulled out our rods and started chasing pod after pod of 20 plus small tarpon as they swam in circles across the bay. The tarpon were frisky and jumped our lines repeatedly but none of them were landed. We stayed there for several hours thru the rain, getting soaking wet, but couldn't stop casting until the fish settled down and stopped hitting our lines. We then took to the task of going back through the hidden passage and into navigable water. Wow! I felt so privileged to be witness to such a sight and have the experience to know that the legends are true. We have looked for that opening on our own many times but have not been able to find that Stinky Bay again. Thank you Vince for sharing your secret

Drag It Right

By Robert Fischer

So you've finally hooked that nice big fish. Now What?? Obviously to land her you've got to get her back to you by applying pressure to stop her from running away. First you've got spare line in your hand that you can pinch to increase pressure, but let line slip through your fingers if she runs away. If the fish is still running you can let out line slowly until you get "on the reel", then the drag on the reel will take over. But don't let out enough line for your rod to go straight. You must keep a bend in the rod to keep pressure on. If she doesn't run you have to strip in line to keep up the pressure. As soon as you can, wind in the loose line and get the fish on the reel. However, always be ready to let line slip through your fingers if the fish surges. It's a game that involves creating as much pressure as possible without breaking the rod or the tippet or pulling the hook. Only practice will tell you how much pressure is correct.

To set the drag on your reel let's use an example of an 8 wt rod and a 12# tippet. Have a friend with a scale stand about 30 feet away. Attach your line to the scale and point the rod at the scale. Pull line straight off the reel without the rod bending at all. Increase the drag until the scale reads 2#. That's a good starting point for most inshore fishing. Now with the line tight and the drag set at 2# lift the rod gradually until it is at about 45 degrees from horizontal. Check the reading on the scale, it's probably about 4#. Notice the bend in your rod and try to maintain that bend when you are fighting a fish. You are putting 4# of pressure on the fish.

The increase in drag is because of the friction in the rod guides and the angle of the line. So realize that when you are fighting a fish you can increase the pressure by raising the rod and you can reduce the pressure by pointing the rod at the fish. But never raise the rod past vertical. You can also add pressure by pinching the line against the handle or by palming the spool. Sometimes you may need to lock down the drag to keep a fish out of a dock or the mangroves, or to keep her away from sharks. To do this, point your rod directly at the fish and squeeze the spool. Either the fish will stop, the leader will break or the hook will pull out. But you will not break your rod!

When you fish light tackle and tippets, drag becomes very critical. You're trying to protect the light tippets and small hooks. Use the same technique above to see how much bend in your rod indicates how much pressure is on the line. Usually about 10 to 20% of the line strength is a good amount of drag to use. Remember this amount of bend in your rod and keep the pressure steady. As you become more experienced you can apply more pressure. Some very good anglers play fish with 80 to 90% of pressure, but even they break off a lot of fish.

Why not use 12# pressure on 12# line? Because knots decrease the strength of line and because any nick, scratch or wind knot will drastically reduce the 12# test of your line. Good luck, tight lines.



Club member Elie Sofair caught his first red on Cypress and also one with no spots! Elie got the sheepshead fishing with Capt. Nick Angelo out of Yankee Town. Good job Elie!



Captain Brian Chamberlin with a cobia on the fly. Cobia are hard fighters and readily take a fly. Find them around buoys in the Bay.



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!”

In saltwater fly fishing we use heavier equipment and must cast further, quickly, and with accuracy. We are constantly confronted with adverse wind and weather conditions, a combination of issues that if not approached properly will cause physical deterioration of muscles, ligaments, and joints. Frequently, even younger sports enthusiasts in tennis or golf often are plagued with these issues that can be debilitating requiring medical and even surgical intervention. Tennis elbow/shoulder and golf wrist are frequent results. The reason is usually poor execution of fundamentals often with mismatched and unbalanced equipment. Someone who never fly-fished can have an advantage over a veteran who has many issues with poor, "Muscle memory." Watching any accomplished sports enthusiast perform looks easy because most flaws are eliminated. An excuse I often hear is, "Fly fishing is too much work!" Do a search of Fly Fishing Clubs in your area and you will find a group of fly fisher's that share the same interests at many different levels. You can find capable instructors that will be only too happy to get you on the correct path to make this a safe and very enjoyable pastime.

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. There may be some action in the coastal gulf by the end of the month with Spanish mackerel and cobia depending on conditions. When the water warms to the high 60's to low 70's, these fish will move into our area from the south as they migrate north. Look for Spanish mackerel on the surface or in passes. Cobia may be swimming on the surface, around buoys, channel markers and crab trap floats or over structure. Tripletail may also be an option during warm ups in the coastal gulf. February can be a tough month to fish. With frequent fronts and cool water, fish aren't always in an eating mood. If you're able to pick good tides combined with favorable weather conditions, you should be successful. If you don't have that luxury, you might do better by sleeping in and fishing later in the day when it's warmer. 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!



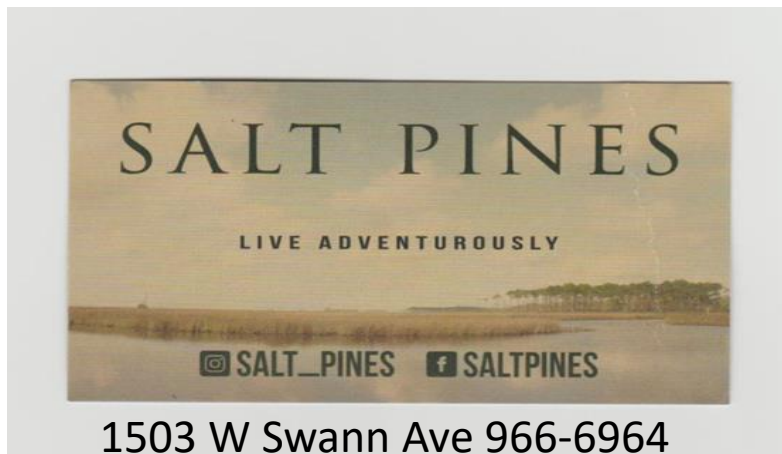
2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 14 Casting Clinic
- Jan 14 Red Fly Tournament
- 25 Mar Annual Banquet
- 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
- Dec Play Hooky at the Suncoast Youth Center
- Dec Don Coleman Outing, Ft Desoto

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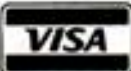
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TBFFC is famous for its value and focus on the sharing of information, experience, and craftsmanship with its members. As a TBFFC member you will enjoy many benefits free or at nominal cost.

- 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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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: \$40.00 Individual Membership

\$50.00 Family Membership

\$150.00 Corporate Single Membership

(includes one membership and Ad Space)

Five-year dues: \$160.00 Individual Membership

\$200.00 Family Membership

Please make check payable to: Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club C/O Walt Durkin at 3401
W Vasconia St, Tampa, FL 33629