



We will meet 6:30 pm on 4 April at the Northdale Recreation Center off N. Dale Mabry Hwy.



**Club President Walt Durkin** will lead a seminar on spring snook fishing around Tampa Bay. We will cover night fishing, beach fishing and local flats fishing. You will learn snook tactics and where and how to find fish. Spring and summer are great months to target snook and this seminar should set you up for success.

**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 enjoyed our last meeting. Thanks to Rick Redd for his talk on tarpon fishing. Rick is a strong advocate for our sport and tarpon fishing. He reminded us of the necessity of supporting local conservation organizations. Thanks to club member, Dale Garcia for tying flies. We always welcome tyers.

Special thanks to all who attended our joint banquet with the Suncoast Club. We had over 100 folks and I hope everyone enjoyed the experience. You bought most of our auctions items, scoring some good deals. Enjoy your new stuff and keep those lines tight.

We are seeking club speakers for July and August so let me know if you have a potential candidate. We are planning a Trash and Treasures meeting for June. This is where you donate all those extra fishing (?) items in your house or garage and we auction them off at the June meeting. This is another opportunity to get cool gear for a pittance!

Jonas will be available at 5:30 for casting lessons continuing thru the spring and summer. Bring your own rod or Jonas will have one. Don't miss this opportunity for first class help.

//Walt Durkin 

## **Fly Fishing Quotes**

“Early to bed...early to rise...fish all day...make up lies,” Author Unknown.

“The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope.” - John Buchan

“Every redneck's dream is to write a song and have it go on a fishing show.” - Johnny Van Zant

## **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

President: Walt Durkin

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813-853-5870

VP: Ted Hagaman

813-920-7863

Rick Valeri

813-765-3217

Patty Anderson

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Denise Bruner

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Bryon Chamberlin

813-361-8801

Pat Damico

727-504-8649

Robert Fischer

813-495-5685

Bruce Anderson

813-786-3902

Keaton Anderson

404-313-7820



# Photos from our March meeting



## TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

**We held our annual banquet this year with the Suncoast club and everyone seemed to have a good time.**

Thanks to the board members of both clubs for all their hard work and to Rick Warfel (Suncoast President) for his leadership and scheduling Zoom calls to keep us organized. And, special thanks to our guest speaker, Chico Fernandez, who drove up from Miami to attend. He was gracious with his time and gave us an entertaining and informative talk. We were fortunate to get him this year.

The food was delicious and thanks to all those who helped serve and clean up. We offered lots of cool gear, which members bid on for some good deals. The numbers are not yet in, but I suspect both clubs earned a few buck to keep us in the black this year.

Thanks to the over 100 attendees who made the trip to Largo for the event. The venue worked out just fine and I think everyone was comfortable. I hope you all had a great time and will enjoy your new fishing toys. This is the first banquet we held since COVID and are grateful for the success and shared time together. //Walt

### **Kathryn Vallilee: First Woman to Win March Merkin!**

The March Merkin is one of the preeminent permit tournaments in the world, but it's never been won by a woman. That is, until this year. Kathryn Vallilee is the first woman to take home top honors in the March Merkin, which she did by landing a 21-inch permit on the last day of fishing. You can read more about her incredible win here.

<https://midcurrent.com/news/>

### **Red Tide Update**

Red tide seems to be improving in our area. In Southwest Florida over the past week, *K. brevis* was observed at background to low concentrations in Pinellas County, background to low concentrations offshore of Hillsborough County, background to medium concentrations in Manatee County, background to low concentrations in Sarasota County, background concentrations in Charlotte County, background to medium concentrations in Lee County, and background to low concentrations in and offshore of Collier County.

<https://myfwc.com/research/redtide/statewide/>





# Club Banquet/Hog Roast Pictures

Thanks for coming and we all had a super time at the banquet. Chico was sensational.







## My Award

The club board of directors surprised me at the club banquet with an award for my time as president of the club, serving for about the last 10 years. I also received a trip with club guide, Bryon Chamberlin.

Thanks to the club for this wonderful gesture, which I trully appreciate. I enjoy helping lead the club along with our board of directors and our members. We have a super group of folks and hope you all enjoy your participation. //Walt

## People You Meet on the Water

My wife and I met Mike from Glenwood Springs, Colorado on a mid-March fishing trip to the Frying Pan river. We were out in our second home in Ft Collins to check on things and get a little winter weather. The house was fine and the weather did not disappoint with snow in the mountains, lows in the 20's and highs in the 40's.

We decided to head west for a few days of sightseeing and fishing so we reserved a house near Carbondale for two nights, all we could get on short notice. Located on the Crystal River with ½ mile of private water we were all set. A nice rainbow trout on the first day provided dinner that night. We were also close to the Roaring Fork and Frying Pan rivers, our prime destination. These are both world class tail waters well known for crowds and big fish.

The first afternoon we stopped by the fly shop in Basalt for local knowledge and flies. We learned the Frying Pan was fishing good and the area below the dam was a great place to start. Surveying the spot a little later we discovered the road down to the dam was steep and snow-covered. Nonetheless, the next morning we arrived there and headed down the hill in our Tundra pickup and found only one car parked by the dam.

Here we met Mike, standing on snow covered rocks and fishing right where the water flowed from under the small dam. Flows were low during the winter before snow melt. Mike graciously offered to share his spot and said go ahead and jump in while he re-tied. Mike fished an indicator with two small midge flies above a split shot. Each cast he drifted them about four feet deep in the current. He knew what he was doing and we watched him catch a trout about every five minutes. These were browns and rainbows ranging from 10 to 20 inches. We could see the fish working in the current and picking off bugs under the water. Mike took a couple of pictures for us and shared his net several times. Lou and I fished a woolly bugger with a tiny nymph behind it. Not as effective as Mike's rig, but we caught six trout, both browns and rainbows. The weather was good that day with full sun, light wind and a high or about 45 degrees; really nice for winter, mountain conditions.

While summers on the Pan are very busy, winter is a great time to have the river mostly to yourself. As we drove back along the river we saw only a few stalwart anglers giving it a try. However, as a tailwater, the river fishes well throughout the winter. We had a super first visit to the Frying Pan, enriched by meeting and fishing with Mike. I encourage you to say hello and chat with other anglers you encounter. //Walt

P.S. See pictures on the next page!







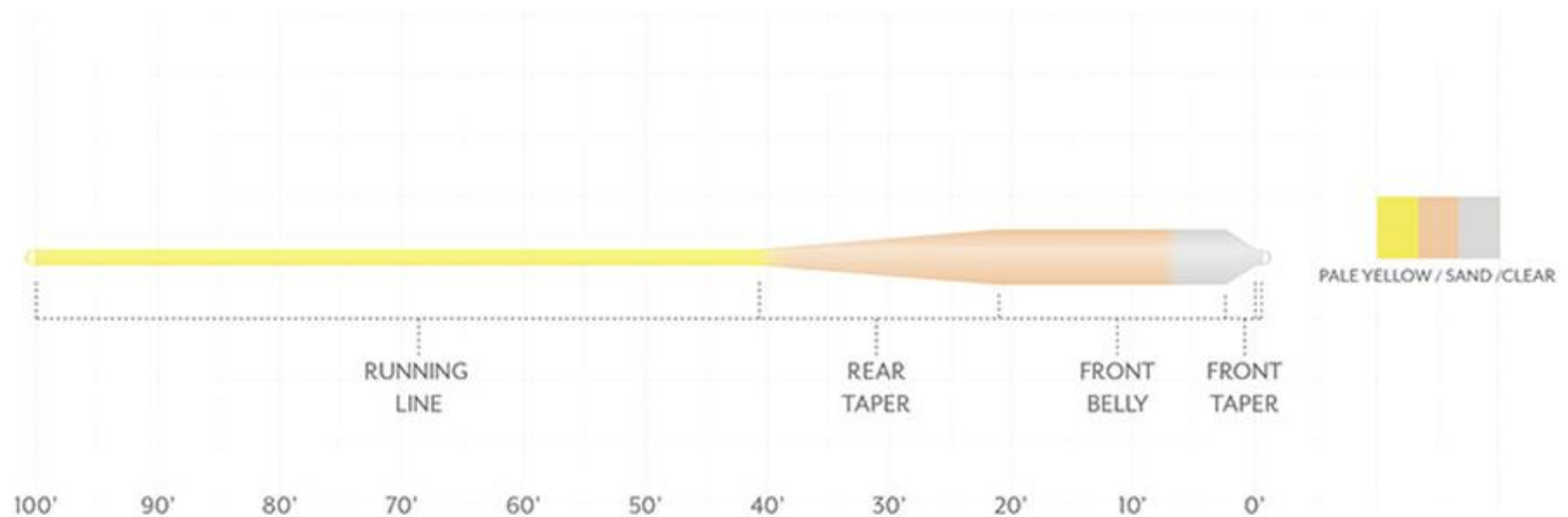
## Heavy fly and the leader isn't turning over. Get out of jail? By Jonas

We covered the problem of the leader not turning over in our last tip.

<https://everyjonahasawhale.com/fly-casting/casting-technique/the-leader-isnt-turning-over/>

Now, some instances demand a big/heavy fly whether we like it or not. You know it's going to be a struggle – so, what to do?

I would consider a line with a 8' clear tip. The tip is intermediate and sinks very slowly. A big/heavy fly will pull the distal part of a floating line under anyway so the lines will be similar. The advantage of the clear tip is that now you can get away with a short leader. The distal part of your fly line is clear anyway. This line has a short head and is 0.75 sizes over-weighted, so it has the mass to deal with a big/heavy fly.



<https://www.scientificanglers.com/product/sonar-grand-slam-clear-tip/>



Club members, Jim Adams, Ken Moser and Jerry Kells with fish in March. Jim is pictured on the left with a nice red, Ken caught his first red (27") of the year at Cypress and Jerry caught three snook at Cypress in mid-March. Good job guys!





## Capt. Rick Grasset's "King Outfitters/Medicine Lodge, Dillon, MT trip", July 23-29, 2023

I will be hosting a group of fly anglers in Montana again in 2023. I have been a fly fishing guide in Sarasota for more than 30-yrs, but I've also been hosting fly anglers to destinations in the Bahamas, Montana, Belize and Venezuela for more than 20-yrs. I currently do 2 trips a year; Montana and Andros, Bahamas. Most anglers are clients and have been going for years but there is occasionally availability. There are 2 spots available for Montana out of 8 (4 anglers are regulars on this trip). We are 4-months away from this trip so if you're considering, there is still time to plan flights, etc.

Dates for this year's trip are July 23-29, 2023, fishing days will be Mon, July 24-Fri, July 28 which is 6 nights/5 days fishing. We'll be fishing with Dave King of King Outfitters, whom I've fished with for more than 20-yrs and his talented group of guides near Dillon, MT. In addition to the Beaverhead, Big Hole, Jefferson and Madison Rivers, there are several leases on private waters. Cost is \$4650 per angler. If you have an interest in this trip give me a call at (941) 923-7799 or e-mail [snookfin@aol.com](mailto:snookfin@aol.com) if you want to discuss. Below are a few photos from last year's trip.



Ted Hagaman and Pat Damico both scored big snook in March. Pat fished with club guide Capt. Byron Chamberlin.





# Gheenoe For Sale

15.4 High-sider - 9.9 4stroke Mercury - 45lb thrust Riptide Minn Kota - new 12 volt battery - Garmin Striker2 gps/depth recorder - 2 8volt depth recorder batteries - battery cases - built-in tackle boxes - Moonlighter push pole - two folding seats - custom Engle cooler with soft cushion and 12volt aeration - Gheenoe stand-up bar - 3 gallon gas tank - life jackets and throw cushion - float-on galvanized trailer - folding trailer tongue- spare tire - extra Mercury prop - extra Minn Kota prop - motor trailer support arm - flusher - battery charger - new hubs and bearings - extra hubs and bearings - locking bars on both motors - new motor oil, gear case oil and spark plugs - trailer locks - Garage kept.

\$3500.00 email to [sewellalan@yahoo.com](mailto:sewellalan@yahoo.com) . St. Petersburg

P.S. I have a Gheenoe and this is a great rig with everything you need.

## Fly Gear for Sale

Tom Perkins is selling these items as one unit. Would rather not piece it out. Some beginner looking for a complete outfits, both fresh and salt water:

1pr-Orvis boots w/removable studs size 10

1pr- Orvis Silver Sonic waders Size XLS X(xtra large short)

1- Redington Classic Trout rod w/case mod. 590-4 9'0" #5 line

1-Redington Pursuit reel 4/5/6 w/ line & backing

1- Redington Pursuit rod w/case 890-4 #8 line 9'0"

1- Redington Pursuit reel 7/8/9 w/ line & backing

1- Cabela's deluxe fly tying tool kit w/ thread, feathers etc.

1- Nylon net

1- Vest, Master Sportsman mesh XXL W/ many pockets and fishing gloves(fingers can be covered).

Thank you ,I have attached a photo. Tom Perkins 352-467-1644 call, text or leave msg





## 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!”**

Fly fisherman and casting instructor Pat Damico charts Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at [captpatdamico.com](http://captpatdamico.com) and 727-504-8649.

Sight casting to visible fish is the most exciting way to catch larger fish with any equipment, but especially with a fly rod. If you have balanced tackle and the proper fly it must be quickly and carefully placed so the fish can see it. Wind, tidal movement, boat position and direction of the cast must always be considered. If you are executing all the essentials to make a good fly cast, how do you stop the fly at the correct spot to achieve much needed accuracy? At shorter distances, you can false cast to the side of the intended spot then deliver the cast to the target. This takes time and risks spooking your quarry especially when the sun can cause the fly line's shadow to scare the fish. As your fly approaches the correct spot, pinch the fly line with your line hand as it slides between your thumb and index finger to achieve accuracy. Some lawn practice is necessary to do this well and always pay big dividends when on the water.



**Capt Rick Grassett reports:** Fin-Addict Guide Service, Inc.; E-mail [snookfin@aol.com](mailto:snookfin@aol.com); (941) 923-7799.

This is a great month for snook on shallow flats. Reds and trout will also be more active as the water warms and baitfish become more plentiful. You might find Spanish mackerel, blues and pompano in passes or on deep grass flats. You should also find Spanish mackerel along with false albacore (little tunny), cobia and tripletail, in the coastal gulf this month. Tarpon should also make an appearance in bay or back country areas or along beaches by later in the month. Tarpon will become more plentiful as resident fish make their way out of rivers and creeks and early arriving migratory fish begin to show along beaches, particularly by the end of the month. Water temperature in the gulf is a key factor with 80 degrees being an optimum temperature. As the water warms towards that, fish will become more plentiful. Resident fish may be rolling on deep grass flats in some of the same places that you find trout, laid up on edges of shallow grass flats or along sand bars. Fly anglers might connect with a black Deceiver or Tarpon bunny fly fished on a 12-weight fly rod with a floating or clear sink tip fly line depending on depth. I always have tarpon tackle, rigged and ready, on the boat this time of year.



## 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

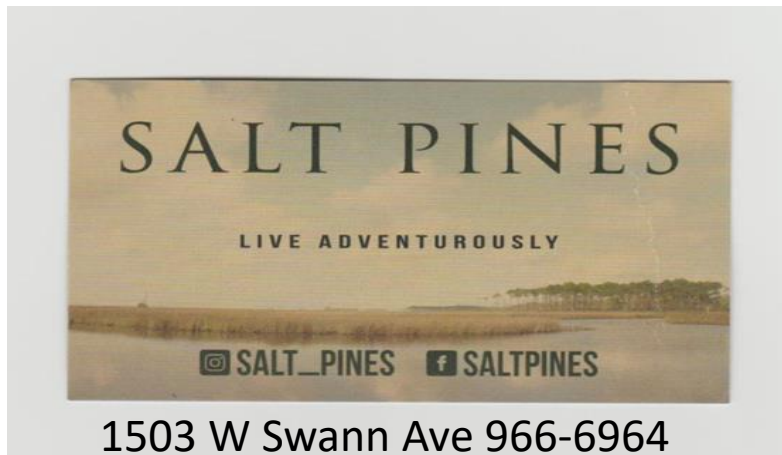
- Jan 14 Casting Clinic
- Jan 14 Red Fly Tournament
- 11 Mar Picnic Island Outing
- 25 Mar Annual Banquet
- June Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct (virtual) Marine Quest, St Pete
- Oct Carl Hanson Outing
- Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec Play Hooky at the Suncoast  
Youth Center
- Dec Don Coleman Outing, Ft Desoto



## 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](http://www.RedfishLandingGuideService.com), (239) 842-7778
- THE FLY GUY, Capt. Pat Damico, (727) 504-8649 ,w [www.captpat.com](http://www.captpat.com), pat4jaws@hotmail.com
- SNOOK FIN-ADDICT GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. Rick Grasset, (941) 923-7799, [www.snookfin-addict.com](http://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](http://tampafishingoutfitters.com)



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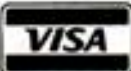
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## Member Benefits

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

### South Tampa

Walt Durkin.....813-853-5870

### North Tampa

Jonas Magnusson.....361 903 2846

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

Leigh West .....813-971-8697

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: \$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