

Dr. Mike Perez, a retired Navy Surgeon, will talk about first aid on the water. Mike is an experienced salt water fly fisherman and a good friend of the club. He will tell you how to keep safe on the water with topics ranging from an embedded hook to dangerous bacteria.



We will meet 6:30 pm on 5 September at the Northdale Recreation Center off N. Dale Mabry Hwy.

Please join us for an interesting discussion, fly casting and pizza. Come early about 5:30 for fly casting and the meeting will start at 6:30. New folks are welcome to walk in and check out the club.

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 enjoyed our August meeting with a presentation on fly fishing in Cuba. Thanks to Jay Tinsky from the Mangrove Club for sharing tales of his Cuban adventure. Eight members of our club are going to Romano, Cuba in late October and look forward to great fall flat's fishing.

I hope everyone weathered the hurricane with little or no damage. We got lucky when Idalia turned to the west a bit. Our storm flooding could have been a lot worse. Hopefully, the bay water and fish will recover quickly for us.

We are thinking of ordering some more club shirts and hats. Please let me know via email or mention it at our next meeting if you are interested.

Thanks to your support to the club and let us know how we can better serve our fly fishing community. We welcome families and would like to encourage more young folks to join our sport. Fishing is great fun and takes you to wild and beautiful places.

Be safe and keep those lines tight!



//Walt Durkin

Fly Fishing Quotes

“In every species of fish I’ve angled for, it is the ones that have got away that thrill me the most, the ones that keep fresh in my memory. So, I say it is good to lose fish. If we didn’t, much of the thrill of angling would be gone.” - Ray Bergman

Sometimes, when the water is quiet, you can almost hear the fish laughing at you. Unknown

“Give a man a fish, and he has food for a day; teach him how to fish, and you can get rid of him for the entire weekend.” – Zenna Schaffer

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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

TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

Capt. Rick Grasset will speak in October. Rick has guided in the area for many years and often hosts fly fishing anglers. He is an excellent fly fisher and will offer many useful tips.

In November, Gina Russo from Florida Fish and Wildlife will talk on progress of the hatchery. Then we will have our annual holiday party in December to wrap up the year. In January to start the new year, Capt. Bryon Chamberlin will present his photography and offer tips on how to take great pictures of your fish.

On Sunday, 19 November 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!

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! More details to come.

Fly Fishers International Florida News

Summer is Great for Basscatch!. When water temperatures rise on cold water fisheries in late Summer, its a great time to explore other options in your area. The Basscatch Project is a fun way to explore the species diversity in fisheries and the importance of conserving their individual habitats. The project is designed to help fly fishers appreciate native species diversity and conservation in general, recognize the value of the many species of black bass, and to understand the sometimes unique differences in their habitat preferences.

Don't Miss Out on the FFI Summer Sweepstakes!

All proceeds from this opportunity to take home the high-performance fly fishing gear you know you want goes to support FFI's commitment to the legacy and future of fly fishing for all fish in all waters. Help inspire and engage the next generation of fly fishing enthusiasts, support initiatives to grow women's programs, and show your commitment to conservation and healthy fisheries by entering the FFI Summer Sweepstakes.

[Fly Fishers](#)

[Internationalhttps://www.flyfishersinternational.org](https://www.flyfishersinternational.org)



Try a 10 foot 2 Weight Fly Rod

I got on this 10 foot rod kick a few years ago and now have several ten-footers. It all started in Mexico when we were fishing at Costa de Cocas for bone fish, permit and tarpon. I was fishing with Andy one day and he had a 10 foot 7 weight he suggested I try. After a few casts, I decided it was a pretty smooth rod, easy to carry line and make a long cast. Sometime later, my friend Robert mentioned he had just gotten a 10 foot 3 weight. I tried it, liked it, so I got it in my head that I had to have a 10 foot fly rod.

Now, Robert's rod was an Orvis Helios with a price of about \$900. I like the finer things in life, but did not want to spend that much money on an experimental rod. Looking on Amazon, I found a 10 foot 2 weight for about \$100 and decided to give it a try. By the way, they often refer to these 10 foot rods as nymph rods as the longer rods are useful to fish "Czech nymph style".

I like several things about these longer rods. First of all, they make it easy to pick up, carry line and make a long cast. They are also a little slower than some shorter rods and more forgiving. If you are trout fishing, the long rods are easy to mend, which is often needed and they also roll cast well. You can also keep your back cast that much higher and don't catch quite as many weeds behind you. And, of course, they are especially useful for nymph fishing. Another good advantage of the 2 weight is the light fly line. It is naturally lighter, lands more softly, and is less wind resistant; all good advantages when trout are spooky as they almost always are. Finally, the 10 foot rods have a little more beef in them to fight fish. For example, a 10 foot 2 weight is much stronger than a 7 foot 2 weight.

My 10 foot 2 weight is now one of my favorite rods. I happened to take it to a trip to the White River in Arkansas with my friend Rick. The White is a big tailwater with lots of enormous trout. We were floating and our guide said the most effective way to fish was two nymphs under an indicator. I don't care for that type of fishing (too boring) and said I would just throw my 2 weight with a wooly bugger on a long leader to get it down. My buddy probably caught twice as many fish as I did, but, I enjoyed casting and working the wooly bugger. I also caught plenty of nice trout up to 5 pounds. This was the first 2 weight our guide had seen fished on the White and was surprised I did that well. The rod also handled those big fish just fine. Finally, I used it effectively with dry flies and hoppers.

The longer rods have two disadvantages. One, they take up too much room in tight spaces. Here, short rods are best. Additionally, I have found landing fish is a little trickier with the extra length. However, if you are catching more fish, then that is a good problem to have.

Give a 10 footer a try and I think you will like it. //Walt

Try a Kayak

Kayaks are a fun way to fly fish and many club members own one. They are quiet and offer good mobility on the water. Check out local shops for information on which boat would be right for you. Our outing to the Suncoast Youth Camp in December will feature kayaks, so join us to test drive one with professional help. A club member recently asked about where to launch a kayak, so here is what I found:

Pinellas County Blue Water Paddling Guide: <https://pinellas.gov/blueways/>

Creative Loafing: 20 essential kayaking spots in the Tampa Bay area
<https://www.ctampa.com/tampa/20-essential-kayaking-spots-in-the-tampa-bay-area/Slideshow/12387317>

Hillsborough County Canoeing and Kayaking
<https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/residents/recreation-and-culture/outdoor-recreation/canoeing-and-kayaking>

So, check out these websites and see if kayaking is for you. We will try to schedule a speaker on this subject for the club next year. Meanwhile, email me any success stories you have on kayak fly fishing.

//Walt

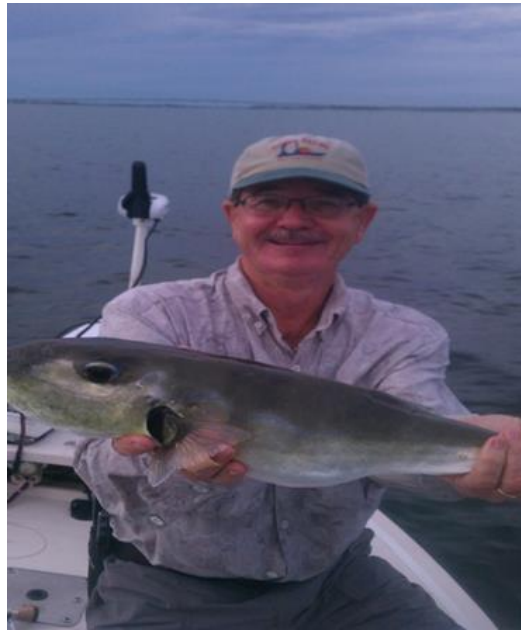
Impromptu Trout Creek Outing

At the August fly club meeting, it was suggested by Robert Fischer and Jim Dye that we have a club outing the on the 9th of Aug at Trout Creek Park on the Hillsborough River. If anyone was interested just show up at 6:30-7am. Well to my delight we had a great turn out. In addition to Robert, Jim, and myself, Steve, Kelly, Wes, Don, and Jonas all turned out with kayaks to fish the river. The water was much higher than our last outing there which made the fishing a bit tougher. Attached is a picture of one of three bass I caught on a gurgler. I also talked with Wes on the river and he had caught 6 or 7 bream. I do not have a catch report from everyone because they had left before I returned to the takeout.//Ted Hagaman



RETIREMENT OF A FLY

Retire a fly? Why? There can be several reasons why you might want to remove a fly from active service in your fly box. Obviously because you don't want to lose it, but there is a little more to it. Some of the reasons could be: Reminder of a great or unusual catch. Here is a before and after picture of a red and white mirrolure fly tied by Smitty that caught a very large puffer. There is also a picture of a golden eye shrimp tied by Smitty that caught a nice sheephead, and finally a mop fly that caught an 8# mudfish on a 1 wt fly rod.



Another reason to retire a fly would be because it has some Historical or Memorial attachment. The next pictures are of a red and yellow epoxy fly used by Curt Gowdy in an early Pediatric Cancer Fishing tournament in St. Pete. There is also a Prince of Tides fly used by Jose Wejebe in the same tournament. There is an epoxy minnow tied by Jack Montaque and of course a glass minnow fly tied by Carl Hanson. And there is a Snookeroo tied by Jim Stewart who was the driving force behind the establishment of the Suncoast Fly Fishers and a black and purple brim fly by Jim who used it to win the Jack DeTar Brim tournament in Lake Okeechobee.



Preserve a design. Our club members have come up with some very successful fly designs that have become favorites over time because they work. But if you are a fly tyer, you cannot resist the temptation to modify, change or expand on these patterns, so it's a good idea to keep the original pattern on hand. The following photo shows some of my favorite flies in their original forms, tied by their originators. First is the Carnival Clouser by Steve Parker; next is the Crystal Beetle by Smitty; then the Green and Gold by Leigh West; and finally the Golden Eye Shrimp tied by Smitty. (This pattern is not an original design by Smitty but he helped to resurrect it and it has turned into one of my go to patterns for everything that eats shrimp).



Finally there are some flies that are just **Too Pretty** to fish. These are flies that are just amazing to look at and we just couldn't image that chance of letting a fish damage them. Here is a picture of a mouse and a spider. These two were instrumental in scaring the daylighters out of my wife and daughter. And they are beautiful. All these flies have a special place in my fishing room and deserve their retirement.//Robert Fischer



Club member Edward Mlotkiewicz sent us this report: “Fly fishing in a remote tailwater in Colorado with my son. The day was perfect. The fish were cooperating, the hoppers were the key and a Morish Hopper was the key to the wild browns in the stream. They aren't big stockers or private water fish but hard to catch, fighting mad and great fun to catch. A big fish in this stream is 16 inches. Most are 9 to 13 inches and fight well above their weight class. My son and I caught and released about 15 fish and only two were photographed. The BWO hatch was on at about 7:30 AM but the trout only wanted hoppers, no BWO emergers or dries. All in all, a great day of fishing on the Front Range of Colorado.”



Rocky Mountain High

Bruce Anderson and I fished a creek high up (10,000 feet) in the Rocky Mountains in late August. We were northwest of Ft Collins on the far edge of the park. This is wild country where we saw three moose. Starting out, the creek was somewhat steep and narrow with little plunge pools. Small, eager greenback cutthroat trout rose readily to a size 16 caddis dry fly. We caught about 20 working each spot we thought might hold a fish. They were beautiful little guys from 4 to 7 inches, carefully released. After about ½ mile we broke out of the forest into a meadow. creek was wider and slower, thus, the greenbacks were very spooky. What fun! On the way out we checked out a shallow lake and found rainbow trout raising to our dry flies. Catching those fish was a bonus to a day of finding and exploring new water in the mountains.



Fishing Bamboo

When my wife and I lived in North Yorkshire, England, I bought a couple of bamboo fly rods for the fun of it. One is an old Hardy rod made in the 1950's. Another is a rod made by a local builder I got at a fishing and hunting show. It 's a 7.5 foot 4 weight and I brought it to Colorado to trout fish. Bamboo rods are usually a little slower and softer then graphite offering a better feel. I tried it for the first time on the North Fork of the Poudre River. This is a small, tailwater stream about one mile long. I was happy to note the rod cast beautifully and I got 3 trout that day on dry flies. Matched with a Hardy Perfect reel from the 1940's, it's a great outfit I will enjoy carefully.



Club members Wes and Kelly were kayak fishing at Ft Desoto and caught several species on the fly.

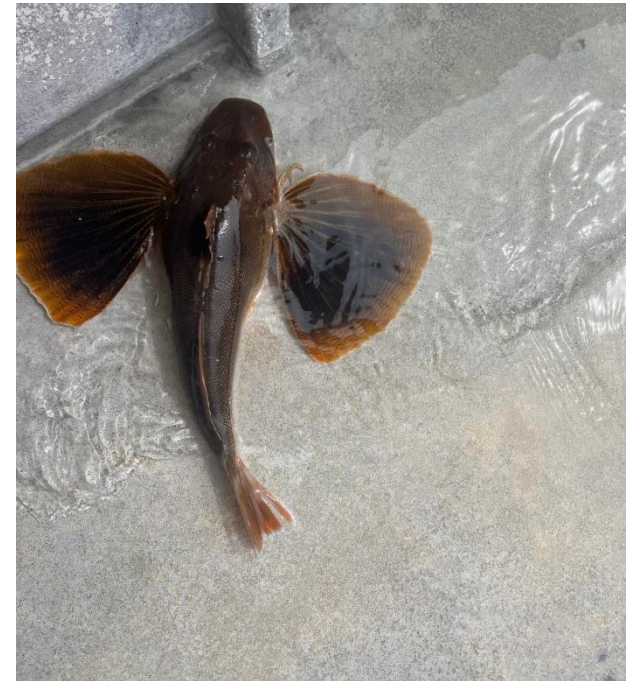
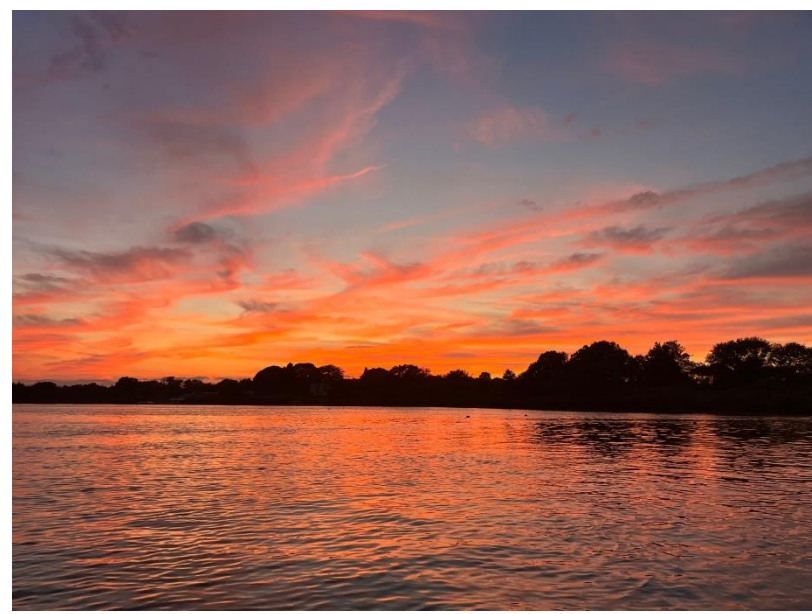


Club member Jerry Kells sent us this:

Evening kayaking in Ninigret Pond RI.

Stripers 37" and Albies are back great fun on a fly rod.

Big Sea Robin delicious as fish tacos almost 2' long



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 and 727-504-8649.

Saltwater gets all our attention, but when driving to or from work, or visiting a friend in a development, keep an eye out for a pond that looks fishy. There are many very productive ponds that have bass and panfish, some even have snook and baby tarpon since both species can adapt well to fresh water. You're okay on public land, but if privately owned seek permission. Keep a rod rigged in the vehicle. An SUV can accommodate a fully rigged fly rod, or have it in sections in a protective case in the trunk. Park your car in a safe place and observe the pond's surface for activity. A small pair of binoculars is helpful. Most fish will be around structures: trees, floating plants, docks, bridges, or an aerator. On a sunny day, shade is the key. In the absence of structure, cast close to shore where most food sources like hoppers, crickets, ants, beetles, and baitfish are plentiful. Splashes will give away feeding activity. A 5 or 6-weight fly rod with a floating weight forward line using a 7-foot leader tapered to 10-pound test will handle easily and allow you to find out if any fish are present. Use flies that imitate small baitfish and terrestrials or use a white or yellow popper in sizes 6 to 8 and cover water quickly. If you find fish that are small or too large for your equipment, adjust your gear to be better prepared on your return visit. Be careful where you step, this is Florida!

Capt Rick Grasset reports: September is one of my favorite months. Reds should be schooling on shallow grass flats and you also might find big trout there at first light. Baitfish along beaches will attract Spanish mackerel, false albacore (little tunny), sharks, tarpon and more. You should find snook around docks and bridges in the ICW. There should also be tarpon around bridges at night and in areas of Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor. Juvenile tarpon from 10 to 30-pounds should be a good option in creeks and canals. You should find snook this month around docks and bridges close to passes. They will also start making their move towards shallow flats where you might find them staging along sand bars or in potholes. Fly poppers or Gurglers may draw some big strikes in shallow water at night or early in the day! I often fish lighted docks and bridges for snook before dawn before moving to the flats after daylight. My Grasset Snook Minnow fly is my 'go to' fly pattern for snook at night.

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



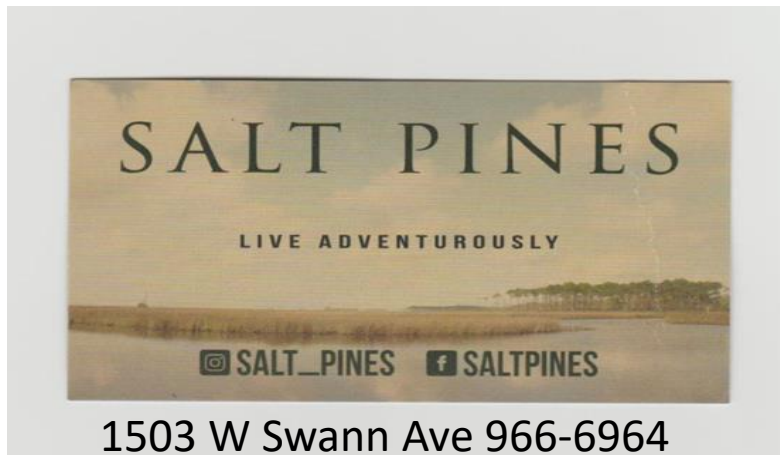
2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan Casting Clinic
- Jan Red Fly Tournament
- 11 Mar Picnic Island Outing
- Mar Annual Banquet
- July 8 Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct Marine Quest, St Pete
- Oct 21 Carl Hanson Outing
- Nov 8-14 Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov 19 Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec 8 Play Hooky at the Suncoast
Youth Center
- Dec 17 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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- 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
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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. Bryon Chamberlin (813) 361-8801
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Leigh West813-971-8697

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

St. Petersburg

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

Member Application

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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
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