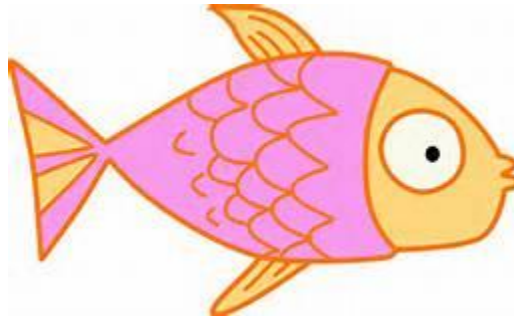




**Next meeting 5 Dec 2023
0600 PM to 0900 PM**

Annual Holiday Party

Please come and join our party to celebrate the holidays with good friends and food. Spouses are welcome! We will serve our special “grits and grunts” freshly caught by Robert Fischer and friends. You may bring an appetizer, salad or desert of your choice and we will provide beverages. Finally, bring a funny, weird or nice gift to participate in a “white elephant” gift (\$10-\$15) exchange. See the official rules for this on page 2. **Please note we are meeting at Compton Park at our old location. Directions** are on page 3 at the top.



White Elephant Exchange

Players draw names to determine what order they will go in

The first player selects a gift from the pool and opens it

Make sure everyone can see the gift!

The following players can choose to either pick an unwrapped gift from the pool or steal a previous player's gift. Anyone who gets their gift stolen in this way can do the same – choose a new gift or steal from someone else.

To keep things moving along, there are a couple of limits on gift swapping:

A present can only be stolen once per turn, which means players who have a gift stolen from them have to wait to get it back.

After three swaps, the turn automatically comes to an end (otherwise things could drag on for a *long* time).

Three Swaps and *the Gift is Out*. If a present gets stolen three times, it's out of the game and the person who holds it gets to walk away with it.

After all players have had a turn, the first player gets a chance to swap the gift he or she is holding for any other opened gift. Anyone who's gift is stolen may steal from someone else (as long as that person hasn't been stolen from yet). When someone declines to steal a gift, the game comes to an end.

Note that for this last "extra" turn, the three-swap rule doesn't apply. Players can keep swapping until someone decides to stand pat, or there are no other eligible people to steal from.

Directions to Our Meetings (6:00pm): From I-75---Take Bruce B. Downs exit from I-75; go west 2 miles to traffic light, turn left on to Tampa Palms Blvd., then left on Compton Drive, and right at Compton Park. From I-275---Take Bearss East to Bruce. B. Downs; then Bruce B. Downs east/north to Tampa Palms Blvd. Rt. on Tampa Palms, then left on Compton Drive and right at Compton Park.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you enjoyed our November meeting with Gina Russo from the FWC. Gina is a good friend of our club and always provides loads of good information. Thanks Gina!

We made it through the summer and now look forward to cooler weather and winter flats fishing. Please check our guide to wade fishing Tampa Bay on our club website under articles. Here you will learn all you need to know for a successful trip on our local waters. We look forward to sight fish the low winter tides for reds, snook and trout.

Thanks for 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 people to join our sport. Fishing is great fun and takes you to wild and beautiful places.

We are setting a monthly agenda for the club for next year. Email me ideas for outings, speakers, clinics or other ways we can serve you.

//Walt Durkin



Fly Fishing Quotes

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

“Catching fish is low on my agenda when I go fishing. I’m much more interested in savoring the day and exploring the wildlife of the river.”

“The great charm of fly-fishing is that we are always learning.” – Theodore Gordon

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Rick Valeri	813-765-3217
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
Ginny Fischer	813-495-5685
Bruce Anderson	813-786-3902
Keaton Anderson	404-313-7820

TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

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. We will also schedule a flats fishing class at Cypress Park in January. Stay tuned for the date.

Our February meeting will feature a **Trash and Treasures auction**. This is your opportunity to give away fishing stuff you no longer use or need and also buy other stuff. This is a lot of fun and raises money for the club. We will also schedule a fresh water outing at Trout Creek in February.

In March, we will feature a tie-a-thon, so calling all those who tie flies to join us. Each tier will make six flies and we will auction them off. Please come and learn how to tie and also pick up some winners.

We are looking for a good local guide for our April meeting, perhaps one who specializes in kayak fishing. Please email me with your suggestions for a candidate.

Don Coleman Outing 16 December

This is a well attended event hosted by our sister club in St Pete, the Suncoast. Please come for fishing in the Ft Desoto area and also lunch. Ft Desoto offers both good kayak, boat and wade fishing. Fish in the morning and then come for lunch at 11:30 a.m. at pavilion #4. Lunch is a chili cook-off

Kayak outing

We will have our annual 'Hooky for the Holidays' on Friday, December 8th at the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center in southeast Tampa off Hwy 41. We will kayak for about three hours and then have lunch and a tour of the facility. We will provide lunch and drinks. Please arrive about 8:30 to set out at about 9:00 in the kayaks. Bring a rod to fish or just kayak. All kayaks are provided.

Google Groups for Fly Fishing

Use the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Google Group to reach out and communicate with other club members about fly fishing! This resource is available to obtain information about fishing, connect with fishing partners, inquire about areas to fish, techniques, flies, or anything appropriate to fishing! Please note this is a private forum, and is limited to club members.

To join, please email: Sightcaster@gmail.com with your request. Subject Line: TBFFC Google Group. You must have a Google or Gmail account to join.



The BIG GUN SHOOT-OUT



Sponsored by the **Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club**
Sunday, November 19 at 9:00 a.m.

Picnic Island Park

We hosted another successful Big Gun casting event this year. Thanks to all who participated and helped run the event and set up. Special thanks to Ed Fisher, Denise Bruner and Greg Rogers for coming early to get things going. Thanks to Ginny for keeping track of the scores, Robert for the leaders and flies and Ted for lunch.

The weather was good and we all enjoyed the friendly competition and camaraderie. The long cast was tough this year after the wind turned to the south, but we crowned a new champ at 105 feet. Congratulations to Lowell and all the winners. Names and winning scores are on the right and I will send the spreadsheet with all the scores in a separate email. //Walt

Winning Team Score 1,209, The Scoundrels

Dave Olsen 363

Eric Davis 427

Walter Hoover 419

Individual High Score:

Eric Davis 427

Ladies High Score:

Denise Bruner 209

Longest Cast:

Lowell Bebout 105 feet





Jonas Magnusson

So Many Lines! How do I choose?

Now it's time to buy a new floating fly line. I looked at **Scientific Anglers'** floating lines for fresh water, and I found they offer seven different fly lines. It is easy to pick the wrong one. Which one is right for you?

When we need a new fly line the first question is - what is the size/weight of the fly we intend to use? When we have that one down, we can choose our line weight. The line's mass profile is critical for instance when we plan to throw big and heavy. The mass profile of the line is simply how the head's mass is distributed along the length of the head. The mass profile has a great impact on how the fly turns over at delivery. Points to consider – Delicately tapered lines can't cast heavy flies, but aggressively tapered lines can cast both light - and heavy flies. How the line works is caster dependent. For any particular caster lines with long tapers and small tips will be less powerful than lines with short tapers and big tips, all else being equal. Beginning casters can't make long tapers with small tips work. The great casters can make anything work.

So, now we understand why SA offers all these different lines – these lines all have different mass profiles and various head lengths and are all designed for various scenarios.

What to look for?

Line weight - note if the line is over-weighted. Some lines are 2 sizes heavy. **Head length** – lines with long heads can be cast far by good casters. Long-head lines don't help middling casters at all. Short-head lines are often heavier and thus load the rod more quickly. However, long-head lines mend more easily.

(Saltwater lines generally have shorter heavier heads because you need to be able to cast quickly.)

The head's mass profile – Is the mass in the head evenly spread over its length or is the mass pushed forward?

Rear taper – long rear taper is the hallmark of lines designed to be cast far. Front taper – long front taper is found on lines designed to be delicate. The diameter of the terminal tip of the fly line matters too. Thin tips will be more delicate than thick ones (everything else equal), but that info is usually not given. Short front taper has a more aggressive turnover. Aggressive front tapers will land harder than delicate front tapers.

SA's very best lines are called **Amplitude** and they are offered both in textured versions and smooth versions depending on our preference. Textured lines shoot and haul better (less contact of line to guides), they last longer and tangle less. I prefer textured lines. Some anglers like textured lines and some can't stand the rasping sound they make in the rod guides, your choice. //Jonas

If you are not sure what line to buy go to your local fly shop and talk to an expert. Fly lines are expensive, so it pays to pick out the correct line. A good fly line will last many years with care. //Walt

Smitty's Kielbasa Sandwiches with Kimchi and Swiss Cheese

Quick Kimchi Makes About 2 Cups

Ingredients:

1 small head napa cabbage (about 1 pound)

⅓ cup kosher salt

⅓ cup unseasoned rice vinegar

1 tbsp sugar

1 tsp sweet or hot paprika

¼ tsp cayenne pepper

½ medium red bell pepper

3 medium scallions

One 3" piece of fresh ginger (grated)

1 garlic clove

Directions:

1. Trim off the core end of the cabbage. Split each leaf lengthwise and cut it crosswise into 1½" ribbons (about 4 cups). Combine the cabbage and salt in a nonreactive bowl and set aside at room temperature for 2 hours.
2. Bring the vinegar, sugar, paprika, and cayenne to a boil over high heat in a small saucepan.
3. Meanwhile, finely chop the bell pepper (about ½ cup) and transfer it to a medium bowl. Trim and thinly slice the scallions (a heaping ⅓ cup) and peel and microplane the ginger (about 1 tablespoon); transfer each to the bowl with the bell pepper as it is prepared. Using a garlic press add the garlic (about 1 tsp) into the bowl.
4. Drain, rinse, and thoroughly dry the cabbage; add it to the bell pepper mixture along with the vinegar mixture and stir until thoroughly combined. Pack the kimchi into a nonreactive bowl or jar, cover, refrigerate until you are ready to use it. Kimchi will keep in the refrigerator for about 1 week. Serves 4.



Chattooga River Trout Fishing 4-11 November

Members of the club made the 10 hour drive north to fish the Chattooga River for stream trout in early November. This is the time of year that the river is designated delayed harvest and the fish & wildlife service begins stocking the river. So, the fishing is entirely catch and release. This outing is based out of Oconee State Park, which is a beautiful wooded preserve with a barracks and vintage cabins that date back to the 1930s and the Civilian Conservation Corps. The park also has a lake and access to many hiking trails in the area.

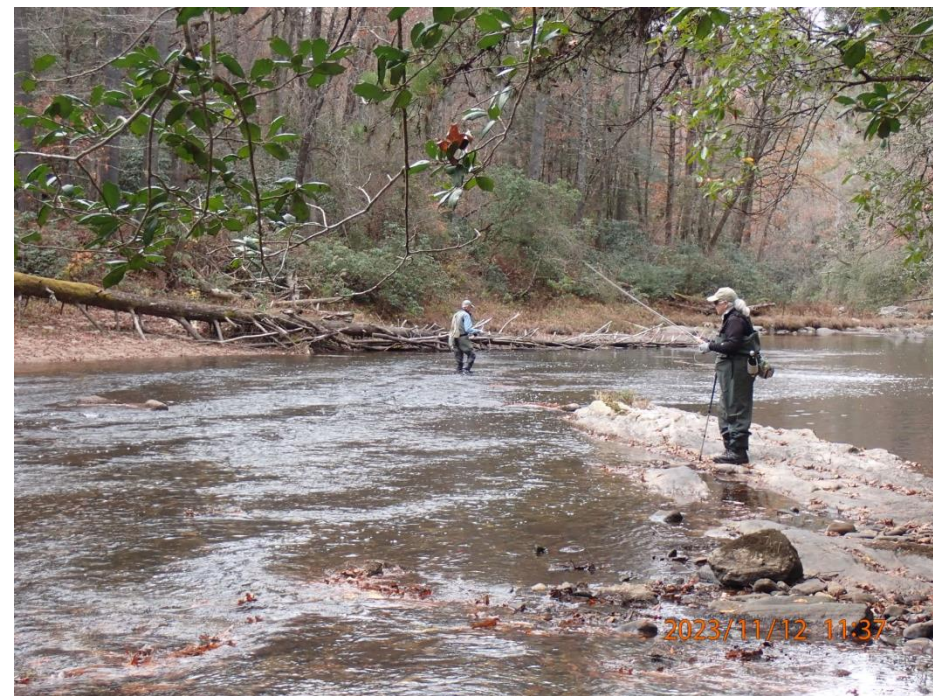
The Chattooga River was running low this year so initially fishing was a little challenging. The fish had migrated to the deeper pools and runs, but only in some areas. Once these hiding spots for the fish were found, the catch rate went up. By the end of the week, additional stocking had begun and pockets of confused rainbows and brookies were available to take on a fly. The quality of the fish was excellent with many fish exceeding 15 inches. Overall the fishing was good to very good. Besides fishing, the other highlight were the dinners and friendship. Each night a different member was responsible to cook a meal that was consistently restaurant quality and delicious. This was also the time for the opportunity for the stories of the day to be shared over the table.

Oconee State Park in South Carolina is a beautiful refuge in a wonderful historic setting, with good access to the local rivers. There are many access points to the Chattooga, which allows you to find areas to fish that have little pressure. One day, we shuttled our group up to a more remote spot and fished down stream for about a mile and a half, to a hiking trail back to a secondary car. In these upper reaches, the only fishermen we encountered on the river were from our group. Check out the Oconee State Park website for more details. Also visit The Chattooga River Fly Shop for guides, flies and river information. The owners Carl and Karen are very helpful.

<https://southcarolinaparks.com/oconee>

<https://chattoogariverflyshop.com>





Fly Fishing in Cuba

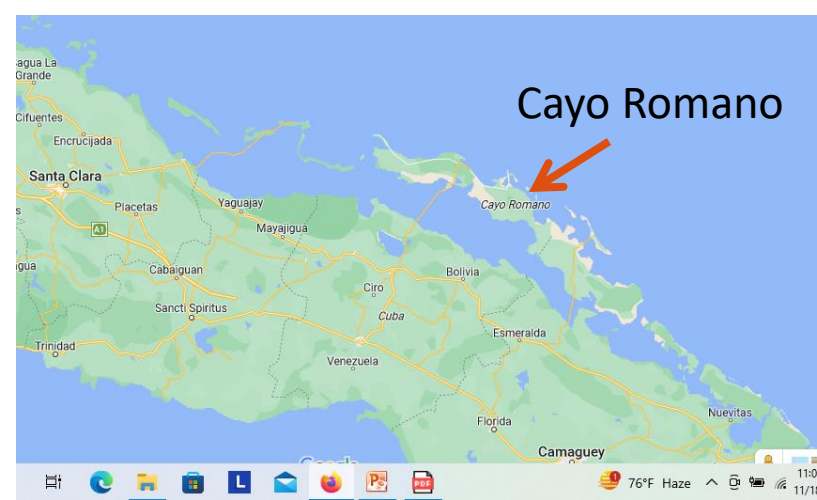
Eight club members fished in Cuba 28 Oct to 4 Nov. We flew from Miami to Santa Clara and then took a big bus to Cayo Romano, which is south of Andros Island on the NE coast of Cuba. We booked with Avalon and they took care of the documents. I suggest booking with Avalon or any fly shop running trips. When we returned the customs agents just asked about items to declare and that was it.

We stayed at an all inclusive resort where most folks were on a beach vacation. The resort was quite nice with pools, buffet food, open bar; and, entertainment, which was a little too loud at night for us old timers. We took a golf cart each morning to the nearby Marina to fish from 0830 to 0430.

We fished from Dolphin-style skiffs with two anglers and one guide. All the guides were great; experienced, knew the water well and spoke pretty good English. They train for five years before guiding on their own. The water is divided into six regions, so the guides and anglers are spread out each day and you get a good variety of habitat. We were fishing mostly for bonefish, with chances for permit along the way. You could also focus on permit all day if you wanted to, but, that is often a waiting game as Tom McGuane wrote in *The Longest Silence*.

We fished mostly from the boats, but also waded at times. Boat fishing covers more water and it's easier to see the fish as you are higher up. Wade fishing is fun if the bottom is firm and there are lots of fish around. Also, both anglers can fish at the same time. I enjoy wade fishing and trying to figure it out on my own sometimes.

Weather was mixed with some rain and wind, but good days also. We all caught our share of bonefish and had shots at permit, but did not catch any. Two permit were caught the week before according to our guides. Did not see any tarpon and they are around more in the spring and early summer. The bone fish were pretty good size, averaging about three pounds and up to six pounds. Bigger than Mexico and a little smaller on average than the Bahamas. This was our fifth trip to Cuba and another great adventure. The average Cuban is struggling to get by and I hope our trip helped in some small way. //Walt







Two Boys Inn, Andros Island, Bahamas

While we were in Cuba, Rich Gorden and his buddy John fished the Bahamas. Rich got a personal best 10 pounder. Way to go, Guys!



Club member Jeff Abeles sent this report: “Today I fished in the trophy waters of the Ravens fork on the Cherokee Reservation in North Carolina. A great day of wading the very low and clear waters. Technical fishing at its best Large fish everywhere but remember if you see them they see you! My Guide Miller worked really hard all day continually changing flies, tippet size and depth of the fly. Had a great 4hrs landing 6 fish 18 plus and had a few others on but lost them. Here's a Redband Rainbow usually found on the West coast. They were introduced into the trout population on this river a few years ago. Beautiful fish, beautiful colors. Nice long runs but only a couple of jumps. Tight lines!”



Club member Tim Duke sent us this report: My two sons (Brian and Rob), my grandson (Robbie) and I went on a half day Orvis guided trip out of Asheville NC November 25. We fished the East Fork of the Pigeon River in Canton NC. Had a great time. Low 30's and low water however made fishing conditions challenging. My son Rob and I caught one a piece. Son Brian caught two. Grandson Robbie was the big winner with 6.



Kelly sent us this report: “Wes and Kelly spent a fabulous week at Magic Waters in Patagonia Chile on a hosted trip with Mark Melnyk of The New Fly Fisher (you can see his show on YouTube or World Fishing Network). Large rainbow and brown trout were plentiful. The weather started out extremely windy (>35 mph) and cold (about 40 degrees F), and gradually warmed up so by the end of the week it was sunny and warm (mid 70s). They fished lakes, rivers, and spring creeks - with names like Hero to Zero, Boca Leon (Lion's Mouth), Mercedes, Palloma, Blue Lake, and Arco. The night fishing using mouse patterns was a lot of fun - you can see the mouse pattern hanging from the mouth of the fish Kelly is holding in one of the attached pictures. Chile law says the water is available to everyone, but sometimes the access is through private land, which means climbing over, under, through, and around various fences, including one electric fence. The lodge is a work of art with beautiful woodwork, functional fly tying room, open kitchen, and hot tub heated by wood. Food was gourmet, and included a Chilean BBQ and roasted lamb, among other tasty meals. The guides were all fluent in English and very personable. The best quote of the week was a guide working with Kelly, who is easily distracted by the wildlife and world around her. So when a fish was on her line, he would say "Set Lady Set" - we all agreed that would make a wonderful t shirt”.





Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Baby Tarpon in Tampa Bay

This has been a banner year for smaller tarpon in the Tampa Bay area. Dock lights have been holding a good number of tarpon up to 30 pounds with an occasional larger one cruising near the lights to take advantage of the concentration of baitfish. Snook, reds, and trout are the usual customers frequenting lights, but tarpon will be there too. Lights near structures like docks, bridges, and marinas are a good place to start. Be very cautious in your approach. Watch the lighted area from a distance using an electric motor at a very slow speed. Good tidal flow is needed to get these fish to accept your offering. This is strictly a sight fishing situation where long accurate casts are needed. If you can't do a saltwater quick cast, get a good casting instructor to help perfect your technique. This will help in all saltwater fly sight casting. If you're not a night person and want other baby tarpon choices, explore the many rivers that go into the bay and Gulf. Early morning will bring these silver rockets rolling on the surface helping you find their location. If they do not show, cast small baitfish patterns around the above-mentioned structure. If there is no surface activity, use a full sinking line with larger dark weighted flies, as these elusive fish will spend most of their time close to the bottom. Clouser minnows are a good choice. When you find one, more will be nearby.

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: There should be good action in the coastal gulf with false albacore (little tunny), Spanish and king mackerel, blues, tripletail or cobia. Look for Spanish mackerel, blues or false albacore feeding on the surface to find them. Diving terns or terns hovering just above the surface of the water and moving fast will give their presence away if they aren't on top. Fly anglers should score with small white flies, Ultra Hair Clousers, poppers or Crease flies. Look for tripletail around crab trap floats. I've done well on tripletail with my Grasset Flats Minnow and shrimp fly patterns. A weed guard is important to help prevent snagging the crab trap line. Cobia may also be found around crab trap floats, swimming on the surface or over structure. They will require 9 or 10-weight fly tackle. Fly anglers should score on cobia with wide profile baitfish patterns such as Deceivers or Tarpon Bunnies.

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



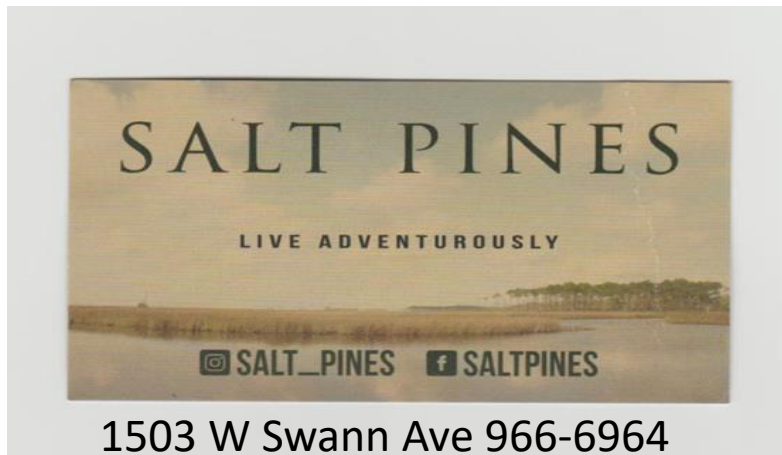
2023/24 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan Cypress Park Wade Clinic
- Jan Red Fly Tournament
- Feb Trout Creek Outing
- Mar Annual Banquet
- July Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct Marine Quest, St Pete
- Oct Carl Hanson Outing
- Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov Casting Clinic, Egan Park
- Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec 8 Play Hooky at the Suncoast Youth Center
- Dec 16 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.

- 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
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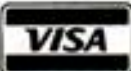
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Member Benefits

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

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- 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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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: \$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