



Capt. Bryon Chamberlin **Fishing Photography**

Bryon is a long time member of our club and an experienced inshore guide. He fishes the Homosassa area in the winter and focuses on tarpon in the spring. An excellent amateur photographer, Bryon will give us photo tips and also show some of his breathtaking outdoor photos.



Next meeting 2 Jan 2024
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

We will meet at the Northdale Recreation center from 6 to 8 pm. No casting before the meeting due to darkness. We will resume casting when we have enough light. We will provide pizza and drinks, so join us for an enjoyable evening. Families and newcomers are welcome to walk in and check out the club. We will also start collecting annual dues in January.




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 all enjoyed our annual Holiday Party. Thanks to our decorating committee (Patty, Denise, Ginny, Kathy and Lou) for the table decorations and music. Thanks to Robert for catching and cooking the fish and to Ginny for the grits. Thanks to Dr. Greg Stepanski for hosting us again at Compton Park. Thanks to Ken Moser for donating six tickets to the Florida aquarium. And, thanks to everyone who showed up, brought food and exchanged gifts and good cheer. What a fun way to begin the holiday season.

Where does the time go? I hope you all are enjoying the holidays with family and friends as we say goodbye to 2023 and welcome a New Year. Here's wishing you a healthy and prosperous 2024. Let us know how to make the club better to support you and our sport. Looking forward to many more adventures on the water. I hope to see you at meetings or on the flats with fly rod in hand. All the best and tight lines!

We will start collecting annual dues in January; \$40 for an individual member. Please pay at your earliest convenience.

//Walt Durkin 

Fly Fishing Quotes

"I had to call in sick, my arm is in a cast."
Unknown

"I've gone fishing thousands of times in my life, and I have never once felt unlucky or poorly paid for those hours on the water."
William Tapply.

"Fishing is not an escape from life, but often a deeper immersion into it..." – Harry Middleton

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Walt Durkin	813-513-2122
Walt.durkin@aol.com	cell 813-853-5870
VP: Ted Hagaman	813-455-4016
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 on Saturday 6 January.

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 Postponed to 30 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

Red Fly Tournament

Saturday, January 20, 2024 (weather permitting) Alternate tournament day will be Sunday, January 21, 2024 (weather permitting). - MANDATORY check in and captain's meeting on Saturday, 1/20/2024 at 5:30-6:45 am at Salty Shamrock Irish Pub. Each team, or solo angler, MUST bring their measuring device to be approved by tournament officials, to the captain's meeting on 1/20/2024. The captain's meeting will be at the Salty Shamrock Irish Pub (6816 US Hwy 41, Apollo Beach, FL 33572) at approximately 6:40 am on 1/20/2024.

Cypress Park Wade Fishing Class

Please join us for an informal outing at Cypress Park on 6 January at 0800 AM. We will cover the basics of how to wade fish and cover flies, gear and techniques; all you need to know for a successful day of wade fishing. We welcome beginners and old pro's alike and will have some hand-on fishing for a few hours afterwards. Come prepared with gear to wade if you want to fish or just enjoy the talk. We will have donuts and coffee.



Holiday Party Photos





Choosing a Fresh Water Line

by Jonas

Now it's time to buy a new floating, fresh water 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. The first six are designed for cold water and the Bass Bug line is designed for medium to hot water.

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. 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.

See the this link for more detail: <https://everyjonahasawhale.com/fly-casting/equipment/so-many-lines-how-do-i-choose/>

Kayak Outing Report

Article by Patty Anderson

Photos by Denise Bruner

We had a good turnout as members of TBFFC gathered in Apollo Beach for the annual Play Hooky at the Hatchery outing. Several members from the Suncoast Fly Club joined our group as well. This outing consisted of kayak fishing, tidal salt pond fishing, lunch and a guided tour of the facilities. Our host, Gina Russo, from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation (FWC) met us at the Florida Conservation and Technology Center in Apollo Beach. This is the location where our new impressive indoor climate controlled fish hatchery is under construction. We started the morning loading our fishing gear into individual kayaks. All boating gear was supplied by the center. The staff guided us along the property's kayak trail as we paddled thru mangrove tunnels that led out into Tampa Bay waters just south of the manatee viewing center. Both snook and redfish were sighted in the shallow waters along the shoreline and a few fish were caught. After a morning of fishing, we paddled back to the center for a holiday lunch. We then were given a guided tour of the campus, which includes the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center, the Stock Enhancement Research Facility, Florida Aquarium's Coral Conservation Center, and their Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Center. The tour was very interactive and informative about the conservation work that is being done for sea turtle rescue, growing coral and sea urchins to restore our endangered reefs, and the future restocking of sport fish. We were able to watch the scientists at work on rehabbing cold shocked sea turtles and the sea urchin nurseries for future stocking. Overall, very hopeful and incredible work being done at the research center!

Below are links to learn more about the center and the amazing work they are doing to preserve our waters and ecosystems.

<https://myfwc.com/research/saltwater/stock-enhancement/mfec/>

<https://www.flaquarium.org/conservation/conservation-campus/>

<https://www.tampaelectric.com/company/fctc/> <https://fyccn.org/sycc-partners-at-the-florida-conservation-and-technology-center/>



Smitty's Date & Nut Pinwheel Cookies

Ingredients:

Dough:

½ cup brown sugar

¾ cup white sugar

2 cups flour

½ tsp salt

½ tsp baking powder

1 tsp vanilla

1 egg

½ cup butter

Blend butter, sugars, egg and vanilla. Mix in flour, baking soda and salt. Chill dough for 1 hour.

Filling:

1 lb dates

6 tbsp orange juice

¼ cup sugar

⅛ tsp of salt

1 lb walnuts (chopped)

Chop dates and add to the next three ingredients. Cook slowly and stir constantly. Add walnuts last and cool.

Directions:

Roll out dough on wax paper. Spread filling evenly over the dough and roll up like a jelly roll. Chill overnight.

Slice thin and bake at 375 degrees for 15-20 minutes.

Dough will keep for 1 month in the refrigerator before baking.



Fishing at Cypress Park

Our winter fishing has begun at the Cypress flat near Tampa's airport. Cypress has a good, wadeable flat where we focus our fishing on low, winter tides. This is 90% sight fishing for reds in crystal clear water. Look for the low tides in conjunction with north or northeast winds for the best conditions. Club VP, Ted Hagaman, caught a 31 inch red on the south side throwing a kwan fly at the tailing fish. Good job Ted! Club member Jim Dye is using our club Google Groups for Fly Fishing to hook up with fishing partners on Cypress and elsewhere. He met new club member Edward Mlotkiewicz and showed him the ropes for the area. They did not get any, but had a good time. This is a fun place to fish and has room for 6 to 10 anglers. Pick your spot along the bar and be courteous to other anglers. Introduce yourself and you may meet your new best fishing friend. //Walt



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Shallow Water Fly Fishing

Shallow water fly fishing conditions can be more challenging this time of year because of cold fronts, colder water, significant wind from different directions, and fish that don't seem interested in our offerings. Starting early on a low-tide, cold morning is an exciting invitation for some fly fishers; for others, it's a good reason to stay home. Check tide charts, then find a well-protected, familiar area that has been productive at other times of the year. If sunny, have the sun behind you to improve visibility, being careful of your shadow. Disturbances in the shallows will indicate the presence of your quarry, usually redfish, trout, and occasionally sheepshead. Nervous water, wakes, scattering small baitfish, slow-waving exposed tails and schools of mullet deserve your attention. Canoes and kayaks get you shallower and keep your profile and shadow low, making wading often your best option. It is also a great way to transport your many accessories. A line tied to your waist can bring your paddle craft with you. The same line can anchor the boat, allowing you to get closer to the fish. Use a good floating saltwater tapered 7-weight fly line to match your rod. A tapered 9-foot leader to 20-pound test should be attached to your favorite size 4 crab or shrimp imitation that is your confidence fly. A fly color that matches the bottom will narrow your choices. Casts must be quick and careful, the first one always being the best. A slow, natural presentation is most productive.

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: CB's Saltwater Outfitters, 1249 Stickney Point Rd, Sarasota, FL, will hold Orvis-Endorsed fly fishing schools on Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 9 and Apr 13, 2024. The courses, designed for beginning and intermediate fly casters, will focus on basic fly casting principles, improving casting skills and correcting faults. I will be the instructor and I will also cover saltwater fly fishing techniques, leader construction and fly selection. Cost for the class is \$225 per person and includes the use of fly tackle, workbook and lunch. Optional instructional guided fly fishing trips are also available for an additional fee. Contact CB's Saltwater Outfitters at (941) 349-4400 or info@cbsoutfitters.com to make reservations. Gift certificates are available for fly schools and private fly casting instruction.

Look for reds and snook in skinny water and snook around dock lights. Deep grass flats are usually a good option for action for trout and seasonal species such as pompano, blues and Spanish mackerel. 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!

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



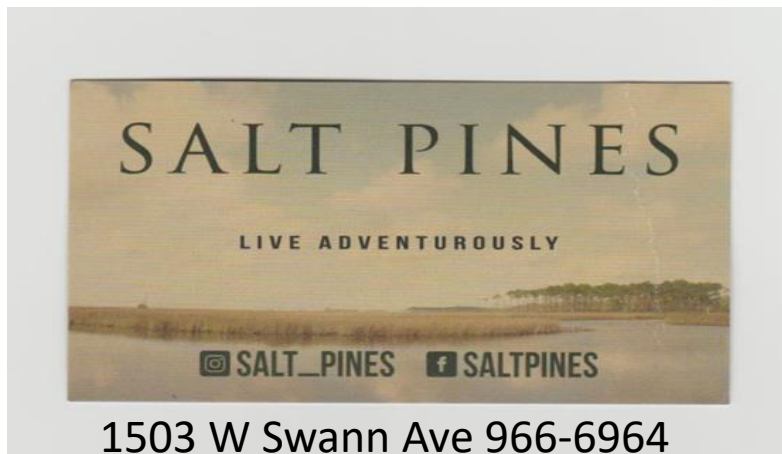
2023/24 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 6 Cypress Park Wade Clinic
- Jan 20 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb Trout Creek Outing
- Apr 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

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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The Fly Guy

Capt. Pat Damico

2981 E. Vina del Mar Blvd.

St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

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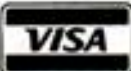
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Member Benefits

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

North Tampa

Jonas Magnusson.....361 903 2846

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: \$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