

Fly Tying Session

We are calling all Flytiers to come for a fly tying session at our March meeting. Each flytier will tie six of their favorite patterns and we will add them to club boxes to pass on to lucky members. This is a chance to see fly artists at work, learn a little about the process, and also come away with some sure winners. Fly tying is another aspect of our sport that is a lot of fun. And, I have found it's a little more satisfying to whip up a pattern one night and then try it out the next day and maybe even catch a fish. Flies are many and varied and we hope to come up with a great selection. I will tie my bonefish bitter, which has been working on the local redfish.



**Next meeting 5 March 2024
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

We will meet at the Northdale Recreation center from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. We will resume casting at 5:30 now since 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 have also started collecting annual dues for 2024.

Directions to Our Meetings (6:00pm): 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 Trash and Treasures meeting. Thanks for the good turnout and for the many generous donations. You all donated lots of interesting and quality items to auction, a win-win for the club and members. The club earned almost \$700 to support our activities. Look for photos on the next page. We will repeat this fun event next year.

Our annual banquet is set for 6 April so mark your calendars. We will host jointly with the Suncoast again this year. Tickets are available at the next two meetings for \$25. We are seeking a few more raffle items for you to either consign or donate, so think about that. Nonetheless, we will have cool stuff, good food and camaraderie to look forward to.

We have topped off our raffle with new items and lots of fly tying materials, so check it out and maybe buy a few more tickets. Every ticket wins something!

We are collecting annual dues for 2024; \$40 for an individual member. Please pay at your earliest convenience.

All the best and tight lines!

//Walt Durkin 

Fly Fishing Quotes

“The angler forgets most of the fish he catches, but he does not forget the streams and lakes in which they are caught”. - Charles K. Fox

“Anytime I can sneak in a moment to fish and ride horses, I’m a happy camper!” - George Foreman

“There is no use in walking five miles to fish when you can depend on being just as unsuccessful near home.” – Mark Twain

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Photos from our Trash and Treasure Meeting

Denise Bruner



Club Banquet/Hog Roast 6 April

Annual Banquet: Saturday , 6 April at St. Jerome Catholic Church, 10895 Hamlin Blvd., Largo. Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club will again join the Suncoast Club this year, adding to the product donations and bidding for gear and trips. Tickets are \$25 and you can buy them at the next two meetings or online at <https://suncoastflyfishers.com/>. Finally, 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 lots of fly fishing equipment, flies, 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.



gg62745904 www.gograph.com

TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

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

Our April meeting will feature Bob Schorejs, aka “Kayak Bob” who will talk about kayak fishing in our local area.

New Club Shirts will soon be available. They cost us \$27 and will offer them at \$30. We have some in white this year and they really look good with our logo.

The Suncoast club sent us this: “Dayle Mazzarella wants to do a specialty casting clinic on March 16th. The topic is going to be **“Presentations on a Trout Stream.”** Capt. Pat Damico will help out. We have reserved Egan Field for the event. Tampa Club members are invited.

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

The Film Tour featured on the right is a lot of fun. The Tampa Theater is a super venue dating back almost 100 years. They also have popcorn and soda, beer and wine to wash it down. Just show up and buy your tickets. Sponsored by Waterkeepers who will put their proceeds to good use.

The image is a screenshot of a mobile website for the Tampa Bay Waterkeeper's Fly Fishing Film Tour. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a search icon on the left and a hamburger menu on the right. Below the navigation bar, the main content area features a blue header with a fish silhouette and the text "TAMPA BAY WATERKEEPER PRESENTS". The main title "FLY FISHING FILM TOUR" is displayed in large, bold, blue letters. Below the title, the Tampa Theatre logo is visible on the left, and the date "TUESDAY APRIL 23RD" is on the right. A large graphic of a fish skeleton is centered, with the text "f3t" and "2024" overlaid. At the bottom, there is a row of logos for sponsors including ORVIS, DALES, MONSTER, YETI, NRS, GREYS, Sawyer, TURTLEDOX, ALLWATER, RIVERSIDE, SA, DAICHI, CAPTAINS FOR CLEAN WATER, YAKOOK, X, FLY WATER, FLYERS, Outside, and Angler Journal. The website URL "TBWK.ORG" is displayed at the bottom in a blue bar.

FFI Florida Council Event at BPS Orlando April 13

Dave Olsen from FFI sent us this:

Hello everyone,

“We have secured the Bass Pro Shops in Orlando for an event on April 13th, with an additional setup day on the 12th. We will be allowed use of the conference room, fly shop, and the outside grounds. In addition we will be able to do raffles and silent auctions in an effort to fundraise. I envision (4) or so outside casting demonstrations and fly tiers and a few programs in the conference room. I think we can have a fun packed full day, hopefully raise awareness for FFI and the council, and hopefully raise some money as well. There is no cost to us. Tom Logan has agreed to work with Craig Smothers in an effort to put together some quality tiers, and I will be reaching out to put together some casting programs and a few indoor seminars. Bass Pro Shops fly shop manager John Grasta has agreed to help with promotion as well.

There are a few things we could use from all of you and the clubs:

- Auction / Raffle items – If everyone could acquire at least one item from their club or local area we would be in great shape to raise a bit of money.
- Promote – Any promotion we can get, particularly in the areas of Orlando, Tampa, and Melbourne would be of great help in getting people to turn out.
- We will also need some volunteers to help people find the various program sites, collect contact info of participants, promote raffles / auction items, etc. So if you can help out that would be great.

I will be making contacts for programs this week and will get back to you with that info. I will also start posting to the council’s Instagram and Facebook accounts, and any of you that can do the same would be great. Appreciate any suggestions or comments. “ Dave Olson

HEADLINE: One-Day Fly Fishing Expo at Orlando's Bass Pro Shops on April 13

The Florida Council of Fly Fishers International will hold a one-day Fly Fishing Expo at the Bass Pro Shops on International Drive in Orlando on Saturday, April 13th, 2024 from 9 AM until 3 PM.

This event will feature some of the most talented fly fishers in Florida, sharing their talents and observations to improve others fly fishing skills. Featured presenters include:

- Dave Peterson, Chairman of Fly Fishers International Board of Directors, will discuss programs of the organization that preserve the legacy of fly fishing around the world.
- Jon Cave operates the longest standing fly fishing school in the Southeast. He is the author of several books, including "Performance Fly Casting".
- Capt. Frank Catino, the Cortland Line Company's representative, fly fishing guide, and expert on fly lines and choosing the proper line for each angler and situation.
- David Lambert, author and Master Casting Instructor, is a gifted teacher whose enthusiasm and knowledge will help fine tune your casting.
- Dusty Sprague, a Master Certified Casting Instructor whose ability to explain and demonstrate all aspects of fly casting make him one of the best instructors around.
- Steve Potter, a master fly tier whose work with deer hair is among the best in the world, will share his many tips on fly tying and improve your skills.
- Peggy Brenner, a master fly tier whose classic streamer patterns are not only gorgeous but fishy, will share her skills and help your tying.
- John Grasta, fly shop manager at Bass Pro Shops and two-handed fly rod enthusiast will show you the advantages of the long rod.
- David Olson, Master Certified Casting Instructor, fly shop manager, and rigging expert.

These along with other amazing fly tiers, instructors and presenters will help improve your fly fishing skills. This will also be a great place to meet other fly fishers and learn about fly fishing opportunities around the state.

The address for Bass Pro Shops is 5156 International Dr., Orlando, FL 32819

Club member Ed Mlotkiewicz sent us this: "I tied shad flies at a Shad On The Fly group meeting at Orlando Outfitters on February 9th. Here are the flies and recipes if you are interested in adding them to the newsletter." Thanks Ed and shad fishing is great fun from January to March in the St John's river.



SHAD PUFF - #1, #2, #3

Hook: TMC 9395, #6 to #2 or similar

Thread: 140 denier

Eyes: From bead-chain to medium lead

Tail: Mylar Cord, Pearl, Medium or Flashabou, pearl

Body: Colored thread covered with clear vinyl rib

Collar: Mylar Cord, Pearl, Medium

Head: Small chenille in color to match/contrast with body. Figure-8 wrap to form a ball.

Head Cement: Your preference

COMET - #4, #5

Hook: TMC 9395, #6 or similar

Thread: Flat Waxed Nylon

Eyes: Beadchain, color of choice

Tail: Bucktail or Calf Tail, color of choice

Body: Holographic tinsel, color of choice

Hackle: Schlappen, color of choice

Head Cement: Whatever you have on hand

TRADITIONAL SHAD DART VARIATIONS - #6, #7, #12, #13

Hook: TMC 5262 or similar, #8 to #4

Thread: 140 denier, color of choice

Tail: Polarflash, Marabou, Mylar etc.

Tag: 140 denier thread, red

Weight: Lead or lead free wire, .015 or .020. Add a bead as a head for extra weight.

Body: Floss, color of choice

Rib: Gold, silver or copper wire

Head: 140 denier thread, color of choice

Head Cement: Whatever you have on hand

SIMPLE SHAD DART - #8, #9

Hook: TMC 9395 or TMC 5262, #6 or #8

Thread: 140 denier, color of choice

Bead: Brass, Tungsten or Glass, color of choice

Tail: Polarflash, Pearl

Tag: 140 denier thread, red

Body: Estaz, color to match thread

Head Cement: Whatever you have on hand

The Waterman Fly Fishing Tournament Results

The Waterman Fly Fishing Tournament is a two-day, fly fishing-only, catch & release redfish tournament with an optional Snook Calcutta with a 50/50 cash payout was held on February 16th and February 17th, 2024. The tournament is sponsored by the Tampa Bay Waterkeepers.

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. A clean and resilient watershed is essential to strong communities and a healthy economy. Serving our population of more than 2.7 million people across Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, Tampa Bay Waterkeeper works to improve, protect, and preserve Tampa Bay's watershed through citizen engagement and community action rooted in sound science and research.

Club member Leigh West and his partner, Brandon Chircop tied for fifth place this year with two over-slot reds (55.75" total). Captain Greg Peterson and Christopher Dierlam won with a new record of 68.75" (format is 2 largest redfish).

The tournament hosted 145 anglers and 76 teams. Leigh reported weather and high water levels made wading difficult, so they poled/fished from his flats boat.

Find out more about the Tampa Bay Waterkeepers at: <https://www.tampabaywaterkeeper.org/about-us>. They are a good organization working hard to protect our waters.

AT&T 10:53 AM 89%

← LEADERBOARD 🔍 ↻

76 TEAMS 145 ANGLERS 72 LOGGED 0 NEW

THE WATERMAN FLY FISHING TOURNAMENT - 2024

#1

JUICE Team 68.75 Points

CHRISTOPHER DIERLAM

GREG PETERSON

DATE	DIVISION	SPECIES	COUNT	POINTS
All	Open	Red Drum (Redfish)	2+1	68.75
Total				68.75

#2

TBS BEVERAGE Team 63.5 Points

SEAN KERSTING

GTBAC 2024 Fly Fishing Tournament

Grab your fly fishing gear and join us for the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council's 3rd Annual Fly Fishing Tournament. Proceeds will go towards youth in our communities, assisting them to become a part of the scouting program.

Event Schedule:

FRI, April 26th Mandatory Captains' Call for All Registered Participants | 6:30 PM

Optional Meet & Greet at Mullett's Fish Camp & Market | 7:00 PM

SAT, April 27th Fishing Day | Sunrise - 5:00 PM

Awards Dinner at Mullett's Fish Camp & Market, St. Pete | 6:30 PM

You may fish on land or by boat. A photo submission format will make it possible for all fisherman to participate.

Info & Registration: <https://bit.ly/GTBACFlyFishing2024>

The Greater Tampa Bay Area Council is one of the local councils in western Florida chartered by the Boy Scouts of America. The Council encompasses nine counties and serves more than 15,000 youth in 189 Cub Scout packs, 192 Scouts BSA, 36 Venturing Crews, 5 Sea Scout Ships, and 26 Pathfinder Units. The GTBAC also maintains six camp properties. To learn more, please visit:
tampabayscouting.org.

Info & Registration <https://bit.ly/GTBACFlyFishing2024>

Club member Jim Dye pictured on a couple of nice days in March on the Cypress flat. We are losing our good, low morning tides for the winter, but fishing will still be good through April. Try to get out there on the nice days as pictured below. On the higher water, try the south side where you will have good sight fishing over the sand and grass. Also, the creek coming in on the NE corner may hold snook and reds.
//Walt



Weight and fly casting. It's all about the weight.

By Jonas

The flies we use are too light to be the casting weight, just try throwing one by hand, or try casting them with a spinning rod. So, we cast them with a fly rod/line, we cast the fly line, and it drags the fly along. The line must have enough weight to move the fly we like to use. The fly line is the most important piece of the whole setup - so, always use the best line you can find for the job.

Therefore, we use fly lines of various weights from size 1# to 15#, and the fly line weights are standardized. It's self-evident that the rods we use will correspond to the weights of the fly lines. Subsequently, we have rods from size 1# to 15#. We interject clear mono (mono - single strand) for stealth between the fly line and the fly we choose to use. When we cast the fly line its weight leads and tows the fly behind it.

The weight of the fly dictates the weight of the fly line, which suggests the weight of the fly rod. Thus, considering the weights of the various components is the central theme of fly casting.

Voila - that's the fly-casting system in a nutshell.

How to assemble your tackle

The first consideration is the weight/size of the fly you are going to use. The weight of the fly dictates your choice of the fly line weight. The fly line you chose can best be cast with a rod of a certain stiffness.

In other words - the weight of the fly is the determinant of your fly line which is the determinant of the rod used. In general, the fly's weight you use dictates the components of the casting system. There are exemptions of course. Typical tarpon flies could be cast with 7/8 wt. rods/lines, but heavier rods are needed due to fish size. Also, bass bugs require 7-9 wt. rods/lines, but average bass could easily be landed on 5-6 wt. gear. Bonefish flies fall into this category too.

Flies

The smallest/lightest flies can be cast with the lightest lines. As the flies get bigger/heavier we need heavier lines to move them. Light lines can't move big/heavy flies, but heavy lines can move both light and heavy flies. However, I don't know anybody casting a #1 line with a #12 rod. Obviously, when the flies get super heavy they approach the weight that can be cast with conventional tackle. Such heavy flies become difficult to cast because of their momentum and their kick. In a nutshell, the fly dictates the line weight, and the line weight dictates rod stiffness.

The leader: The leader's butt weight must match the line tip's weight. That ensures the optimal transfer of energy from the fly line to the leader. The terminal parts of fly lines have a short thin level tip. That tip should match the leader's butt weight to the *lightest* part of the fly line, not a lot of weight. Even if the leader has a long, level butt section it still won't transmit a lot of energy. The longer it is, the more energy is dissipated and the harder it will be to cast.

The clear leader has two functions. Firstly, it separates the fly from the opaque fly line. Secondly, it receives force/energy from the fly line which straightens out the leader and turns over our fly. The separation – i.e., the length of the leader you can use is dependent on your casting abilities. If you are using a leader that matches your fly line, and you can't turn over your leader and fly, then that leader is too long (and/or the fly is too heavy) for you. The savants often advocate for long leaders say 12-15' forgetting that the average caster can't turn them over. If you can't turn over your leader you aren't in the game, but you certainly are, if you can turn over a shorter leader. So, if you can't turn over the leader shorten it and/or use a lighter fly. The transmission of force/energy from the fly line to the leader is through weight (**not** break strength). When the weight of the level tip of the fly line is close to the weight of the leader's butt, then the transmission of energy/force is optimal. Rule of thumb for floating lines - the diameter of the leader's butt should be 70% of the diameter of the level tip of the fly line.

The fly line and weight: Fly lines used to be level but nowadays the most used ones are the weight-forward type with the head and the running line separated. The running line is thin and light. The head just pulls the running line out. So, there is little weight there, it is found in the head of the fly line. To reiterate – a heavy fly needs a heavier fly line to move it as compared to a light fly. Not only do we need a heavy fly line to move a heavy fly, but additionally to facilitate turnover, the weight in the line's head has been moved forward. We now refer to the line's weight profile and that simply means where most of the line's weight resides.

The rod: The rod is used to accelerate the fly line and then launch it. The fly rod can accelerate the fly line to velocities of 20 meters/second (relaxed slow cast) up to 60 meters/second. The faster the tip is moving when we abruptly stop the rod the farther the line will travel. All fly rods can cast a range of fly line weights. Say you have a six-weight rod. That rod can surely cast a 5# -, a 6# -, and a 7# weight fly line. For some rods, the weight bracket can even be bigger (plus or minus two line sizes). If the line gets too heavy for the rod it will bend but now it is going to straighten slowly and become very unpleasant and soggy to cast. On the other hand, if the line becomes too light it becomes hard to bend the rod and the cast suffers accordingly. The fly rods are subjectively rated for a certain fly line. The rating is just a suggestion of some demi god of casting. It is perfectly fine to use a bit heavier or lighter line depending on your needs and casting abilities. Today, most new rods are quite stiff. A good caster can cast lighter lines than the rod is rated for, but it will be unpleasant. Most casters will do much better if they use a line that is heavier than the rod rating, at least one size, often two. And of course, that is assuming the line is properly rated, which most aren't these days. Matching the fly line to the rod has become difficult because line manufacturers no longer follow AFTA standards for most lines.

<https://www.murraysflyshop.com/pages/standard-fly-line-weight-charts>

<https://everyjonahasawhale.com/fly-casting/casting-technique/casting-a-heavy-fly/>

<https://everyjonahasawhale.com/fly-casting/casting-technique/the-fly-line-kick/>

Landing Nets

Landing nets are a useful tool and sometimes an essential one. I carry one on my boat and also when I am trout fishing. When wade fishing in the bay, I just rely on my gripping tool.

Nets are most handy while trout fishing to handle and release the fish. The net allows one to carefully secure the fish before releasing it to fight again. As Lee Whulf said “a fish is too valuable to be caught only once”. Of course, a net is most valuable when you finally (for me) catch a big trout, say 18 inches. The bigger fish are tricky to land and more likely to break a fine tippet and escape at the last second. Since I rarely catch one that big, I often just use my quick release tool. This gadget slides down your leader and easily pops the fly off. Very handy and good for the fish as you don’t touch or remove them from the water.

For wade fishing in the bay, I substitute my plastic fish gripper. They are inexpensive and easy to use. Tie on three feet of nylon cord and you also have a quick tether. For example, after landing say a nice red fish, I get it in and hook on the fish clamp. This does not hurt the fish and you can leave it in the water for a bit. At this point, you are excited, the fish is excited and everyone can take a pause. You can now get the camera out and take a quick snap or just carefully let the fish go. If dolphin are lurking nearby, keep the fish close for a few minutes until the coast is clear.

When salmon fishing in Alaska we discovered the need for a net. We were keeping fish to take home and working a small side stream of the Adak River near Cordova, AK. These fish fought hard in that small stream and we were losing some. Deciding we needed a net we found out the stores were out of nets late in the season. So, we just started asking around, and, sure enough a lady loaned us one her husband had behind the house. Unfortunately, this beat up net had several extra holes and the first salmon shot right thru it. It did help in the end, with careful use and a little repair. We caught our limit most days and have salmon in our freezer.

Finally, I fish with about a dozen friends in Wacasassa every fall for trout, reds and snook. We have a friendly competition with some cash on the line for the biggest red and trout. On the last day, fishing with my good buddy Ted, I had thrown a big Zara Spook all day long with little result. Toward the end of the day around some grass islands a big red hit that plug about 10 feet from the boat. A fierce battle ensued as the fish stayed near the boat. This red was big, maybe 35 inches and would easily earn me the cash and also bragging rights for a year. As I worked the brute close, I could see only the rear hook in its mouth. I told Ted he had better grab the net and he said: “we don’t have one.” Well you can probably guess this did not end well and the fish was soon lost and I watched my bragging rights and money swim away. I did win the hard luck trophy though, and, Ted got us a net for the next year.

So, as you think about nets, keep these stories in mind. Trout nets are not only useful, but also very beautiful. And you never know when you might need a good, big boat net to secure that great catch! //Walt

Trout Creek Outing in February

By Patty Anderson


Club members braved the poor weather forecast for the February 17th club outing to Trout Creek. Rain was predicted throughout the morning hours accompanied by chilly temperatures. That did not deter half a dozen members of our club from launching their kayaks or donning their hiking shoes at the Trout Creek Conservation Park which is located off of Morris Bridge Road. This park is part of the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail in addition to providing easy access to the Hillsborough River State Canoe Trail. The park facilities include an area to hand launch canoes and kayaks, boardwalks, hiking trails, and picnic facilities. There are a variety of ecosystems to explore including shorelines along the river, pine flat woods, live oak canopies and sable palms.

The creek was shallow, but we had no problem navigating it with our kayaks. Low water has a tendency to concentrate the fish. Numerous bass and pan fish were caught on light weight rods using popper and streamer flies. Many and diverse water-birds were sighted along the shore among the huge cypress trees as well as flying overhead. The river was peaceful, calm and had a beautiful canopy of trees providing shade and protection from the wind. We lucked out on the weather and fished for 4 hours with only some occasional light sprinkles. After pulling our paddle crafts from the water after fishing, we had lunch and then were treated to Denise's delicious strawberry shortcake. In spite of the poor forecast, the weather held back and provided a great morning for the club on the water! <https://hcfl.gov/locations/trout-creek-wilderness-par>

HILLSBOROUGH RIVER

Canoe Trail



PUBLIC CANOE ACCESS 



For your safety and to be in compliance with the law:

- Florida Statutes require each occupant in a canoe or kayak to have a wearable PFD (life jacket).
- Each child, age 6 and under, shall wear a PFD (life jacket) while in the craft.

For more detailed information, refer to the Hillsborough River State Recreational Canoe Trail Brochure

We fished the Trout Creek area , but you can launch from several parks along the Hillsborough river.



Photo Gallery

I am trying a new section of our news letter to feature photos from club members of things besides fish. So, dust off your cell phones, SLR camera's or your Kodak Polaroid and send me your exceptional photos each month. Examples below are a Tampa sunrise from Bayshore and spoonbills near trout creek . //Walt



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Shallow Water Fly Fishing

Winter is always a real test for shallow-water fishermen especially when using a fly rod. Most fish species will easily engulf a shrimp impaled on a hook in front of their nose but not expend much energy to chase a fly. There are several ways to increase your odds. Always consult tide charts, reliable, but affected by winds. Southerly winds will speed the incoming tide and slow the outgoing tide. Winds will stir up the gulf and cause incoming tides to lack water clarity. In dirty water use large bulky flies that push water causing fish to notice their presence at greater distances. Darker fly patterns using black, purple, and brown with a little flash will be more productive. Work flies slower and incorporate some weight to put the pattern at the fish's level which is usually close to the bottom. A perfect fly presentation near the surface will get little interest from a cold, lethargic fish hugging the bottom in 5 or 6 ft of water. Use sink-tip fly lines available from most manufacturers instead of the more common floating line to make this easier. Warmer water will be the key to locating active fish. When wading, kayaking, or in a boat carrying an inexpensive pool thermometer and using it frequently will be an advantage. It is not uncommon to find water temperatures on productive flats several degrees warmer than similar locations that seemed devoid of active fish

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 with reds, trout and snook in skinny water in March as the water warms and baitfish become more plentiful. Look for Spanish and king mackerel, cobia, tripletail and false albacore (little tunny) in the coastal gulf. Night snook fishing in the ICW should also be a good this month.

Reds should be more active as the water warms and baitfish become more plentiful. Higher tides, as we head into spring, will allow them to spend more time feeding in shallow water. Look for them over shallow grass, along mangrove shorelines and around oyster bars when the tide is high. You should find them in potholes and along sand bars when the tide is low. Fly anglers should score with my Grasset Flats Minnow fly, fished on a 12' or longer leader. When using a long leader be sure you are able turn it over, otherwise you'll need to shorten it until you can. The butt section should be at least 50% of the total length of the leader and stiff enough to transfer energy from your fly line to the leader.

You might also find reds around docks when the tide is low. Look for deep water under docks with a good tidal flow for the best action. A clear intermediate sink tip fly line with a weighted fly and a 6' leader should work well for dock fishing. In addition to reds, you might find snook, flounder, sheepshead, jacks and more around docks.

You may find big trout in skinny water in many of the same places that you find reds. Blind cast seams where grass meets sand or focus on light colored bottom, in potholes on top of sand bars, where you may be able to sight fish them. I release all big trout (over 19"), since they are usually females that are often filled with roe. These big fish are important to the health of our fishery.

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



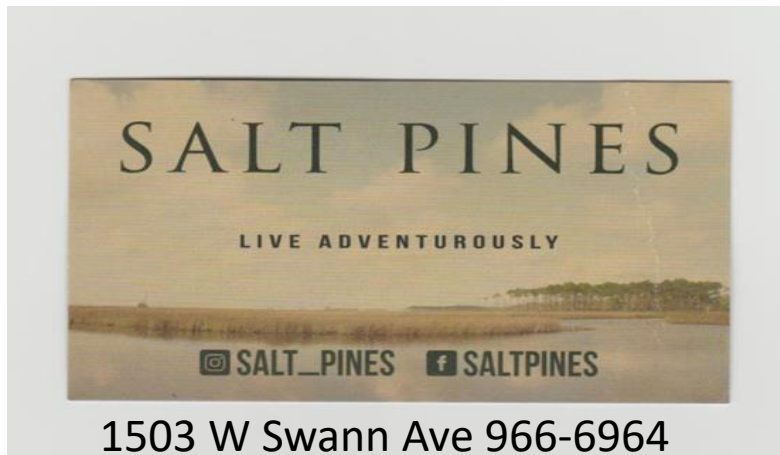
2023/24 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 6 Cypress Park Wade Clinic
- Jan 20 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb 17 Trout Creek Outing
- Apr 6 Annual Banquet
- June 22 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 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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- 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
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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