

## **Fly Fishing in Chile**

### **Kelly and Wes**

Club members Wes and Kelly Sobczak love fly fishing and traveling the world, so when they saw an invitation to join Mark Melnyk of The New Fly Fisher in Chile over Thanksgiving, they jumped at the opportunity. A week at Magic Waters Patagonia included fishing for brown and rainbow trout in lakes, rivers, and spring creeks with names like Hero to Zero, Boca Leon (Lion's Mouth), Mercedes, Palloma, Blue Lake, and Arco. The lodge was beautiful, the food delicious, and the scenery amazing. Kelly will be the speaker and will provide details and pictures about the trip - from logistics to experiences.

Wes and Kelly have been members of TBFFC since 2006 and since retiring in 2021 have been traveling and fishing as much as possible. Mark Melnyk will also join via Zoom as long as technology cooperates.



**Next meeting 4 June**  
**6:30 PM to 8:30 PM**

We meet at the Northdale Recreation Center from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Come early to practice casting at 05:30 pm. 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 May meeting. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to fishing duties in Mexico. Thanks to Patty Anderson for an interesting and informative talk on fly fishing the driftless region of the mid-west. Patty did a lot of research and had great information.

Thanks for supporting our club and let us know if we can do a better job. Our goal is to grow our sport with hands-on fly fishing lessons and conservation.

Robert and Ginny have a gift of fly boxes for any new member who has not received one this year. Please let us know at the next meeting. We will also pass out the LL Bean's Guide to Fly Fishing for new folks. This is a super book with illustrations by Dave Whitlock and detailed instruction.

We are seeking speakers for the summer, so let me know if you have any good ideas.

Sight fishing opportunities are waning, but many game fish are becoming more active. Try the Legion Flat in South Tampa on a good incoming tide for chances at snook and reds near the mangroves and oyster bars.

//Walt Durkin 

## Fly Fishing Quotes

"Life, to me, is like fishing: you won't catch anything until you start, and every year you get older is another year the fish might slip through the net." - Alex Staniforth

"I thoroughly enjoy getting away from the game and going out fishing because it's so relaxing, so quiet, and peaceful. I mean, there's no noise other than nature... and it's so different from what I do in a tournament situation that it just eases my mind." – Tiger Woods

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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# May Meeting Photos

Denise Bruner



# TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

**New Club Shirts** are available in white, blue and tan. They cost us \$27 and will offer them at \$30. We are also looking for club hats to offer.

Please support our local fly shops, especially Tampa Fishing Outfitters off Dale Mabry past the stadium and Minnows and Monsters in S. Tampa. Mention our club for a 10% discount. Special thanks to **Tampa Fishing Outfitters** for their continued support to the club. They gave us items worth over \$500 for the banquet this year.

We will host a fresh water outing on Lake Calm in Odessa on 22 June starting at 0630. We will provide drinks and lunch. This is a beautiful, crystal clear lake with a good number of bass and pan fish. Bring a light rod and some top water bugs, poppers or small gurglers are best. Details at the next meeting or email me for directions.

We have one spot open for our trout fishing trip to N. Georgia in November. Please email or contact us at the next meeting.

## Fishing Report

Club member Jim Dye sent us this report on the south side of Cypress Park. "Here's a brief report on Cypress. Fished the small bay between the park and the Howard Frankland causeway on the 23rd. There was a full moon that night but interestingly, not much tide movement. It stayed incoming through the day. I lost a couple of fish, including a nice snook against the mangroves. What pleased me were the number of snook in the bay from the creek mouth to the bridge. They were moving steadily out of the deeper water near the bridge onto the flat and following the mangroves. Very encouraging. The best fly was a chartreuse and white Clouser. It was all sight fishing as they were shallow and often over a sand bottom." - Jim

The flat at the American Legion Post in South Tampa is another good spot to try. Fish a high incoming tide to the north of the Legion for some good action on snook, trout or reds. Try minnow patterns like a Puglici, Deceiver, Clouser or spoon fly. The bottom is firm here with easy wading along the mangroves. //Walt



# Fly Casting Tip for June

This month I will talk about tips for managing your line while wading or from a boat. This should be and is a simple process, but over the years I have found ways to mess it up. I am not an expert fly fisherman, but I do have a lot of experience, sometimes getting it right and some times not so much. I have found room to always improve as we fish, so I hope these tips help you avoid my usual mishaps.

Let's start from a boat and assume you are on the bow looking for fish with a guide. From this position be ready to quickly make a 20 to 40 foot cast. This is how I like to set up. First, have a proper nine foot tapered leader down to about 15 pound test. Next, strip off about 40 feet of line and get it behind you on the deck or bottom of the boat. Next, I like about a rod's length (9 ft) of fly line hanging from the tip of the rod. Finally, hold your fly in your fingers on or behind the hook. Set up as such with a 9 ft rod, 9 feet of line and 9 feet of leader you can quickly flip your fly out about 27 feet. For a longer cast, make one false cast, feed line and shoot to 35 or 40 feet. Drop the fly carefully when you start and do not hook your finger, your clothes, the boat or your fly line, all of which I have done many times. Some folks recommend you start with the rod and let line tension pull the fly away. That may work better for you, so give it a try. Chances for a fish often come quickly and an early mistake will be costly. If you make more than one cast it helps if your boat mate keeps your line clear. Fishing from a boat with two anglers and a guide is a team sport.

While wade fishing I use the same setup so I am ready for a quick 20 to 27 foot cast. I have an extra 20 feet of line (a 10 foot loop) behind me in the water. If you have grass or wave action a striping basket is handy, but I try to get by without one most of the time. Don't drag too much line behind you as it will tangle and pick up grass. Be ready to cast about 40 feet and if you need more, then quickly strip off extra line. In other words, don't drag too much line behind you. When you spot a fish, stay calm and drop the fly carefully to avoid hooking it on something. You can use a roll cast to get started, one false cast and try for the fish. Practice this technique and you can learn to cast to a fish at 40 feet quickly and efficiently. One false cast is usually enough and only false cast twice for a long shot of 50 to 60 feet.

I hope these tips help and suggest you practice them in the water or from a boat. When I missed some casts in Mexico under tough and windy conditions, my guide suggest more practice. So, there you go. //Walt





Fly fishing has always been an important part of ICAST. This year, we are excited for the return of the Fly Shop and FLYCASTing Pond. We're also featuring ten new fly fishing categories in the New Product Showcase.

Buyers and media will truly be able to immerse themselves in the entire on-the-water experience.

Note: ICAST is not open to the public, and you can only attend if you are associated with a dealer, buyer, or press. //Walt

## El Palomero Permit Tournament 3-8 May 24

Leigh West and I fished the tournament again this year. El Palomero supports the schools and families of Punta Allen, while participants experience fly-fishing some of the best saltwater flats in the world. This is the only event that unites all of Punta Allen's businesses including multiple lodges, guides, restaurants, and other key locals that comprise the local fly-fishing industry. The organization consists of a diverse group of members who draw no salaries, fees or travel reimbursement. 100% of the profits benefit the town and schools of Punta Allen, Mexico. More importantly, the event allows the town to host its own fundraiser to improve their own school facilities, playgrounds, and other infrastructure needs. The tournament is hosted by locals and encourages visitors to immerse themselves in the culture and vibrancy of this Mexican town. In addition to the tournament, the event also consists of an auction, raffle and children's piñata gathering.

Leigh and I arrived in Punta Allen three days early to practice for the tournament. We were lucky to fish with head guide Juan who really knows permit and the local waters. The competition this year was comprised of nine boats and 18 anglers and we fished from 8 to 4 each day. We fished with 8, 9 and 10 weight rods with shrimp or crab flies. Spawning shrimp, Raghead crabs and strong arm crabs are favored with pretty heavy lead eyes. Leaders are 9 to 12 feet tapered to 15 pound test. Leigh and I caught 3 permit, but they were a little short at 13 and 14 inches. To count, the fish had to be 15 inches. Over three days only one 18 inch permit was caught and that won it. Leigh and I had plenty of shots over three days and just did not get it done. Mixed weather played a factor with some overcast and mostly windy days. I did get the biggest bonefish measuring 23 inches, big for that area. Leigh caught the only tarpon (36 inches) and we each won a rod for those fish. With one or two bigger permit we could have swept the whole thing. Nonetheless, loads of fun and for a very good cause.

Punta Allen is a small village, self-named the permit capital of the world. It's located about a two hour van ride and a one hour boat ride from Cancun. We stayed at the Punta Allen fishing lodge hosted by my Italian friend Tizano whom I had the pleasure of trout fishing with in northern Italy last year. The food was very good and our rooms were comfortable with AC most of the time. We fished from Panga's with a head guide and a helper. The flats are beautiful and hold bonefish, tarpon and permit. Their new manager Zach, did a super job and I would recommend both Punta Allen and the Punta Allen Fishing Lodge as great destinations. //Walt



# PUNTA ALLEN FISHING CLUB





## Snook, Tarpon, Trout, Redfish and Daisy Chaining Blues.

Lou and I spent a week with Ted and Kathy on Gasparilla Island again this year. We ate, drank, swam and fished for a very relaxing time. Ted and I found quite a few snook on the beach and had fun catching them. The beach had changed a lot since last year with more troughs and contours, which helped the fishing. When grass and seaweed came in, the snook were using these beds as ambush points and were easy to catch. A blind cast over grass patches usually resulted in one or more snook popping up, something we had not noted before. We caught multiple snook over the grass and I had a personal best of 19 in one afternoon. Ted also caught a beautiful 22 inch trout over the grass. The night I left Ted caught more snook and a redfish for the first time on the beach there.

The beach has also formed a new pond-like trough about a half mile down from our condo. By myself one afternoon, I saw some tarpon circling on the far side of the trough. So, I walked down and around on the sand bar to get to the other side. Sure enough, the fish were still there and daisy chaining. They broke up and came toward me so I cast my shrimp fly at them and got some looks, but each time the fish turned away. I switched to a bigger Lefty Deceiver and I was hooked up the next cast. I was fishing my 6 weight Sage Salt and the fish was soon in my backing. It jumped a couple of times and did not really look like a tarpon. Finally, I landed about an 8 pound jumbo bluefish! I went on to catch 5 out of 8 that I hooked that week. We found them every day waiting in that trough for us. Blues have very sharp teeth and would cut thru our 40 pound mono leaders a lot of the time. We were amazed at how much they looked like tarpon when they were daisy chaining. Ted's son Jeff who has guided the area for years was surprised to hear about our catch. Very unusual and loads of fun on a fly rod in shallow water. After some research, I found an article by William G. Tapply, which also notes blues in a daisy chain. This seems to occur in shallow, inshore water where we were. I am already looking forward to next year to see if they show up again!

We stay at Sea Oates Condos, but you can access the beach from several streets in town. If you want to go for some good beach fishing, try the first street you come to with beach access on the right side of the island. From there walk north to fish the area we focus around our North-end condo. Here you will find about 2 miles of not-crowded beach to look for snook close to shore in the troughs. Fish small white flies like a Puglici minnow, a small Clouser or Rick Grasset's snook fly. Sight fish and make careful presentations so the fish don't see you. Use a 25 or 30 pound bite tippet and you are all set. //Walt



Bruce on left,  
Ted with a  
trout.



Lou and Kathy  
on a sunset  
walk.



Birds in flight  
and a Jumbo  
Blue!





**Club member Denise sent us this report from Wyoming:** “Here is the Fishing report from the Big Horn River below the Wind River Canyon through the town of Thermopolis, WY. The Weather was great, fish were big, caught lots of Rainbows and Brown Trout on nymph rigs, the dry fly fishing hadn’t started yet it would worth another trip for that.”





**Club member Tim Duke reports:** “My sons, Rob and Brian, and I went on another Orvis guided trip on the Watauga River in Blowing Rock, NC on April 6, 2024. A cold snap came in and it was 28 degrees when we started the day. It was sunny and was not bad. We caught 17 trout and missed many other bites. I caught the big brown on a white dry fly. It was great!!”





## Photo Gallery

Club member Andrew Constantinou sent me super photos from his friend in England:  
“Gerald sent me these snaps of a moth laying its eggs on his window in England; they hatched after a couple of days. Incredible photography.” Thanks Andy and Gerald!



## **Fishing Report and Forecast**

### **“What a great time to go fishing!”**

How do I strip my fly? Next to, "What fly should I use?" this is a very frequent question. On a recent saltwater charter with two clients, they told me about trips made during their last couple of days where they caught nothing after 6 hours of wade fishing. Stopping the boat in a wind-protected area, I asked each one to cast for me. Both were very poor casters, with layouts of their line full of slack. Holding the rod tip about 5 feet above the water, when they did strip, the fly never moved. After watching each do a couple of casts and "work" the fly, I informed them their Clouser minnow did not move in any of their presentations. No fish would show any interest in a baitfish imitation that didn't move. Their stripping to give the fly appropriate action varied considerably. I told them to watch the end of their floating fly line where it joined the butt section of the leader. This will give you a very good indication of what your fly is doing. Saltwater fish usually like to have the fly on their level. If they are on the bottom in 5 feet of water, a fly on the surface is rarely taken. Sometimes with the tide coming toward you, it is necessary to exaggerate the long frequent strips to give the fly the desired action. Keeping the rod tip close to the water during the retrieve and at the beginning of the cast also helps reduce slack.

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

## Fishing Report

**Capt Rick Grasset reports:** You should find snook in the surf, in passes and around docks and bridges in the ICW near passes. You can walk the beach and sight fish them in the surf with fly tackle. Small baitfish fly patterns, like Gibby's DT Special or my Grasset Snook Minnow, should work well. Many of the same flies that work in the surf will also work well at night. Snook will congregate in passes around the new and full moons to spawn, so docks and bridges close to passes will usually hold more fish this time of year.

Fishing for reds should also be good in June. Look for them over shallow grass, along mangrove shorelines or around oyster bars when the tide is high. You'll find them in potholes or edges of flats when the tide is low. Fly anglers should score with baitfish fly patterns like my Grasset Flats Minnow or Gurglers.

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



## 2023/24 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

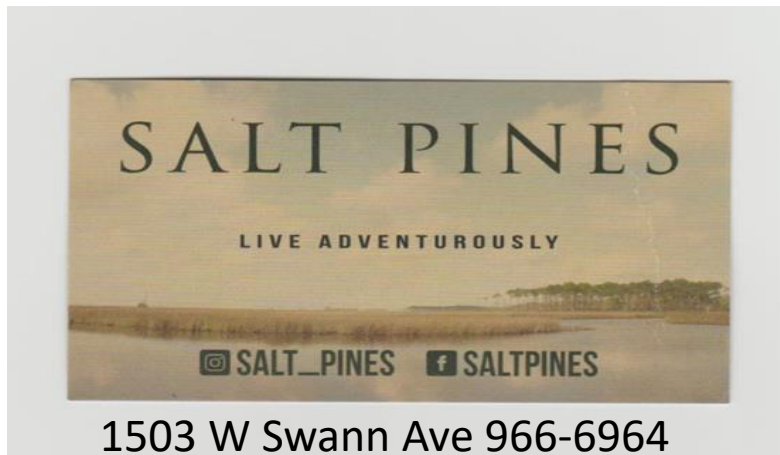
- Jan 6 Cypress Park Wade Clinic
- Jan 20 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb 17 Trout Creek Outing
- Apr 6 Annual Banquet
- June 22 Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct Marine Quest, St Pete
- Oct Carl Hanson Outing
- Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov Casting Clinic, Egan Park
- Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec Play Hooky at the Suncoast Youth Center
- Dec 16 Don Coleman Outing, Ft Desoto



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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.

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- Fishing Trips Sponsored by Members and the Club
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\$50.00 Family Membership

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(includes one membership and Ad Space)

Five-year dues: \$160.00 Individual Membership

\$200.00 Family Membership

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