

Beach Snook Fishing

Capt. Wes Tallyn

Captain Wes Tallyn writes a monthly outdoor article in the Coastal Angler Magazine Tampa edition. He grew up in St. Petersburg fishing as a kid for snook and trout. Wes graduated from Eckerd College with a degree in Environmental Science and worked as a biologist and professional wetland scientist. He now owns Snook Jam Outdoors, an outdoor guide and outdoor writing business and is working on a book: A Field Guide Of Florida Wildlife And Plant Species.

His wife will also talk for a couple of minutes about a women's fly fishing tournament we're launching in September in St. Pete. A flyer is included in our newsletter for your information.



Next meeting 2 July
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 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 June meeting. Thanks to Kelly for her super talk on fly fishing in Chile. And, thanks to Mark Melick for joining in on zoom. It was quite an adventure and nice of Kelly to take the time and effort to share her trip with us.

Thanks for supporting our club and please 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 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

“I have fished through fishless days that I remember happily without regret.” – Roderick Haig Brown

“The best fisherman I know try not to make the same mistakes over and over again; instead they strive to make new and interesting mistakes and to remember what they learned from them.” – John Gierach

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May Meeting Photo

Denise Bruner

Great presentation by Kelly on her adventure to Chile.



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.

Gina Russo from FWC gave us this news: “Marine Quest was February 10th this past year and will be the second Saturday in February of next year 2025.” For the ‘Hooky for the Holidays’ event at Apollo Beach, we will need to make that earlier this year maybe Friday, 6 Dec. Note: This is our annual kayaking/fishing event and we will work out the details with Gina.

We are giving away LL Bean’s *Guide to Fly Fishing* for interested club members. This is a super book, illustrated by the late Dave Whitlock, and covers all the basics of fly fishing. Pick one up at our next meeting; on the club!

Club member Nick Colantonio sent us this tip:

Check Out www.spottedtail.com for a source of general flyfishing information. For a recent report on fishing conditions in Central Florida and the Indian River Lagoon, both fresh and salt water, read the weekly blog "Spotted Tail Fishing and Travel".

Retired fishing guide, John Kumiski, is the author. Always a good read. And, if you have a specific question, he says "Just Ask".



Fly Casting Tip for July

This month I will talk about the principles of the fly cast. I think this information is useful and necessary as we learn and hone our fly casting skills. Not everyone understands these principles the same way, so interpret them as you will and apply them to your casting style. While it's important to understand the fundamentals of the cast, there is room for you to develop your individual style.

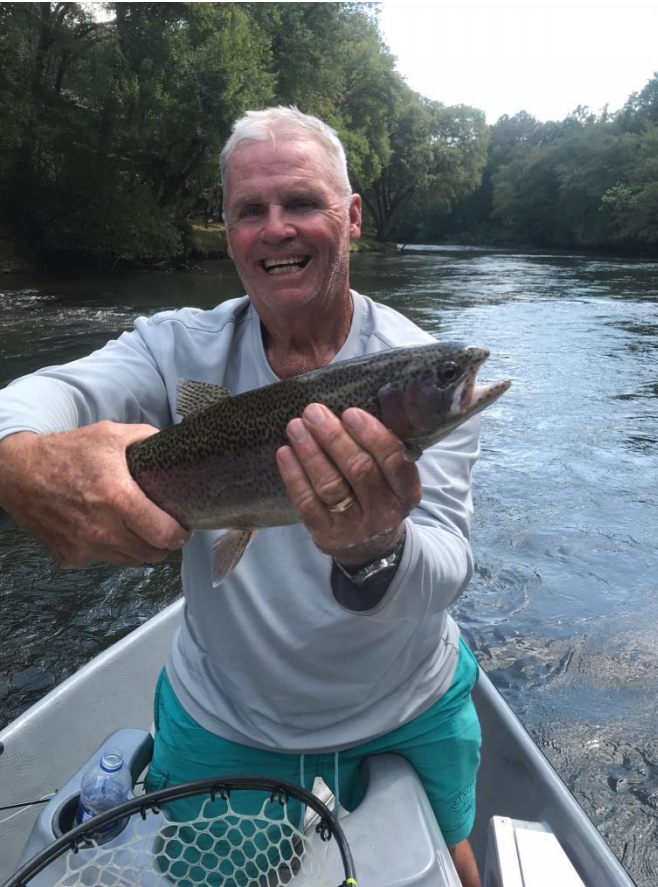
When talking about the physics of casting, we **focus on the tip of the fly rod, because the line has to follow the tip**. The rod tip transmits the energy from rod to line. The tip travels two directions during the cast- horizontally and vertically (forwards and backwards, up and down).

The 5 Essentials of Good Fly Casting by Joe Mahler

- 1. Eliminate Slack Line:** Ideally there must be no slack line. Or at the very least - Slack line should be kept to a minimum. Start with the rod tip low and the line straight on the water, accelerate smoothly to a crisp stop.
- 2. Timing:** There is a pause at the end of each stroke which varies in duration with the amount of line beyond the rod tip. The pause will vary with the length of line being cast, the longer the line the longer the pause.
- 3. Vary the Casting Arc:** Stroke and Arc may get confused and are often used interchangeably (Arc is the distance the rod tip moves) The stroke is the distance the rod hand moves from its starting position to its stopping position. Casting stroke is increased with the length of line being cast.
- 4. Power Application:** Power must be applied in the proper amount and in the proper place during the stroke. Power is applied smoothly and progressively. Power should be applied in an increasing amount with most power being applied towards the end of the stroke. This essential is really about making an acceleration.
- 5. Straight Line Path of the Rod Tip:** In order to form the most efficient, least air resistant loops the caster must move the rod tip in a theoretical straight line path (in both vertical and horizontal planes). The rod tip does move down out of the way and out of the straight line path (vertical plane) at the very end of the stroke during the stop.

Member Health News: Two club members are experiencing health issues so keep them in your thoughts.

Ken Moser, pictured right, is taking a break from fishing while recovering from heart surgery. Ken has been a valuable member of our club and a regular at the Cypress flat. He and his wife Becky volunteer many hours at the Florida Aquarium where Ken has made and donated many beautiful stained glass murals. We hope to see Ken fishing again soon, while Becky reads a book on the beach.



Club member Floyd Holder is pictured left with a nice trout. Floyd is a long time member of the club. Known as “Fishing Floyd” he is an expert spin and fly fisherman; and, was always generous with his knowledge and fishing spots. His wife Cheryl let me know Floyd is now in Memory Care for his Alzheimer’s after a long struggle. Thankfully he is still talking and recognizes everyone who visits. He doesn’t remember anyone’s name, but knows faces. Cheryl noted he loved the club and its members and she wanted to let us know.

As we all grow older, please remember to live in the moment and enjoy each day with friends and family while finding a little time to fish. //Walt

SEPTEMBER 14, 2024 SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS WOMEN'S FISHING TOURNAMENT

Inshore Fly Fishing Tournament

Register now for the Suncoast Fly Fishers Women's Tournament! Inshore fly fishing tournament targeting Snook, Redfish, and Speckled Trout. Catch and release for the two longest fish caught. Cash prizes for the top 3 teams! Calcutta division for Ladyfish! Scan the QR code to register!

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September 14, 2024

Lake Calm Outing, 22 June

Seven club members enjoyed a fine day of fishing on Lake Calm. The weather was good this year with sun and very light winds. Additionally, the clear water was glassed out, reflecting the trees on the shoreline. About a foot lower than usual, you could see the grass on the bottom and the occasional cruising fish. I fished my usual small, black gurgler and enjoyed watching the bass wake toward it ending in an aggressive strike. We all caught bass and pan-fish and enjoyed sandwiches, chips and drinks for lunch. Thanks to Denise for baking lemon bread we enjoyed for dessert. And, big thanks to Dr. John Millns for sharing his beautiful property with the club again this year. //Walt



Catskill Fly Fishing

Club member Jim Dye sent us this: “My wife, Jere’, was raised in Livingston Manor, NY, which is in the Catskills and is ground zero for American fly fishing. The Catskill Fly Fishing Museum is located there along with the Wulff School. Her K-12 school is on an island in the Willowemoc River and the kids going there have to cross a footbridge to get to the school. Gives them a chance to look over the railing and see what’s hatching before the day to day starts. Trout fishing is important in this region. Anyway, the family was in New York for a memorial service for my brother-in-law, Jimmy, who passed at the start of Covid and this was the first chance the family had to gather and honor him. While the purpose was somber, we took some time to get out and take in the mountains. My stepson, Tom, and son-in-law, Griffin, like to fish but they haven’t migrated to fly fishing. The trip was an opportunity to get their feet wet (see what I did there?) and experience fly fishing at our Mecca. I had spoken to them often about how special the area is and how important it is to the history and development of fly fishing. They were eager to experience it so we took a morning to fish. We had no equipment with us so rented it from the Beaverkill Angler in Roscoe, NY. The shop had good rental stuff from Orvis so with waders and fly rods, licenses and the shop’s recommended flies, we went out. Now, this area has been a destination for fly fishermen since before the Civil War. All of the pools and runs are well known and many of them have names that date back to early fly-fishing days. The shop gave good advice and said since we had limited time, we should not waste it driving but just find a close run and fish. Good advice. We ended up at a nice run / pool several hundred yards long called Barnhart’s pool, named after a family who dedicated a fishing easement to the state for public fishing almost 100 years ago. This run was between Ferdon’s Pool, where the Hendrickson dry fly was developed, and Hendrickson’ Pool, which is named for the same Mr. Hendrickson. It was gorgeous water. We fished dry / dropper combinations with a large Iso mayfly dry and a nymph de jour on the drop. The hatch was sporadic but we could see large browns porpoising for nymphs in the main thread of the river.

Both Tom and I had touches from the nymphing fish but could not close the deal. Griffin, the least experienced of the 3 of us, did bring a nice one in. All of the action was from the dropper. I think that's a good day, all things considered, and especially since they both said they enjoyed the fishing and would do it again. So, seeds are planted."

"We shared the run with a couple other fishermen but we chatted with them and came up with a way to give each other plenty of room to work the water. Everyone was generous with advice and what had and had not been working. We were told the run we were fishing had plenty of fish but they didn't really get going until an hour before dark. Next time then. I also got to spend time during our time in Livingston Manor chatting with Doug Cummings, Joan Wulff's son, who runs the school. He and his wife, Vicki, knew my brother-in-law, and came to the memorial service. He told me they sold the Wulff fly lines business to Dette Flies, also in Livingston Manor. I dropped by Dette Flies while there. It's the oldest fly shop in the USA, since 1928. Very well stocked. BTW. Another example of this area's influence on fly fishing is that the high-end capes and saddles that are around today (e.g., Whiting) are descended from chickens raised by the early generations of Catskill fly tiers – the Darbees, the Dettes, and others. There is a great documentary on the area on Amazon called Land of Little Rivers. It may be on YouTube, also. I saw it about a year ago and thought it was well worth the time. The area is heavily fished since it's about 2 ½ hours from NYC, but at the same time, it seems a healthy fishery. A lot of that is the regulations regarding catch and release (a notion that was started by Lee Wulff from this area) and I think also some voluntary restraint by the fishermen themselves so as not to stress the fishery.

So, I haven't chased snook in a while but this was a very nice substitute. And the snook will be there all summer."

Thanks Jim for a great article. //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

Capt. Jeff Hagaman guided John Foster and his son to 3 big tarpon off Gasparilla Island.

Tarpon fishing is hot off our beaches right now.

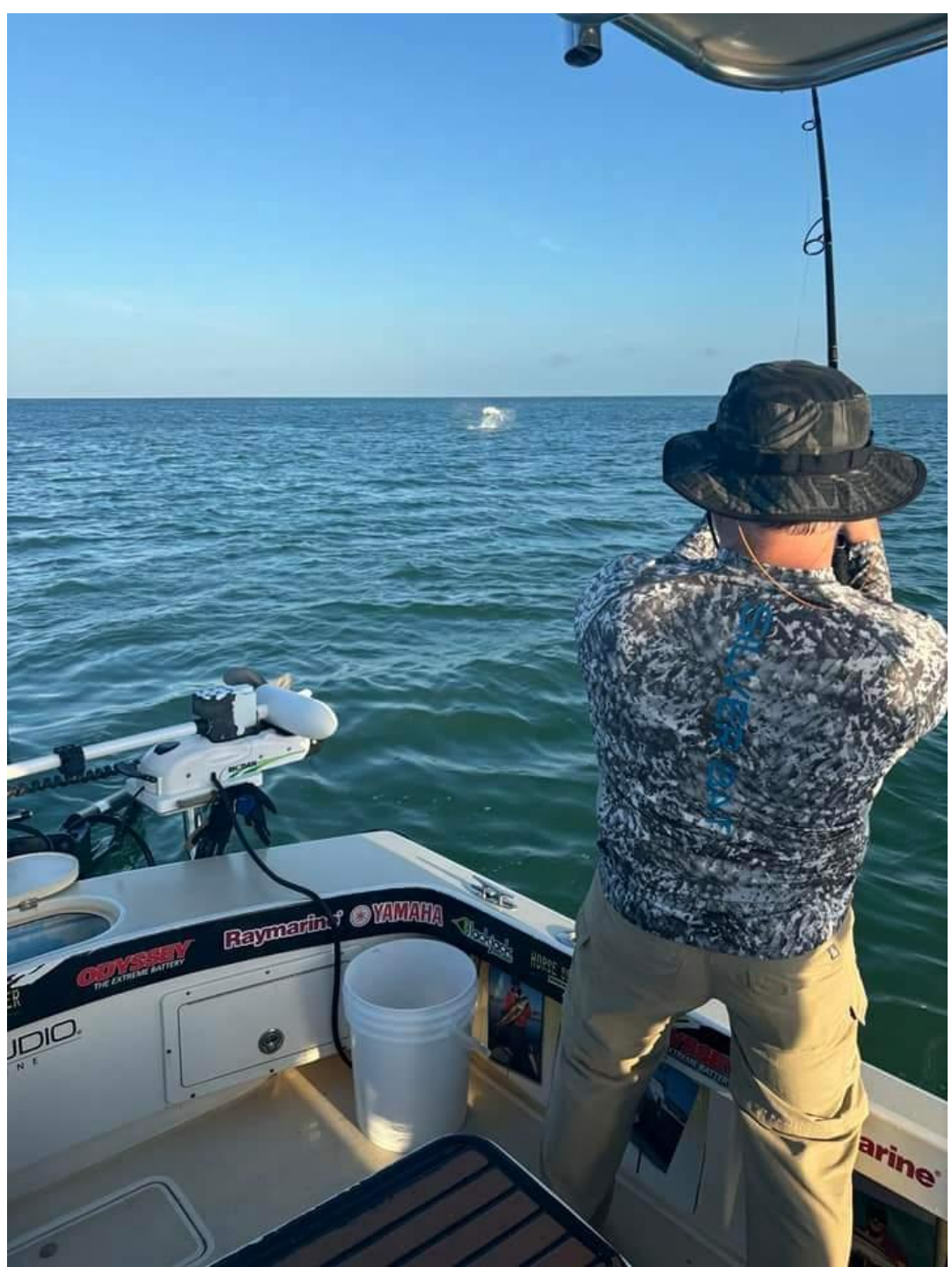


Photo Gallery

This Colorado wildflower is off to a good start this summer. Please email any interesting photos you may want to include in our newsletter. //Walt



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

If you have transitioned from bait to artificial lures in saltwater fishing you have already taken a big step toward fly fishing the salt. Why did you do this? Bait costs too much, I waste a lot of time trying to catch bait and then it often dies, time is lost putting bait on the hook and then it falls off, a very small fish eats it, a lot of fish swallow the hook and can't be released, I run out of bait when the bite is very active and am too far away to get more, the bait gets in the weeds and has to be recast, etc. Much of this can be eliminated by using a guide that will deal with most of these issues giving you more fishing time without interruptions. When fly fishing you can pick up your fly rod and immediately cast a selected fly that can float or sink, has a weed guard, and will duplicate a shrimp, crab, or baitfish. Most flies have a single hook that is easily debarbed if needed. Casting it properly can be very enjoyable and can eliminate what is sometimes described as the, "Too much work part of fly fishing."

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

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

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



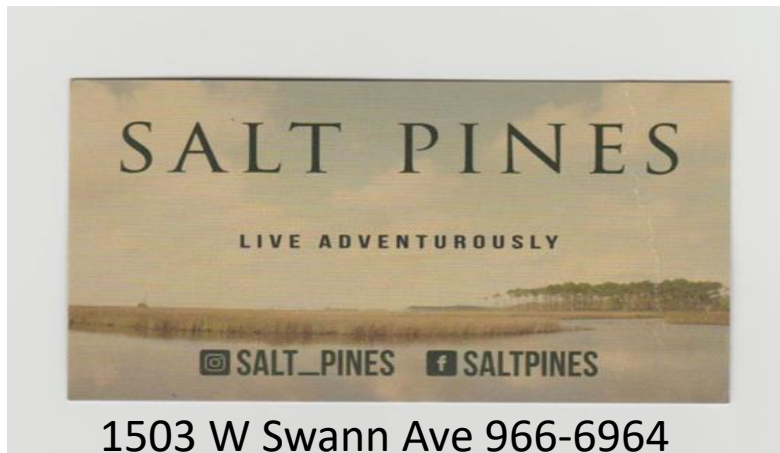
2024/25 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 6 Cypress Park Wade Clinic
- Jan 20 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb 17 Trout Creek Outing
- Feb Marine Quest, St Pete
- Apr 6 Annual Banquet
- June 22 Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- 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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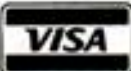
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- Monthly Meetings with informative speakers
- Fishing Trips Sponsored by Members and the Club
- Group Clinics and Workshops
- Fly Tying Lessons
- One-On-One Fly Casting Lessons
- Shirts and Hats with club logo
- 80-page Beginner's Basic Skills Instruction Manual
- Annual Banquet

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- Capt. Bryon Chamberlin (813) 361-8801
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