

Winter Wade Fishing

Hi Everyone,

Please join us for an informative talk on winter wade fishing. We will cover all the basics to include rods, lines, leaders, flies, tides and where and how to successfully wade fish this winter.

I will lead the discussion with a tip sheet and photos from recent outings. We will also hear from our experienced members on their successful tactics. Winter wade fish is easy to access and a lot of fun. We sight fish for big reds, snook and trout, in cool, clear water.



**Next meeting 1 October
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM**

We meet at the Northdale Recreation Center from 6:30 to 8:30 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. Come early to practice casting at 05:30 pm. **This month we will focus on carrying line with a double haul.**

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 September meeting. Ten story-tellers shared informative and interesting tales. Thanks to everyone who participated. Two lucky winners took home \$50 gift cards to Tampa Fishing Outfitters.

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 also giving away the LL Bean book on fly fishing. This is an excellent read for new folks and old timers.

Please check out our club website at TBFFC.org. Bruce Anderson does a super job of maintaining and updating. Here you will find pictures and copies of all our newsletters. Also, be sure to check out our Wade Guide to Tampa Bay. It will provide you with loads of useful information to successfully wade fish in Tampa Bay.

I hope to see you at our next meeting or at one of our events this fall.

//Walt Durkin



Fly Fishing Quotes

“I am a fisherman for life. It’s not something I do; it’s who I am. Fishing is not an escape. It is where I belong, where I am supposed to be. It is not a place, but a life-long journey.” This quote was found hanging in a plaque in British Columbia.

“I have many loves and Fly-Fishing is one of them; it brings peace and harmony to my being, which I can then pass on to others.” – Sue Kreutzer

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Keaton Anderson	404-313-7820

September Meeting Photos

by Denise Bruner

We had a pretty good turnout as members met, talked and got ready to tell their stories! We also did a little practice fly casting before the meeting. Much thanks to our senior instructor Jonas.



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.

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!

In October we will have a presentation on winter wade fishing, so please join us to learn great tips as we begin our winter season. For our November meeting we will sponsor a fly fishing trivia contest. More details to come. We also have our Big Gun casting competition 17 November. December 13th is our annual kayak trip to the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center and our December meeting is our annual holiday party. Hope to see you at these events this fall and winter. //Walt

Carl Hanson Outing 19 October

We will join Suncoast members for our annual outing on the Hillsborough River at Rotary Park located on the north side of Fowler Avenue near the intersection of Morris Bridge Road. (8000 E. Fowler Avenue) Bring a boat or fish from the bank for this outing. Lunch and drinks provided. Fish in the morning and lunch will be about noon.

Annual Big Gun Casting Competition 17 November

Please join us for this friendly event to test your casting skills at Picnic Island, shelter 611. The event will run from 9:00 AM to about 2:00 PM. We will provide lunch and drinks. Just bring a fly rod and prepare to have a good time.

We will dedicate this year's event to Dave Olsen who passed away recently. Dave was a fly shop manager, a board member of FFI and a great ambassador for our sport. He won our annual Big Gun competition many times and was the man to beat in both accuracy and long distance. He was a good friend of our club and we will miss his camaraderie and talent as we compete this year.



Fly Casting Tip for October

I urge you all to check out You Tube for great videos on fly fishing, fly casting and fly tying. **Probably the Best Casting Video Ever Made | Simon Gawesworth** is one I found recently and is really exceptional. Please take the time to watch it to understand and improve your fly casting. Joan Wulff also has some excellent presentations online. She holds long-distance world records and she is still going strong now into her 90's. <https://youtu.be/00Acb90Lq7c>



Additional Casting Tip

Here is a bonus tip this month. Observing the picture on the advertisement, I notice the caster has the rod well-loaded on his forward cast. At this point he must stop the rod. This will allow the rod to send all the build up energy into the cast and the line. Many of us do not stop the rod soon enough or let it drift forward, losing built up energy. To improve your casting remember to stop the rod a little higher and sooner and let the rod do the work. //Walt

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GEAR GUIDE
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SALTWATER FLY LINE
2023

TROPIC SUPER FLO RIDGE TECH MICRO LOOP 6' WFF LINE TAG

The advertisement features a central image of a fisherman in a blue jacket and cap, standing in shallow water and casting a fly line. The line is captured in mid-air, forming a large, elegant loop. The background is a soft, hazy landscape of water and sky. At the top, the 'airflo' logo is prominently displayed in a bold, lowercase font, with 'PVC FREE SINCE 1984' written below it. In the top right corner, there is a QR code and the text 'SHOP SALTWATER LINES AT AIRFLOUS'. At the bottom, two boxes of Airflo fly line are shown: 'Ridge 2.0 Universal Taper 9ft Clear Tip' on the left and 'Ridge 2.0 Tactical Taper 12ft Clear Tip' on the right. A central award badge reads 'FLY FISHERMAN GEAR GUIDE BEST NEW SALTWATER FLY LINE 2023'. Along the bottom edge, there are several small icons representing different product lines: TROPIC, SUPER FLO, RIDGE TECH, MICRO LOOP, 6', and WFF LINE TAG.

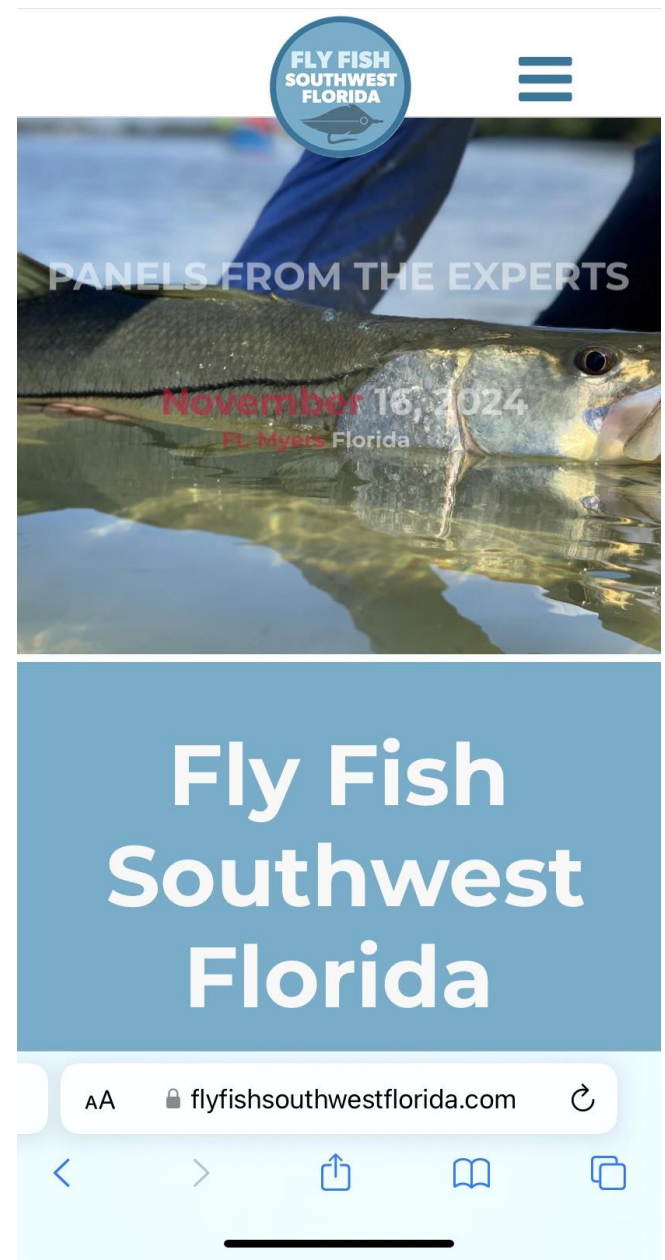
Fly Fish Southwest Florida is set to take place on Saturday, November 16th, 2024. This one-of-a-kind educational fly fishing event will include the wisdom and insights from Southwest Florida's top fly fishing authorities and professional guides. There will be a casting clinic to take place immediately following the event on the lawn outside the Cohen Center.

This full day event will be held at Florida Gulf Coast University and includes a keynote presentation by Captain Cody Pierce of Calusa Waterkeeper, seven panel discussions, lunch, and activities such as fly-casting and kayak demonstrations.

Secured speakers include Captain Steve Huff, Captain John Hand, Captain John Stark, Captain Christina Legutki, Crazy Alberto Knie, Drei Stroman, Captain Codty Pierce, Al Kuhre, Captain Blake Matherly, Bob Brooks, Joe Mahler, Pete Squibb, Nick Davis, Frank Catino, and Captain Debbie Hanson.

Topics covered (subject to change) will range from Backcountry Fly Fishing Strategies, Selecting Fly Lines and Gear, Targeting Tarpon on Fly in Southwest Florida, and more.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fly-fish-southwest-florida-tickets-943034701177>



Note: Ted did not get to tell us this story at our September meeting due to time constraints. Thus, we present it here for your reading pleasure! Much thanks to my good friend Ted for sharing this story. //Walt

Tiny Offerings

Ted Hagaman

Every time I recall that morning on the river I am in wonder of the events that transpired. I was fishing this stretch of water on the advice of Dan, one of the staff on the property where I was staying. I was seeking some secluded water with big fish. He directed me to an upstream section of the river in the no-kill he liked to fish early in the morning. He felt there was a chance a hatch might get started a little further upstream. We picked out some size 22 bead head sulfur nymphs just in case there was not surface activity.

As I drove to the river early next morning, I was filled with the anticipation of fishing new water. I was also hoping to have it to myself. The spot was quite remote and I was pleased when I arrived to find no other cars or fisherman in sight. The overcast from the previous day remained and the air was wet with a heavy mist. Perfect! I rigged up and hiked down the trail to the river excited about the prospects of the morning.

The path met the river at the tail of a long flat that was about 100 feet wide. I stood well back from the river in the tall weeds and surveyed the area. The surface of the river was flat and opaque, the color of a pewter plate. I searched for any signs of a hatch or working fish. Nothing. I was just about ready to tie on my tiny sulfur nymphs when I spotted a very subtle rise about 30 feet out and above my position. I strained to verify what I had seen. Until yesterday I would have dismissed such a delicate rise as anything but a large trout. Joe, my guide the day before, opened my eyes to a new level of awareness. Again the barely perceptible ring appeared in the same location. A ring so subtle it looked like a single grain of sand had been dropped on the water.

Excited, I was now committed to fishing on the surface, but what to use? The day before I had taken some fish with Joe on a size 24 CDC blue wing olive. It was the smallest fly in my box. I decided to give it a try. I tied on some new 6X and then added about 8 inches of 7X. I fumbled tying knots in the fine tippet. My attention divided between tying knots and checking for another rise. I was anxious the fish would not rise again.

I struggled tying the tiny fly on the hair-like tippet with my hands shaking. I tested my knots and slipped into the water downstream and just far out far enough to get a little casting room.

I waited for another rise. When it came I measured my cast along the bank and dropped the fly two feet above the rise form. I strained to see the fly, but could not pick it up. I focused on the leader for any sign of a take. Nothing doing. After the leader drifted past, I picked it up and cast again with a wide loop so the fly would land softly. The cast fell short of the mark. I'm thinking too much and tell myself to relax. On the next cast I saw the fly and got a good drift right over the fish. The fish rose right after my fly passed his position. Another good cast and drift. I'm running on instinct now. He does not take the fly. I began to question if I have made the right choice of fly. I remember what Joe said yesterday, that getting a good drift is more important than fly selection. I made another cast totally focused on the fly. The trout rose and sipped my tiny offering.

The take was so delicate that I instinctively set the hook with a gentle lift of the rod. A long, golden streak rolled in the water. It was huge. This was the first time I saw the fish. You could feel the fish's power and he peeled off drag and headed for the center of the river. There was no stopping him. I gave him the rod and let the drag do its job. He turned and ran back toward me as I feverishly took up the slack. He settled down in his holding lie and then, feeling the pressure, made a surging run upstream. The fine 7x tippet and my knots flashed through my mind. I eased up a little on the drag as the fish made a left turn and headed for the opposite bank. He is now 100 feet away from me. I took off across the tail of the pool to regain some line, hoping he does not turn downstream. I press him, but not too hard, and he works back to the center of the river. I am so impressed with the strength of these wild fish.

When I got below him I decided that I would cutoff his downstream exit. I work him first to the right and then to the left trying to confuse him. As he turned to head downstream, I got a good look at him and that only made me more nervous. That tiny hook, that hairline tippet seemed grossly inadequate to subdue such a fish. I moved over to cut off his downstream run and it worked. He tried to move again and each time I positioned myself to cut him off. He came so close to me one time I almost reached for my net. Realizing that would be a mistake, I concentrated on tiring this glorious fish and enjoying the moment. Two more times he came very close to me, and I became aware of having him on a short line. I worked him back to the bank right below the spot where I first saw him rise.

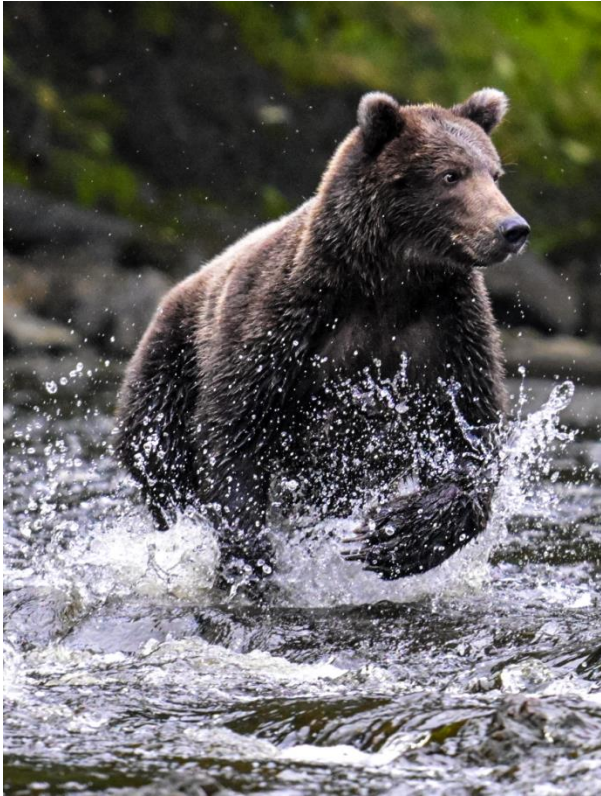
I reached back and pulled off my net, only to have him take off again. I dropped the net thankful it was on a tether, and refocused on subduing the fish. I sensed I might be able to land him, but the thought of that tiny fly pulling out made me proceed very cautiously. I did not want to lose him now.

The first two times I tried to net him, he took off as soon as he saw the net. On the third pass I was able to lead him into the net. He did not like it and thrashed wildly as I held him in the water. A wave of euphoria swept over me as my mind and body relaxed in the presence of this beautiful golden creature. It was a big, male brown with a huge mouth. I could not believe a trout this large could make such a dainty rise form. I removed the fly from his upper jaw and held him in the net into the current watching his gills work. I held him up in my hands to etch his image in my mind and set him in the water at my feet. He did not swim off. The two of us just rested there for quite awhile. I thanked the powers that be for this moment, touched the trout on the tail and watched him swim off. I climbed the bank and hiked back to my car.

Selection from
Through the Eyes of a Fisherman
a collection of writings by
Ted Hagaman

Club member Greg Stepanski fished out of Willow Creek, Alaska and sent us this: “Ended up catching 19 rainbows with 8 football-sized and 2 grayling. Salmon run was already over that far north. We did catch 5 salmon near Ketchikan, but we were trolling”. Great job Greg!





Looks like Greg had some exciting critters for company while fishing. Photo below is a beautiful grayling, one of my favorite fish.



Denise sent us this: "My friend Pat and I have fished out of Cottee River near Anclote the last couple of Mondays on her boat and we caught a lot of small trout and I caught a small Gag Grouper. We found 4 dozen Scallops the first week, but visibility was not that great and grass very tall. We didn't find any on the second trip but the tide was high and again visibility was tough, we did catch a couple dozen Trout and saw a few nice snook milling around, no luck in enticing a strike. Weather held out and temps seem to be cooling off a bit. Scallops were delicious!"



Captain Bryon Chamberlin sent us this: "I fished this past week with my buddy Capt. Carl Ball (Friday & Saturday) and Capt. Honson Lau (Sunday) in Biscayne Bay for bonefish and permit. Fishing conditions were tough with no wind and water temps up to 92°F on the flats. Most of our shots were in the morning before it got hot out, and after about 10am the flats were pretty much devoid of gamefish. I had a few shots at waking permit but couldn't seal the deal. I did get 2 nice bonefish between 6-7lbs. We did see a few big bones near double digits, but we didn't spot them till they were almost under the skiff due to clouds and glare. If you want to fish bonefish without long travel, give these guys a call. They are awesome guides and know Biscayne Bay very well."



Mike Perez, Jack Hexter and Bob Perez had a successful offshore grouper/snapper trip on September 15, 2024. Good job guys and I'm guessing no fly rods?



Patty Anderson catching rainbows on the Poudre River in Colorado and Robert Fischer catching brown trout on the Madison River near Big Sky, Montana.



Photo Gallery

Bob from the desert fly casters sent us this: “Spotted this yesterday just after I started my car and rolled down the windows. Looked like a fish and I had my cell phone camera.

Bob McKeon, DFC Editor,
Certified Lawn Tossler of any old Fly Rods,
Graphic Guru and Head Wrangler of Stuff



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

While drifting the flats for other species, mangrove snapper are often encountered this time of year as they school in preparation for spawning later. When using a typical 8 or 9-weight fly rod with size 1 or 1/0 baitfish imitating flies searching for trout, reds, and larger fish, a snapper will occasionally be hooked. Probing deeper areas in grassy flats, rock piles, and docks are often key locations. If one is found, many more are there. Use your anchoring system and change to a setup that will greatly increase your chances for success while adding to the fun. A lighter 4 or 5-weight fly rod equipped with a clear sink tip line and a 9 ft leader tapered to 8-pound test fluorocarbon is needed especially if water is clear. Select a small weighted size 8 fly that imitates a crab, minnow, or shrimp. To fish close to the bottom where they are located, use a countdown method. After the cast, count until the line goes slack indicating the fly is on the bottom. On your next cast, begin the retrieve sooner. Keeping the fly close to the bottom, or structure, will give you constant action. A great experience for new fly fishers and children, the light fly tackle will give these strong small fish a chance to really pull, and their bait-stealing reputation will be foiled by constant hookups with the smaller flies.

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

P.S. Also keep your eyes open for sheepshead on the flats. They cruise in schools and will also tail. Try a small crab pattern to fool these sharp-eyed fish. //Walt

Fishing Report

Capt Rick Grasset reports: Fly anglers fishing with me, out of CB's Saltwater Outfitters on Siesta Key, had some action with snook at night and trout in Sarasota recently. Pat Beckwith, from Sarasota, caught and released snook before dawn and then fished deep grass flats of Sarasota Bay and had some action with trout on flies. Jim Randle, from Sarasota, also got in on the action, catching and releasing several snook on my Snook Minnow fly on another trip. Fishing in the dark is a great way to beat the heat this time of year.

Look for snook and juvenile tarpon around dock lights. Deep grass flats are usually a good option for action with trout and more. 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!

SNOOK FIN-ADDICT GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. Rick Grasset, (941) 923-7799, www.snookfin-addict.com) 923-7799.



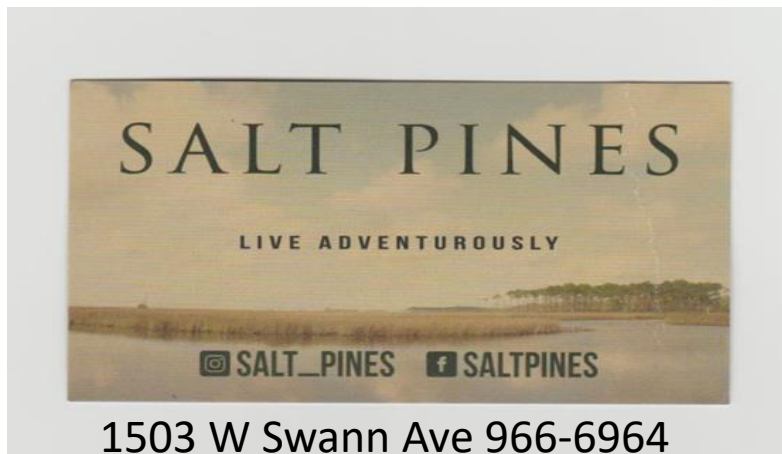
2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 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
- 19 Oct Carl Hanson, Hillsborough River
- Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov 17 Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec 13 Kayak 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 ww.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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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 Grasset (941) 923-7799
- Capt. John Hand (239) 842-7778
- Capt. Greg Peterson (423) 432-1973

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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