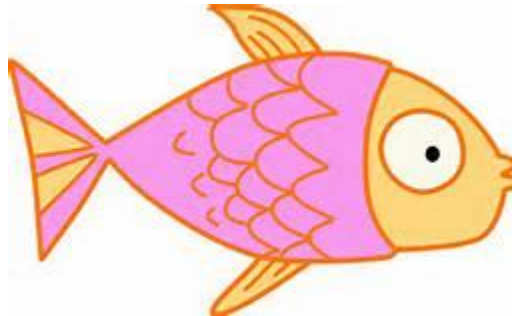




**Next meeting 3 Dec 2024
5:30 PM to 9:00 PM**

Annual Holiday Party

Please join our party to celebrate the holidays with good friends and food. Spouses are welcome! We will serve our special “grits and grunts” freshly caught by Robert Fischer and friends. Please bring an appetizer, salad or desert of your choice and we will provide beverages. Finally, bring a funny, weird or nice gift to participate in a “white elephant” gift (\$10-\$15) exchange. See the official rules for this on page 2. **Please note we are meeting at Compton Park at our old location: 16101 Compton Dr, Tampa, FL 33647**



White Elephant Exchange

Players draw names to determine what order they will go in

The first player selects a gift from the pool and opens it

Make sure everyone can see the gift!

The following players can choose to either pick an unwrapped gift from the pool or steal a previous player's gift. Anyone who gets their gift stolen in this way can do the same – choose a new gift or steal from someone else.

To keep things moving along, there are a couple of limits on gift swapping:

A present can only be stolen once per turn, which means players who have a gift stolen from them have to wait to get it back.

After three swaps, the turn automatically comes to an end (otherwise things could drag on for a *long* time).

Three Swaps and *the Gift is Out*. If a present gets stolen three times, it's out of the game and the person who holds it gets to walk away with it.

After all players have had a turn, the first player gets a chance to swap the gift he or she is holding for any other opened gift. Anyone who's gift is stolen may steal from someone else (as long as that person hasn't been stolen from yet). When someone declines to steal a gift, the game comes to an end.

Note that for this last "extra" turn, the three-swap rule doesn't apply. Players can keep swapping until someone decides to stand pat, or there are no other eligible people to steal from.

Club ladies preparing gift bags for the holiday party.
From the left: Patty, Kathy, Lou, Denise, Jere and Ginny



The BIG GUN SHOOT-OUT

Our Big Gun competition was a success and a lot of fun this year. Eight teams of three competed over the six stations, which tested their ability to execute fly fishing casts. For the first year, we welcomed a three-generation team consisting of Bob, Lowell and Carter Bebout. Seven year old Carter was quite impressive and scored third highest in the thru-the-hoop event. Congratulation Carter and we hope to see you next year!

Winning Team: The Three Amigos - Total Team Score 1,181

1. Joe Mahler score 420
2. Walt Hoover score 421
3. Ed Matuziac score 340

The winner of the Ladies Trophy was Lisa Lowman scoring 310, among four women who competed.

The individual trophy winner was Walt Hoover with a score of 421.

Five competitors scored over 100 feet to enter the Long Distance Casting competition. The winner was Walt Hoover with a final cast of 118 feet.

The other competitors were Joe Mahler, Ed Matuzic, Lowell Bebout, and Leigh West. A separate attachment holds all the scores.

The winners all received trophies and the club supplied drinks and lunch. **Special thanks to Tampa Fishing Outfitters** who donated about \$400 worth of fly lines and leaders. And, thanks to all participants for your spirit, competition and friendship. We are looking at 16 November for Big Gun 2025. I hope to see you there. //Walt

Here are the Big Gun winners. Joe Mahler, Ed Matuziac and Walt Hoover from left to right won the team competition.

Lisa Lowman won the women's completion.

And, Walt Hoover was the individual champ.

Well done to all of you. //Walt



More Big Gun photos: Kelly and Denise are top center; Enver, Lisa and Bob are top right; Bob, Lowell and Carter Bebout are lower left; Jaime bottom center and Carter in action.



Directions to Our Holiday Party: Compton Park: 16101 Compton Dr, Tampa, FL 33647 from 6 to 9 PM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you all enjoyed our November meeting. We hosted a fly fishing trivia meeting using a Jeopardy style board. Fifteen club members participated as two teams for a fun and interesting evening. We awarded a \$25 gift card to each participant to spend at Tampa Fishing Outfitters, who donated five of their gift cards. We thank them for their continued support to our club.

Our outing at Cypress Park on 16 November went very well. We oriented two new members (John and Allen) to the flat and helped them fish. While the weather and tide was good, fishing was tough with no reds, two trout and one snook. Thanks to those folks who showed up to fish and help out our new folks.

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.

Please note our annual banquet with the Suncoast is 29 March next year in Tampa. I think I had a different date in earlier newsletters.

//Walt Durkin



Fly Fishing Quotes

I think I fish, in part, because it's an anti-social, bohemian business that, when gone about properly, puts you forever outside the mainstream culture without actually landing you in an institution. - John Gierach

Angling may be said to be so like the mathematics that it can never be fully learned. - Izaak Walton

“Calling fishing a hobby is like calling brain surgery a job.” – Paul Schullery

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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VP: Ted Hagaman	813-455-4016
Patty Anderson	813-787-2556
Denise Bruner	813-748-5065
Bryon Chamberlin	813-361-8801
Pat Damico	727-504-8649
Robert Fischer	813-495-5685
Ginny Fischer	813-495-5685
Bruce Anderson	813-786-3902
Jim Dye	941-730-3647
Keaton Anderson	404-313-7820

November Meeting Photos

We had a pretty good turnout as members met and competed in a fly fishing trivia contest. Team A won with a come back on the final question as they bet all their points. We awarded everyone a \$25 gift card anyway. We may try it again next year with fewer questions so that we have more time for discussion and learning.



TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

New Club Shirts are available in white, blue and tan. They cost us \$27 and will offer them at \$30. We also have new club hats to offer in three colors (\$25).

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.

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.

Dr. Mike Perez warns us regarding increased case reports of flesh eating bacteria on contaminated flood waters following the 2 hurricanes in Florida. There have been 44 new cases of Vibrio infections with 11 deaths in Florida. Please monitor the water quality where you fish and don't expose any open skin to salt water while wading. Here is another reminder to be careful: <https://www.amisun.com/bradenton-man-loses-leg-to-flesh-eating-bacteria/>

//Walt



FWC News

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is excited to celebrate Catch a Florida Memory's first-ever Grand Slam Master Angler – Gregg Lewis! The pursuit of this monumental achievement first began in 2020, when Lewis joined FWC's saltwater angler recognition program, Catch a Florida Memory. Over the past four years, Lewis systematically achieved all eight of the Grand Slams available for adult participants. This journey required dedication, skill and unwavering passion for the sport.

To complete this exceptional feat, Lewis emphasized the importance of doing your own research but also getting help in areas that might not be your strong suit. "Research is as important as fishing. You've got to know where the best chance of catching the fish is, what time of year, what phase of the moon, what water conditions, etc." See myfwc.com for more info:



Fly Casting Tip for December

Marking your Fly Line

I saw this tip on the internet from Capt. Bob Lemay. He writes: Years ago Chico Fernandez and Lefty Kreh came up with a system for marking fly lines that I still use today. This was back when fly lines were un-marked so once out of the package, you had no idea what line size it was. A real pain when you had a number of fly reels and different lines for them. It's pretty simple, you use a black permanent marker on the end of the line (or both ends of the line). A long mark (1/2 to 3/4") for a 5wt, then short marks for each line size heavier, -a 7wt line would have one long mark and two short marks for instance. A 3wt would have three short marks. The markings are permanent and don't harm the line in any way. Very handy with a bunch of fly lines to be able to get the best use out of them.

Here is another marking tip from Florida Sportsman. Measure out 30 feet of line. Take a permanent marker and make a mark about five or six inches long on the line, all the way around, at that 30 foot mark.

Measure out a second 30 feet. Make two marks of two or three inches each with a one inch space between them at 60 feet.

The truly obsessed will make a third mark at 90 feet but again, this seems excessive to me.

If you do this you will find that that 30-foot mark in particular will help your fishing quite a bit. Most rods fully load with 40 feet of line out. You'll find that when that 30-foot mark makes its way out of the rod tip you will be ready to shoot the line. It's a wonderful visual aid.

Kayak Outing at the Suncoast Youth Center, Apollo Beach, 13 Dec 8:30 AM

6650 Dickman Rd, Apollo Beach, FL 33572

We will provide all the equipment, lunch and drinks. Please be ready to kayak and fish if you so desire. After lunch we will tour the facility and fish the pond. Special thanks to Gina Russo (Environmental Specialist and Scientist) with the FWC for hosting our club for many years. Suncoast members will also join us!

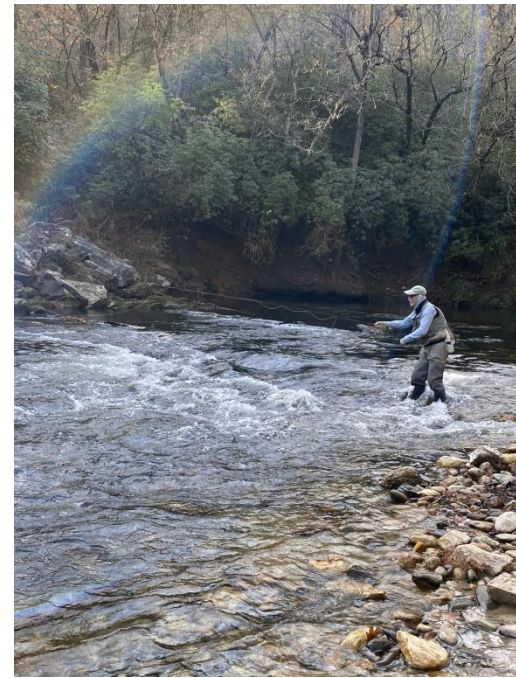


Chattooga River Trip 2024

After all the reports of storm destruction in the Carolinas stemming from Hurricane Helene, club members weren't sure what to expect when they traveled to Mountain Rest, SC for the annual Chattooga River trip. Six members of the club drove north to Oconnee State Park and evidence of Helene's passing thru was evident all along the way. However, the state park was in good shape and the barracks accommodation untouched. On the first day of fishing we started the morning with a visit to the Chattooga River Fly Shop. Owner Karl Ekberg informed us that he and several volunteers had been working very hard at clearing the hiking trails along the river and access to the water was restored. We left the shop with hopes of good fishing and headed out. Arriving at the river we found the water level was very low which made for easy crossing and wading. The trails had huge trees that had fallen over them, but Karl and his team had made them passable with their chainsaws and hard work. Fishing was easy and challenging as the river had been stocked 2 weeks before. In a hole where the stockers were holding up, fishing was easy. The rest of the river had the fish starting to establish themselves in other areas and were acting like seasoned trout, posing a little more challenge. Colorful brookies, browns and rainbows were all caught, mostly on nymphs and dry droppers. The river was uncrowded and we saw few other anglers. Ted Hagaman, a seasoned river angler and trout guru, gave a few Ted Talks on the river banks with tips and clues on how to best approach the fish. After each full day of fishing we again gathered at the barracks for stories and delicious meals made each night by a different angler. Culinary highlights were Hagaman's Venison Chili and Jim Dye's French Dip sandwich. The dates for next year's trip have been reserved so see Ted at a meeting if you want to go next year and reserve a cabin at the state park.



Here are a few photos from our trip to the Chatoogga River in S. Carolina. I am pictured top left; next Ted and Torin studying the river, a nice rainbow caught by Patty; Bruce with a nice trout, group photo at Burrell's Ford and Ted in action on a fast run above the stocking road.



Chattoogga River Memories

by Ted Hagaman

On our recent trout fishing trip to the Chattoogga River, I was reminded of all the things we have to be thankful for. I am always in a special place when I am standing in a river. I lose myself to the surroundings and shed all the tumult of everyday life.

As I was fishing down a riffle, the river reminded me of the season of joy ahead. At my feet, in the sparkling water, a holly branch with its bright red berries and vibrant green leaves was nestled against a rock. This simple image opened my mind to the joy of the season ahead. I paused to reflect on all the things beyond the river that I have to be thankful for.

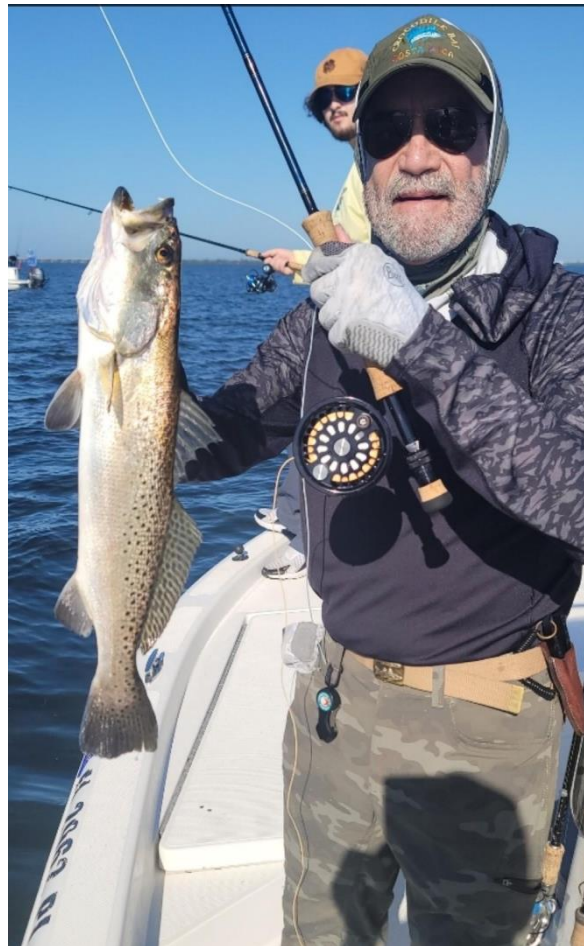
The next morning while suiting up in the parking area, my attention was drawn to a jovial angler who was wrestling his waders over a rather large belly. As I walked by headed for the river, he plopped down into a chair to pull on his boots. I turned to say good morning and was confronted by an individual with the most magnificent white beard that I have ever seen. I stopped to talk with him and compliment him on his beard. As it turns out, he is a South Carolina angler who has a business with his wife Mrs. Claus to spread Christmas joy. Well this South Carolina Santa loves to fly fish, and fishes the Chattoogga from October to May. I met him later in the morning nymphing a run and asked him if I could take his picture for my grandson. Seems that the river is opening me to what is really important in the season ahead.



Club member Rich Gorden sent us this report: “John Allison and I just got back from Andros last week. We fished eight days. Weather was decent, we managed to catch fish every day. Our last day was epic. Light winds, clear skies, and literally thousands of hungry bonefish. John and I caught 50 bonefish between us that day, and had a bunch pulled off, broken off, and eaten off while trying to horse them away from hungry fish. Great stay again at Two Boys!”



Club member Jeff Abeles has this report: “Last week I took my grandson out on his first charter with Captian Rob Gorta. We fished the mangroves around Ft Desoto. We hit the jackpot and found a nice feeding school of decent size Redfish. My grandson Cody stopped counting at a dozen. Chumming white bait did the trick. Being a purest I wouldn't pick up a spinning rod and threw big white bait streamers on my 8wt. I didn't do to badly myself. I landed 4 nice size Redfish, lost a couple more and landed a nice gator trout. A nice day out on the water.”



Club member Torin sent us this photo of Ray with a big bass on a gurgler.



“My sons, Brian and Rob, and I went on another great half day Orvis trip out of the Chetola Resort in Blowing Rock, NC. We landed over 20 and lost many more. The guides, Dustin Coffey and Quin, were very skilled. Wonderful trip.” Tim Duke



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

In saltwater fly fishing we use heavier equipment and must cast further, quickly, and with accuracy. We are constantly confronted with adverse wind and weather conditions, a combination of issues that if not approached properly will cause physical deterioration of muscles, ligaments, and joints. Frequently, even younger sports enthusiasts in tennis or golf often are plagued with these issues that can be debilitating requiring medical and even surgical intervention. Tennis elbow/shoulder and golf wrist are frequent results. The reason is usually poor execution of fundamentals often with mismatched and unbalanced equipment. Someone who never fly-fished can have an advantage over a veteran who has many issues with poor, "Muscle memory." Watching any accomplished sports enthusiast perform looks easy because most flaws are eliminated. An excuse I often hear is, "Fly fishing is too much work!" Do a search of Fly Fishing Clubs in your area and you will find a group of fly fisher's that share the same interests at many different levels. You can find capable instructors that will be only too happy to get you on the correct path to make this a safe and very enjoyable pastime.

Fly fisherman and casting instructor Pat Damico charts Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at capatdamico.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: You may find reds in potholes or along the edges of flats and bars when the tide is low. They may also tail on shallow grass flats of lower Tampa Bay or Gasparilla Sound on negative low tides. Lightly weighted flies, like my Grasset Flats Minnow, will work well in that situation. Weed guards are also important when targeting reds on shallow grass. Spoon flies are another good choice when hunting for reds although you may need to add a small (#10) black barrel swivel ahead of your bite tippet to prevent twist in your leader depending on the style of spoon fly you use, some will wobble while others may spin if stripped fast. You may also find reds around docks this month. Use a sink tip fly line and a weighted fly to get your fly into the strike zone for reds.

You may find big trout in skinny water this month in many of the same areas where you find reds. I feel that it's important to release larger over-slot trout, which are usually female breeders. The same flies and techniques that I use for reds will also work for trout in the same areas. I feel that it's important to protect large trout, which are usually female breeders. Full regulations and details can be viewed at <https://myfwc.com/>.

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



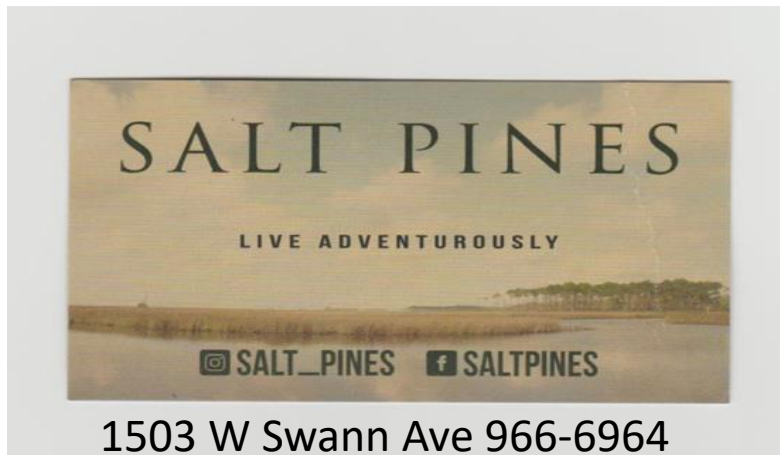
2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 6 Cypress Park Wade Clinic
- Jan 20 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb 17 Trout Creek Outing
- Mar 29 Annual Banquet
- June 22 Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- 19 Oct Carl Hanson, Hillsborough River
- Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov 16 Cypress Park Outing
- Nov 17 Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec 13 Kayak at the Suncoast Youth
Center
- Dec 21 Suncoast 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
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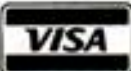
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Member Benefits

TBFFC is famous for its value and focus on the sharing of information, experience, and craftsmanship with its members. As a TBFFC member you will enjoy many benefits free or at nominal cost.

- Monthly Meetings with informative speakers
- Fishing Trips Sponsored by Members and the Club
- Group Clinics and Workshops
- Fly Tying Lessons
- One-On-One Fly Casting Lessons
- Shirts and Hats with club logo
- 80-page Beginner's Basic Skills Instruction Manual
- Annual Banquet

Fly Fishing Guides

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- Capt. Pat Damico (727) 504-8649
- Capt. Bryon Chamberlin (813) 361-8801
- Capt. Rick Grassett (941) 923-7799
- Capt. John Hand (239) 842-7778
- Capt. Greg Peterson (423) 432-1973

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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