

Location of Redfish in Tampa Bay

Happy New Year Everyone! I found a study online titled Spatial and Size Distribution of Red Drum Caught and Released in Tampa Bay, Florida. This study brings to light many interesting and informative facts about redfish in Tampa Bay. I will make some slides and lead a discussion on one of our favorite fish and where they live in Tampa Bay.

One of the authors of the study is Kerry E. Flaherty of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. I am lining up Kerry to speak at our meeting in March on fish ecology and the health of the bay.

You can find the study online at:
<https://aquila.usm.edu/gcr/vol25/iss1/5/>.

Please note we start collecting annual club dues in January. Your \$40 dues gets a good return with informative guest speaks, free guide trips, a great banquet and the comraderie of other fly fishing aficionados. Please pay at a meeting or find instructions at the end to pay by mail. Thanks, //Walt



**Next meeting 7 January 25
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 once we have enough light.

Directions to Our Holiday Party: 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 December Holiday Party. About 25 members enjoyed a festive night with food, drink, gifts and holiday cheer. Folks brought tasty side dishes and Robert and Ginny led efforts for the fish fry and grits. After eating well, we swapped gifts in a lively exchange. Thanks to the women of our club for organizing our tables, decorations and music. Special thanks to Robert and Jack for providing and preparing the fish. Thanks to Ken for donating aquarium tickets and making a stained glass logo. Finally, thanks to Greg and Julian for hosting again this year. It was a fine way to kick off the holidays as we looked forward to a new year!

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.

You can also sign up for our email distribution, where club members list where and when they will fish. It offers an opportunity to get out and fish with other folks from the club during good conditions.

//Walt Durkin 

Fly Fishing Quotes

"It has always been my private conviction that any man who pits his intelligence against a fish and loses has it coming." – John Steinbeck

"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

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Ginny Fischer	813-495-5685
Bruce Anderson	813-786-3902
Jim Dye	941-730-3647
Keaton Anderson	404-313-7820

Holiday Party Photos



Patty, Kathy, Lou, Denise, Jere and Ginny preparing party favors for the tables.





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 join us for our January meeting and a discussion about locations of redfish in Tampa Bay. We have local guide, Nick Angelo signed up for our February meeting. Nick is a long time member of our club and specializes in fly fishing. We will also give away a half-day's trip with Nick to one lucky member at the meeting. And, I have Kerry Flaherty coming in March to talk about the health of the bay and fish ecology. In April, we will have our annual trash and treasures meeting. At this meeting you can donate fishing-related items you no longer use for other club members to bid on. This is a good fundraiser for us and passes on lightly used items at a low cost.

Please add 29 March to your calendar for our annual banquet with the Suncoast. We are hosting this year in Tampa at the Carrollwood Rec Center. We will have food, fun, raffles and a great guest speaker; non-other, then **Bob Clouser**. Sign up and get tickets starting this year.

//Walt

FLY CASTING AND FLY FISHING CLINIC

WHERE: Ballfield Northeast Park, 955 62nd Ave North, Saint Petersburg, FL 33702

WHEN: Saturday, January 11, 2025, promptly from 9 am to 3 pm. Arrive earlier to register and set up.

WHAT: We will use a format similar to the last one where the enthusiasm was over the top. We'll keep working on fundamental skills but drills will be much more like real fishing conditions. All levels of expertise, or lack thereof, will be accommodated and welcomed. Bring whatever equipment you have, as this is often the cause of your difficulty. Leaders and practice flies will be provided. We also have some club rods.

WHO: Master Certified Fly Casting Instructors Dale Mazzarella, Pat Damico, Certified Instructors Jonas Magnusson, Chris O'Byrne, Robert DeAngelis, and others will assist you in developing the skills needed to catch more fish. Our ratio of Instructors to participants will be exceptional.

COST: Free to FFI members, others can join FFI for a year for \$35, \$25 for Seniors and Veterans, \$20 for Juniors

Fly Club sponsors provide breakfast and lunch. Join us for a fun day of friendship and instruction! Members from all clubs as well as the general public are welcome.

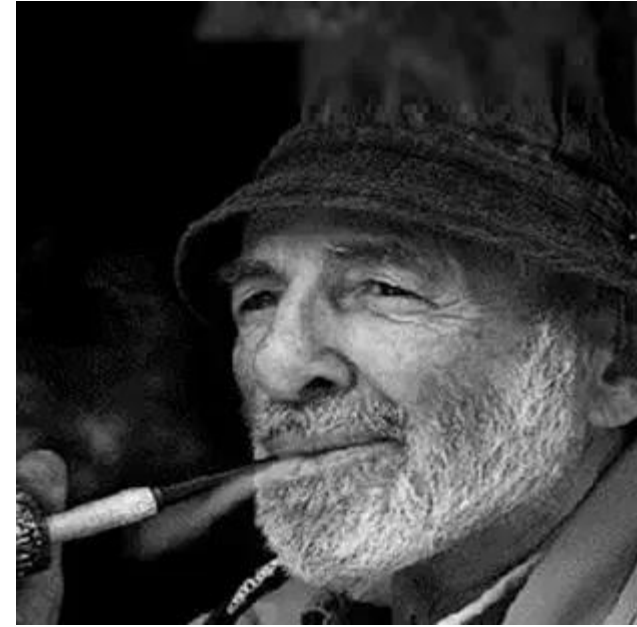
Pat Damico 727-504-8649, David Redd 727-458-8334, or Jonas Magnusson 361-903-2846 should be contacted to reserve your place if you haven't signed the sign-up sheet.



Fly Casting Tip for December

Mel Krieger's Books and Videos

“Mel was an avid fisherman and discovered his passion for fly fishing at the Golden Gate Casting Club in SF where he remained an active member. He became a renowned fly casting instructor, teaching clinics all over the world. He was a pillar in the fly fishing community and was considered one of the foremost and innovative instructors. A NCCFFF Hall of Fly Fishing Fame inductee, highly innovative and originated the very successful "Federation of Fly Fishers Fly Casting Instructor Certification Program" & the "FFF Guide's Assn." He wrote the *Essence of Fly Casting* and produced four DVDs on fly casting and fly fishing, which have been translated into several languages. His love of life, his charisma, his connection to people and love of teaching will be remembered fondly by all who knew him.” (From his obit in 2008)



We brought Mel to Tampa many years ago to give us a seminar and as the guest speaker at our annual banquet. What a privilege to meet and host one of the icons of our sport. I recently bought his book, *The Essence of Fly Casting*, an interesting and informative read. As a tribute to Mel, I will take tips and lessons from his book and feature them in our newsletter for several months. Additionally, if you are in need of another fly fishing book, you will not find a better one. Finally, check out his videos on YouTube, where you can listen and watch the master at work. //Walt

FFI Launches the Next Gen Youth Video Series

Want a refresher on the basics or help someone else learn about fly fishing?

Fly Fishers International has just what you need! The new video series will walk you through the basics to begin fly fishing. From the terminology, to the gear, casting, flies, knots and more. We're proud to present this series produced in partnership with Trout Unlimited, and their Youth Fly Fishing Camp representatives, so you can learn from other kids who have discovered the fun and adventure fly fishing can offer. Check out the videos below, and have fun fly fishing!

<https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Learn/Learning-Center-Resources/Next-Gen-Youth>

Kayak Outing at the Suncoast Youth Center, Apollo Beach, 13 Dec

6650 Dickman Rd, Apollo Beach, FL 33572

We provided all the equipment, lunch, drinks, lunch and a tour the facility. Special thanks to Gina Russo (Environmental Specialist and Scientist) with the FWC for hosting our club for many years. Mangrove and Suncoast members also joined us this year.



Play Hooky at the Hatchery

A big thank you to Gina Russo with the FWC for hosting us for our annual Play Hooky outing at the Suncoast Youth and Conservation center in Apollo Beach. . This year we were joined by members of the Suncoast and Mangrove Coast Fly Fisher clubs which made it a fun gathering of enthusiastic anglers. The tides were low and the wind was strong so we started the morning fishing the pond. Denise caught a nice snook while the rest of us got a lot of casting practice in as we hunted for fish. This was also a time where the group offered casting lessons, traded fishing tips and anglers from the different clubs got to know each other. Our club provided a holiday themed lunch (special treats made by Denise) for everyone as we waited for the tide to rise. In the afternoon we all launched the kayaks for a paddle thru the mangrove creeks where lots of snapper, snook and reds were sighted as we made our way to the bay. The wind continued to push the tide out so little water was on the flats and few fish were spotted. So we all gradually made our way back up the creek where Mangrove Club members Sam and Ken found a cove where they pulled in several snook and red fish. The outing was a very fun day and our club appreciates Gina for hosting us each year!



Ted, Jeff, Todd and Tyler Hagaman had a big day fishing for trout off Tarpon Springs. A nice day and all big fish. Good job Guys!



Wacasassa Outing 5-8 Dec

Ted has hosted this outing at the Gulf Hammock Fishing Club for over 30 years. Fourteen of us fished for three days and caught many trout, reds and snook. Ted's winning red measured 32.5 inches. We mostly spin-fished, but had some good fly rod action. We also ate and drank well with three fine dinners. Our last night is always a fresh fish fry with hush puppies, beans and salad. Super fun this year with great weather, fishing and good friends. //Walt



Photo Gallery: Wacasassa River, Gulf Hammock, FL

Motoring in after a day of fishing. This is one of the few places in Florida where they are unable to over-develop.



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Captain's Corner,

Adjustments are needed to deal with cold fronts. While fly fishing for trout and redfish using a typical 8- or 9-weight fly rod with size 1 or 1/0 baitfish-type flies, a slight tap-type strike and frequent miss may occur. If a fish is hooked, a mangrove or gray snapper will often be the result. If one is found, many more will be in the same location. Deploy an anchoring system to hold your location. Observe the pattern the fish use to find more later. Deeper areas in grass flats, rock piles and docks are often key locations. Switch to lighter tackle to make these tasty scrappers more fun to catch. A 5- or 6-weight fly rod with a sink-tip line and a 6-foot leader tapered to 8-pound test fluorocarbon is ideal, especially in clear water. Select a small-weighted size 8 fly that imitates a crab, shrimp or baitfish. Flies with the hook pointed up are your best choice to avoid snags. After casting, slowly count until the line goes slack, indicating the bottom has been hit. If you get to 10, on the next cast, count to eight and start the same type of retrieval. This puts your fly close to the bottom or a fish-hugging structure. Set the hook at the slightest tap. Check current Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission rules for size and daily limit.

Fly fisherman 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 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.



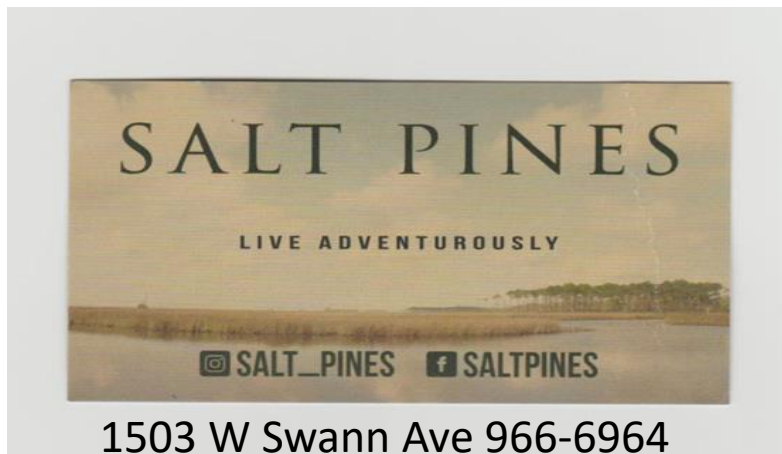
2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 11 Fly Casting Seminar
- Jan 11 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb 14-15 Waterman Tournament
- Mar 29 Annual Banquet
- June Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct Carl Hanson, Hillsborough River
- Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec Kayaking Suncoast Youth Center
- Dec 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 www.captpat.com, pat4jaws@hotmail.com
- SNOOK FIN-ADDICT GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. Rick Grasset, (941) 923-7799, www.snookfin-addict.com
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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 Grassett (941) 923-7799
- Capt. John Hand (239) 842-7778
- Capt. Greg Peterson (423) 432-1973

Fly Casting Coaches

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North Tampa

Jonas Magnusson.....361 903 2846

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