

Captain Nick Angelo

Nick is a long time member and friend of the TBFFC. He will talk about fishing the Tampa Bay area. Here is a bio from his website:

Capt. Nick Angelo specializes in fly fishing and light tackle fishing Tampa Bay and Florida's Nature Coast. He is a patient, full-time, Florida native fishing guide. Fishing is not just his career, but a life long passion. Capt. Nick welcomes both novice and experienced anglers. Teaching is a major part of his job, and he enjoys sharing his knowledge of fly fishing and light tackle fishing, as well as the outdoors, with his anglers. So if you are a seasoned tarpon fly angler, or someone looking to learn more about the sport of fly fishing, come share a day on the water with him.

We will also give away a half-day's trip with Nick to one lucky member at the meeting.

<https://shallowwaterflyfishing.com/>



**Next meeting 4 February 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.

Photos from Capt. Nick



Directions to Our Meeting: (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 presentation last month on the study of redfish in Tampa Bay. Redfish are one of our primary sport fish and it appears FWC is doing a good job of managing the resource. We must do our part in helping maintain Tampa Bay as a healthy environment. The bay is a primary nursery where redfish grow and spend the first 3 to 4 years of their life before moving offshore. Support local environmental organizations such as Captains for Clean Water and Waterkeepers. Bonefish and Tarpon Trust is another good one and they now have a Florida license plate, which will look good on your car or boat trailer. Just send \$25 to T&BT every 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.

We are working to improve our annual Big Gun. We welcome your ideas and feedback on what you like or how we can make it better.

//Walt Durkin 

Fly Fishing Quotes

“ There will be no end to angling controversies for there is no one best way for everyone to fish”. - Lee Wulff

“Fishing in a place is a meditation on the rhythm of a tide, a season, the arc of a year, and the seasons of life.” – Carl Safina

“I am firmly convinced that the ideal combination leading to a happy life is to have the time to both fish and read.” - Brian Murphy

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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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

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).

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 at the next two meetings or send me an email to reserve your spot.**

The **Fly Fishing Film Tour** is coming to the Tampa Theater on 24 April. Tampa Bay Waterkeeper is the sponsor, so your attendance will help fund their efforts.

Suncoast members will fish Cypress Point Park on 22 February and have invited us to join them!

//Walt



Catch of the Month Photo Contest

To all members of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Here is your chance to be on the front page of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club website! Each month we will review and display the best member photo of your fishy catch. The best photo will be judged on the quality of fish caught, composition of the image as well as the excitement of the moment of the catch. Send all photos with subject line Photo Contest along with your first and last name to:

Tampabayffc@gmail.com

Be sure to show the lucky angler, the fish and lure (hopefully a fly) in your photo. Sample photo below.

All entries will receive a raffle ticket for a nice prize, which we will award at our annual Holiday Party!



Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Google Group

Keep in contact with your fishing friends through the TBFFC Google Groups!

This is a closed discussion between current club members that have joined the TBFFC Google Groups. This allows communication directly with other group members with anything related to fishing, outings, trips or anything fishy! To join the TBFFC Google Group, you will need an invitation to join.

- To be invited, send an email with your first and last name and email address that you want to communicate through to: Bruce Anderson
sightcaster@gmail.com

- Once I receive your email, I will send an invite to your email address with an invitation to join the Group. Click on the invitation Link, and your email will be added to the group.

You will need a Google account to have access to the TBFFC Group. If you have a Gmail address, you already have a Google account. If you do not use Gmail, you can set up a Google account without using Google email. This can be done by doing a search for Google Sign in. If you attempt to sign in to Google without an existing account, a create account option will appear. Click this and create a Google account.

To access the TBFFC Group you must be logged into your Google account. So, be sure to log in first.

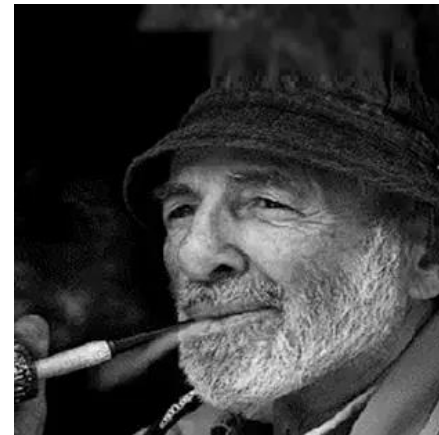
Next in the address bar type: [Groups.Google.com](https://groups.google.com) This will direct you to your Google Group home page. In the center of this page will be a list of all the groups you are a member, including the TBFFC Group. Click on the TBFFC group, and all the current discussions will be listed. A new discussion can be started by clicking on the New Conversation tab at the top left of the screen. If you experience any issues logging in or going through the process, please reach out to me.

Bruce Anderson

Fly Casting Tip for February

Good Form

As I promised in December, I will offer some tips based on Mel Krieger's classic book The Essence of Fly Casting written in 1987. In Chapter 3 Mel writes that the most help an instructor can offer a developing caster may well be good casting form.



Good form starts with a proper grip and Mel suggests the extended finger grip, which strongly resembles the right hand grip of a golf club. That is to say, thumb on top and the last three fingers slanting down toward your wrist. Your forefinger will extend up the handle a bit. Also, hold the handle at the end of your fingers rather than your palm. There is also the question of wear to put your hand on the grip. Certainly, the middle of the grip is okay, but Mel said he liked to grip toward the bottom, which gave him better feel and minimized the weight of the reel. This may not be needed with modern, light reels. I personally prefer to hold the rod at the very top of the grip. This gives me the best feel for the tip of the rod in casting. Most importantly, your grip should feel comfortable to you while not getting too far away from the basic extended finger grip.

Next Mel turns to hand and arm position and describes it this way. "Good hand and arm position for short casts and short strokes has the hand comfortably close to the and in front of the body at about chin height. For longer casts and longer strokes, hand and arm must move higher and out from the shoulder. For longest strokes and distance casts, the hand reaches farther up and out from the shoulder for maximum power." He notes as a general rule keep your hand as close to your shoulder as possible without distorting a comfortable casting motion. This will be more comfortable and less fatiguing than a roundhouse baseball throw.

I hope these tips help and will make you think about using good form in your casting. Buy Mel's book or check out his videos more detailed instruction from the master himself. Or, check with our instructors at the next meeting. //Walt

The 5th Annual Waterman Fly Fishing Tournament Friday Feb 14th & Saturday Feb 15th, 2025

The Waterman Fly Fishing Tournament is a two-day, fly fishing-only, catch & release redfish tournament with an optional Snook Calcutta with a 50/50 cash payout to be held on February 14th and February 15th, 2025. The tournament is limited to 60 teams or 120 anglers total. The two-day, photo submission format will make it possible for fisherman in this entire range to participate. The proceeds from entry fees, 50% of the Snook Calcutta and raffle tickets purchases directly benefit Tampa Bay Waterkeeper, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and their mission to advocate for clean water.

Target Species: Redfish and Snook

Boundaries: The fishing boundaries are the west coast of Florida from the Southern Tip of Sanibel Island to the Southern Edge of the Crystal River Power Plant Main Channel.

Thursday, February 13th is the MANDATORY VIRTUAL CAPTAIN'S MEETING at 7pm. Only one member of each team must attend. Format and rules will be discussed and any questions answered. The link to the zoom will be provided by email.

Friday, February 14th, LINES IN at 7:00 AM, LINES OUT at 4:00 PM

Saturday, February 15th, LINES IN at 7:00 AM, LINES OUT at 3:00 PM

The earlier "lines out" time is intended to accommodate travel time to the awards ceremony.

AWARDS DINNER at 5:30 PM

Anglers must check in by 6:30 PM to be eligible for awards. The Waterman culminates on February 17th in an Awards Banquet at the Bradenton Yacht Club with a can't-miss Raffle made possible by our generous sponsors. A limited amount of guest tickets to the Awards Banquet are available for purchase for \$65.00.

Bonefish and Redfish Fly Selection

I found this selection of flies on Discount Flies while searching for some information on Rod Hamilton. I have his book titled DIY Bonefishing, which I really enjoyed. This book offers detailed information on where and how to fly fish throughout the Bahamas and Caribbean. His fly selection is terrific with 15 assorted bonefish flies, mostly crab and shrimp patterns. They will also work just fine for Tampa Bay gamefish including reds, snook and trout. I recommend them for new anglers or anyone wishing to top off their fly box. You could take this box anywhere in the Caribbean to score bonefish and perhaps even permit. Cost is \$25 plus shipping of \$5 for 15 quality flies. //Walt



Home / Fly Collections /

Rod Hamilton Bonefish DIY Fly Collection: 15 Flies + Fly Box



Rod Hamilton Bonefish DIY Fly Collection: 15 Flies + Fly Box

★★★★★ 5/5 STARS. (2 REVIEWS)

Quantity in Basket: *None*

Code: C-RODH

Shipping Weight: 5.00 ounces



Boat for Sale

1988 23' Center console Lionmar. Only 23 of these boats were made before the company went out of business. The owner knew how to build a boat but not how to sell them. She's old but solid. When I plumbed the live well, I found the hull is 1/2" thick. That's why it weighs so much. She currently sits on an aluminum trailer with torsion axles and a front boarding ladder.

She is powered with twin 175 Suzuki's, 380 hours. She has a Lowrance GPS/bottom machine, VHF Radio, AM/FM radio, live well, boarding ladder and a custom cover and engine covers. Three new batteries, Stainless anchor, EPIRB and many more features. It has outriggers, but they are currently at my son's house in Stuart. Holds 190 gallons of fuel. Hurricanes tore up the Tee Top cover.

One problem is my vehicle will not tow it, it's 8,000 pounds on the trailer so if you want to sea trial, you would have to tow it to the ramp 9 (about 15 miles) The ONLY reason I'm selling it is because I can't tow it anymore. Asking \$20,000 If interested call 813-235-3358 Jack Hexter



New club member John had good luck fishing for bonefish in Belize, catching 19 one day. Good Job John! Pictured on the left is a red from the Cypress flat on 24 January. I am happy to report I found schools of redfish two days in a row on Saturday and Sunday. Spooky, but easy to see over the sand.



Club member Denise is fishing in Chili with her friend Debby. Looks like they are catching some fine trout amid mixed weather.



Photo Gallery: Circle B Bar Preserve

This photo was taken at the Circle B Bar this winter. It is a great place to walk and see wildlife including some big gators! Circle B Bar Reserve, on the northwest shore of Lake Hancock, is a former cattle ranch that today boasts a wide variety of plants and animals. You can see several distinct ecosystems in this reserve of 1,267 acres. You're almost guaranteed to see alligators in Lake Hancock, often considered the headwaters of the Peace River, which flows more than 100 miles from Polk County southwest to the Gulf of Mexico. <https://www.polk-county.net/park/circle-b-bar-reserve/>



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Never Blame the Fish

When freshwater trout fishing, especially when there isn't any surface or near-surface activity, deeper runs, shadowy irresistible cuts, and bases of dams are usually areas of casting concentration. Your favorite flies have all been used with little or no results. Dead drifting and even swinging some wet flies haven't produced either. Experiencing this recently, I moved upstream in shallower water to walk to another area. Walking upstream in the shallows, I spooked about a dozen fish. I couldn't bring myself to believe that trout would hold in the skinny stuff, let alone feed in such water. I stepped out of the water and moved along slowly using a bankside path. There were so many fish that I started creeping along the edge of the bushes with measured stealth. I found a trio of trout holding and feeding bankside, doing what they do in a place I never expected would hold a fish. Trout make their own decisions. I lengthened my leader with a long 5X tippet and selected a #18 unweighted pheasant tail nymph. When the closest one moved to feed, I carefully dropped the nymph about a foot above him. My Polaroids helped me see the fish move on my presentation and take it. When I set the hook, he headed for deeper water allowing me to net him below me without much disturbance. Casting only to feeding fish changed my whole day. There are preferred presentations and favored approaches on most rivers and streams. A dead drift is the best way to fish a dry fly — most times. A one-seam approach catches trout on nymphs — usually. Getting a streamer through the top third of the water column fools more fish — most days. But when any of that fails, when everything you expect to work produces nothing, never blame the fish. Think more observe and try harder.

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

Fishing Report

CB's Saltwater Outfitters Orvis-Endorsed Fly Fishing Schools Winter/Spring 2025 Schedule

CB's Saltwater Outfitters, 1249 Stickney Point Rd, Sarasota, FL will hold Orvis-Endorsed fly fishing schools on Saturdays, Feb 22, Mar 8 and Apr 12, 2025. The course, designed for beginning and intermediate fly casters, will focus on basic fly casting principles, improving casting skills, correcting faults, fly line management and wind casting. Instructor Capt. Rick Grasset will also cover saltwater fly fishing techniques, leader construction and fly selection. Cost for the class, which will run from 8 AM to approximately noon, is \$225 per person and includes the use of fly tackle and a workbook. Optional instructional guided fly fishing trips are also available for an additional fee. Contact CB's Saltwater Outfitters at (941) 349-4400 or info@cbsoutfitters.com to make reservations.

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



Fly Fishing Trip to Montana

Hope everyone and your families are doing well. I will be hosting a group of fly anglers in Montana again in 2025. Dates for this year's trip are July 20-26, 2025, fishing days will be Mon, July 21-Fri, July 25 which is 6 nights/5 days fishing. We'll be fishing with King Outfitters and their talented group of guides, whom I've fished with for more than 20-yrs, near Dillon, MT. In addition to the Beaverhead, Big Hole, Jefferson and Madison Rivers, there are several leases on private waters which include a spring creek.

Lodging will be at Medicine Lodge, which is 15-miles south of Dillon, a short way from the Beaverhead River. Chef Annie will be back preparing our meals, which are always one of the highlights of the trip. Equipped with an industrial size kitchen, a large dining room with ranch style seating and bar counters along the kitchen for extra room. A large covered patio with BBQ and dining area is available to relax and enjoy your surroundings. The house has three levels. There is a game room/library and laundry area in the basement."

Cost for 2025 remains the same as 2024, \$4650/per person including guided fishing for 5 full days (2 anglers per guide), 6 nights lodging and all meals at the lodge (including beer and wine). Other expenses will be airfare to Bozeman, fishing license, gratuities for guides and staff and a portion of car rental. Deposit amount is \$2325.00 (50%). Deposits are non refundable within 90-days of the trip (April 21, 2024). The 50% balance will be due at the end of our trip. Due to the non-refundable time frame, travel insurance is strongly recommended. It will take the stress out of any last minute cancellation. It is available through Travelguard at this link,www.travelguard.com .

If you have an interest in this trip feel free to give me a call if you want to discuss. Deposit check should be mailed to me at the address below. I'll confirm when I receive it. Thanks.

Capt.Rick
(941) 350-9790 (cell)

Please make check out to Capt. Rick Grassett. and mail to:

Capt. Rick Grassett
2447 Waneta Drive
Sarasota, FL 34231

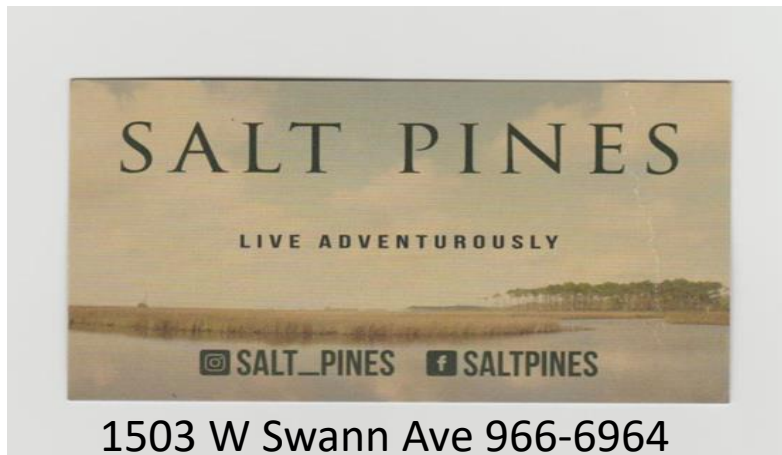
2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 11 Fly Casting Seminar
- Jan 11 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb 14-15 Waterman Tournament
- Feb 22 Cypress Park Outing w/Suncoast
- 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 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
- Carbon Marine, 3916 W. Osborne Ave. Tampa Fl, 33614, 813-870-1234
- Tampa Fishing Outfitters, 3916 W. Osborne Ave, Tampa, FL; 813-870-1234, tampafishingoutfitters.com



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Capt. Pat Damico

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St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

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Hppt://captpat.com

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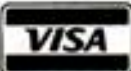
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Member Benefits

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

- 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

South Tampa

Walt Durkin.....813-853-5870

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