

Jonas Magnusson

How Fly Casting Works

Please join us for our next meeting as our Chief Casting Instructor talks fly casting. Jonas believes the very best way to learn the basics is to get solid instructions from a certified casting instructor. Accordingly, Jonas is ready and willing to teach fly casting to interested members. Jonas is relatively new to Tampa and learning our waters, but is an experienced fly fisherman and certified instructor. Jonas also teaches veterans working with Project Healing Waters.



**Next meeting 6 May 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 5:30 pm.



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 Trash and Treasures meeting. Thanks to everyone who brought something and also to the willing buyers. We made about \$500, which we will return to the club with outings and giveaways.

Thanks also for your participation in our banquet this year. Our goal was to provide a nice venue to share food and friendship, which we achieved. Thanks to the Suncoast Club for their help and participation. And, thanks to our board members for their hard work.

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 seeking guest speakers for 2025 and welcome your ideas. We like to get local guides, authors, scientists and conservationists to name a few. Email me your suggestions and we will try to line them up.

//Walt Durkin



Fly Fishing Quotes

"In this ever-changing world, there are few things that have remained constant for me. The chance of hooking a nice trout still excites and thrills me to this day... just as it did when I was a kid. I like that!"

"Fish are, of course, indispensable to the angler. They give him an excuse for fishing and justify the fly rod without which he would be a mere vagrant."

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Walt Durkin	813-513-2122
Walt.durkin@aol.com	cell 813-853-5870
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

ANNUAL FLY FISHING BANQUET 2025 PHOTOS

About 80 folks attended and had a super time!



Walt and Matt



David and Karen



Checking out
raffle items



Bruce and Bob
Clouser



Lou, Kathy, Patty,
Denise, Ginny



Checking out
raffle buckets



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 May, Jonas will talk to us about fly casting. Use this opportunity to pick his brain for great casting tips. Jonas is our chief casting instructor and always willing to help with hands-on lessons.

In June, we have Capt. Austin McWhorter who will give a talk on tarpon fishing. April through July is prime time for tarpon fishing off our coast. Learn all you need to know from Austin

And, in July long time club member Jeff Abeles will present photos from many of our early club trips. Join us for this trip thru memory lane.

Thanks to our Board of Directors for their hard work and for the gifts Ted & I received at our banquet. Special thanks to Denise who made Ted and I hand-painted gift cards! Denise's card is shown on the right. First she catches them, then paints them! →

We will raffle a \$400 TFO 7 weight rod for by selling 20 tickets for \$10 each. Get yours at the next meeting!



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. 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 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

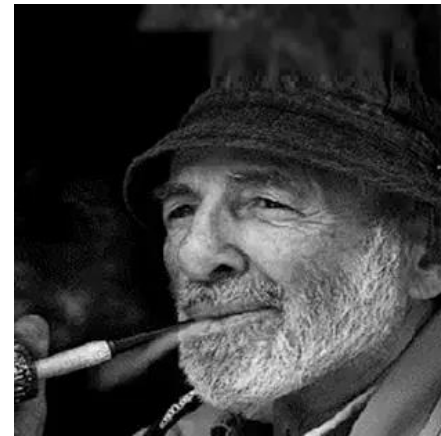
Lake Calm Outing -17 May

We will hold our annual Lake Calm outing on Saturday, 17 May this year. Please join us for a great morning on this crystal clear lake to fish for bass and pan fish. Bring a small outfit (3 to 5 wt) and some top water flies for good action. Small gurglers or spider flies work just fine. Arrive at 6:30 and fish until 11:30. We will provide lunch and drinks. You will need a kayak or paddle board or you can just fish from the dock and join us for lunch. Address is 8609 Bonnie Cove Lane, Odessa, FL



Fly Casting Tips for March

The Basic Cast



Let's talk about the basic cast as we move through Mel Krieger's book *The Essence of Fly Casting*. He begins by writing: "Loading the rod correctly is the first and perhaps most important step in developing the feel of fly casting". He goes on to describe loading the rod, but offers an exercise that communicates rod loading better than words. Here is what Mel suggests:

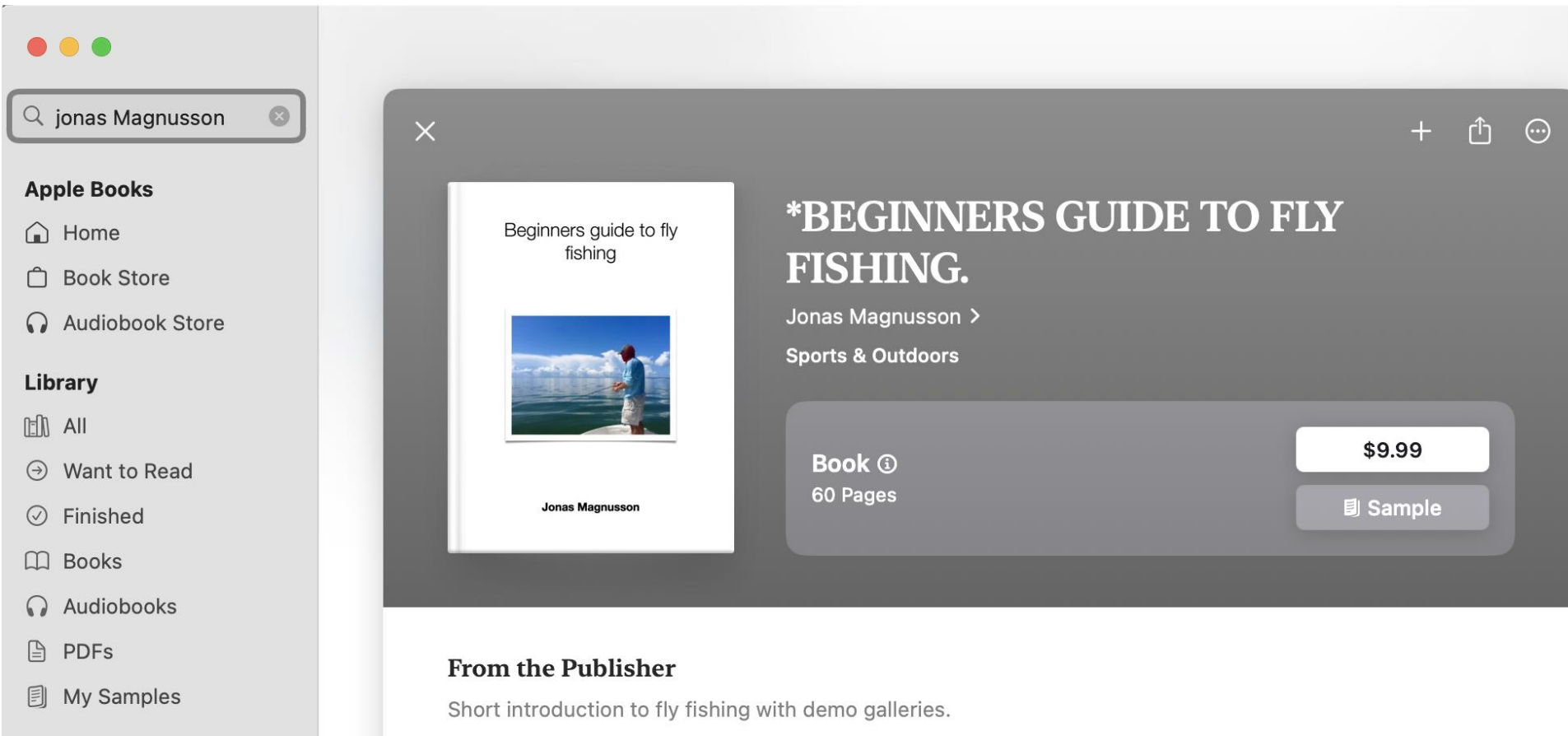
Assemble a rod without a line and hold it horizontally with your palm facing up. Now, using a short stroke, force the rod to bend while moving the rod and then stopping abruptly. Notice you can load and unload the rod with just a few inches of hand movement. Now try again with a firm grip and a firm wrist. You will notice the rod loads even more easily. Continue with a longer and heavier strokes with hard stops. Do that multiple time until you get a good feel of the loading action and try softer strokes again. Mel's drill should reinforce the importance of following the loading of the rod with a quick (hard) stop on the forward and back casts. He goes on to say: "Never again cast a fly or wave a fly rod back and forth without this forced stop. Practice this correct casting stroke with or without a rod."

From my own experience on the water, when I am struggling to get a good cast, I always first remind myself to stop the rod a little sooner. My cast always improves with this small change. Additionally, when I am tired or just get lazy, I tell myself to go back to the basics: Start with the rod tip down, pick up slowly, snap back and stop high; pause and then make the forward cast with an abrupt stop as we have discussed. It is easy to forget these fundamentals during the excitement of trying to cast to a big red or snook.

Practice this simple exercise from the master, Mel Krieger, to learn and reinforce proper loading of the rod.
//Walt

Jonas, our chief fly casting instructor sent us this: “I have put together an e-book “Beginners guide to fly fishing”. For those interested the book can be found on Apple Books - Book store.”

Check it out!



TBFFC Memories and Travels

My wife and I moved to Tampa in 1998 after the Army assigned us to MacDill AFB. Shortly after that, I joined the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. It occurred to me that I have spent the last one third of my life involved in the club. They have been rewarding years with many friendships and adventures. I can say with certainty, that without these friends I would not have had these super experiences.

At our first club banquet, Lou and I happened to sit with Frank and Becky Rhodes. They were both teachers and Frank did a little part time guiding under the name “Rhodes to Adventure”. Frank loved to travel and sought out many trips, which he brought me along on. We went to the Amazon jungle in Brazil twice and once to Columbia chasing peacock bass. Our good friend Buddy Stokes also joined us when we barely survived that trip to Columbia. Additionally, Frank found a remote lodge in Mexico and set up many club trips to fish for tarpon, bonefish and permit. Finally, we fished with Frank in the Bahamas, Belize, Alaska and Cuba. His sense of adventure is boundless and my only regret is not joining him on even more trips. Frank and Becky are great friends and they have enriched our club and my life.

Jeff Abeles was another early club member and he set up my original trip to Mexico where I caught my first permit. Jeff also had the travel bug and helped us schedule many trips to Caribbean destinations. Jeff is still a club member and will talk to us in July and show great photos from our club adventures.

As time went by, Kelly and Wes Sobzak joined the club and became good friends. Kelly and Wes moved to Tampa from Alaska and we soon joined them on a float trip on Clear Creek in Alaska to fish for trout and salmon for a week. Great fun and Capt. Frank was also along. A couple of years later we were on the Aniak River for another wilderness float trip. It rained all week and we got lost once, but had another great time. Frank gave us a thrill when he was chased out of the bushes and along the river by a grizzly. Kelly and Wes continue to fish around the world and have shared their stories with numerous club presentations.

Ted and Kathy Hagaman are two more valued members of our extended club family. Ted is one of our best fisherman and has traveled extensively. He introduced us to the wild and scenic Chatoogga River in South Carolina where our club schedules a trip each fall to catch trout. Additionally, Ted and Kathy invite us for a yearly trip to Gasparilla Island where we relax and fish for snook on the beach. Ted has also hosted a trip for over 30 years to Wacasassa, FL in early December to fish for reds, snook and trout. Fourteen of us, mostly CCA members enjoy a long weekend in a bit of old Florida. I

have fished with Ted in nearly all the afore mentioned places and also in Colorado. Next August Ted and I will head to the woods of Idaho for a week of camping and fishing in the back country. Bear spray required.

Leigh West is another long time club member and I have fished with Leigh locally and also on many trips to include the Bahamas, the Florida Keys, Cuba and Mexico. For the last two years Leigh and I fished the El Palometaro permit tournament in Punta Allen, Mexico. We stay with the Punta Allen Fishing Club hosted by my Italian friend Tizano. Leigh and I have not won the tournament yet, but we will keep trying and have a great time regardless.

Robert and Ginny Fisher are another example of good friends and club supporters. Robert has helped set up many trips locally and abroad. Ginny and Robert are long time members of CCA and Robert is also part of the Wacasassa gang of 14. We have fished with Robert and Ginny many places, but our trips to the Florida Keys stand out. There, with other couples, we rented a house and fished both offshore in Robert's cat and inshore for bonefish and cuda. We mostly just catch the cuda while looking for bones, but the dolphin fishing is good off-shore.

Finally, Patty and Bruce Anderson are close friends who have enhanced our club. We joined them in Colorado a while back after they invited us to visit their home in Ft. Collins. We have fished with them all over Colorado as well as Alaska, Cuba, Mexico, Belize, the Bahamas and the Everglades. Patty and Bruce know the Everglades back country very well and so far we have caught fish and made it back okay. Trips to Cordova, Alaska have been especially fun where we rented a house and fished on our own for silver salmon. Exciting on a fly rod and we bring home several boxes of our wild-caught fish for great dinners.

In this tale, I have left out many other club members who are good friends and make our club a great place to meet and share our love of fly fishing. Many thanks to all as our club continues to hang in there while other things compete for our time. Thanks also to my wife, Lou, who not only tolerates, but has encouraged my fly fishing addiction. Happily, we have shared many of these adventures together. I hope new members take away as much enjoyment from our club as I have. Please let us know if and how we can do better. Thanks to all club members, new and old, and please know I value your friendship. //Walt

Kelly and Wes On the Move Again!

I am sad to note our good friends Kelly and Wes Sobczak are leaving the Tampa area and moving a bit farther north where they will enjoy cooler weather and trout fishing.

They are great friends and we will miss seeing them in our club each month. As noted earlier, Lou and I were fortunate to go on many fishing adventures with them, thanks to their spirit of adventure and Kelly's planning skills. We wish them all the best and I'm sure they will keep in touch with regular fishing reports. //Walt



Club member Ken Moser works in stained glass when he is not fishing. He has made many objects for the Tampa Aquarium where he volunteers. This latest piece depicts scenes from his home state, Maryland.



We held the Carl Hanson outing on 19 April with the Suncoast club and about 20 folks attended. Carl was an iconic member of our local fly fishing community for 40 years before leaving us in 1998, age 84. We remember him for his skill, eccentricity, friendship and love of fly fishing. Carl also invented the world famous glass minnow pictured below.



Two club members catching nice redfish. Greg on the left with a beautiful red fishing the Chaz with Capt. Bryon Chamberlin; and new member Kevin at an unknown location. Good job guys!



Ted and Kathy Hagaman traveled to N. Carolina on a family vacation and found some beautiful waterfalls while hiking.



Ben Schultz sent us this: "Hi Walt - I had an interesting catch this weekend in Davie, FL. Didn't catch it on the fly, but still pretty cool to see an all black Butterfly Peacock."



Magnus Sandberg sent us this report: “Hi everyone over there! Sending a little greeting from Sweden. The opening of this year's fishing on April 1st started really well. After a cold and dry spring, the weather turned and it became warm and a nice! As usual, I visited my fine waters along the westcoast north of Gothenburg. The fishing for me started kl. 05.00 in the morning with 2 nice Seatrout over 60 cm, just before sunrise. As you can see in the pictures, the weather was very stable with almost no wind at all, just a light breeze from the west, this is different from previous years when there have been cold winds from the northeast. Already on the first day I got a total of 12 Seatrouts, of which 8 were approved (over 45 cm) really a super premiere. Two of them was prepared for dinner!! The rest went back in the ocean! Usually you can get 1 or 2 on the premiere. I'm already looking forward to getting out and fishing in more places around Scandinavia this year!! Have a wonderful fishing summer. “ Magnus!



Patty and Bruce
Anderson went to
Colorado for two
weeks and found
mild weather and
brown trout!



Club V.P. Ted Hagaman with a night time snook from Cockroach Bay
and also bass and pan fish on Lake Keystone.

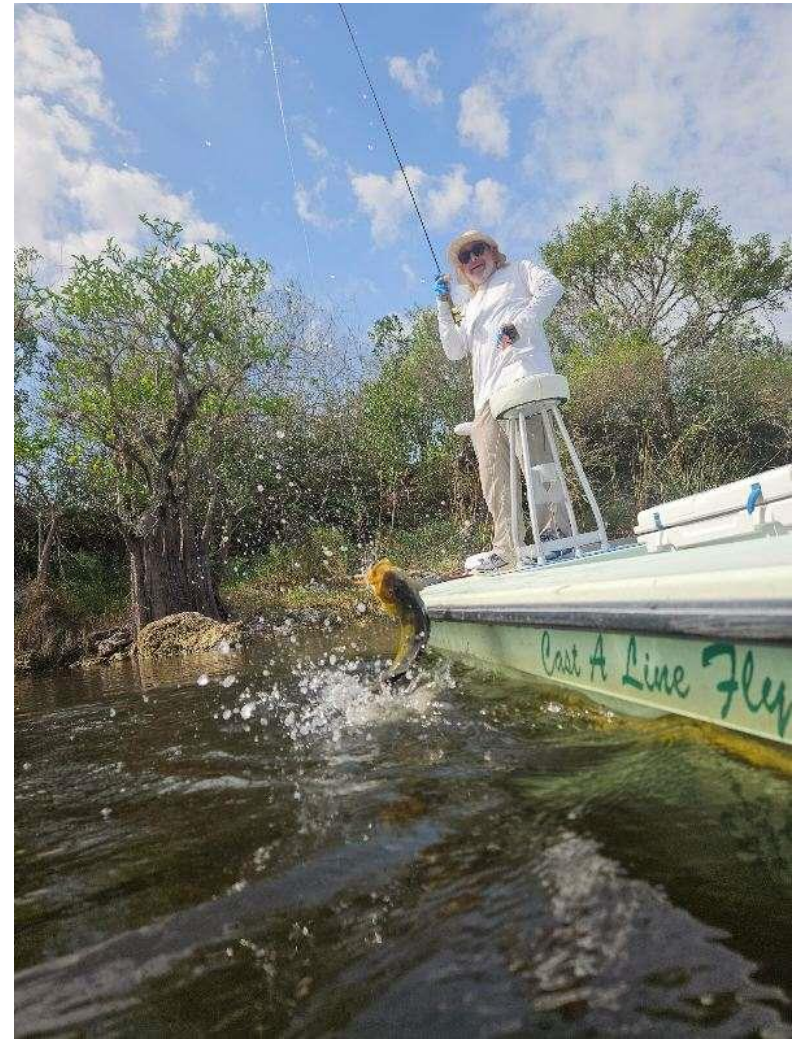




9 species 🐟💪👍

- Peacock bass
- LM bass
- Warmouth bass
- Gar
- Tiger oscar
- Mayan cichlid
- Jaguar Quapote Cichlid
- Stumpknocker (Spotted sunfish)
- Coppernose

Club member Jeff Abeles fished in the Everglades with guide Justin Nguyen and caught over 100 fish and 9 species. We will try bring Justin in for a club talk in the fall.



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Practice proper catch and release when fly fishing

A recent warming trend has been a boost to shallow water fly fishing, frequently resulting in catching many fish. Even if a few fish are going to be kept, having the ability to safely and quickly release a fish to catch another requires careful technique. I often see serious fishermen who want to preserve their sport for the future do the wrong things. Handling the fish with a dry towel, holding large fish vertically, and keeping them out of the water for too long will prevent their survival. When holding a fish out of the water, hold your breath at the same time. The time should not exceed that. Most flies have a single hook that can be crimped or debarbed before starting to fish. This means it will penetrate the fish's mouth more easily and simplify removal from your quarry or your person. Do barbless hooks make it easier to lose fish? If constant tension is applied, no. When the hooked fish is close to the boat or you, grab the leader near the fish and with your other hand engage the hook bend with a simple wire hook disgorger sold in all tackle shops, similar to the ones used to remove live baitfish from a Sabiki rig. Lift vertically with the disgorger while holding the leader below the fish's mouth, and the hook point will disengage, allowing it to slip back into the water. All this without handling the fish.

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

Fishing Report

Higher tides this month will mean that reds will spend more time feeding on shallow flats. Look for them along mangrove shorelines and around oyster bars when the tide is high and in potholes or along sandbars when the tide is low. When fishing shallow water for reds, be as quiet as possible. I prefer to use a push pole or wade. Reds are one of the most challenging species to catch on a fly. Since they can be very spooky, I often wade for them when fly fishing to keep a lower profile. I like a 12' or longer leader on a floating fly line. Wide profile baitfish patterns work well this time of year since many reds are feeding on larger baitfish. Lower Tampa Bay and Gasparilla Sound are both good areas for reds this month.

This is one of my favorite months of the year. If battling a big tarpon isn't for you, you should have plenty to do on both shallow and deep grass flats or in the coastal gulf. I'll be spending my time targeting tarpon in the coastal gulf unless conditions won't allow it. Fly fishing for tarpon is the pinnacle of fly fishing! Our natural resources are under constant pressure from red tides fueled by industrial, agricultural and residential runoff, toxic spills and discharges, 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 Grassett, (941) 923-7799, www.snookfin-addict.com 923-7799.



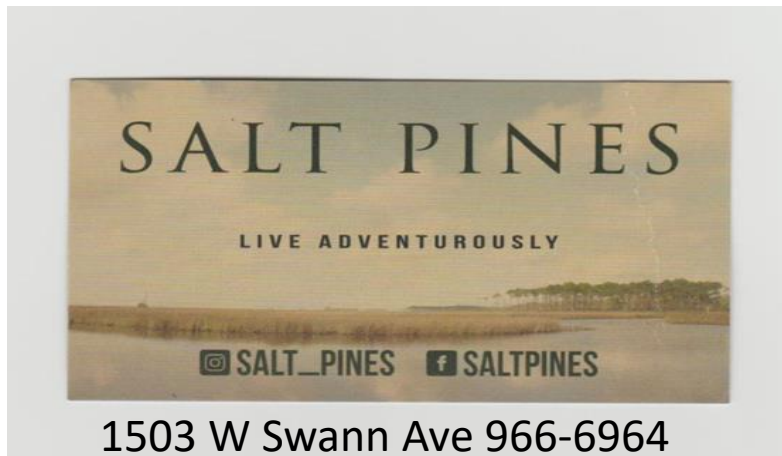
2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 11 Fly Casting Seminar
- Jan 11 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb 14-15 Waterman Tournament
- Feb 22 Cypress Park Outing w/Suncoast
- Mar 29 Annual Banquet
- May 17 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 Grassett, (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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The Fly Guy

Capt. Pat Damico

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Tel. 727-504-8649

Hppt://captpat.com

pat4jaws@hotmail.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

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