

Fly Tying Session

Please join us for our next meeting where members will demonstrate fly tying. You may bring your own vice and materials if you wish and we can provide instruction and help.

Tying is another fun aspect of our sport and is easy to learn. You can also save money by tying your own flies while having the satisfaction of catching a fish on a fly you created.



**Next meeting 3 June 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 last meeting where Jonas discussed fly casting. I was sorry to miss that meeting, which received rave reviews. Many thanks to Jonas for an excellent talk and all his help instructing members.

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.

Thanks for your photos and fishing reports this month. Your input is invaluable as we share ideas and experiences. With your help I try to present an interesting and informative newsletter.

//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

"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

Fishing will do a lot for a man but it won't make him truthful. – Unknown

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Bruce Anderson	813-786-3902
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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 June meeting as we feature fly tying. Members will demonstrate tying their flies, provide instruction and answer questions.

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.

And, in August, 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. **We will also give away a one half day trip with Austin to a lucky member.**

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

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



Big Cherokee Sound conch on the hoof

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

Fifteen club members attended this annual event and had a great time. Everyone caught fish on this crystal clear lake, mostly blue gill and some nice bass. Thanks to Dr. John Millns for hosting us again this year on his lake-side property. And thanks to Ted for arriving early and getting everyone on the water. Thanks to Denise for providing carrot cake and Ginny for brownies.



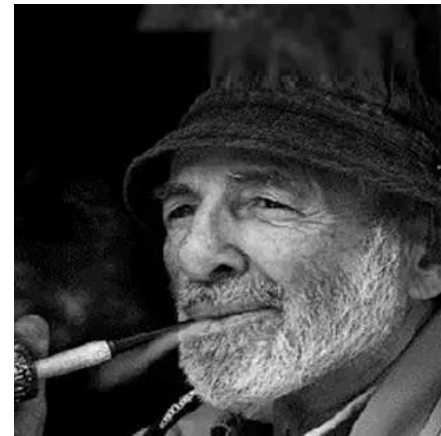
More Lake Calm pictures: Ted on the right with a bass; Ed, Dr. John and Denise; Robert in a kayak; Bruce and Patty in their Gheenoe and I think that is Ed in the yellow kayak.



Fly Casting Tips for March

The Basic Cast

I have been basing casting tips based on Mel Krieger's book: *The Essence of Fly Casting*. I found an interesting article online, which describes the difference between Mel's method and the late, great Lefty method. You can find the article at <https://missoulianangler.com/krieger-v-kreh-fly-casting-techniques/>, but here is the start of the article.



“There are two schools of fly casting instruction that dominate fly fishing. One method is espoused by Mel Krieger and Joan Wulff. The other is espoused by Lefty Kreh and others. They are quite different in some respects, and very similar in others. It pays to note that world Fly Casting champion Steve Rajeff uses the Krieger/Wulff method of casting.

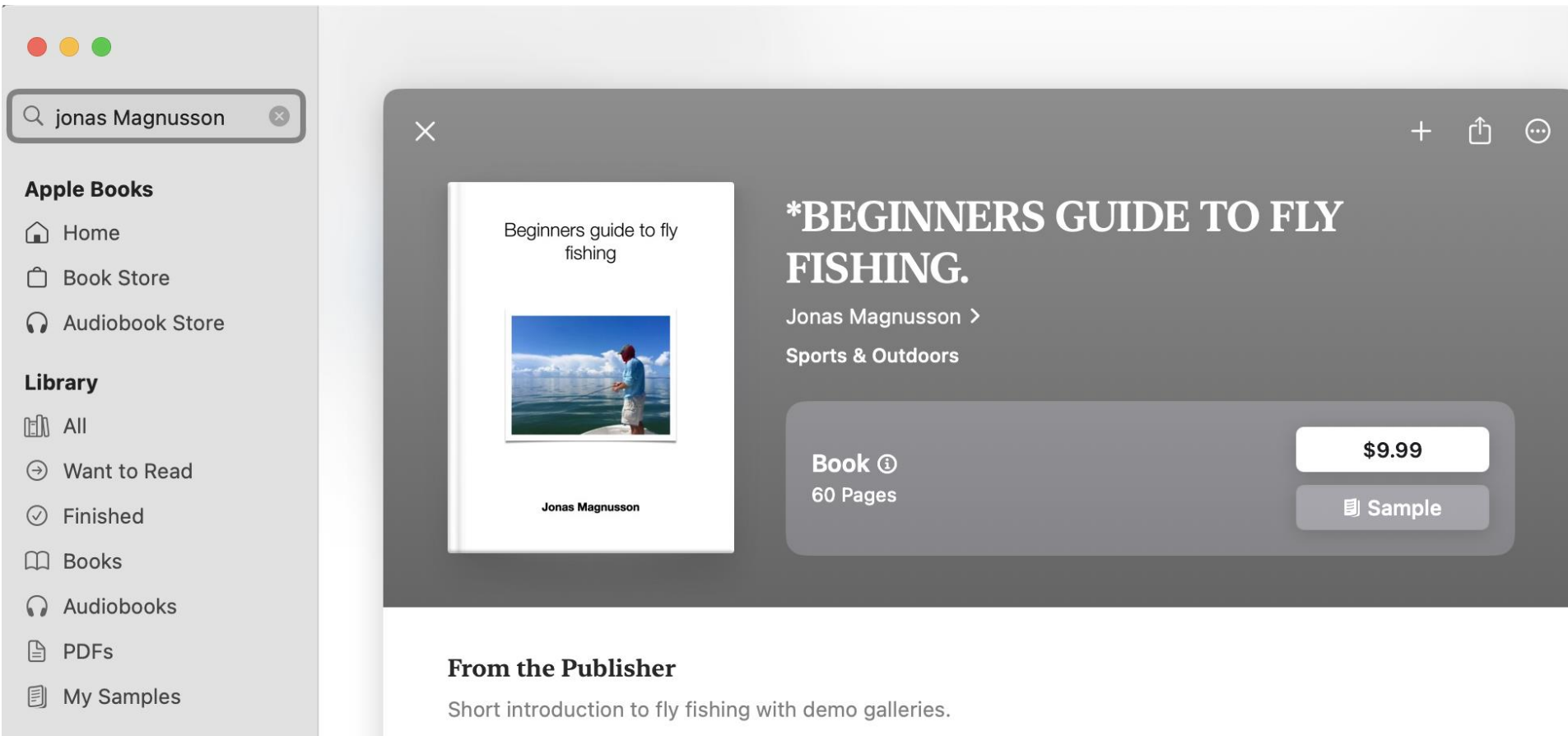
In the Krieger method of casting, the rod remains close to vertical through the entire cast, only dropping as the cast is delivered. It maintains the 10-2 casting stroke as most efficient. The elbow is mostly stationary during the cast, with only the forearm and wrist moving to propel the fly line. The wrist hinges to deliver energy to the rod, and the concepts of line control remain the same. The line must be extended behind you before starting forward- the line must be extended in front of you before starting a back cast.

The Kreh method of casting differs in these ways. The rod is held at an angle to the body, and the elbow is not stationary. The upper arm, forearm and wrist are all involved in the cast, with a longer motion through the body. During the elongated casting stroke, the wrist hinges from 10-2.

At the Missoulain Angler, we have employees who are proponents of both casting styles. It's a matter of style, not substance. Each employee has their reasons for using the particular method, and most casts are a combination of both styles. We feel it's important to know both styles, and then pick and choose the parts you like and work for you!”

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!



DIY ABACO BONEFISHING

Patty Anderson

My first DIY Bone fishing trip: Two flights, six days, forty hours fishing, one bonefish landed...hope the next trip is just as exciting!

This was Bruce's and my third DIY trip with our friends Walt Durkin and his wife Lou, but the first time landing a bonefish on my own. I have been on several previous trips to bonefish lodges using guides and was successful at catching lots of bones. However, I was looking forward to the challenge of trying again and to do it without the help from a guide. We stayed in Cherokee Sound, a small village that is quaint, non-touristy, walkable, friendly, quiet and a peaceful place to spend a week. We rented a charming little island cottage that sits across a park from a beautiful white sand flat . The historic 770 foot Long Dock, the longest wooden dock in the Bahamas and hand built by the town, jutted out from the park. Every morning started with a cup coffee or tea and a walk down the dock as the tide came in. As we walked out the dock, we kept our eyes focused on the sandy flats looking for cruising bones. This dock is the local morning hangout for several local residents who keep tabs on the town, the visitors, and the bonefish. Their warning: "These are beautiful bonefish but spooky!"

We were lucky in that the weather conditions were excellent and the tides were optimal during the course of our week fishing. We had perfect rising tides in the morning, which would allow the bones to work up onto the flats to feed. On our first morning, as the tide came in, we switched from morning drinks to fly rods and ventured out on the shallow flat in front of the house . The flat was pure white sand, and fairly easy to spot the bonefish as they came cruising in for their chance at a meal. The first day Bruce hooked up with a bone in calf deep water and landed it. The excitement started!

After spending the morning sighting and casting at fish, we would return to the cottage for lunch. After our noon meal, we would start by fishing the flat outside our doorstep, then work our way to a bigger flat a mile down the shore as the tides began to drop. This flat was massive and provided many areas to explore and cast at the fish as they transitioned back to the deeper water and into the grass flats. With the gin clear water conditions, we were able to spot the cruising pods and schools of bones from over a hundred yards away. However, as the locals on the Long Pier had warned us on our first day, these fish were incredibly spooky! Just the simple movement of lifting your fly rod to present the fly to a fish over a hundred feet away, would spook the fish and cause the bone to speed off in the opposite direction. We would try to position our flies where we thought the fish would cruise, which worked very well. However, as the bone approached the fly, one little twitch at the wrong time would cause the fish to bolt away! Or if the fly was not moved, the fish would check it out and refuse the take. We were sighting in ankle deep water as we followed the tide from the white sand near the shore and then watched for trailers as the tide flowed into grassy flats farther out. The bonefish would come in groups of anywhere between two to a hundred. The four of us

anglers would spread out along the flat and call to each other as we sighted fish to work as a team to try and catch these wary beautiful fish. Later on the second afternoon, we saw bones tailing in the grasses and we all casted toward the pod, chaos ensued and I had my hookup! I was so very excited to be able to accomplish a long time goal of mine! It is a fish that will join my visual memory of great catches along with many others - my first legal snook, legal musky, a tarpon on the fly.

Walt and Lou were the next to land their bonefish and the week carried on in a rhythm of fishing with the tides. The flats were teeming with big bones cruising all around us in clear shallow water. We had so many opportunities to cast at these approaching fish all day long. Our adrenaline was almost constant and the team effort between four friends to try and catch these beautiful spooky fish was a highlight of the trip!



I posted more pictures on the next page which show Bruce with a tasty Cubara snapper, Bruce stalking on the flat, Lou with a bonefish and Patty and Lou with a lucky rainbow.



Club member Matthew Santilli sent us this: "Graduated USF in Mechanical Engineering this month, have managed to get some time on the water again, I'll send some fishing reports later in the month for the News Letter. Here's some pics! My father, Anthony, with a nice Greater Amberjack, and me with a 33in Cobia and 23" snook."

Congratulations on your graduation Matt!



Club member Denise sent us this:

“Caught my first Cobia May 18 on my 8wt fishing with my friend on the Hernando Rocks, 3 Cobia were swimming off the backs of 4 Spotted Eagle Rays and I got this one to take. My friend Pat caught one too when they circled around and hers made it to the net but violently jumped out, I’m fired as the net handler. We also saw a huge Tiger Shark later with another suspected Cobia with it. Good Day on the water! “





Club member Jerry Kells sent us a photo of his grandson in a fishing derby as well as photos of stripers and oysters from Rhode Island.



Ted caught a nice brook trout while visiting his brother in Tennessee; and, Robert caught a plump bluegill in a local pond.





My wife and I fished for trout in Colorado for a couple of weeks in May. She caught this brown trout on a caddis fly below the damn on the Big Thompson. The net is one I bought at our T & T and I put a new fish-friendly basket on it. The rainbow below is from the North Fork of the Poudre River west of Ft Collins. The rivers are starting to run high with snow melt.



View of the sunset over Cherokee Sound, Great Abaco, Bahamas. Shot from the long dock in Cherokee.



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Beach Snook Fishing

Get out early and walk our beaches with your fly rod. The sun at your back and an easterly wind that provides smooth water will improve visibility so that protected snook can be seen in the wash within feet of the sand. Generally, a large female will be surrounded by smaller males involved in the courting process. Tides that provide moving water will improve the bite. Locations close to passes containing structure are hot spots. A fast action 8 weight fly rod with a clear sinking tip rather than a floating line will perform better if there is any wave action. Stay on the sand casting parallel to the shoreline and keep your shadow away from the fish you target. Good brown to yellow tinted polaroid glasses are a necessity to improve vision. Hold your cast until fish are spotted. Concentrate on fish that are facing you. Then carefully cast a size 1 to 2 white baitfish pattern in front of or to the side of the snook working the offering in long erratic strips. When a snook shows interest, increase the speed of your retrieve to mimic a frantic, escaping baitfish to trigger a violent strike. Barbs should be crimped facilitating a quick careful release.

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

P.S. **Jamie Bigelow sent us this report:** I walked the beach up to Caladesi from the north end of Clearwater yesterday. Saw a good amount of snook at the top of the tide. Landed a couple 18-20” and hooked into a larger fish but got gill plated (no shock tippet at the time). Laid up fish were snobby, but the cruising pairs were more accommodating. They were ignoring the surf candy sardine imitation I first threw, but hit the greenback EP baitfish pretty consistently.

Fishing Report

You should find snook in the surf, in passes and around docks and bridges in the ICW near passes. You can walk the beach and sight fish them in the surf with fly tackle. Small baitfish fly patterns, like Gibby's DT Special or my Grasset Snook Minnow, should work well. Many of the same flies that work in the surf will also work well at night. Snook will congregate in passes around the new and full moons to spawn, so docks and bridges close to passes will usually hold more fish this time of year.

There are lots of options in inshore waters or the coastal gulf this month. If pulling on a 100-pound plus tarpon isn't for you, fishing pressure is usually light inshore this month so reds, snook, trout and more will also be good options. 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 Grasset, (941) 923-7799, www.snookfin-addict.com) 923-7799.



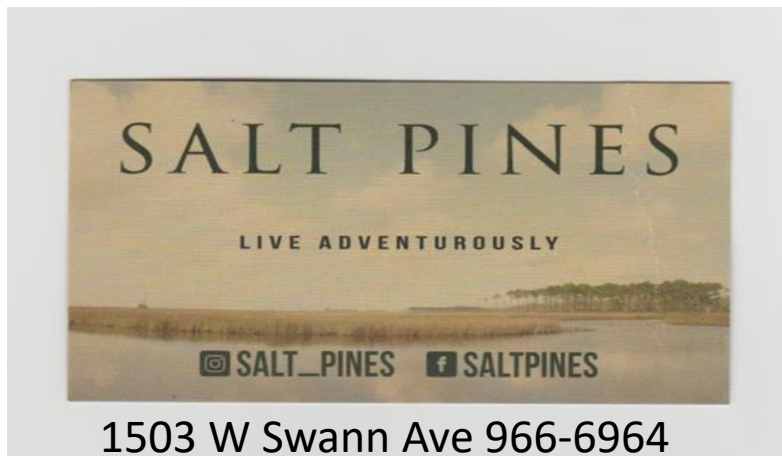
2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 11 Fly Casting Seminar
- Jan 11 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb 14-15 Waterman Tournament
- 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 16 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.

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- 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
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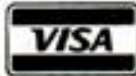
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Member Benefits

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
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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