

Fly Club Memories

Please join us for our next meeting where long time club member Jeff Abeles will talk and show club photos going back 25 years. He will also display his collection of bamboo fly rods. Members are welcome to bring additional bamboo rods if available for show and tell.



**Next meeting 1 July 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 members demonstrated the art of tying flies. I was sorry to have missed the meeting, but understand it was very good. Many thanks to Robert Fischer for hosting and setting up the meeting. And, thanks to our instructors: Leigh West, Jim Dye, Dale Garcia and Robert Fischer.

To enter our photo of the month contest, please email your photo to : Tampabayffc@gmail.com. Some folks have been mailing them to me, which only gets into the newsletter.

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

““I necessarily fear change except that it’s so seldom for the better. It’s just that I can live with any number of things going straight to hell as long as these streams continue to hold up. If this amounts to living in a fool’s paradise, don’t waste your time trying to explain that to the fool.” Unknown

“The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions of hope.” John Buchan

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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).

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. We are only a few tickets short, so the rod should go in July!

On page 9 you will find photos sent from our friend Pedro Pereria in Brazil. I sent him information about our Big Gun and they set up their own course and now hold the event annually. He emailed me over 200 pictures from this year's event. From the looks of the pictures they may now be out-doing us. We should be proud to have a positive impact on this international event. Anyone want to go to Brazil next year? //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!



Jim Dye with a big rainbow trout

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

New member Abby Gambrel with her first fly!



June Meeting Photos



Little Gasparilla Island

We traveled to Boca Grande on Little Gasparilla Island for a week in early June for our annual trip with Ted and Kathy Hagaman. As usual we relaxed, walked the beach, watched sunsets, found shark's teeth and, of course, fished for snook on the beach. The weather conspired against us when a low pressure system settled in with west and southwest winds and rain. This resulted in poor conditions to sight fish the beach, so we resorted to spin fishing to save the week. We caught snook almost every day and had one good day on the fly, when the weather calmed down on Thursday. We fished Puglisi Minnows and found the snook around the floating grass brought in by the rough waves. Z-Man plastic minnows did the job on spinning tackle.



Fly Casting Tips for March

The Basic Cast

I have been creating casting tips based on Mel Krieger's book: *The Essence of Fly Casting*. I recently bought Joe Humphrey's book *On The Trout Stream* where he describes his fishing and casting styles. He was a contemporary of Mel's and is still with us at 96 years young. Maybe fishing does keep us going? Joe's casting style is similar to Mel's and here is how he describes the dry fly cast.



This will be a trout fishing tip with the goal of getting a good drift on your fly using a slack line cast. To begin, start with a normal cast, that is, start slowly and lift your line off the water until the fly begins to move. Then, snap your wrist back and stop the rod tip at about the one o'clock position. Hesitate, and then make the forward stroke and stop suddenly at the 11 o'clock position. Now, Joe recommends squeezing the thumb forward with downward pressure to lower the tip slightly. "This takes the line over the rod tip and prevents a tailing loop. Rod unloads forward and throws the line forward in a vertical plane." If you stopped here you make a normal straight cast with line and leader.

To get a slack leader Joe talks about changing levels. As the cast continues he changes two levels by dropping the elbow and the rod tip. This takes energy out of the forward cast and results in a slack or loosely coiled leader you want for a drag free drift.

Sometimes beginners get this slack line when they don't want to by not stopping the rod soon enough or dropping the rod tip when they really don't want to. It is a good cast for the dry fly, but should be avoided for salt water fly fishing. Regardless, it is useful to understand the concept and why your line goes out straight or in coils. I hope this helps and if not look up one of Joe's videos and watch the master himself at work. //Walt

FWC Sea Trout Symposium

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) invites all interested stakeholders to the 2025 Seatrout Symposium. This one-day event will bring together stakeholders, scientists, and fisheries managers for an in-depth look at the spotted seatrout fishery in Florida. This symposium marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the management of spotted seatrout. Building on the success of FWC's holistic management strategies for redfish and snook, the FWC is now exploring a similar approach for spotted seatrout: using multiple metrics to manage on a smaller, regional scale. Join the conversation shaping the future of this popular recreational and commercial fishery in Florida.

When: August 27, 2025

Where: Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort, 100 N. Atlantic Ave, Daytona Beach, FL, 32118

Why You Should Join:

- Participate in discussions that will shape regional management
- Hear updates on the status of spotted seatrout in Florida
- Learn about habitat conservation and restoration efforts
- Gain insights on management and future considerations
- Engage in an interactive panel discussion
- Share your local knowledge during breakout sessions
- Network and collaborate with fishermen, scientists and managers

Full agenda coming soon and see the website below for more information.

<https://myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/spotted-seatrout/symposium/>



“I hope you are doing very well. My name is Pedro Pereira and, if you remember, you sent me some material about the Big Gun shoot out competition 8 years ago. Last Saturday we did the 5th annual edition of Fly Fishing Festival here in São Paulo, Brazil and the 4th edition of national Fly Cast Championship. This fly cast competition is totally based on the rules and tasks of Big Gun. We are so thankful to you and all of your help and TBFFC. Some day I would like to enjoy Big Gun in Tampa. “ Best regards, Pedro

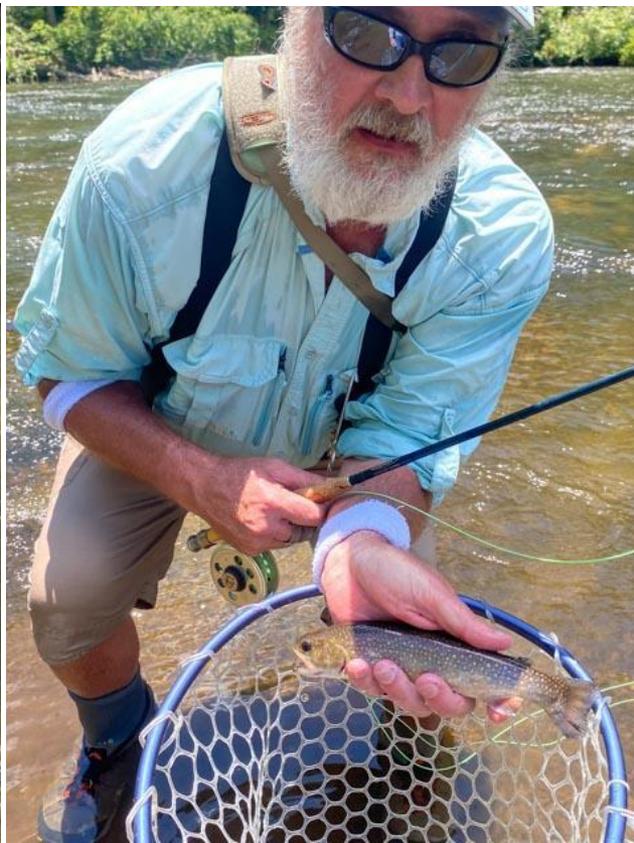




Tim Duke sent us this: "On 8 June we went on another Chetola Resort Orvis outing in Blowing Rock North Carolina on the Watauga River for a half day. My son Brian along with his nephews, Jack and Wyatt Doty, and I had a great trip. The guides Will Purdue and Benny were hard working and patient. We landed 14 fish and lost many more! Wonderful experience for a warm June day. Tim Duke



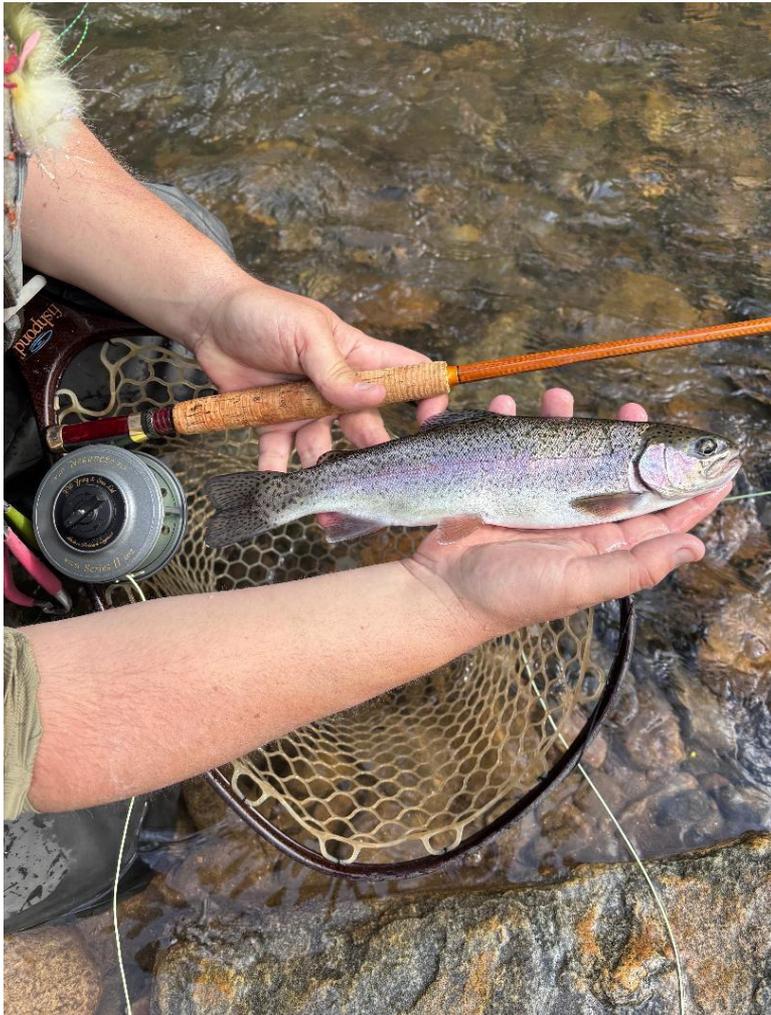
Wes and Kelly Sobczak have moved to South Carolina about 30 minutes from the Chattanooga River. The Chattanooga is known for its trout fishing in the fall/winter/spring months, but in the summer, the Bartram's bass become the target species. Bartram's bass are only found in two watersheds and have a distinctive turquoise slash above red eyes. Wes and Kelly participated in Bart's Day on June 21 - a free, fun tournament targeting the Bartram's bass. While they didn't win, it was a fun day ending at Humble Pie, a local pizza hangout that is a favorite of former **TBFFC members Nannette and Rick O'Hara**. They also fished the Eastatoe River for rainbow trout and Wes caught the brook trout shown below center.



From Jim Dye: "This is a nice brown trout from mine and Robert's trip to the White River outside Cotter, Arkansas. We had 2 days on the White and a 3rd day on Crooked Creek for smallmouth. Day 1 on White was special. Vigorous hatch of Sulphur's got trout in the mood. There seemed to be trout rising all over the river. Almost all rainbows. Great Day. Day 2 was bluebird weather and we expected more of the same. The hatch never got underway for reasons known only to the mayflies. And they refused to talk. We switched to streamers and got fish that way. A couple were nice. On day 3, Robert suggested smallmouth fishing. We floated the quiet creek. Not crowded at all. The smallest were there throughout the day. This creek was more peaceful than White and it was a nice change of pace. It was a nice trip. Allegiant flies direct from St. Pete to Springfield, Mo. Cotter is about 2 hours from there."



Club member Jeff Abeles reports: “Last week I fished some private water up in the Ashville area using my 1930's Heddon Bamboo fly rod. Somehow we found a Cicada hatch and had 3 hours of incredible dry fly fishing.”



Capt. Bryon Chamberlin sent is this: “I got to fish with my buddy Capt. Billy Rotne over in the New Symerna area for big bull redfish on surface flies. We fished around the Ponce Inlet area, and waited on the outgoing tide for the crab flush to start. I briefly stung a large redfish that was probably close to 45” in length. Shortly afterwards, I caught one that measured out to 40”. Then Billy was up to bat and quickly caught one that measured 45” and was probably pushing close to 40lbs. If you want to try and catch a giant redfish without traveling to Louisiana, reach out to Capt. Billy Rotne through his website www.ponceinletcharters.com”.



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Windless Days

Beautiful, sunny, windless days may be great for many things, but fly fishing isn't one of them unless you make some adjustments. Clear water, especially in the gulf, has presented many issues when sight casting. Snook are still around and share their water close to shore with baby tarpon. If we can easily see fish at a distance, how do we appear to them? Not using a flats boat is a good start. Use your boat to get to fish that are undisturbed, then wade if the bottom is suitable. It is even better to stay on land away from the water when fish are close to shore. Avoid a shadow or flash from the sun on your equipment. Leave brightly colored clothes at home. Blend in with the water or sky. Minimize what you carry. Metal fly boxes, hemostats, clippers, reflective sunglasses, even light-colored skin can be covered to allow a closer approach as well as sun protection. Wear a neutral-colored wide brim hat with a dark underside to improve vision with good polarized sunglasses. A good pair of fly fishing gloves should also have a thicker area to prevent cut fingers from frequent stripping of the fly line while working a fly. The new distance fly lines that have a rough texture cut skin easily. Long thinner tapered leaders, often 12-15 feet, will keep the thicker fly line away from the fish. Cast accurately and allow the smaller fly to land on the water softly, well ahead of a moving fish. Very long casts are necessary; practice them with an absolute minimum of false casting.

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

Fishing Report

Tarpon will still be a good option this month. Catch and release night snook fishing in the ICW or in the surf should also be good options. With water temperatures pushing 90 degrees, shallow water action for reds and big trout will be best early in the day.

Tarpon fishing should be good in the coastal gulf in July, which is my favorite month to fly fish for tarpon. Large schools of tarpon will dwindle in size and numbers to singles, doubles and small schools of mostly post spawn fish.

Reds should be very active in shallow water this month. With plentiful baitfish and higher tides, they should spend more time feeding over shallow grass flats. Look for them along the edges of bars or in potholes when the tide is low or along mangrove shorelines and around oyster bars when the tide is high. You'll also find big trout in many of the same areas where you find reds, but the bite for big trout is usually best early or late in the day. I tie my Grassett Flats Minnow in a larger size this time of year to match the size and profile of pilchards or pinfish that are plentiful. Fly poppers and Gurglers may draw some big explosions! In my opinion it's important to protect larger trout, which are usually female breeders.

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



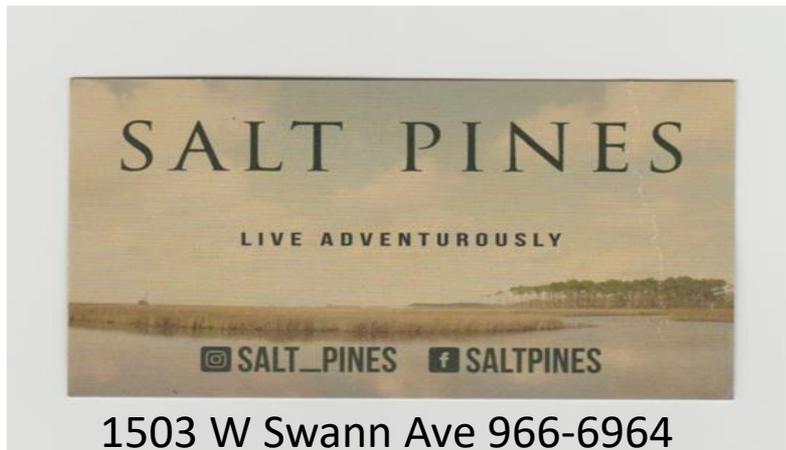
2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 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 18 Carl Hanson, Hillsborough River
- Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov 16 Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec 12 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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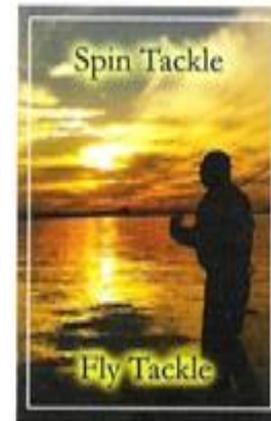
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TBFFC is famous for its value and focus on the sharing of information, experience, and craftsmanship with its members. As a TBFFC member you will enjoy many benefits free or at nominal cost.

- 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

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Ted Hagaman.....813-920-7863

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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