

Captain Austin McWhorter

Captain Austin has been fishing the local waters for over two decades and has made a career out of sharing his passion with his clients. When sight fishing is the mission, the importance of communication between guide and angler becomes critical and sometimes the toughest days can be the most rewarding when you're working together. Austin's main goal is to make sure you have the most enjoyable day on the water possible. Whether you are a seasoned saltwater angler or a beginner looking for instruction in the sport, Captain Austin will bring his knowledge and experience to the table for the best experience possible. Please join us for his talk. //Walt



**Next meeting 5 August 2025
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 club member Jeff Abeles shared photos and memories going back 20 years. I am happy to note he is still actively fishing and making more memories. Fishing and especially fly fishing is a great escape from this modern, hectic world we live in.

We are interested in scheduling a few more club outings are seeking your input on where and when works for you. Please send me an email or share at a meeting.

Please note we have scheduled our Kayak outing at the Apollo Beach Center from 12 to 15 December. Another group already had our day, so we will play hooky on a Monday!

I hope you are staying cool and finding time to fish. Try late evenings for cooler weather and low tides. This is the opposite of winter when we have low tides in the morning.

//Walt Durkin



Fly Fishing Quotes

"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

"The finest gift you can give to any fisherman is to put a good fish back, and who knows if the fish that you caught isn't someone else's gift to you?" – Lee Wulff

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

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Walt Durkin	813-513-2122
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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

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).

And, in August, we have Capt. Austin McWhorter who will give a talk on targeting redfish. Summer is prime time for redfish and snook. Learn all you need to know from Austin. We will also give away a half-day trip with Austin to a lucky member!

In October, author Jeff Downing, who wrote a mystery novel featuring fishing, will speak to us. Check out the book: *Tangled Lines*.

October 18 Outing: Carl Hanson Memorial on the Hillsborough River with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. We hope to have access to Trout Creek Wilderness Park for the picnic. Awards for the longest fish of any species and the most panfish.

Ben Schultz won our rod raffle at the last meeting, Ticket 1126601. He was not at the meeting and has not gotten in touch with Robert Fischer to pick up his rod, at this time. But we will have it at next month's meeting and hopefully he will be there



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!



Torin with a bass on his own fly!

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

July Meeting Photos



On the left is Ginny and Robert on the raffle table; Jeff, our presenter; and, a group shot. Thanks for coming everyone.



Fly Casting Tip for August

To improve fly fishing practice casting, focus on fundamentals like proper grip, casting stroke, and loop control. Practice with a target, and gradually increase distance while maintaining accuracy. Slow down, pay attention to your back-cast, and learn to stop the rod abruptly at the end of each cast. Key Tips:

Grip and Stance:

Hold the rod with a relaxed grip, using a grip that allows for wrist movement and control. Adjust your stance to ensure a stable and balanced position.

Casting Stroke: Practice a smooth, controlled casting stroke, focusing on acceleration and a firm stop at the end of each cast.

Loop Control: Pay attention to the shape of your casting loop, aiming for a tight, efficient loop that helps with accuracy and distance.

Backcast: Ensure your back-cast is straight and unrolls completely before initiating the forward cast.

Target Practice: Use targets like cones or hoops to practice accuracy, and gradually increase the distance.

Slow Down: Avoid rushing your casts. Focus on technique and precision, especially when feeling frustrated.

Stop the Rod: A firm stop at the end of each cast, both forward and backward, is crucial for loading the rod and creating a tight loop.

Distance Control: Start close and gradually increase the distance as you improve, focusing on maintaining accuracy.

Practice Regularly: Short, frequent practice sessions are more effective than infrequent, long sessions.

Seek Feedback: Consider getting feedback from an experienced angler or instructor to identify areas for improvement.

Visualize Success: Imagine a successful cast and picture your fly landing accurately, which can help build confidence and improve your performance, according to **Yellow Dog Fly Fishing**.

Club member Kevin Welsh sent us this report: “Matt and I found schools of tailing snook at cypress point park last week on the lowest point of the tide. Managed to find a school tailing snook against an oyster bed and hooked into a nice 29 in snook (my personal best) on a small white and pink shrimp pattern. Next weeks tides will look similar to the week that Matt and I found some fish. Photos attached!.”

P.S. It looks like Kevin and Matt were fishing in the late afternoon. It will be cooler then and that is when you find the low summer tides. So, get out those last couple of hours before dark if you can. //Walt



Club member Denise sent us this: "Fishing has been challenging, exciting and fun on the White River even with the fast water flows, we were casting fast and furious trying to cast in between downed trees and close to the banks, we are sticking to Dry flies tomorrow to see if we can get some eats, most have caught on double droppers with strike indicators. Our guide Ben Woodard has called us the Trout Assassins, we caught lots of Rainbows but he is targeting Browns. Weather has been a little bit of everything. We will go for Small mouth on our own later this week."



Club member Torin sent us this report on bass fishing. Have been catching bass on deceivers, and this one on a gurgler I tied myself. Good job Torin!



Blue Lining – How To Find Wild Trout And Solitude

By: Bruce Anderson

My current passion in fly fishing has turned to wading western rivers and streams. Being based out of northern Colorado for the hot Florida summer months has provided me easy access to the northern Colorado and southern Wyoming streams. However, even in this less populated area, the known streams and rivers can still get pretty busy – especially on weekends and holidays. To get away from the weekend warriors, I have turned to Blue Lining. This term Blue Line refers to the little blue lines that are designated as rivers or streams on maps. To understand how the Blue Lining process works, an understanding is needed of how a river system is formed. Every major river consists of a drain field of smaller streams and creeks at higher elevations that collect together to create the final major flowage. Blue Lining is the process of trying to find less accessible rivers or streams further up the drain field that most casual anglers would not seek out. This starts by looking at maps, such as Google maps or the Delorme Atlas, finding a major fishing river, and then searching for the ‘blue lines’ or feeder streams that collect into this larger river. Then these feeder streams are followed further up the mountains for additional creeks or streams and even possibly tracing the river to its headwaters. Once these potential isolated streams are identified, the real research starts. I start with Google maps on satellite view, and zoom in to see what the stream looks like up close. Is there vegetation or meadows around the river? Are there rapids in the river (ie: fast flowing water)? Are there many turns and curves as the water flows down stream? Next, I analyze using contour maps. From this I can get an idea if the river is in a canyon which may not even be accessible. If the stream looks promising, next I need to see if I can even access it. What is the closest road access? What trails are available to hike into the fishing area? How long is the hike and what is the elevation change as well as terrain? Once all of this is evaluated, I need to determine if the stream looks promising enough to explore.

Typically, the streams I have found to be productive will take 1.5 to 2 hours of driving time to access a trailhead. About half of this driving will be on paved roads, and the other half on graded dirt or old logging roads. I have a 4 wheel drive truck set up for mild off road use, which has been needed about 25% of the time. Several times the roads were too challenging for my truck’s capabilities, and I would have to turn around. Once I get to my closest access point, a typical hike of 1.5 to 3 miles puts me on the stream. If you are very adventurous, and you are willing to hike further, many other streams are available. However, due to the time it takes to hike in, many of these remote areas will be better enjoyed if you plan on camping overnight.

Here are the details of one of Patty's and my most recent blue lining adventures. Through all of the map scanning and internet research, I found a potential stream located at 10,000 feet elevation. This stream started as a small creek in the high mountains, and as it flowed downward, two other creeks merged into this stream. My hope was this small creek would hold some native greenback cutthroats or brook trout, and as it flowed downstream and merged with the other creeks, larger brook trout and cutthroats would be residing. Patty and I planned on fishing our way downstream until the second creek merged into our primary stream. We started our hike and worked our way down stream. As we hiked further in, there was limited, but good access to the river. The fishing was good and the fish were eager to take dry flies! At each point we fished, we were able to catch a few brook trout, ranging from 7" to 9". This is a typical size bookie for these high mount streams. As we hiked further down river, and worked our way onto each potential spot, we were presented with similar fishing results. Eventually we reached the area where the first creek merged into our primary stream. From here the river doubled in size, as well as spots to fish! Again, the fish were eager to bite. Our progress downstream was slow, mainly because there were so many areas we wanted to throw a fly! We eventually turned back before the creek merged with the last stream, mainly because of predicted bad weather (and lunch)! By the time we hiked back upstream to the trailhead, and also stopping to fish spots we missed on the way downstream, the sky was starting to turn dark. As we decided to have a quick lunch, it started to hail (common in summer at 10,000 ft!). We called it quits for the day, and packed it up and headed back down the mountain!

During our entire time on the river, we encountered only 4 other hikers. One was a fisherman we passed as he was heading out and we were leaving the river, another person was only hiking, and two were fishermen that passed us going downstream. We never encountered anyone on the river where we wanted to fish. By doing your research and looking for little blue lines on maps, you have the potential of finding beautiful and quiet fishing areas, with almost no one else around. The areas we are exploring have incredible views, meadows full of wildflowers, and potential wildlife viewing. Definitely worth the effort, and the rewards are great!

Bruce and Patty Anderson

Photos on the next page of Patty and Bruce in action.



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Fly Fishing When Floating Weeds And Grass Are Present

Floating weeds and grass are things we must contend with when fishing with a fly rod this time of year. If we don't make a fly look natural, fish will refuse it. Having some foreign green stuff on the fly hook will always get a refusal. Flies that represent baitfish must be moved through the water to look natural. Select fly patterns that have the hook pointed up with relatively stiff hair extending past the hook bend, thus giving you a weedless option. If weeds are on the surface, use a weighted fly and even a sink tip line that will get your offering deeper, thus avoiding the weeds. Clouser-type minnows and bend backs are good examples. Floating flies can also have the hook point upward or completely protected. Examples are mouse patterns tied with deer hair. If you tie your flies or have a fly tier who keeps you supplied, use a strand of 20 or 30 pound hard monofilament tied in at the head to protect the hook point. Single strand wire is also an effective alternative, especially for darker flies. Flies that encourage strikes with little movement are also a great choice; crab, shrimp, and sand flea imitations fill the bill here. Time your cast to wait until there is an opening in the grass before casting the fly. Paying attention to wind and tide is a necessity. Accuracy is important. You want your fly to hit an open spot that is weed-free. Practice casting to targets in your backyard to improve your ability to hit a small place. When fishing canals or channels, the windward side is often littered with debris, leaving the other side relatively clear. Beach fishing is another great option, targeting fish in the wash close to the sand, usually a weed-free zone

Fly fisherman Pat Damico fishes lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at captpatdamico.com and (727) 504-8649.

Fishing Report

Reds should school up this month. You should find them on shallow flats where they'll be easier to find when the tide is low. Look for "nervous" water when it is slick calm or a slick patch of water when there is a ripple on the water. They may push a wake that looks like a boat wake. I try to be as quiet as possible in shallow water, poling to locate them. Once you've located a school of reds, try to get ahead of them to intercept them, much like tarpon fishing. If you work around the edges of the school, you may be able to catch a few of them before they spook. We often also find big jacks, blues and other predators in the mix along with reds. Fly poppers or Gurglers may draw some big strikes!

Trout fishing is usually good in August. You may find a big trout in skinny water at first light. Focus on mullet or bait schools to find them. Fly poppers or Gurglers should be very effective at that time of day. One of the largest trout that I have seen caught and released on a fly was a 7 ½-pound fish that blew up on a Gurgler, fished in glass minnow schools! I like the same areas for big trout that I like for reds. Full regulations and details for all species can be viewed at <https://myfwc.com> SNOOK FIN-ADDICT GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. Rick Grassett, (941) 923-7799, www.snookfin-addict.com 923-7799.



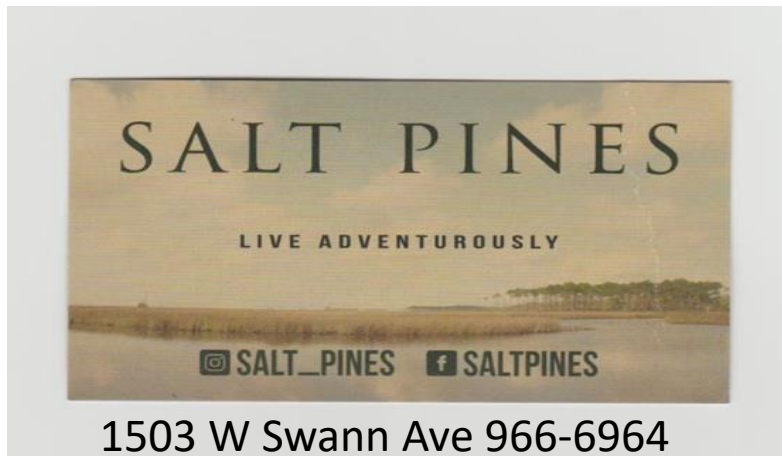
2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 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 15 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
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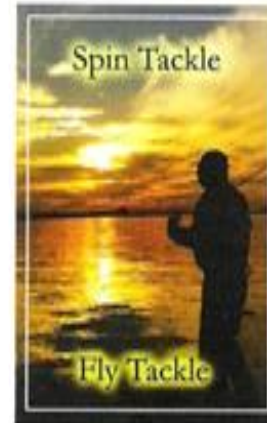
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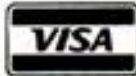
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Member Benefits

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
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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