

Denise and Leigh Fly Fishing Chile

Long time club members Denise Bruner and Leigh West will talk and show slides about their separate trips to Chile last year to fish for trout. Please come and listen to two of our best anglers as they share their big adventure in Chile. Denise is pictured below with a fine brown trout.



**Next meeting 2 September 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 Captain Austin McWhorter gave tips on fishing for redfish in Tampa Bay. Check out his website to book a great trip. Club member Mike Perez was the lucky winner of a half-day trip with Captain McWhorter.

The Suncoast club has lined up Captain Steve Huff as our guest speaker for our annual banquet next year. Steve Huff is a legendary guide. He began guiding in 1968 in the Florida Keys after graduating from the University of Miami with a degree in marine biology. In 2010, he became the first full time professional fishing guide ever inducted into the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame. Please plan on joining us to meet and talk to Steve.

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

Thanks for your friendship and for sharing our passion for the art of fly fishing. I hope to see you at our next meeting when I return to Tampa.

//Walt Durkin



Fly Fishing Quotes

"Of course, I talk to myself when I'm fishing. Sometimes I need expert advice."

"Maybe your stature as a fly fisherman isn't determined by how big a trout you can catch, but by how small a trout you can catch without being disappointed. "

"Scholars have long known that fishing eventually turns men into philosophers. But it is almost impossible to buy decent tackle on a philosopher's salary."

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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

October 18 Outing: Carl Hanson Memorial on the Hillsborough River with the Suncoast 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 pan-fish. Best to have a kayak, but you can always fish the bank some and join us for lunch.

Ben Schultz won our rod raffle in August, 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.

Fall will soon arrive in Tampa with cooler weather and good wade fishing opportunities. We will schedule informal outings at Cypress in October and November, depending on the tides. Stay tuned for specific dates.



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! Matt Santilli with a 27 ½ red at dusk.



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

August Meeting Photos

Captain McWhorter talking to our club in August. If you attended can you find your picture?



Fly Fishing Tip for August

This month's tip is about the importance of tying a knot quickly and correctly. When you hook a fish your leader is always the weakest point in the system, thus, poorly tied knots often result in lost fish. You will find many knots listed online, but here are the ones I use most often.

- Clinch knot: used to tie your fly to your leader. This is an important knot you will tie all the time. Make sure to use enough turns and use the "improved" version to ensure the knot won't slip.
- Blood knot: used to build a leader or add tippet. This knot is a little tricky, so take time to practice it at home.
- Surgeon's knot: also used to build a leader or add tippet. Not as elegant as a blood knot, but serviceable. Often used for lighter tippets while trout fishing.
- Uni knot: used to tie your fly to the leader. This is a simple knot that will leave a small loop, which is useful.
- Non-slip knot: sometimes called the Lefty non-slip knot. This knot is useful for saltwater fishing when you want a small loop for shrimp, crab and minnow flies. The loop will give the flies more movement.
- Perfection knot: This is also a non-slip knot and often used to secure your leader to your fly line; loop to loop.

Okay, so look these knots up online for tying instructions. They are all pretty simple and easy to tie with a little practice. Tying a secure knot quickly is an important skill for all anglers. //Walt

Matt Santilli sent us this great report: "Fish have been tough to find on the flats in the bay. The best luck for reds have been on mud flats on the west side of the bay at near 0 evening low tides. Kev and I found plenty this past month crawling, catching 3 total and one snook, but as the month went on, this action slowed down. Grassy flats bordering the Gulf are more lively with plenty of trout hanging at the edge of drop offs and in inlets. Reds can be found following schools of large mullet or on the edges of mangrove islands and prefer flashier, faster baits in the early morning. Sheepshead have also been schooling around docks and edges of flats, but have been hard to present anything to due to their spooky nature. Pompano have been running inlets and beaches but pass through in spaced out waves, you can load up on some in a few minutes then not see any for a couple of hours."

Matt just graduated college and got a job in Tampa. He is a good example of how effective fly fishing can be. He gets around early and late on his paddle board and can really find and catch them. //Walt



Denise visited Ft Collins in July for a week and we caught trout in the mountain lakes of the Snowy Range, WY at 10k feet. We also did well with cutthroat and rainbows on the Poudre River. Good friends, good fishing and beautiful settings. Photos show Denise and Patty in WY, Patty with a cutthroat and Bruce walking along the Poudre river.



Ted and Walt's Trip to Kelly Creek, ID

Mid-August 2025

Here is Ted's Part 1 of a 2 part story on our trip to Kelly Creek, ID to fish for wild, west-slope cutthroat trout. Part 1 covers our preparation for the two-week trip and Part 2 will recount our fishing adventures.

Ted writes: "For a long time I have wanted to do a camping trip out west to fish for wild west-slope cutthroat trout in a remote area. My research led me to the North Fork of the Clearwater River and its tributary Kelly Creek in northern Idaho's Clearwater National Forest. Most of central and northern Idaho is National Forest Land only accessed by a few dirt roads. The North Fork and Kelly Creek drainage are the home of west-slope cutthroat trout and bull trout. To protect this fishery the state of Idaho designated these rivers catch and release, barbless hook only in 1970. Under this protection for 55 years the wild populations have thrived and the rivers are full of cutthroat trout willing to rise to your dry fly offering. The higher stretches of these rivers also harbor bull trout, a predator char which requires cold clean water for its survival. Their presence is an indication of excellent stream health. They are endangered and protected in their last strongholds of Montana, Idaho, and two Canadian provinces.

I ran my idea past my friend and fishing buddy Walt who has a home in Ft Collins Colorado and he liked the idea. He had been considering doing some camping in Colorado to access some of the remote streams that were too far from home for a day trip. I suggested a truck camping trip to Idaho would be a great excuse to buy the gear to do some camping with his wife. He was all in on the plan.

I did some research on the type of tent and sleeping arrangements that would be best for "glamping" with his wife and would also work for our trip. I sent my recommendations to Walt and he purchased the necessary equipment. I had the cooking, water treatment, meal planning and tent camping experience that would be helpful to Walt on his future glamping excursions with his wife.

The peak cutthroat fishing in our planned part of Idaho is from July 15 to August 15. In January 2025 we set the dates for our trip for August 7-20 and I purchased my airline ticket to meet Walt in Ft Collins."

We camped at Kelly Forks Campground and fished for 9 days in Kelly Creek and the N Fork of the Clearwater. Here we found beautiful cutthroat trout in crystal clear water willing to rise to our dry flies. The weather was good with no rain, sunny days and cool nights and mornings. My Tacoma was packed full with gear, and we were very comfortable with a good tent, cots, bathrooms and a close-by water source. Morning fires with coffee and evening fires with cold beer worked just fine. We saw eagles and humming birds and one bear was sighted. More to come in Part 2 with tales of our adventures fishing this wild and pristine place.



We fished high in the Rockies at Poudre Creek below Longdraw Reservoir. The creeks were running high, but we still caught beautiful brook trout. They will soon add Greenback Cutthroats to these pristine creeks. Patty, Bruce, Walt and Lou are shown fishing.



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Fly Fishing in the Wind

I have seen some members of our local fly-fishing clubs on the water using spin tackle because they felt it was too windy to use their fly rods. However, you will occasionally see someone fly fishing in the wind, and they seem to be very comfortable. If you plan a distant fishing trip, days without wind may be very scarce. Several things will help. Keep your loops very tight. Cast very close to the water, holding the fly rod horizontal instead of vertical. This gives the wind less time to destroy your cast. Keep your rod, fly line, and fly on the downwind side of you in a crosswind. Using a longer rod keeps everything away from you, including your fly's hook point. Use smaller flies that are lightly dressed. Shorten your leader and make it heavier and stiffer than usual. A chop on the water allows you to get much closer to fish, making shorter casts the norm. Avoid fishing in open water; find areas where there is protection from the wind. Islands, trees, buildings, and bridges can be used to your advantage. This is a good time to fish narrow creeks and channels.

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

Fishing Report

You should find snook this month around docks and bridges close to passes, in the ICW and in the surf. They will also start making their move towards shallow flats where you might find them staging along sand bars or in potholes. Fly poppers or Gurglers may draw some big strikes in shallow water at night or early in the day! I often fish lighted docks and bridges for snook before dawn before moving to the flats after daylight. My Grasset Snook Minnow fly is my 'go to' fly pattern for snook in the dark.

Reds are usually in large schools in September. You may find them in shallow water when the tide is high or along the edges of flats when the tide is low. Look for wakes, some as big as boat wakes, or "pushes" to locate them. If it is calm, a school of reds may look like a nervous patch of water or if there's a ripple on the surface, the school may appear as a slick patch of water. Once you've located them, try to get in front of them and work around the edges of the school to avoid spooking the whole school. Fly anglers should score with fly poppers, Gurglers and wide profile baitfish fly patterns. I like to be as quiet as possible in shallow water, using a push pole to move my boat. It is great to find a big school of reds but remember, if you spook one fish you may spook the whole school. I sometimes also find big jacks and blues mixed with schools of big reds in shallow water. Not a bad problem!

Full regulations and details for all species can be viewed at <https://myfwc.com> SNOOK FIN-ADDICT GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. Rick Grasset, (941) 923-7799, www.snookfin-addict.com 923-7799.



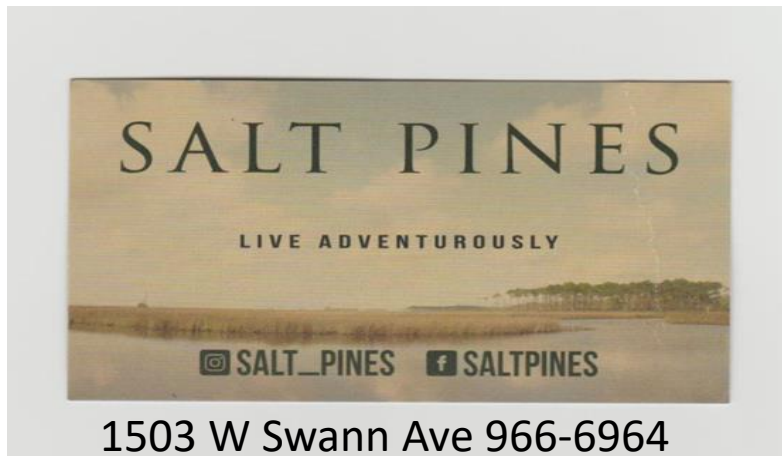
2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 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 18 Carl Hanson, Hillsborough River
- Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov 16 Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec 15 Kayaking Suncoast Youth Center
- Dec 20 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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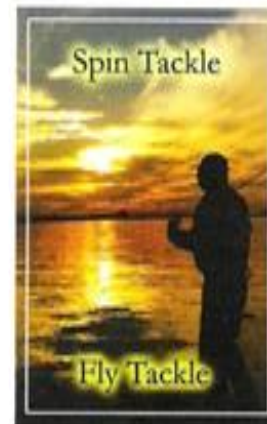
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Member Benefits

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
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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: _____

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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