

Jeff Downing ***Tangled Lines***

Jeff is a local author and will tell us about his fly fishing-oriented novel. Jeff Downing served as a federal prosecutor in Florida and New Hampshire for more than 30 years, prosecuting international and domestic drug trafficking and organized crime cases and supervising high profile public corruption investigations. A native Pennsylvanian, he graduated from William Allen High School in Allentown, received his B.A. degree in political science from Allegheny College in Meadville and was awarded his juris doctor degree from Duquesne University School of Law in Pittsburgh. He lives in Florida with his wife and their German Shepherd. He is an avid fly fisherman.



Next meeting 7 October 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

Hello Friends, I hope you all enjoyed our last meeting where Denise and Leigh shared their adventures to Chile and Argentina to sightsee and fish for trout. Many thanks to them for informative presentations. We are fortunate to have such accomplished fly anglers in our club.

Our chief casting instructor, Jonas, emailed us a great report on his fishing trip to his native Iceland. Check it out on pages 15, 16.

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.

Check out the wade fishing guide on our website if you have not done so. You will find valuable tips on where and how to fish.

Our December meeting is our Holiday Party and will be held at the Carrollwood Rec Center where we had our banquet.

Please join us for a great evening.

//Walt Durkin



Fly Fishing Quotes

"I fish because I love to. Because I love the environs where trout are found, which are invariably beautiful. Because in a world where most men seem to spend their lives doing what they hate, my fishing is at once an endless source of delight and an act of small rebellion. Because trout do not lie or cheat and cannot be bought or bribed, or impressed by power, but respond only to quietude and humility, and endless patience. Because in the woods I can find solitude without loneliness. And finally, not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important, but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally unimportant and not nearly so much fun." - Robert Traver

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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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).

October 18 Outing: Carl Hanson Memorial on the Hillsborough River with the Suncoast Fly Fishing Club. We will have access to Trout Creek Wilderness Park for the picnic. Please note this is different from Rotary Park. You can fish both areas. 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. The Tampa Club will provide drinks and sandwiches this year.

Our Big Gun is set for 16 November at Picnic Island. Please see page 6 for more details and I hope you can join us for a fun day. We have tweaked the rules a little to improve this friendly competition and we hope to have 16 teams this year.

Fall will soon arrive in Tampa with cooler weather and good wade fishing opportunities. We will schedule informal outings at Cypress in November and December, 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. Mike Perez pictured with a big red.



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

Leigh and Denise giving their presentations. Brenda is managing the slides. Patty and Denise hosting. Good job everyone!



The BIG GUN SHOOT-OUT



Sponsored by the **Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club**

Sunday, November 16 at 9:00 a.m.

Picnic Island Park, Tampa (Shelter #611)

Experts and beginners alike are invited to test their fly casting skills at the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club's annual "Big Gun Shoot-Out" casting competition!

Individuals and teams of 3 are welcome!

Plaques will be awarded for highest scoring individual, highest scoring teams, and the "Big Gun," the overall distance casting champion. Plus, we will anoint a Women's champion.

Contestants will participate in competition stations that mimic the challenges of fly fishing, such as casting under the mangroves, into a cup of water, or through a hoop suspended a few feet off the ground. Come out and give it a try – you'll be hooked!

The competition will run from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. There is NO entry fee, and lunch will be provided to all contestants. You may use your own rod (8 wt or less) for all competition stations. The Big Gun distance contest must be an 8 weight rod. Volunteers also are needed to help set up the course and score contestants. This is a family oriented event and all are welcome. **Please RSVP to me (walt.durkin@aol.com) or to our web address: tampabayffc@gmail.com. We are limiting participation to 16 teams so don't get left out.** //Walt

Fly Fishing Tip for August

Choosing a Fly Line

Having a good fly line is an important part of your outfit. You can save money on the reel and even the rod, but I would spend the money to get a quality fly line that matches your fishing. Once purchased, take care of it with regular cleaning and applications of line conditioner. I avoid bright colored lines as I believe they are more likely to spook fish. Search online for advice on which line to buy, or check with fly shop personnel for advice. For saltwater, we often choose weight forward lines and a clear sink tip is a good choice for a second line. Trident Fly Fishing gives the following advice:

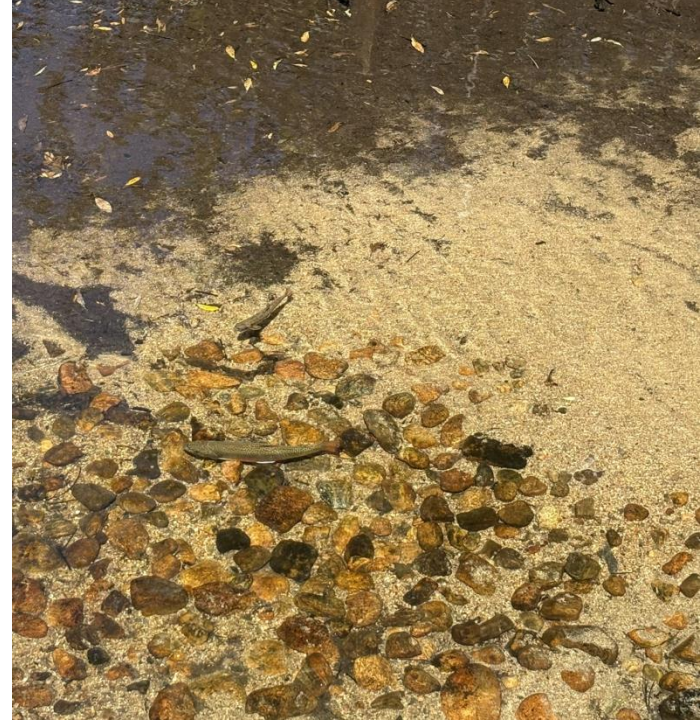
THE BASICS

“Choose a fly line that matches your fly rod. If you're fishing a 5wt fly rod, choose a 5wt line. If you're fishing an 8wt fly rod, choose an 8wt line. Your fly line should also match the environment you're fishing in. If you're fishing in freshwater (trout, bass, etc.), choose a line that's designed for freshwater fishing. If you're fishing for Bonefish in saltwater, choose a saltwater fly line. Make sure your fly line is rated for the temperatures you're fishing in. If you're fishing in tropical saltwater, choose a tropical line. Choose a cold water line if you're fishing in freshwater. If you're confused about which lines are made for warm water and which are made for cold water, we've covered that [here](#). Lastly, pick a fly line that's designed to throw the flies you're fishing. Pick a streamer line if you're fishing streamers and a nymphing line if you're targeting fish with a double nymph rig.

MATCHING FLY LINE AND FLY ROD

Next, consider which fly rod you have. The best fly line for a particular rod differs based on rod action. If you're confused about fly rod action, watch [this](#) YouTube video about fly rod action explained. A fast action rod will load better and be easier to cast with a line that has an aggressive front taper and is built slightly heavy. A moderate action fly rod performs best when partnered with a lighter fly line with a long, gradual taper.”

We found brook trout moving out of a high lake in the Rocky Mountains while hiking. They were on a fall spawning run and were working to get upstream.



Ted and Walt's Trip to Kelly Creek, ID

Mid-August 2025

I arrived at Walt's Colorado home loaded with fishing and camping gear. Walt and his wife Lou had purchased the food items from the menu I had prepared. We packed all our gear into Walt's four wheel drive pickup so we could get an early start the next morning. We planned to drive as far as we could before dark the first day. We arrived at Bozeman, Montana at 7:30pm, 10 hours after leaving Ft Collins Colorado. With no reservations, we had quite a time finding a room in Bozeman and finally settled in at the Bozeman Inn. We were up and on the road at 7:30 after breakfast at Starbucks and arrived at Superior Mt at 10:45, 875 miles from Ft Collins. Superior is the last place to buy fuel and supplies before heading over the Bitterroot Mountains at Hoodoo Pass into Idaho. Fifty-two miles of dirt road led us to our campsite at Kelly Creek Campground at the junction of Kelly Creek and the North Fork of the Clearwater River. We arrived at the campground at about 2pm and found a campsite we liked right on Kelly Creek. We got right to work setting up camp as we were anxious to get in some fishing.

FS255 follows Kelly Creek 10 miles upstream to Moose Creek so we drove up this road checking out the river. As we drove along the river every stretch looked better than the last. The road was on a high steep, overgrown bank above the river so you had to search for a place to get down to the river. We found a place where a fast run dumped into a deep pool and flattened out to a long slick at the tail-out. I went up to fish the deep water pockets on either side of the fast water at the head of the pool. Walt went down to fish to some risers in the slick water above the tail out.

I rigged my 10' 4 weight with a hopper pattern and a stonefly dropper down 4 feet. On my second cast I came tight to a big fish and the 950 mile drive seemed so worth it. I had been planning for this moment since last January and I savored the fight as the fish darted about and dug deep using the fast water to its advantage. Finally I had this big, beautifully colored Westslope cutthroat in my net. I took in the beauty of this glorious fish and humbly thanked the powers that be. The fish took the stonefly dropper and a few minutes later I caught another on the hopper. It was getting late so I walked down to see how Walt was doing. Walt had developed his own cdc caddis dry fly while fishing in Colorado and was trying

it out on some risers in the flat water. He had success catching a couple of risers on his dry fly and he pointed out some big fish he could see holding deep. We both felt great about our first day's success and decided to head back to camp to celebrate with some beers and bratwurst around a campfire.

The second day we headed upstream and found a deep pool at the base of a rocky bank with a path through the willows. This looked like a place that got some attention. I was still rigged with a hopper dropper rig on my 10' 4 weight and I worked up to the head of the pool. I could see some fish working just outside the foam line in the bend on the far side of the river. I made a long cast across the current with a big upstream mend. My fly only drifted about a foot when a big cutty inhaled my hopper. The fight was on and I was thankful for my long rod which made the big mend easier. The fish was a beautiful duplicate of the first fish I caught yesterday. I had several other fish swipe at my hopper in the same run, but with no hookups.

Meanwhile, Walt was dry fly fishing to some risers and had already caught eight cutthroat in the 8-12" range by the time I arrived.. There were some fish rising in a seam on the far side of the river where it was hard to get a good drift. I walked down to the tail of the pool and crossed over and walked up to approach the fish from downstream. I re-rigged with a size 20 BWO dry fly and caught 2 small cutthroat as Walt continued to catch fish from his position upstream. Around 11AM there was a big commotion from upstream. A young camping family with 4 children scrambled down the rocky path and set up a picnic site at their favorite swimming hole. Fishing was done at the "Swimming Hole Pool" and we ceded the pool and moved upstream in search of new water. After lunch I decided to streamer fish, so I rigged my 9' 5 weight with a white Slumpbuster in hopes of finding some bull trout, but that's another story. Boy is this fun fishing! Hoppers, nymphs, dry flies, streamers on a beautiful wild river. Stay tuned to more stories from Idaho when Walt and I tell you about the other streams we fished and our 4 wheeling and hiking adventures in Idaho.

//Ted Hagaman

Ted's first cutthroat is shown upper left and I am landing a nice one on the top right.



Mike Perez won a guided trip at our club meeting and sends us this report: "Walt, here are two reds that Austin McWhorter guided me to today. I had a great time with Austin and I would recommend him without reservations. He is very patient and can really sight fish. I had multiple shots at reds and quite a few snook which were very spooky, so I didn't catch any of them. My casting was off today or I would have caught more reds. Walt, please include my fishing report and my photos in upcoming newsletter."

Good job Mike and thanks.
//Walt

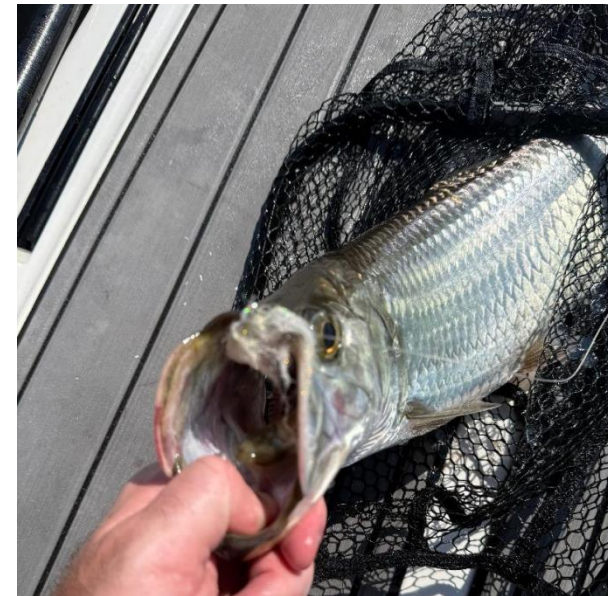
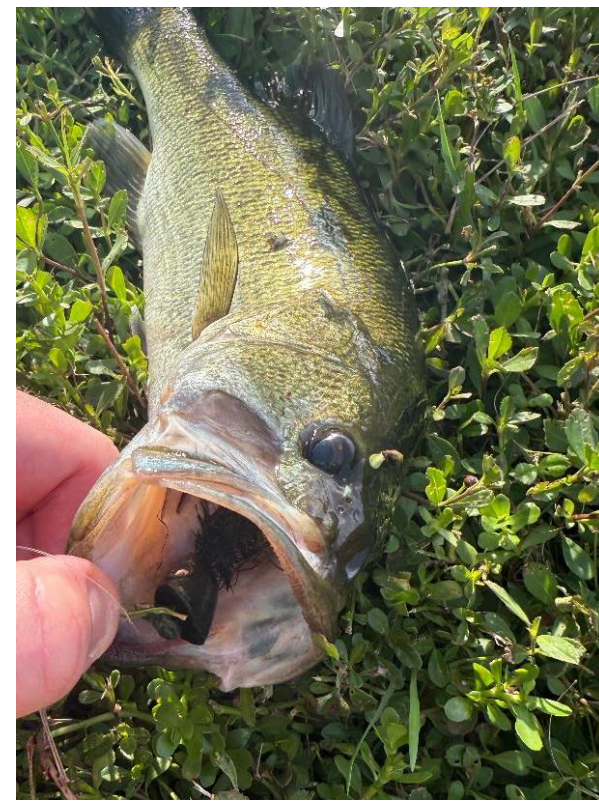
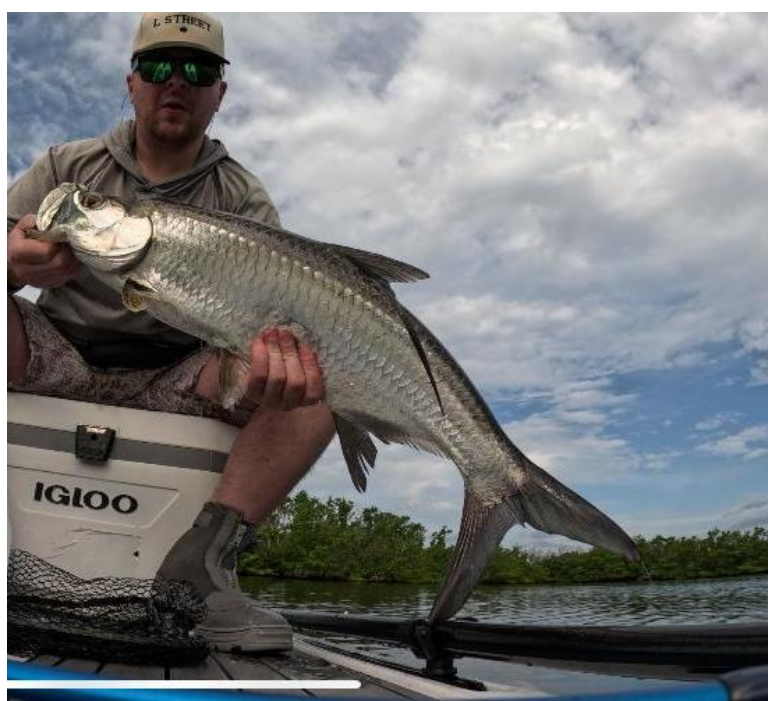


Club member Torin says he added another species to his list, a Mayan cichlid caught on a clouser minnow. And, I am shown with a Brooke trout from a high mountain stream in Colorado.



Club member Ben Schultz reports: “Recently got to break in the new 7wt on some backwater tarpon in Bradenton and a peacock bass and a LMB on top water over in Boca Raton”.

Good job Ben. Those are a nice variety of fish for your new rod.



Jeff Abeles and Rick Happle fished the Green River in Dutch John, Utah this past week! Unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate with heavy rain and 25-35 mph winds. We didn't catch the numbers we had hoped for but caught some nice quality Browns, Rainbows and a rare Cutbow! We caught 40-50 fish between us including a nice Brown trout double header! I also caught a nice thick 19" Brown on my 1930's 8 1/2' 6wt Heddon Bamboo flyrod!



Jonas Magnusson fished two rivers in North Iceland at end of August. The first river was Laxá í Mývatnssveit (Lax is a salmon, á is a river) but its upper reaches hold landlocked brown trout. These browns are called the ice age strain. They started out anadromous but as the land rose after last ice age they became landlocked. They spawn every other year. Generally when fish start to spawn they don't grow very much. The ice age strain grows one year and spawns the other and now 8 pound browns are quite common and the biggest one 13 pounds was caught by my friend where I was on net duty. This brown was not our biggest but the best photo I have. We fished three days and it was constant action. This is a physically challenging river - you can get close to each beat but then it is all walking. I had two days of 25,000. steps in chest waders and I became very tired.

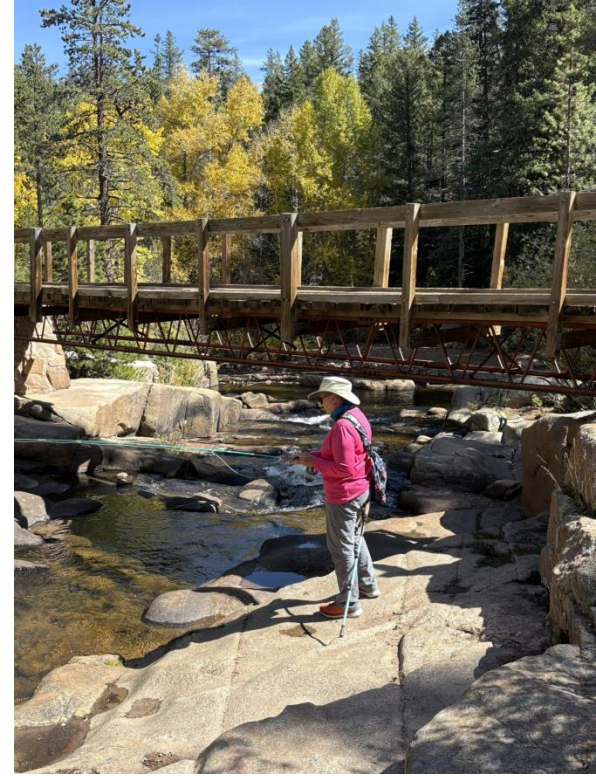


On our way to Hrútafjarðará a salmon and a freestone river (I know - try to pronounce that 😊) we passed this lighthouse at Sauðanes (easier but still). We are looking straight north and the ocean is the Greenland sea or the Ice sea and we are just a hair south of the arctic circle. The weather was unseasonably warm (70F) and very little rain and the wind was mostly absent. When we got to the topmost pool it looked like this. Tremendously difficult - gin clear water - glassy calm - and the river the lowest we have seen it. We caught fish from this pool with #16 and #18 flies and it is so strange catching these big fish on such a small flies, but it was the only option. I caught this salmon (female) in the lower reaches of the river. Estimated weight 14-16 pounds but we just measure their length and it is illegal to harvest a salmon over 70 cm (2,3'). Fish of this size are the super-spawners so back to the river they go. Homo Islandicus likes to kill all the fish and then eat it, but is starting to understand that a dead fish will not spawn.



Bruce, Lou and I went leaf peeping in the mountains of Colorado on 28 September and also fished a couple of mountain streams on the way home to Ft Collins.

Lou is pictured lower left with a brown trout and Bruce's Brooke trout is shown lower right. We had a perfect Colorado day for leaf viewing and fishing!



Golden aspens along the peak-to-peak highway near Ward, CO



A walking leaf on my porch rail in Colorado.



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Protect Your Fly Gear

Protect your fly fishing equipment. After fishing, rinse the rod and reel with a fine spray of water from a hose, reduce the reel drag adjustment to minimal setting. Store the rod horizontally. When dry, strip the line that was used off the reel and clean with a towel soaked in warm water treated with non-detergent soap and dry with another towel. Apply line cleaner or dressing according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Remove the spool from the reel, clean, and lubricate lightly. Some reels do not require lubrication. If storing, remove each rod section and clean ferrules, making sure sand or dirt is removed. Place a very thin application of candle or ferrule wax on each male ferrule. When assembling, some have four or more pieces, align guides or dots off center and turn the same way to align properly. Start with the tip section. To disassemble, begin with the butt section, turning in the opposite direction as they separate and place in a sock then a rigid tube to prevent breakage. Occasionally, a light cleaning of rods with furniture polish will further protect the finish.

Fly fisherman and casting instructor Pat Damico fishes from Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at www.captpatdamico.com and (727) 504-8649.

Fishing Report

Fishing should turn on this month as days get shorter and water cools. Schools of reds will begin to break up and scatter on shallow flats. There should also be good action with snook and big trout in shallow water. Snook will gorge themselves at night around lighted docks in the ICW. There should also be good action in the coastal gulf with Spanish mackerel, false albacore (little tunny), tripletail and cobia. You might also still find tarpon anywhere from upper Charlotte Harbor and Tampa Bay to along the beaches. Full regulations and details for all species can be viewed at <https://myfwc.com>

October is one of my favorite months. It's nice to do something different, so I like to fish the coastal gulf for false albacore, tripletail, cobia and mackerel, when conditions are good. There should also be good action on shallow flats with reds, trout and snook or tarpon of all sizes in upper Charlotte Harbor. Night snook fishing in the ICW heats up as the water cools down. Our natural resources are under constant pressure from red tides fueled by residential, agricultural and industrial 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.



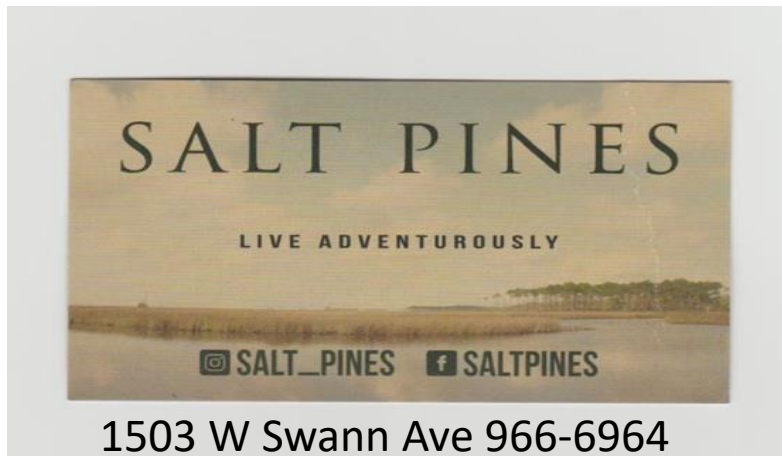
2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 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 18 Carl Hanson, Hillsborough River
Rotary Park and Trout Creek
- Mid-Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov 16 Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec 15 Kayaking Suncoast Youth Center
- Dec 20 Suncoast Outing, Ft Desoto

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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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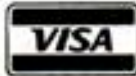
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Member Benefits

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

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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
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