

Round Table Winter Wade Fishing

Please join us for our November meeting where we will host a round table on winter wade fishing in Tampa Bay. Winter is a great time to fish with clear, cool water and the chance to sight-fish schooling reds. We focus our fishing on the low, morning winter tides, which make the fish easier to find. You will also find snook and trout on the flats this winter. I would ask our more experienced fisher folks to bring useful tackle, tips and flies to share in a group discussion. For our new folks, please read our wade fishing guide you will find on our website (tbffc.org) under articles. //Walt



**Next meeting 4 November2025
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 Jeff Downing discussed his book *Tangled Lines*. We had a good number of folks attending as winter approaches and we welcomed several new members.

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.

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.

Jim Dye is managing our club Facebook page, which we will update. I encourage club members to keep an eye on it and post pictures.

I fished the Cypress flat for the first time this fall and it looked good with healthy grass, bait and lots of mullet. I look forward to a good wade fishing winter and finding lots of reds to cast my flies to. I hope to see you there!

//Walt Durkin



Fly Fishing Quotes

"I have many loves and Fly-Fishing is one of them; it brings peace and harmony to my being, which I can then pass on to others." – Sue Kreutzer

"Many of the most highly publicized events of my presidency are not nearly as memorable or significant in my life as fishing with my daddy." – Jimmy Carter

"The great charm of fly-fishing is that we are always learning." – Theodore Gordon

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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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).

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.

Gina Russo from FWC sent us this: We are once again planning a “Hooky for the Holidays” special opportunity fishing event at our Suncoast Youth Center (SYCCN) in Apollo Beach. This has been a tradition with the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club for many years, and last year we opened it up to Suncoast and Mangrove Coast fly fishers as well.

The TBFFC ‘Hooky for the Holidays’ event will be held at the SYCCN on Monday, December 15th this year. Guests will have the opportunity to fish the pond on site or take a kayak out fishing with SYCCN staff and myself. All weather permitting of course! We usually start arriving at 8:30am, get on the water around 9am, lunch at 11:30 or 12pm, and tour the site after, if interested.



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 Adams shown with a red fish.



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

October Meeting Photos

Thanks for attending and I hope everyone had a good time. Thanks to Ginny and Robert for hosting our raffle where every ticket is a winner. This is a good chance to nab some killer flies. I am not sure when we will be back in our regular room, so bear with us. I hope to see you in November. //Walt



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. In addition, 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

While on our trip to Yellowstone we stopped at several fly shops and I found a new book titled the *Little Red Book of Fly Fishing* by Kirk Deeter and Charlie Meyers. The authors offer 200 short tips on fly fishing they have learned. I am still reading it, but are enjoying the tips and finding them useful.

They divided the book into three sections, which I found informative right away: casting, presentation and finally flies. It occurred to me these three broad areas are the basis for a successful fly angler. A cast of about 40 feet is all that is needed for most fishing and doing it quickly and accurately helps. So, time spent working on your cast is well worth it and it really is a life-long work in progress. Our club offers casting instructors to guide this process.

Second is presentation, which is often as important than the cast. This is true for both fresh water and salt water fly fishing. For example, trout knows what a natural bug looks like drifting down a river and will ignore flies that float differently. Presentation often trumps even fly selection. Lee Wulff once said the last thing he changes is the fly. Presentation is also important in salt. Ideally your fly will behave like the natural prey be it a shrimp, minnow or crab. It helps to present the fly before the fish sees you and let them find it on their own. Huh! Easier said than done, but that is your goal.

Finally, the selection of the fly can make a difference. If the fish are keyed on a certain prey, then that may be what they want to the exclusion of everything else. For example, reds in Tampa Bay are bottom oriented in the winter and are looking for food on the bottom, so we fish shrimp and crabs. They may be more bait-oriented in the summer where minnow patterns work better. Size is often important and more so than color. Talk to fly shops and club members for advice. Also, try to learn about your target species so you better understand their habits and behavior. One of the great things about fly fishing is that we can always learn something new, even at my age. //Walt

Walt's Tips for Beginning Fly Folks

We will organize a group discussion for our November meeting and focus on winter wade fishing in Tampa Bay. Here are my tips in advance:

- First of all, find a place and just get out and fish. Woody Allen said 80% of success is just showing up. You will find no substitute for time on the water.
- Good places to try are the Cypress Point flat, the American Legion on S. Westshore and Picnic Island in S. Tampa. Read our wading guide for more tips and places. Please note Cypress Park now has a parking fee after 12:00 PM; bring cash, ones or fives.
- Fish the lowest tides to find fish and learn the terrain of the flat. Stay in shallow (18" or less) to keep the fish in front of you. Move back as the tide comes in.
- Look for life on the flat: bait, birds, little bonnet head sharks, sting rays and mullet. Mullet are an especially good omen as game fish like to hang with mullet for safety.
- Speaking of safety, wade slowly and shuffle your feet if rays are present. Wear good boots and waders if the water is too cold. Never expose an open wound to salt water.
- Meet and talk to other anglers. Most are friendly and will share tips, flies and fishing spots. Be courteous though, and give them space of about 100 feet.
- Stay in the moment and enjoy the process and the environment. Catching a fish is a nice bonus, but not necessary to have a great experience.
- Finally, keep a fishing diary to record the details of your trips: date and time, place, weather, tide, flies used and fish caught; very useful after several years.

Quantify

By Robert Fischer

:to determine or measure the quality of something by using numbers.

While watching a bass fishing tournament show the other day (no saltwater fishing shows were on) it was noticeable how disgusted the men were when they caught a fish that was too small to count. If it wasn't big enough it didn't count and was wasting their time. The fish was only good if it was over 2 pounds on a certified scale and was weighed and witnessed by an independent third party who was on the boat with them. And God forbid if it wasn't the "right" species!

Later in the show they ranked the quality of the anglers by how much money they had won so far this year. Is a guy who made \$400,000 a better fisherman than a guy who only made \$100,000? Likewise, is a \$150,000 boat better than a \$50,000 boat? Is a \$1,000 rod better than a \$200 rod?

It seems that as old age settles in on me these things don't matter as much (if at all). Yes, in the past keeping a list of the different species and the largest of each species was an important task. Yes, it is enjoyable to bet a beer or a dinner on the largest or most fish of the day against friends, and that requires keeping count, (quantify). And catching a world record fish on 2# test was an old goal of mine, but that's been removed from the bucket list for several reasons. These things are fun and perhaps a way to measure progress. Keeping count is one way of determining if you had a good day. Catching is fun, but fishing is fun too, especially if something new happens to you or you are in a new spot or a new country or are with new people. Sometimes the fun is in successfully figuring out the pattern to get the fish to eat. It doesn't matter if it is a 12" jack or a 12# redfish. Once you've figured out what works, then try something else to see if that also works. That's the fun part. If catching quantities of fish were the goal you'd only need to carry green and white clousers and not the 200 other flies you probably have with you.

This idea of not quantifying was brought home by the experience of playing golf without keeping score. What? Is that even possible? Yes it is and it was a very enjoyable experience spent with a good friend. So think about it. How do you answer the question "How was fishing?" Do you say "I caught a 20" trout and a 28" redfish and 7 snook." Or do you say "I caught a bunch of fish and had a great time?"

Yellowstone Adventure

Lou and I went with the Andersons to Yellowstone National Park for a week in mid-Oct. We stopped in Alpine, WY for three nights on the way and fished the Grey's, Salt and Snake rivers. The local fly shop was closed and we struggled to catch fish, although we found good looking water. We finally found happy fish on the third day on the South Fork of the Snake and caught several beautiful Snake River cutthroat trout on dry flies. The best fishing was on a braid of the river reminiscent of a small stream. We also saw a waterfall high above the river while fishing under the watchful eye of a bald eagle. All fish were released and we parted on friendly terms thankful for our brief encounter with these spectacular creatures.

We traveled on to West Yellowstone via the Teton National Park where we stopped at Jenny Lake for more spectacular views. The 13-thousand-foot peaks of Teton were cloud-covered, but we would see them on our way home on the western side of the mountains over Teton Pass. Yellowstone Park facilities were mostly closed, but the park was still open to visitors, a surprising number. We combined fishing with sightseeing and had a great time fishing, but the catching was slow with cold, windy weather. Always game though, we fished the Madison, Gibbon and Firehole rivers and did catch a few. The sights were spectacular particularly Old Faithful and the Lower and Upper falls of the Yellowstone River. We saw many critters, especially bison, and also encountered deer, elk, and eagles. No moose or bears sighted in Yellowstone, but near our hotel on the way home in Pinedale, Wyoming we had a mother and two baby moose right outside the morning we left.

We stopped at the Harriman State Park in Idaho on our way home and fished the famous North Fork of the Snake River, to include the "millionaires pool". In this famous section of the river with slow, clear water we saw numerous big (really big, looked like salmon) trout. We got a few of them to glance at our flies, but I suspect they were more amused then tempted. Anyway, we had never seen so many big wild trout in one place. The route home along the western side of the Tetons was very scenic and we had a perfect view of the Teton peaks on a clear, sunny day. A fine way to end our adventure. Thanks, as always to Patty and Bruce for sharing a special time with us. //Walt and Lou



Lou pictured left
and Bruce below
with nice cuts.
Patty and Bruce
on the Snake and our
selfie overlooking
the river with the
waterfall in the back-
ground.
We were high above
the river and had to
bushwhack in.





Overlooking the millionaire's pool on N. Fork of the Snake. Bruce on the Firehole and the lower falls of the Yellowstone river.



Our Carl Hanson outing went just fine with 16 members from two club attending. The weather was also good and everyone caught fish. Ted got the traveling trophy for the biggest fish, a 16-inch bass. Robert is shown below with the smallest fish for which he received nothing, but an atta boy. Ted is pictured on the right. Brian Henderson of SFF caught 39 bluegills so he gets the trophy. Special thanks to Denise and other club members for hosting.



Ken Moser, our resident artist sent us this:

Once again, this year I have entered a piece in the World Lemur Art Festival. As in past years, one of the categories for recognition is “Community Favorite”. This category winner is determined by the number of votes a piece receives from persons submitting a vote online. I would appreciate your vote for my piece as well as getting the word out to coworkers, friends, and relatives. Voting will begin, Monday October 27th and will close **Thursday October 30th at midnight.**

You can access voting site by copying this link to browser.

<https://www.lemurreserve.org/world-lemur-festival-art-gallery-2025/#submissions>

Good luck Ken!



Patty Anderson casting for rising Snake River cutthroat trout somewhere under the rainbow



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Protect Your Fly Reel

Fly reels in freshwater are generally thought of as a place to store fly line. It is rare that the backing is even seen. In saltwater, your first trip might include a large jack, snook, or even ladyfish that will have you into the backing in seconds. Take some necessary steps to avoid any problems that can happen very quickly. Don't knock the reel against rocks, boat decks, hard floors, etc. Small scratches and dents expose bare metal, which will easily corrode. On a boat, always place the rod butt (and reel) on a damp cloth, so it will not slide and scratch, or get a reel cover if not supplied with your reel. Flats boats have 6 or 8 horizontal rod holders under the gunnels that afford perfect protection for both rod and reel. Never drop the reel in the sand, especially when stringing your rod. When taking a picture in the water with your catch, avoid having your reel on the sandy bottom at your feet. Placing a reel in your hat if it must be on the ground is a good idea. Sand grains are very hard and can scratch the inner housing, causing damage to disk drags and even ball bearings. A ball bearing housing is made from stainless steel; the balls themselves are not. A corroded ball bearing will heat up and seize - in the middle of the fight with your fish of a lifetime.

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

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



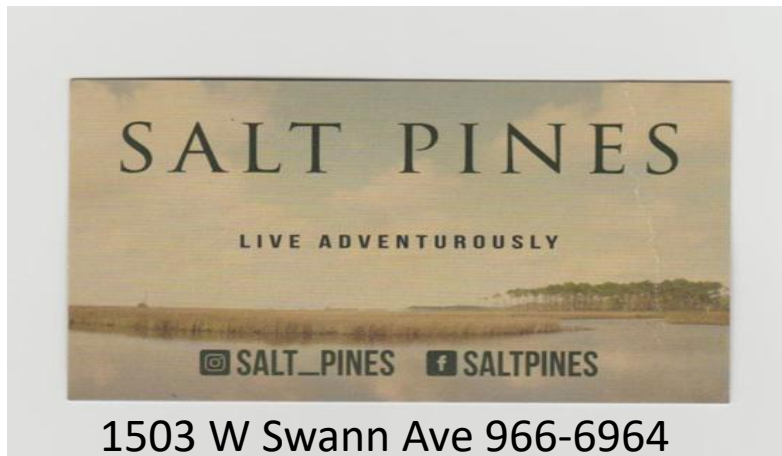
2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 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
- 8-14 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.

- 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 Grassett, (941) 923-7799, www.snookfin-addict.com
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- Carbon Marine, 3916 W. Osborne Ave. Tampa Fl, 33614, 813-870-1234
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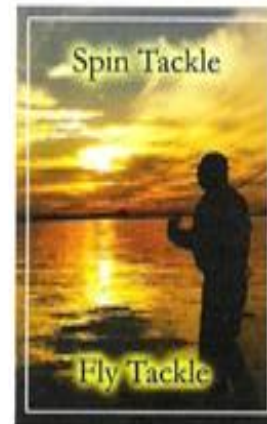
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EMAIL: SALTFLYS@GMAIL.COM

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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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Fly Casting Coaches

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Robert Fischer.....813-495-5685

Leigh West813-971-8697

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

St. Petersburg

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