

Happy New Year



Welcome to our first meeting of the new year. I wish you a happy, healthy year complete with many fishing adventures.

Please join us for a festive and interesting meeting. Ted and I will talk and show slides of our Idaho adventure last summer. We camped out for eight days and fished on our own for west-slope cutthroat trout in the Idaho backcountry.



**Next meeting 6 January 2026
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. **Please note we start collecting annual dues in January.**

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 enjoyed our holiday party where we shared good food and holiday cheer. We look forward to a new year with many more fly-fishing adventures. I invite you to join us!

Jim Dye is managing our club Facebook page, which we have updated and members are now posting pictures. Check it out as a good source of fishing news.

See page 6 for info on Tim Elms and the Mayfly Project. Our club donated \$300 to support Tim's project. Check out pages 13 for deals on fly rods.

Thanks for supporting our club and your friendship. I hope everyone had a great holiday with family and friends. And, Happy New Year as we welcome in 2026 and wonder where 'oh' where did the time go?

We are lining up speakers for 2026 and welcome your ideas. Please let me know via email or at the next meeting. We should be back in our main meeting room in January. **Retired Capt. Rick Grassett** will talk in Feb: winter fly fishing, casting, line management tips and destination trip info.

//Walt Durkin



Fly Fishing Quotes

"In every species of fish, there exists a wildness that makes them worth pursuing." – Daniel Fisher

"Every cast is an opportunity for a new adventure, a new memory waiting to happen." – Ethan Parker

"Fishing is my favorite way to escape the mundane and embrace the remarkable." –Sarah Mitchel

"Each fishing trip strengthens our friendship, deepening the lines we cast together." – Matthew Judge

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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813-786-3902

Bruce Anderson

941-730-3647

Jim Dye

404-313-7820

Keaton Anderson

TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

Do pay your club dues! Please note we start collecting annual club dues in January. Your \$40 gets a good return with informative guest speaks, free guide trips, a great banquet and the camaraderie of other fly- fishing aficionados. Please pay at a meeting or find instructions at the end of the newsletter.

The RedFly tournament was the brainchild of Capt. Jon Bull. What originally started off as a small tournament based out of the Cockroach Bay in 2008, has turned into the largest, longest running, fly-fishing for redfish only tournament in the country. This year's date is 17 January. Check out their Facebook page for details: [\(11\) Facebook](#).

The 6th Annual Waterman Fly Fishing Tournament Friday/Saturday, Feb 20/21. The Waterman is a two-day, fly fishing-only, catch & release redfish tournament with an optional Snook Calcutta with a 50/50 cash payout. And, a fundraiser for their worthy cause.

Club member John Foster sends this report. "Fishing conditions were pretty good in lemon bay just off Little Gasparilla Island on 12/20-22. The red fish were so thick on an incoming tide you could walk across them. Alas my skills need more development as I was unable to hook up. I had slightly better luck on the beach 12/23 catching a flounder."



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. John Lookabill with his first red on the 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

Holiday Party Recap

About 25 club members attended our annual holiday party/meeting in December. Thanks for sharing a special time with us. Special thanks to our board members who planned and hosted the event. Festive decorations, great food and camaraderie made for a very enjoyable evening. Our gift exchange was crazy as usual and I scored a bottle of purple gin. As we look forward to a new year, we are thankful fly fishing offers a refuge from the stress of everyday life. I look forward to meeting you on the water. //Walt



Mayfly Project

We got this from Suncoast member Tim Elms: I hope this finds you and your loved ones safe, healthy, and happy in this holiday season. For the past 5 years, I've been volunteering as a mentor to children in foster care through fly fishing. As you may or may not know, I'm an avid fly fisherman here in the beautiful city of St. Petersburg, Florida. I'm passionate about sharing my love for fly fishing with children, especially those who may not have access to such opportunities. This mentorship has been incredibly rewarding for me, allowing me to help kids enjoy our amazing waters and resources.

The Mayfly Project is a Nationwide non profit that Mentors Children in Foster Care with Fly Fishing. Every spring, for 5 Saturdays our chapter mentors anywhere from 6 to 10 kids with fly fishing. We strive to have a 1 on 1 approach to mentorship so there is consistency in our outings.

As you can imagine, being in a foster home can be very stressful, routine, and sometimes complicated. Our duty with The Mayfly Project is to take them out and enjoy the outdoors with hopes and dreams of catching the big one! We teach the kids how to cast, tie flies, handle fish, be a good conservationist, and enjoy the outdoors for a lifetime. At the end of the 5 outings the children get ALL the equipment they need to be future fly masters, including a new rod, reel, line, and a bunch of flies for future success!

I know we all have busy schedules and lots of giving going on. All proceeds go to activities, meals, fees, and expenses we incur. If you can take a quick second and help us out with any amount we will be forever grateful. Thank you and have an amazing Holiday Season! Tight Loops to all!

If you are a facebook user this is the link to our fundraiser to make it super easy:

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/857766570032351>

For non facebookers you can donate direct to us at:

<https://purecharity.com/checkout/408126>

IF you want to send a check that works also! It's best to send it to me, so I can code it to our St. Petersburg Chapter.

Make check payable to: The Mayfly Project

**My address: 852 Live Oak Terrace NE
St Petersburg FL 33703**

To learn more about The Mayfly Project Go here:

<http://www.themayflyproject.com>

Thanks so much and Happy Thanksgiving! Feel free to share this with anyone else!

Tim Elm



Fly Fishing Tip for January

I often encourage folks to find a favorite flat and make it their own. Learning the terrain on a flat is interesting and will increase your chances for success. Moreover, you will notice subtle change in the flat's environment over time.

For example, this year at Cypress the fish are tailing a little further out in deeper water on the flat. This is a small change, but something I noted on the lowest tide. I suspect that is where they are finding food this year, in that deeper grass. Tailing fish are always welcome as you know they are feeding. We also saw dolphin feeding and cruising in the deeper water. They will often push reds closer in as the reds seek shallow water for safety. Surprisingly, you can still get these fish to eat. If you do get one with dolphins present, be sure to not release the fish right away because the dolphin will get them every time.

As well as studying and learning the habits of the flat, I suggest you also keep a written diary. Keep notes of each trip weather you catch fish or not. Note time, weather, tide and any other new or interesting details. Presence of bait or other life on the flat is good information. Of course, record all your catches along with flies and tactics. Try also to note how the fish react to your flies and other behavior. For example, were they spooky or receptive? Traveling in schools or singles and doubles?

Having a record of these details will help you on future trips and will also capture great memories. We love to fish the low, winter tides, which only last four months. So, in the doldrums of summer you can look back on your winter fishing and dream of the winter to come.

All the best, and I will look for you on the water. Please come over to say hello and share tips. //Walt

Cypress Park Outing 20 December

Six club members attended our club outing at Cypress Point Park. Abby brought her Dad Roger and other attendees were Walt, Leigh, Brenda and Ken. Clear skies and a mild NE wind made for classic winter sight fishing on a very low tide. We enjoyed coffee and bagels while rigging and then went fishing. Leigh and I helped orient Abby and her Dad to the flat and mentored them on flies and tactics. The red fish showed up in good numbers with roving schools and we caught six. The fish were easy to see and not too spooky for once. This was the best day I have experienced on the Cypress flat this winter and it was good to find all those fish.



My wife and I went to the Florida Aquarium last week and had a great time. Lots of cool fish and exhibits make it a worthwhile outing. For example, we saw a very unusual spotted bat fish in one tank. This fish looks like a cross between a frog, sting ray and fish because of its flat shape and fins resembling legs. I also saw its cousin the long-nosed bat fish in the wild while wading on Abaco Cay in the Bahamas. If you go, please head up to the third-floor rooftop for spectacular views of Harbor Island and the city. As a bonus, you will also find stained glass art by our own Ken Moser. Thanks also to Ken for the complimentary tickets to the Aquarium. //Walt

Some of Ken's pieces are shown below. Try to find them all on the roof!



The last day of 2025 brought cold north winds and a very low morning tide to Tampa Bay. About six anglers bundled up and fished the Cypress Point flat. Ted tried the south side for a bit and then came back north where he fished with Cigar Rob at the south end of the north flat, it that makes sense. Rob caught one and Ted did not see many fish. I arrived a little later and walked to the north where I met Jerry and chatted with him. He had not seen anything, so I moved on down to where Ken was fishing in a little deeper spot. Ken also had not see any reds yet. After a few minutes, Ken and I saw the last angler to the north catch a red. This turned out to be another Rob who BTW is a very good fisherman. So, I continued down and took a spot between Ken and Rob. As the morning progressed, Rob caught four reds and I got one. We saw quite a few fish and, thus had shots. I felt I should have caught a couple of more, but that's fishing. Ken to our left did not see much, so the fish were mostly concentrated on the south end in a little deeper water. The wind continued to blow 10 to 15 knots making it a little hard to see, otherwise a good morning with the reds showing up. These cool mornings with a north wind make for some fine conditions to sight fish those reds. //Walt

The two Rob are pictured below with their fish. Good job!



Two Boys Inn, Andros Island



From club member Rich Gorden: "John Allison and I spent a week at Two Boys Inn the first week in December. We had an amazing trip. Winds were less than 10mph every day, and several mornings it was dead calm. 7 and 8 wts. All week, never even strung my 9 weight. Fishing was fantastic, lots of big schools of bonefish everywhere. We had 2 days where we caught over 40 fish per day. We had one morning in Diamond Bay where John and I stood in one place on a flat about 100 yards apart. School after school of bonefish swam by all morning. As soon as you unhooked a fish and looked up, another school was in casting distance. Lots of sharks chased our fish during the week, but we never lost any to sharks. Doctor flies weren't bad. Hope everyone in the club has a Merry Christmas!"

Club member Bob Perez reports: "We were recently in Key West and were successful in hooking up Mahi Mahi and Black Fin Tuna. We were out with Capt. Kyle Hall from Far Out Fishing out of Stock Island. We were about 20 miles SW of Key West in 130 ft of water."

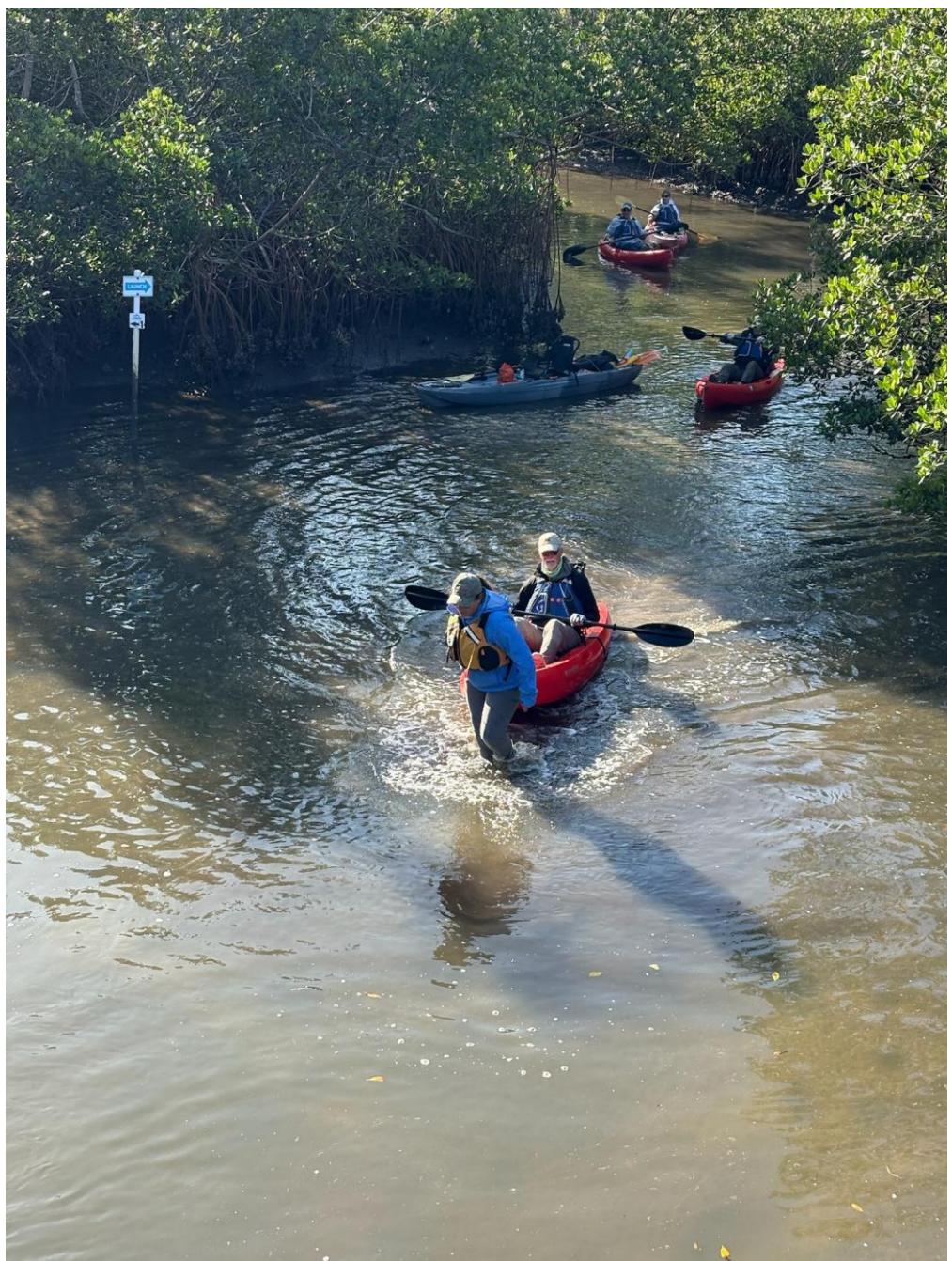


catching fish with so little water available. However, our doubts were soon changing to excitement as snook and reds were being sighted. Then the catching began and eager snook started attacking flies at almost every cast. It proved to be one of the best catches of all the Play Hooky Outings. Everyone caught fish, over two dozen reeled in, with Ted Hagaman pulling in a 23" redfish. John Lokabill said he caught his first redfish on a fly. A holiday lunch and tour of the fish hatchery facility finished off a great morning to play hooky.

John and Ted are shown below. Good job guys!



Patty and Denise provide a tasty lunch. Our group picture as we get ready to head out; and, our group leader helping us through!



Douglas Fly Rod sent us a 40% off deal. Read the details below and let me know if you would like to buy one of their rods. They cost \$500 to \$900 retail. //Walt

Hi Tampa Bay Fly Fishers,

I hope you're doing well. My name is Chelsea and I'm reaching out from Douglas Outdoors, the makers of the **award-winning SKY G** and **DXF Gen2** fly rods. We've been expanding our presence in Florida and wanted to connect with your club, given your members' strong focus on saltwater fly fishing.

Our Douglas Saltwater Series rods were built specifically for the demands of Florida's fisheries, engineered for long, accurate casts in windy conditions and with salt-resistant components that stand up to tarpon, redfish, snook, and bonefish.

I did attach our complete fly rod digital catalog, but more specifically **page 15** outlines ALL our saltwater fly rods that we offer. To introduce your club to Douglas, we'd like to extend an **exclusive offer** just for your members, special pricing (40% off MSRP) on all Douglas saltwater fly rods.

If this sounds like a good fit, simply reply to this email and we'll get your group set up with usernames for our portal right away all we will need are email addresses to get them signed up. We'd love to see Douglas rods in the hands of your anglers this season and to support your club's events however we can.

Tight lines,

Chelsea Lehman

Douglas Outdoors

43 County Rt 59 Phoenix, NY 13135

o:315-216-9584 | c:315-399-7307



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Clear Water

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 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

CB's Saltwater Outfitters Orvis-Endorsed Fly Fishing School-Sat, Jan 10, 2026

CB's Saltwater Outfitters, 1249 Stickney Point Rd, Sarasota, FL will hold an Orvis-Endorsed fly fishing school on Sat, Jan 10, 2026. The class, designed for beginning and intermediate fly casters, will focus on basic fly casting principles, improving casting skills and correcting faults. Certified Instructor Capt. Rick Grassett will also cover saltwater fly fishing techniques, leader construction and fly selection. Cost for the class, which will run from 8:30 AM to approximately noon, is \$225 per person and includes the use of fly tackle and a workbook. Optional instructional guided fly fishing trips are also available for an additional fee. Contact CB's Saltwater Outfitters at (941) 349-4400 to make reservations.

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



2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 24 Fly Casting Clinic
- Jan 17 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb 20-21 Waterman Tournament
- Feb 21 Cypress Park Outing w/Suncoast
- Mar 28 Annual Banquet
- May Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct 17 Carl Hanson, Hillsborough River
Rotary Park and Trout Creek
- 7-13 Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec 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 Grassett, (941) 923-7799, www.snookfin-addict.com
- Tampa Fishing Outfitters, 3916 W. Osborne Ave, Tampa, FL; 813-870-1234, tampafishingoutfitters.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. David Grassett	(941) 923-7799
• Capt. John Hand	(239) 842-7778
• Capt. Greg Peterson	(423) 432-1973

Fly Casting Coaches

South Tampa

Walt Durkin.....813-853-5870

North Tampa

Jonas Magnusson.....361 903 2846

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