

Trash and Treasures Auction

Please join us for our Trash and Treasures meeting on 7 April. You may bring items to donate to the club, which we will auction off at the meeting as a club fund raiser. They can be fishing related or not; anything that you do not need and we might sell. As Rick Warfel from the Suncoast club says: "All of us have collected more rods, reels, and gear than we can use. T&T is a great way to find a new home for your excess and help clean up your storage problem." Donate your hidden gems to the club and let us sell them to the highest bidder. Hope to see you there and bring cash or a check to buy stuff. We are looking for a good turnout for this meeting and we welcome Mangrove and Suncoast members also.



**Next meeting 6:30 - 8:30 PM
7 April 2026**

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 about 5:30 to practice fly casting.**

Pass on to the club and a lucky member!

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 enjoyed our annual banquet with the Suncoast Fly Fishers. Thanks to our 100 members from Suncoast and TBFFC who attended the festivities. Thanks to the board members of both clubs for their hard work. Special thanks to Patty and Denise for table decorations and to Karen and Ginny for handling the auction money. We will look forward to hosting next year's banquet in Tampa. We welcome your feedback on how we can make the event even more fun and productive. Finally, thanks to Steve Huff for attending and addressing our group. He is a true gentleman and icon of our sport. We enjoyed meeting Steve and Patty as he recounted many interesting stories.

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.

Long time club member Captain Bryon Chamberlin has retired as a guide. He remains an active club member. We thank him for years of support and wish him and Erin all the best.

//Walt Durkin



Fly Fishing Quotes

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

“The fish don't know that I'm here for them, but I know I'm here for me.” – Ryan Caswell

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

“Fishing along the river's edge fosters bonds that go beyond the catch.” – Chloe Anderson

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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813-455-4016

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813-787-2556

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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

March Meeting

We hosted another big crowd with 4 membership renewals we welcomed 3 new members. The raffle brought in \$83 dollars which is fantastic; club members were in the mood to spend money. If we had more shirts we could have sold some. Tim gave his talk on baby Tarpon chasing, with some photos hiding his location overlaying Current events, some were quite funny. //Denise



Annual Banquet 28 March

Steve and Patty Huff



Torin, Matt and Keven
raffle booty



Bruce, Robert, Steve
Ted and Walt

Assorted attendees



TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

New club member Mike Franz is an experienced fly fisherman and a certified casting instructor. He has offered to be a new resource for our members, for example, casting clinics a few hours prior to our meetings for new casters or problem solving for experienced casters. We welcome Mike to our club and look forward to using his knowledge and good will. Please come to our next meeting and introduce yourself to Mike.

For our April meeting, we will probably offer a presentation on our fishing adventure in New Zealand. Please join us for photos and interesting fishing tales.

Club member John Lookabill has a flats boat and is seeking fisherman to go out with him on the boat. He can also help new folks with their casting. You can meet John at the next meeting to exchange contact info.

Lake Calm Outing in May. We will schedule this outing in May so watch for a date. This is a crystal clear lake with good numbers of bass and pan fish. We will supply lunch and drinks. Bring a 3 to 6 weight rod and small poppers or minnow patterns.

Tampa Fishing Outfitters is hosting fly tying on Wednesdays at their Tampa location. See our Facebook page for details.

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 caught the red fish pictured.



Google Groups for Fly Fishing



Use the **Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Google Group** to reach out and communicate with other club members about fly fishing! This resource is available to obtain information about fishing, connect with fishing partners, inquire about areas to fish, techniques, flies, or anything appropriate to fishing!

**Please note that this is a private forum,
and is limited to club members.**

To join, please email: Sightcaster@gmail.com with your request.

Subject Line: TBFFC Google Group

You must have a Google or Gmail account to join.

Snook Fishing

For this month's fishing tip I decided to write about one of our favorite game fish – snook. We talk about red fish a lot because of the great sight fishing opportunities in the winter. You can also sight fish snook, but they are a little harder to find on the flat.

Snook are one of my favorite fish because I grew up fishing for them in the West Palm Beach area. I was an avid snook fisherman all through my middle and high school years. This was during a time when young kids were free to seek adventure from dawn to at least dinner time and I made the most of it. We fished from the bridges across the intracoastal, inlet jetties and below spillways. This was mostly spin fishing and I caught hundreds of snook each year. Spillway fishing was especially good where snook would come up to feed on the fresh water baitfish coming down the canal thru the gates. It reminded me of fishing a river with fluctuating tide and water flows. I think we have a spillway coming out of Lake Tarpon I have been meaning to try.

Locally, you will find snook on the flats, around bridges/docks and also on the beach in summer. You can sight fish snook on the flats, but won't find them in big schools like reds. However, sometimes they will cruise around making them easy to spot. Try minnow imitations like the Puglici minnow, Lefty Deceiver or a Gurgler for top water action. Smaller snook will often chase bait in cuts where water moves on and off the flats. On higher tides, work a Gurgler along the edge of mangroves, again seek moving water. Walk local beaches during the summer to look for snook quite close to shore. Use a bite tippet of at least 25-pound fluorocarbon with a non-slip loop knot. Bridge and dock fishing is often best at night. Pick tides with good moving water and you can spot snook under the lights chasing shrimp and bait.

The March issue of *Florida Sportsman* has several nice articles on snook fishing for you to check out. Please remember the open season is March-April and September-November. Slot limit is 28-33 inches. I have not killed a snook in years, but they are very tasty. As always, handle your catch as little as possible when returning them to the water giving another angler a chance for a thrill. //Walt

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



Matt Santilli sent me this report: “Daybreak when the tide is negative is still producing well. On grass flats that still hold water at this tide, many fish can be seen tailing and are plenty happy to eat a fly. With dawn light levels, it's also easier to sneak up and cast without spooking the fish. I usually keep seeing tails for around two hours past sunrise or until the incoming tide reaches 1/3 its height. These fish are feeding on any crab/shrimp patterns I've thrown, with the most effective being 2" sand colored shrimp. There are some fish that also cruise the flats, producing a decent wake visible from far out. These fish seem to be the most aggressive, turning towards and chasing flies that land near them.

During high tides, schools of reds and snook can be found near the mangroves, they seem to seek the shallowest water they can reach, but are much more skittish. Structure near drop offs and docks are holding large amounts of sheepshead, some of decent size, and inlets/passes have some large whiting and nice flounder.

First photo is a new PB on the fly at 34” and the other is 25”.

Good job Matt and that 34 inch red is a big fish for Tampa Bay. //Walt



Kevin Welsh sent me this report: “I completed the Tampa Bay Inshore Slam for the first time all on fly. I managed to land a 20-inch trout, a 30-inch snook and a nice red.

Note: Matt and Kevin are two of the younger members of our club who are accomplish fly fisherman. We are lucky to have them aboard and showing us what is possible. I know Matt, fishes a lot at sunrise one of the very best times to get on the water!

Good job guys and keep it up! //Walt



New Zealand on the Fly

Lou and I traveled to New Zealand with Patty and Bruce Anderson for a month of sight seeing and fly fishing. Our route included Denver to LA (with an overnight) and then on to Auckland via Air New Zealand. From Auckland we flew to Wellington where we spent two nights and caught the ferry to the South Island. Here, in the Marlborough region, we toured vineyards and tasted many wonderful wines. Next, on to Hanmer Springs and the Riverview Lodge for some serious fishing. Our guides Tony and Dustin were super and they wore us out with two days of hard fishing. New Zealand has the largest population of self-sustaining wild trout in the world and they grow big. Traditionally, you sight fish, which requires a lot of walking as these big fish are often spread out. We caught nine trout up to six and one half pounds under the expert guidance of Tony and Dustin. The rest of the trip, we fished a number of other rivers, but only caught one more nice fish. We continued south spending 2 to 4 nights in each place. Highlights included our stay in a Holiday Park overlooking Lake Tekapo, four nights in Wanaka and a bus tour and cruise on the Milford Sound. The sound was breath taking with crystal clear blue/green water surrounded by majestic cliffs and hundreds of waterfalls. After that we stayed at a sheep farm for four nights where we had access to miles of their private water. We fished hard for three days and found fish, but could only hook and then lose two. All the rivers were pristine with cool, crystal-clear water and great scenery. From the farm we traveled to Dunedin for a couple of nights and then flew to Auckland. We drove to Lake Taupo for our last four nights. This is a beautiful lake with lots of sailboats. We found more big trout here in two rivers and again they were just too spooky. We were often told to come back in October (their spring) when many trout move to the rivers to spawn. Despite the darn picky trout, we had a super time visiting this small island in the middle of nowhere as one Kiwi described it. Everyone was friendly, welcoming and happy to greet and chat with us. I would recommend New Zealand as a wonderful destination. You will find friendly folks surrounded by stunning scenery along with first class hiking and fishing. Additionally, a good exchange rate make everything quite affordable. Check it out! //Walt

Patty and Tony



Dustin and Lou



Walt guided by Tony



Dustin and Bruce



Sunrise Over our Farm Stay



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Leaders

Using downtime to examine and maintain fly fishing equipment is a good idea. All fly fishers use a clear monofilament tapered leader that attaches to the heavier fly line and eventually the fly. Saltwater leaders are commercially available but they are easily made when you understand some basic principles. Keeping it very simple, my basic leader starts with a four-foot butt section of 40-pound test, two feet of 30-pound test for the midsection, and two feet of 20-pound test for the tippet that attaches to the fly. Purchase a spool of each at any tackle store in a name brand that is clear and of medium flexibility. Use the same brand for all components. Use a double surgeon's knot or blood knot for the connections. Moisten each knot before closing with constant pressure and trim any excess near the knot. You now have a basic leader 8 feet in length. Wrap each one around your fingers to make it look like commercial ones and tuck the butt section under a few times. Place each in a small plastic sealable bag and store where they are readily available. A lighter tippet can be added for clear water and spooky fish. A heavier, hard monofilament leader or fluorocarbon tippet can be added when needed to resist abrasion from toothy predators. A carefully tied loop knot on hooks with straight eyes will give the fly more action and appeal.

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, Apr 11, 2026

CB's Saltwater Outfitters, 1249 Stickney Point Rd, Sarasota, FL will hold an Orvis-Endorsed fly fishing school on Sat, Apr 11, 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 Grasset 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 Grasset, (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.

- 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

Tampa Fishing Outfitters
Largest tackle shop on the W. coast of FL great fly fishing gear

3916 W. Osborne Ave. Tampa Fl, 33614

Phone: 813-870-1234

Website: tampafishingoutfitters.com

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<p>Investment Management Trust & Estate Services Retirement Planning Corporate Benefits Insurance Services Auto, Home & Business</p>	<p>15350 N. Florida Ave. Tampa, FL 33613</p> <p>Direct 813.964.4217 Cell 813.732.5190 Fax 866.804.2637</p> <p>rhapple@jaffetilchin.com www.jaffetilchin.com</p>

	<p>SaltFlies</p>
<p><i>Custom Built Saltwater Flies</i></p>	
<p>CRAIG SMOTHERS 5526 SHADY BROOK TR. SARASOTA, FL. 34243</p>	<p>PHONE: (941) 266-5209 EMAIL: SALTFLYS@GMAIL.COM WEBSITE: WWW.SALTFLYS.COM</p>

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
- Annual Banquet

Fly Fishing Guides

- Capt. Nick Angelo (813) 230-8473
- Capt. Pat Damico (727) 504-8649
- 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

Winter Haven

Mike Franz.....239-269-5016

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